



# INSPIRE

EAST, OLD & INVERARITY  
PARISH MAGAZINE

SEASONS  
GREETINGS

A large, vibrant red ribbon bow is positioned at the bottom center of the page, flanked by green holly leaves and red berries that form a decorative border.

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Issue 4: WINTER 2024



## **EAST, OLD and INVERARITY PARISH**



### Services of Public Worship:

✝ **EAST & OLD: Every Sunday at 11:15am**

✝ **INVERARITY: Every Sunday at 9:45am**

### Locum Minister:

The Rev. Malcolm Rooney

Tel: 07909993233

e-mail: **malc.rooney@gmail.com**

### Interim Moderator:

The Rev John Orr

The Glens and Kirriemuir United

26 Quarry Park, Kirriemuir DD8 4DR

Tel: 01575 572819

e-mail: **jorr@churchofscotland.org.uk**

**Church website:** [www.thebigkirk.co.uk](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk)

**Church E-mail:** [eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk)

**Scottish Charity No:** SC004921

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*Season's Greetings from the Editing Team and all the other hardworking members of the Congregation that have kept our churches going over this past year.  
We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

### ***Thoughts from our Locum Minister, Malcolm Rooney***

**Mindful Christianity** - One of the internet feeds that I receive is called Mindful Christianity... <https://mindfulchristianitytoday.com/> This is a recent post:

### **Loving God and Your Neighbour**

When you choose to love Me with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength, and all your soul, I will teach you how to love your neighbour. When you experience intimate communion with Me, you will become more and more aware that you were created in My image just like every other person on earth. You will begin to see how deeply you're connected to all My creation.

~In the Presence of Jesus by Paul Bane and Matt Litton

**Scripture:** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

### **Challenge: Don't lose sight of the call to love your neighbour.**

In Matthew chapter 22, Jesus responded to a question about the greatest commandment by stating, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' And the second is very much like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' He then emphasized that all the Law and the Prophets hinge on these two commandments.

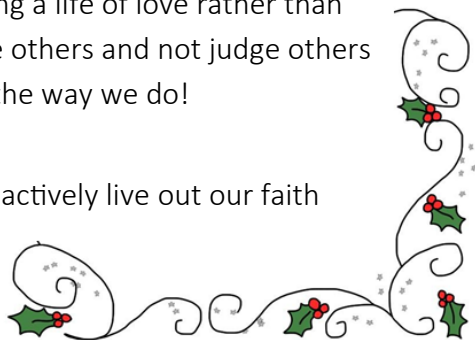
Jesus summarized the theological discussion by saying two commandments define the character of a person's spiritual life and their relationship with God. The first commands us to love God, and the second compels us to love one another. Everything else written in the New Testament is a commentary on how we live out those commandments.

Yet, as Church members do, we tend to concentrate on everything else but that truth? Let us commit to living a life of love rather than judgment, Remembering to embrace others and not judge others to see whether they believe exactly the way we do!

### **Prayer**

God, help us love one another, and actively live out our faith toward one another.

Amen



## *WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING . . . .*

It is a year since our two churches, East & Old, and Inverarity united to form a new congregation, with a new, single Kirk Session: East, Old & Inverarity Parish. This has led to many new things. We have worked together, reviewing structures and reflecting on the 'old ways' and



considering new ways of achieving this union – a marriage of two churches coming together as one, and like all marriages, there has to be an element of compromise, give and take, sharing of resources and mutual support.

These are all things we are still working out, facing the challenges, and the many compromises to be made. People may say 'I wish we could go back to the way it was' but changes are inevitable and a part of life. Change can be unsettling and uncomfortable, but also a good thing, and we must put our trust in God's plan for us – many good things have and

will come out of this union, pushing us outside our comfort zone: the old, the familiar. This was the right time to unite, God's timing brought us to this union. Ecclesiastes chapter 3: 1-8, says this is the right time for us to have a new beginning and a fresh start, otherwise things may have become stale, too familiar or old. We are seeking new ways to bring the Good News of Christ to our community and our union allows us to do this.

In January 2024, just after our union was formalised, our minister suddenly announced she was leaving. We were in a new situation of having no minister. The national church is currently undergoing radical reform and restructuring, with major implications for the process of calling for a new minister. The process is long and complex, and many criteria need to be fulfilled. We are not quite there yet, though things are moving apace. To the outsider, it may look like nothing has happened in the last nine months! However, behind the scenes, much has been going on to prepare the way for a new minister of our newly formed congregation.

The manse was deemed unfit for purpose and under new criteria, not energy-efficient enough as a suitable home for a modern-day minister, and so our old manse would be sold, and a new one purchased. The sale of the manse and its replacement had to be agreed, firstly by our Kirk session, then Presbytery, then the national church and this has now been done. (see Property report on page 7) We will have a new manse very soon. In the intervening period, we have welcomed the part-time services of a locum minister, Rev Malcolm, on Sundays and conducting other worship-related duties. All the other work of the church is carried out by members. New leadership roles have been created to form an executive committee that oversees the running of the church. New members have joined existing teams. There is much to be done still, but a great deal has been achieved over the past year, as we move from the old to the new and ask God to guide us on this journey. We ask for your prayers as we embrace the new at East, Old and Inverarity Parish.

*Karen Liddle*

**Vacancy News** - It is 9 months since East, Old and Inverarity moved into a vacancy period, where are we now? A summary of what has been happening:

- Presbytery granted East, Old & Inverarity permission to call a minister on a 7-year reviewable tenure.
- Inverarity church was graded B and a business plan created advocating that the church remained open.
- Vacancy Advisory Committee (VAC) comprising 2 impartial ministers and an elder, was set up by Perth Presbytery to advise Kirk Session on procedures. Two members, Catriona Morrison and Yvonne Grant met with Kirk Session on 18<sup>th</sup> March. VAC chair, Ian Gray, was not present.
- Kirk Session informed due process had not been followed by presbytery and thus a meeting with Presbytery Clerk John Ferguson and Neil Glover of Presbytery Planning Committee was arranged to discuss the situation.
- Committee changed Inverarity church building's status from grade B to A, allowing it to stay open, and approved the business plan.
- Kirk Session agreed to sell East & Old manse, deemed unsuitable as a modern family home for a future minister and inadequately energy efficient.
- Manse was valued and preparations made for going on the market.
- Kirk Session agreed to discuss motion to depart from historic Church of Scotland practice and permit applications from ministers in a same-sex relationship.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> June, Kirk Session discussed the motion and voted - motion was carried. Working group was set up to produce a draft parish profile for Kirk Session approval following Church of Scotland guidelines.
- Interim Moderator John Orr called for nominations for electing a nominating committee to choose a new minister.



- 13 members of East, Old and Inverarity were elected to the nominating committee:

*Angus Spence*

*David Pate*

*Karen Liddle*

*Anne Cant*

*Elizabeth Fotheringham*

*Sheena Benvie*

*Anne Watt*

*Ian Stewart*

*Susan Forbes*

*Bob Kidd*

*Jim Stewart*

*Val Kidd*

*David Anderson*

- Nominating committee met to appoint office bearers: Convener-Karen Liddle; Vice Convener-Bob Kidd; Clerk to Committee - Anne Cant; Vice Clerk-Elizabeth Fotheringham
- Sale of Manse completed.
- Draft parish profile almost completed for sharing with Kirk Session.

*Karen Liddle*

**Property Team Report** - Headline news is the East Manse has been sold. We wish the new owners Phillip and Julie Grant all the best in their new home. If you come across them, I hope you make them most welcome in the town.

The funds from the sale are held on our behalf at church headquarters in Edinburgh. From these funds we need to purchase a replacement manse for our new minister. Discussions have been held over many months to identify a home that meets the ministerial requirements, a big part of the picture looking for our new minister.

As always, church repairs and maintenance are ongoing. Some examples: a gas leak at the pavement outside East & Old meant no heating for a few days. At least the weather was warm for the time of year. The electricity had gremlins that became frustrating but is fully functioning again. Inverarity realised that the new Kids Club needed a baby changing facility. Many more minor repairs have been dealt with.

The property team are involved with projects to investigate and implement on your behalf over the winter and into the spring and we'll keep you up to date.

*David Pate*



**I**n September, the group read 'Lucia, Lucia' by Adriana Trigiani. The story starts in 1950s New York with Italian immigrants. The daughter of an Italian grocer, Lucia enjoys her job as a seamstress and when an opportunity arises to go with a designer to Hollywood, she is all set to leave... however, love intervenes but proves to be disastrous. We all enjoyed this book and gave it 8/10

In October we read 'Small things like these' (now made into a film) by Claire Keegan - set in a small Irish town around 1985. The head of the family is a coal merchant and on his rounds before Christmas, he encounters the different lives of the small community controlled by the church. A good book but we all felt we wanted more from the story. 8/10

In November we read 'The Foundling' by Stacey Halls - set in turn of the 20th century London, a young girl gives up her baby to an orphanage but vows to return to take her home. She becomes employed as a nursemaid to the family who adopted her daughter and makes a pact with various people to escape with her. 7/10.

Our December book is 'Being Emily' by Anne Donovan - an Irish novel about a Scottish girl's fascination with Emily Brontë and the tragedies within. But not all these tragedies are confined to novels.

*Linda Spence*

### **CHURCH MINIBUS**

Our Church Minibus is available for hire.  
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their driving licence.

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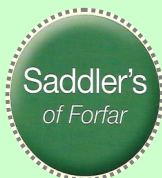
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## **G**rand Autumn Concert – 30 August

The Julie Stewart Grand Autumn Concert attracted 200 people to the sanctuary and was a great success as a fundraiser and entertainment evening. Julie played magnificently on the flute with her daughter Emily accompanying at the finale, the Arbroath Male Voice Choir delighted us under the baton of Adam Baliga and Lionel Steuart Fotheringham accompanied brilliantly.

There was a buffet supper half-way through and with the addition of generous sponsorship from Thorntons the sum of **£2200** was realised.



**T**he **Youth Orchestra Concert** held at Inverarity Church in September – see Inverarity School Report on page 22 for more details about how the Inverarity kids participated.

**P**reloved is Reloved - We have held two very successful Preloved is Reloved sales this year and the grand total raised was **£547.55** which is fabulous and greatly appreciated. A cheque was presented



from the Sunday School to Mrs Elinor Philips from Riding for the Disabled Angus (RDA) to help fund the upkeep of Jeannie the pony.

Many thanks to all who helped us raise this fantastic amount.

*Ann F Wilson*

**Social Committee Update** - The Social Committee held two very successful Coffee Mornings - the first was in aid of Macmillan Cancer and raised over £700. The second was for Leprosy Mission, raising £885. Superb totals for such worthy causes, and we very much appreciate your excellent support.

A very successful **'Handbag Party'** was held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Social Area at East & Old Church with over 40 ladies attending. Donna Kirkwood from Glasgow, who runs 'Handbag Parties' was delighted to show off and sell her products including bags, scarves, purses and gloves displayed in the social area. Tea/coffee & delicious cakes were served, a successful raffle was held and thanks to a generous discount payback from Donna, the grand sum of **£561 was raised for church funds**. Thanks to everyone who supported the event in any way and the social team who organised and catered for it. We have



held this event before and are very pleased to welcome back Donna from Glasgow with her lovely selection of goods - great ideas for Christmas gifts.

The Social Committee will also provide Christmas fare eats after the Big Sing being held in East & Old Church on Saturday, 14th December at 6pm for Christian Aid.

Our Accord group have been out and about entertaining at the Deirdre Knight Centre, "All Saints" Guild at Lawson Church hall, a remembrance and a carol service at Benholm Care Home, then will be at the Stroke and Disabled Clubs in December.



As our group is very small, we are now working as part of the larger Community Group and we are currently working on the Eco-Congregation's Gold Award. For this we're developing an

Environmental Policy and trying to improve the carbon footprint of our church buildings. There is always garden work needed in church grounds.

If you are interested and willing to help out in any way, please contact any of the elders.

**Pastoral Group** - In recent months I have received requests from members for occasional transport to and from church. If you travel to church by car, would you be willing to pick up another member every now and again, plus take them home after morning service at East & Old, or after tea/coffee in the Social Area following the service. Contact Jean Alexander on 01307 463860 (leave message on answering machine if unavailable) or mobile 07719564782.

**Souper Fridays** - Inverarity's monthly Souper Fridays continue, and we extend grateful thanks to the diners, who enjoy our offerings, and also donate so generously to our chosen charities. In August we raised **£73.35** for Lochside Connections, in September it was **£135.40** for Macmillan Cancer Support and at the October lunch we raised **£155.70** for Poppy Scotland!

Our final lunch date of the year was on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November - the chosen charity this time around was Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) – amount raised will be published in the next edition.



Lunches will resume on Friday 31st January 2025 - it seems a long way off, but will be here before we know it!

**H**arvest Hooley – Friday, 18 October  
Inverarity held their traditional Harvest Hooley for the first time since the Covid pandemic.

Lots of fun for all ages was had with great musical entertainment and lovely food.



**H**arvest Thanksgiving – Sunday, 20 October  
Members of Inverarity Church and East and



Old Church once again supplied copious amounts of food that was then distributed to the schools for families in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to the folks who decorated the churches for the Harvest Services.

**S**acrament of Holy Communion: Sunday, 27 October  
The Communion services were well attended at both churches. Thank you to all elders who set up communion, who participated on the day and helped to wash and clear up afterwards.



**O**rgan Recital – “from Bach to Interstellar”  
An entertaining Organ Recital by Lionel Steuart Fotheringham was

held in Inverarity Church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – everyone had a fantastic night!

There was also a lovely cake that evening, to celebrate the one-year anniversary since our East and Old and Inverarity churches became one congregation.





## Art Group Annual Exhibition: 2 – 6 November

Our very talented Art Group's work was recently on display in the East and Old Sanctuary – the exhibition was not quite as busy as usual but those who attended were impressed with the beautiful art. The 2025 calendar produced by the group's artists was also on sale.

## Remembrance Sunday – 10 November

A busy day all round starting with the Act of Remembrance at Kinnettles Cenotaph, the 9:30am service at Inverarity Church then the 10:45am Service at East & Old Church, followed at 12:30pm by the Remembrance Service and Parade at The Cross, Forfar.



## Heritage Talk : “Inverarity through the Ages”

We were delighted to be joined by local historian Shaun Wilson MSc FSA Scot, who gave the first talk of two talks on “Inverarity through the ages” covering the years 1243 to 1754. The second talk will take place early next year, taking us from 1754 to present day. This took place in Inverarity Church on the afternoon of Sunday 17th November and was followed by refreshments in the hall. **£186** was raised in donations and will be sent to Shaun's chosen charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, in memory of his grandad.



The last Folk Night of the current session was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November in East & Old Church Sanctuary. With performances from Alf Birse guitar, John Young vocals/guitar, Richard & Carrol guitar/vocals, Kenny Orrick vocals, Bill Carr vocals, Ruth Stewart button key accordion, Lindsay ukulele vocals, Brian Poet, Bob Kidd guitar vocals, Kirsten fiddle. Since returning after the summer break, our Folk Nights have raised **£475** for church Social Funds. We start again on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 7-10pm, in the church sanctuary and then every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month thereafter.

*As we went to press, the following events were about to take place  
- we'll report further on each of them in the Spring edition of Inspire:-*

### **Christmas Tree Decorating Competition – Thursday, 28 November**



The Social Team organised a Christmas Tree Decorating Competition – twelve teams to take part, each picking an element from the overall theme 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. After the competition, the decorated trees will be used to decorate our various buildings - we'll let you know how the teams fared, in the next edition.

### **Gift Service – Angus Toy Appeal - Sunday, 1 December 11:15am**

We are again supporting the annual **Angus Toy Appeal** this year - collecting gifts of children's toys for age group 0 – 18, to distribute to children living in poverty in the Angus area.

Although your gifts could be taken to our church services on 1<sup>st</sup> December, we can still accept them after this up until 6<sup>th</sup> December at either church or at The Big Kirk Charity shop in East High Street.



### **Kids Carols and Cakes Service at Inverarity - Sunday, 1 December 2:30pm**



The children at Inverarity Sunday School are helping to organise this afternoon service in Inverarity Church, the first Sunday in Advent, and will also be participating in the service. Afterwards, refreshments will be available in the hall. All monies raised will offset costs

of the Sunday School Christmas Treat - this year it's the Pantomime in Forfar. They have also begun preparations for the Christmas Nativity which will take place in Inverarity Church on Christmas Eve at 5:45pm.



## CHURCH DONATIONS

**Free Will Offering Envelopes** - Over the next few weeks, we will be organising the Free Will Offering Envelopes for 2025.

If your giving is not by Standing Order and you would like to have envelopes for 2025, please get in touch with Margaret Myles (Free Will Offering Treasurer) as soon as possible on: 01307 467428 (answer machine will pick up - please leave your name & number and call will be returned) or mobile: 07526 650463.

Members who received envelopes for 2024 do not need to do anything as you will automatically receive the new envelopes for 2025.



**Gift Aid** - If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make every £1 you give – or have given – worth 25p more, just by telling us. This is because the government's Gift Aid scheme allows East, Old and Inverarity Parish to reclaim tax on donations. This means that you can make an even bigger difference at no extra cost to you! Gift Aid forms are available on the website



<https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/forms/>  
or contact our Gift Aid Convener Paula.

In 2023 we claimed back £16K. So far in 2024, we have claimed £17K back from this scheme.

The easiest way to give regularly to East, Old and Inverarity is by setting up a Standing Order at your local bank. If this is something you would like to do, please contact our Treasurer Paula and she can help you with this.



# TheBigKirkShop

The Big Kirk Shop had its best year for sales in 2023 but unfortunately 2024 has been much quieter. Since the nearby M & Co shop and cafe closed, footfall in our area of East High Street has dropped considerably. The poor summer weather did not help matters either and also the fact that many more people are now buying and selling on websites such as Vinted and Marketplace rather than donating to local Charity Shops. But none of this has dampened our spirits and our shop staff are still working away and coming up with ideas to help boost sales again. Plans are in place to boost the selling activity on Facebook so make sure to follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirkshop>.

We will also be set up to take card payments in the shop very soon, which will hopefully attract more buyers. All donations are always gratefully received and if you would like to volunteer some of your time in the shop, whether it be for a regular shift or holiday cover, then speak with myself or Nancy. Thank you for all your support.

P.S. In the next edition of Inspire, look out for our special feature celebrating the shops 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday in February 2025.

Muriel Fairley

## EAST & OLD CHOIR

*We hope you are enjoying the praise each Sunday with the choir helping the congregation, also the anthems with the words displayed for you to follow. As we plan our pieces around 6 weeks ahead, choir members often choose their own favourites.*

*If you enjoy singing, please come and join us for a 2:30pm rehearsal on a Thursday, to see what it's like and then for Sunday worship.*

*We don't have auditions and you'll be made very welcome by organist Bruce, leader Bob and our cheery group.*

*Bob Kidd - Choirmaster*

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## **F**amily Worker Report November 2024

Our Family Fun mornings in the October Holidays were a great success with children attending from all schools in Forfar (including the Academy) and Inverarity Primary school. We provided around 100 packed lunches over the four mornings, which everyone gratefully enjoyed.

Around 30 children and adults attended each of the movie nights, which were a big hit. Feedback from the families: "We had great time, loved the choice of movies (Disney's Inside Out 1 and 2) and tuck shop was fab"

All groups are well supported, we have lovely groups of families and childminders, and the children enjoy all the activities.

The Lego Club is going very well, around 25 children are registered.

I have started supporting the Activity Club at Inverarity Hall on Tuesday afternoons and this is going well.

Our Big Kirk Charity shop donated books to the Strathmore Primary School P1 classes as I will be arranging a book event next year.

<b>UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	(School in Service Day): <b>Pizza and Movie Night</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Baby Blether &amp; Toddler Time Christmas Party</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Lego Club Christmas Party</b>
<b>January /February 2025</b>		<b>Bookbug Sessions – Sarah King of Angus Libraries</b>
		<b>Lego Sessions – Sarah King at Lego Club</b>

Thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time to support these groups, it is very much appreciated.

*Sheila Whitelaw*

## **I**nverarity Kids Club

The Inverarity Kids Club began after the October holidays and runs



Monday to Thursday, 3:20pm to 5:30pm. It has been very well attended to date. In fact, on a couple of occasions we have been at maximum capacity but due to the adult:child ratio rules, have had to turn children

away! The children travel to the hall by “walking bus” and, so far, this has worked very well. The children are very careful, and all drivers have passed slowly and respectfully – long may that continue.

They undertake a range of activities while at the Club, some quieter ones such as drawings and doing their homework, as well as Lego, games and competitions. They even had a wee Halloween games and activities night.

We would still be very grateful for any volunteers willing to go on a rota and help at the Activity Club – whether on a regular or ad-hoc basis.

If you think you might be able to help, then please contact Helen Pate or Kathryn Smeaton who would be delighted to hear from you.

## **I**nverarity Sunday School - Over the last few weeks, we have been following up Rev Malcolm’s talks in Church -

On Harvest Thanksgiving, we talked about food and food waste and learned about the different countries where our food comes from.

We looked at what we could do to lessen our own food waste. We also talked about sharing what we have with others less fortunate than ourselves and learned that all the food donated in Church goes to the foodbank. We have also been looking at Endangered Species such as the red squirrel and the Capercaillie. We learned about their habitats and coloured in pictures.

Towards the end of November, the children hope to rewild a small part of the churchyard at Inverarity under the guidance of Angus Council.

When all the leaves are removed, we will begin preparing the ground and sowing the seeds. Then it will be... watch this place and see!

Did you know Inverarity Sunday School has a black belt in Karate on its roll? James Stewart won Gold at the World Union of Karate Federations Scottish Open in Dundee to become the Under 12 Scottish Open Champion. A fantastic result for James and a very proud moment for his mum Tracey, marking all their hard work, well done James!

*Ann F Wilson*

**I**nverarity Primary School - The children have been wonderfully busy in a range of ways both in school and in the community.

For the September **Youth Concert at Inverarity Church**, led by Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, Director of Music, High School of Dundee. Taking part were the High School's Youth Orchestra, Pipe Band and singers, pupils from Monifieth, Carnoustie, Websters and our Inverarity School Choir who chose two songs close to their hearts "You are a star" and "Be Brave, Be Bold". This linked with their school motto "shine like a star and you'll go far." They certainly did, as they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, before, during and after; let's hope they all can build upon the magic of music, what a buzz in the air—thank you to all involved for making it happen!

For our **Fairtrade Café, 27th September**, with the help of Mrs Whitelaw, pupils rolled up their sleeves to pick the school's very own plums, bake delicious cakes with them, prepare fruit kebabs, and provide Fairtrade hot drinks. A lovely afternoon of 'togetherness' for parents, carers, and staff with their children, where they could talk about what they'd learnt, what it means and why we have Fairtrade (Fairly produced and Fairly traded products) with pictures on the wall and sporting their Fairtrade logo badges - well done for raising £165.

**Tuck Shop** - During our "Rights Respecting School" focus, we identified that we'd like to support children across the world to access their right to the best possible health, by raising money for WaterAid, who make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone everywhere  
- Mrs Smith P4-7 Teacher

Every Monday morning playtime, until the end of term, the children can buy a warm snack and drink, changing each week (pancakes, popcorn, toast, bagels, waffle, crepes & croissants with a choice of fillings) cost £1. Classes (P1-3 & P4-7) are enjoying taking turns each week preparing, taking orders, buying yummy treats for their playpiece! Perfect for these colder days.

**Christmas Nativity Concert: Inverarity Church.** This will probably take place on Wednesday or Thursday in the last 2 weeks of term. We're very excited as a school community to hold a Nativity play again; the children are busy sorting out which parts best suit them and what songs to sing - lots of Festive fun!

### 🐭 The Moosie's Prayer 🐭

A puir wee kirk mouse aa forlorn, It's furry coat fair sairly worn,  
Sank doon upon its bony knees And prayed - for just a wee bit cheese.

The tears ran doon its wee thin cheeks, But nane could hear the saddest squeaks,  
That drifted on the cauld nicht air, Till whiles it could nae pray nae mair.

Syne daylight cam, the kirk bells rang, The doors swung open wi a bang,  
Communion Day had come aan by, With wine and plates of bread piled high.

The wee moose lay as still as daith, And watched it aa wi bated braith,  
Then thocht - if I keep awfu quate, A bit might just fa aff a plate.

And so it gazed as roand they went, Then just as tho was heaven sent, Whit  
landed richt upon its heid, But two lumps of communion breid!

The staff o life lay on the flair, The bounteous answer tae his prayer,  
Just as he thocht it looks fell dry, A body coup'd some wine forbye.

Wee moosie stated up the aisle, Wearing sec a boozy smile,  
The folk stopped singin, fair aghast, Tae see a drunken moose walk past.

The organist fell off his chair, the minister could only stare,  
Tae see this drunken sinful moose, Cavortin in his sacred hoose.



At last it staggered up the nave, Then turned and gave a happy wave,  
I ken noo when it's time tae pray, I'll dae it on Communion Day.

# Christmas Colouring



## NATIVITY WORD SCRAMBLE

These scrambled words are from the Christmas Nativity story - can you unscramble them?

- |                 |            |              |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1) KREENANSFCNI | 2) AIGRELB | 3) HARLSATAB |
| 4) IKNERERPE    | 5) RPACSA  | 6) LDGO      |
| 7) BMHEELHTE    | 8) RYRMH   | 9) AZHTRNAE  |

*(answers available at foot of page 27)*



## Music Cafe

The Music Cafe attracts 20 to 30 folk to the Social Area in East & Old Church on Mondays at 2pm. Some come on their own, others with carers and some with staff from their care homes. We have a dedicated team of church workers to help everyone enjoy ninety minutes of singing with big print sheets to help us through hymns, show tunes and Scottish ballads. Some weeks we use recorded music, others Bruce or Elizabeth play the keyboard. There's always lots of social chat, laughter, sometimes dancing and of course a cuppie and fancy biscuits half-way through! Come and join us whether you have dementia or not - you'll be made most welcome.



## EOI GUILD REPORTS

**E**ast & Old Guild - The new session had a great start on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October where the members were entertained by Kenny Orrock and Alfie Hunter and this was followed on 16<sup>th</sup> of the month with a talk from Ian Stewart about taking part in the Atlantic Senior 4's World International Bowling trip to Cyprus last year. Some of the members went to the Guild Mini Gathering on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> in Arbroath this year. Guild members from the area were lifted by talks from Guild head office and information on the 4 new projects that we will raise money for, over the next 3 years.



On 6<sup>th</sup> November our members visited 'All Souls' at Lowson Church to hear about the project 'Unida-hear our voice' and as I write this I'm looking forward to 20<sup>th</sup> and hearing from our very own May Clark who will talk about her life as an 'ex-pat'. Into December and on 4<sup>th</sup> we are going to try our hands at Christmas crafts and on 11<sup>th</sup> we are going to the Golf Club for our Christmas meal.

2025 is just around the corner and our syllabus starts again in February with a visit from Mark Guild telling us about a builder's life and then on 19<sup>th</sup> of the month a speaker from the 'Archies Foundation' which should be so interesting.

I wish you all peace and joy for the coming festive season and the New Year and if you wish to join us at any of the meeting you will be made most welcome.

*Marion Duncan*

## **I**nverarity Guild - 9 October Meeting

Lillian Carnegie welcomed us and our speaker, Locum Minister, Malcolm Rooney, whose topic was his life story.

Malcolm was born in Ballachulish and five years later the family moved to Argyll. He attended Carron Primary School in Falkirk then Larbert High School.



He studied at The Scottish School of Physical Education, Glasgow, Dunfermline College of Physical Education in Edinburgh, then taught at Bannockburn High School and Denny High School. A different path was calling, however, and from 1989-92, Malcolm studied Divinity at the University of Edinburgh.

Following this, he was Assistant Minister at St Mungo's, Alloa for a year, then came to Kirriemuir Old as Minister - 1993-2000. He was also Angus Presbytery Clerk and National Church Area Team Ministry Lead. Glens and Kirrie Old Minister from 2000-17 and became Brechin/Farnell Locum Minister - 2018-2024.

Malcolm and Chris married in Clackmannan Parish Church in the early seventies and a recent happy photograph showed how the family has grown.

*Anne Richardson*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Forfar Boys Brigade and Girls Association.

Alistair Low and Tyler Lovegrove successfully completed Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition and practice for silver over the weekend of 13-15 September, walking from Crail to Broughty Ferry and camping overnight as part of their King's Badge work. This session they have planned and led achievements and activities, e.g. playing Detectives, Upside-Down Boat, Wise & Foolish Builders, Disappearing Experiment, Space Rockets and Autumn Leaves.



Our Halloween party was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Company and Juniors took part in the Sunday Remembrance Parade and our Enrolment Service took place in East & Old Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. A trip to the Forfar Pantomime 'Snow White', is planned for our last evening of the session on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

We will be delivering Christmas cards again this year in partnership with the Forfar Scouts, see the advert detailing the collection box locations, cost and posting dates on the poster overleaf. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Our usual activities resume on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



Answers to puzzle on page 24:: 1)FRANKINCENSE 2)GABRIEL 3)BALTHASAR  
4)INNKEEPER 5)CASPAR 6)GOLD 7)BETHLEHEM 8)MYRRH 9)NAZRETH

# CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY 2024



*The red Christmas Card boxes will be at the locations listed below from Friday 29th November.*

*The cost for each card is 40p.*

*Please put money into the box with your cards.  
Envelopes should be sealed and correctly addressed*

*for delivery in **FORFAR, KINGSMUIR,  
LUNANHEAD and PADANARAM ONLY**  
(NO OTHER LANDWARD DELIVERIES PLEASE)*

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| * ASDA                       | * Ali's Newsagent (Castle St)              |
| * TESCO                      | * SPAR (Dundee Road)                       |
| * M & S Richardson           | * 1 <sup>st</sup> Stop 2 Shop (Easterbank) |
| * Hamptons                   | * Indoor Bowling Club/Ice Rink             |
| * Taranty Road Shop          | * Morrisons (was RS McColl)                |
| * McLaren Bakers (Market St) | * Poundstretcher (Castle St)               |
| * The Big Kirk Shop          | * All Forfar Churches                      |

*Deliveries scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December.*

**Please note that the LAST POSTING DATE  
is THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

*Thank you for your continued support*



  
**Scouts**

## *Looking Ahead .....*

- ◆ Christmas at the Kirk returns on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - 6:30pm



for what promises to be a fantastic show in the East & Old Sanctuary. Refreshments, including mince pies, will be served at the interval - Tickets £10 each.

- ◆ The Big Sing is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30 for 6pm -

A fund-raising event for Christian Aid, organised by *Forfar Action of Churches Together (FACT)*. Hosted by East & Old



in the sanctuary; an evening of Christmas music with Elizabeth on the organ and readings from churches across the town.

There will be refreshments and a bucket collection.

- ◆ Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Christingle making at 10am
- ◆ Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Family Nativity: Inverarity 5:45pm  
– Christingle Service: East & Old 6:45pm



### **2025**

- ◆ Burns Night Supper - Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Social Area  
Tickets £15 each
- ◆ Tearfund Quiz & Nibbles on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February (venue to be announced)

*For more details about any of our upcoming events visit the **East, Old & Inverarity Parish** website at*

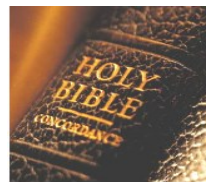
<https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/>

*or alternatively, nearer the time, our Facebook page*

<https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk>

Bible Study Group  
Instead of the re

Instead of the regular East, Old & Inverarity Bible Study Group meetings, an alternative Alpha Course for people wanting to know more about God, will run in the Forfar Community Church each Sunday afternoon from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. The 11-week course runs from 19<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> April next year (apart from 16<sup>th</sup> February). Afternoon Tea will be served at these sessions. Anyone interested should contact either Susan Forbes on 07502458355 or Sheena Benvie 01307 462209.



~ **NEXT ISSUE OF INSPIRE** ~

The deadline for submission of articles for **SPRING 2025** issue is:- **FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2025**

Articles to Editing Team or e-mail:- [eoeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:eoeditor@yahoo.com)

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER



## DEATHS

Carol Peters	28 July	< parish >
David Kidd	29 September	< 29 >
Elizabeth McIntee	7 October	< 3 >
Evelyn Dakers	11 November	< 29 >
Peter Stewart	15 " "	< 19 >

<i>East &amp; Old Church ~ Ministry of Flowers</i>					
1	DEC	Lorraine Dick	26	JAN	Jennifer Gair
Sundays 8th to 29th December <b>FLOWER GROUP</b> <b>SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>			2	FEB	Marjory MacLean
			9	"	available
5	JAN	available	16	"	Isabel Farquharson
12	"	available	23	"	Karen Murray
19	"	Wilma Simpson	2	MAR	available

Please pass your donations, **PRIOR** to your chosen Sunday, to either Irene Duthie or Catriona Milne or pop it in an envelope and give it to Jennifer at PRIMA Gift Shop, which is located next to the church gates - **Thank you**

We are seeking additional volunteers to join our Flower Team - please contact either Irene Duthie or Catriona Milne, if you would like to help.





<b>Session Clerk</b>	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Depute Session Clerk</li> <li>■ Roll Keeper</li> </ul>	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
	<a href="mailto:eoisession@yahoo.com">eoisession@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>Administrator</b>	Paula Stewart	07897456655
	<a href="mailto:eoiparish@yahoo.com">eoiparish@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>FWO Treasurer</b>	Margaret Myles	01307 467428
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flower Group Admin</li> <li>■ INSPIRE Editing Team</li> <li>■ Website/Facebook</li> </ul>	Catriona Milne	07962065936
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	<a href="mailto:eoimmediateam@yahoo.com">eoimmediateam@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>East &amp; Old Organist</b>	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
<b>Inverarity Organist</b>	Diane Acheson	07835847588
<b>Choirmaster</b>	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
<b>Church Officer</b>	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
<b>Inverarity Sunday School</b>	Anne Wilson	07538196187
<b>Family Worker</b>	Sheila Whitelaw	07735938528
	<a href="mailto:eoifamily@yahoo.com">eoifamily@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>East &amp; Old Guild Contact</b>	Marion Duncan	01307 463075
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inverarity Guild Contact</li> <li>■ Inverarity Flowers</li> </ul>	Lillian Carnegie	07944 294848
<b>Property Convener</b>	David Pate	01307 820340 07970071166
<b>Life and Work</b>	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
<b>Big Kirk Shop Organiser</b>	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
<b>Prayer Group</b>	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
<b>2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade &amp; Girls Association</b>	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
<b>Minibus Bookings</b>	Johnny Forbes	07718244872