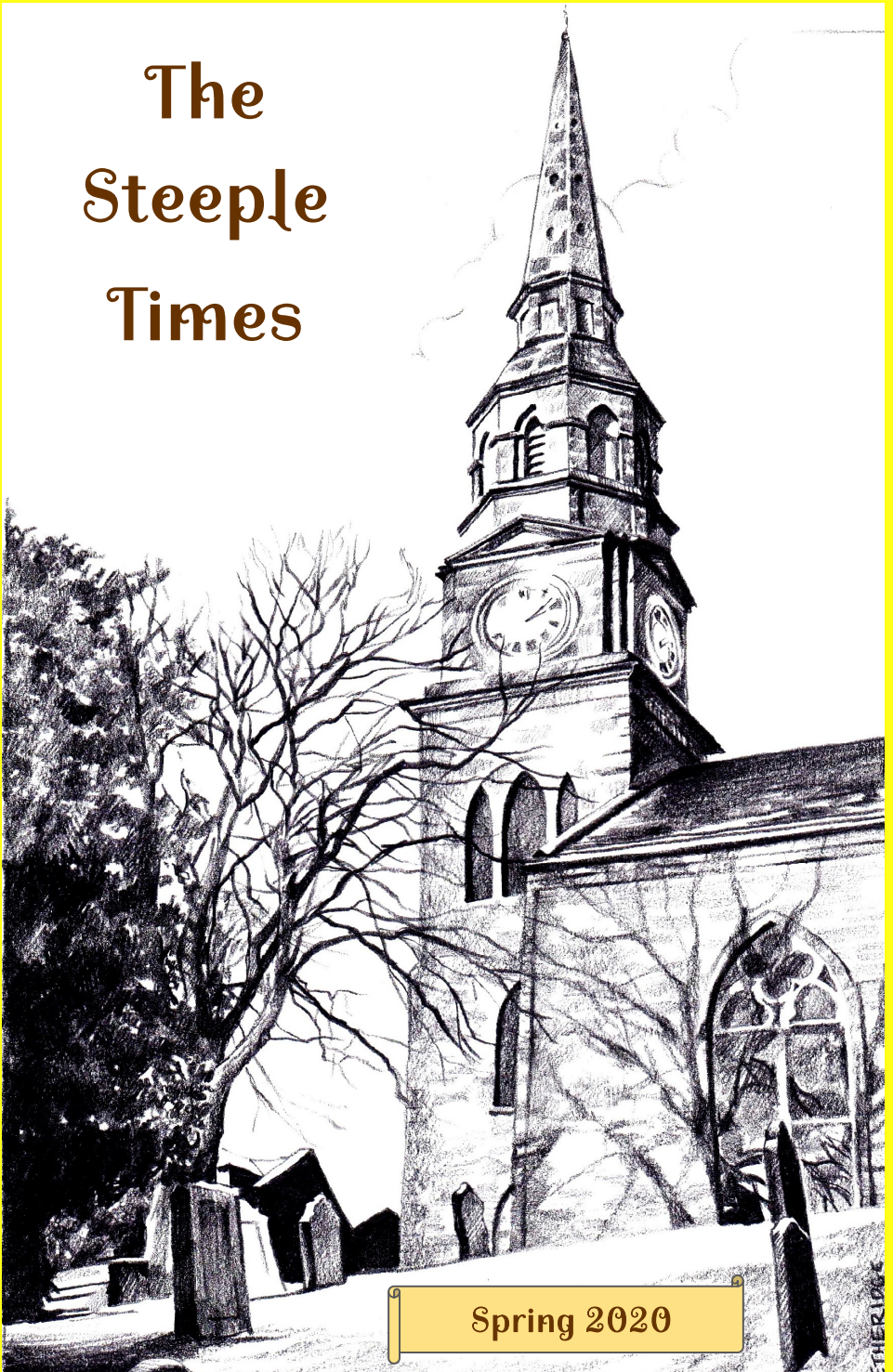


The Steeple Times



Spring 2020



Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

† ***Additional services:***

⇒ First Sunday of the month: Informal Communion
at 9:30am

† **Midweek Service every Wednesday at 12:10pm**

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: **bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk**

Church website: www.thebigkirk.co.uk

Church E-mail: eando_office@yahoo.co.uk

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends

Easter is just around the corner and as this edition reaches you it will be Holy Week – a time of happiness and of great sadness as our Lord Jesus Christ is betrayed and dies on the cross. It is a time of prayer and reflection during Holy Week and I ask that you consider coming to the church any day Monday to Friday 6th – 10th April and wander around our Stations of the Cross between 5:00pm and 7:00pm each of these nights. Also we hold our Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service at 7:00pm on the 9th and 10th April. This period of prayer and reflection is quickly followed by Easter Sunday when our Lord is resurrected and the church begins with a shout of Christ is Risen! Our Easter Day in the church starts at the Lochside with a service at 8am and then our main service at 11:00am in the church. This time of year is even busier for ministers than Christmas and I like Easter in the church more than Christmas!

I am really thankful that I have God in my life and eternally grateful and thankful for what God and his Son Jesus Christ did for me, for you and for the world when Jesus died on that cross. I am also really thankful that God called me to East and Old Church in Forfar to serve as your minister – I feel truly blessed and that is down to you our members and friends of East and Old Church and the community of Forfar also. You welcomed me in with open arms even though I was from the west coast! As members of East and Old you have supported the many, many changes that have occurred in the church. You have gone out into the streets to show God's love in action, you have welcomed many, many people from other lands into your houses and this community and did so willingly. You have given of your time in so many ways that it is incalculable, the talents you have and have shared with the church and the church family is simply

immeasurable and the money you have given to the church and to the numerous charities that we have supported over these years is simply astonishing! I admire and respect you and so very appreciative and grateful for all you do to further God's mission in Forfar and further afield – thank you!

Our Outward and Forward team are always looking for new ways for East and Old's name to be out in the community and during the month of February handed out a number of thank you boxes to various agencies such as all the doctor's surgeries, all the primary schools, fire, police and ambulance and quite a few others. These thank you packs included tea, coffee, biscuit, crisps, sweets etc for their enjoyment. East and Old is very much a part of the Forfar community as are other agencies – we are all in it together. The next step we are taking is our appreciation cards which you will find enclosed within this edition. We are asking that you send this card to someone you know – it doesn't matter whether they are church members or not, friends or just acquaintances – just send it to someone you appreciate and want to say thank you to. It could be that they changed your life in some way, they were a listening ear, you liked that they smiled at you when you were feeling down – whatever the reason send the card to them to show they are appreciated. If you need more than one card let us know as we have extras.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

J*ust after I had forwarded this letter to our magazine editor the world as we know it changed with the restrictions of groups gathering together and the cancellation of worship services plus a raft of other rules, regulations and policies which I whole heartedly agree with. As of today changes have been made to funerals and weddings and the closure of our schools.*

For funerals there will be no home visits and arrangements will be made over the phone and attending the funerals will be immediate family only but a memorial service can be held later.

I know that some churches are opening their doors at certain times but I feel we need to be in isolation for a reason and I am more than happy to talk to anyone on the phone especially those who feel they are going stir crazy! I have already had a couple of phone calls from members regarding their weekly freewill offering and I am very grateful to them for thinking about this because we already run on a very tight budget and without the weekly offerings continuing to come in then we will be in real financial difficulty. Therefore can I ask that you phone your elder or myself and we will collect your envelope through your letterbox or window or phone our treasurer and ask her for a standing order form for the bank (which would suit us better). Secondly if you have been adversely hit through loss of income and are struggling let me know as I have a little money spare in the benevolent fund and unfortunately I mean a little money. I also have a little money that I can spend in Tesco if there is any food left! If you hear of any families who are really struggling for food then let me know also - they don't need to be a member to receive help.

Remember there are many worship services on the radio and I believe at this time of writing a special service each Sunday morning will be on the BBC from England. Please do not feel lonely God is with you always and I am only a phone call away.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything,^{A)}> but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.^{B)}> ⁷And the peace of God,^{C)}> which transcends all understanding,^{D)}> will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer

Today God, the world is turning, there is beauty around us, we have people who love us and people to love. There may be troubles and worries, there be issues to face and problems to solve and nothing will magically take these away. But we have the choice to see good, to savour what is right, to appreciate what is lovely, to honour the efforts of others and be grateful for the small things.

These help us in our coping, they lighten our spirits and bring some balance to our thinking, may we look beyond our present trials and see hope and support, at least the kind that we might share with others. Love us through our hardships, lift our spirits when they fall and be with us and bless us we pray. Amen.

Every blessing to you all your minister and friend.

Barbara Ann



At time of going to press, everyday things as we know them are changing at a very rapid pace due to the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Most of the upcoming events at the church will need to be put on hold whilst we follow the latest NHS and government guidelines and advice.

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

For all of you who use a computer or tablet please remember you can keep updated about what's going on at East and Old via our website at www.thebigkirk.co.uk or by checking out our face book page <https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk/>

(see important coronavirus guidance in the centre spread of this magazine)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



1st Wishaw Girls' Brigade Company – Sunday 19th January

Our minister as National Chaplain to Girls' Brigade Scotland was invited to 1st Wishaw GB Company in November last year and was so pleased at what she heard she invited the girls and leaders to come to Forfar to sing their new modern hymns that really resonated with them. The girls and leaders sang beautifully and the words to the new hymns were so meaningful for them and for us. Thank you to the girls and leaders for making the early morning start and teaching us some new hymns.

Cooking and Baking Classes

The cooking and baking classes have been a bit of a hit and a miss since we started them. They will continue into April when we will re-assess whether or not they will continue. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and recipes and to those who have participated.



Book Club

Most of the books the readers in the club have read recently have had mixed reactions and this has brought about some great discussions. However it is very obvious that the book club members are all females and they would like to see more members joining them both male and female. If anyone has read a good book then please recommend it to the book club members – they are always on the lookout for different genre of books too.

Strathmore Primary School

School Assemblies – our minister attends and participates in



Strathmore Primary School every week and has a great relationship with children, parents and staff. The school lets our minister know what they are looking at each week and Barbara Ann fits her talk in and around that.

At the beginning of January Barbara Ann and Isabel Farquharson went into the school to be the judges at

the **Scottish Poetry Competition** which involved them listening to three children from each class as they recited and acted out their poems. Once again the standard was very high especially from the primary 7's with their poem Tam O Shanter!

H **Heavenly Bites** is a big hit with the primary 7 children – they really love coming along to make the food, serve it and mostly like washing up. After this is done they count the money donated by the people at the café and work out with the receipts in hand for the food whether they made a profit or loss! Needless to say they always make a profit as people give generously! The food is lovely and the service is second to none – please come along on the third Thursday of the month and join the children – you will really enjoy it. The next dates are: 23rd April, 21st May and 18th June. During Fairtrade fortnight in March the school ran a **Fairtrade Café**. It was open to the public and a number of our church members popped in for a cuppie and a Fairtrade goodie to eat as well as buying Fairtrade chocolate! There were certainly more of us than parents but you must remember that parents work during the day and the children were delighted we came along. Once again the service was first class and we wanted for nothing! A couple of our members could not make it along on the day so they gave our minister some money to put into the donation bowl and thank you to those who supplied baking for the day also – the staff were very grateful. As you know we collect food each week in the church which we give to the school for their **Food Bank**.



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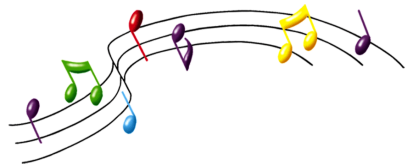
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Please keep the donations coming in as they are needed and are greatly appreciated by the school and the parents of the pupils. Every little bit helps and thank you to a couple of our members who buy a basket load of food and to a couple of others who give Barbara Ann money to take into the school. If the school receives money they take a few pupils over to Asda and they buy the food that is required for the Foodbank. It is a teaching and learning exercise in how to budget and what are suitable foods and which are not and which food is a luxury that you cannot afford to buy when money is tight. Our Green team in the church is working alongside the schools Eco Team by promoting recycling, working in the garden at the school together and collecting in empty crisp packets for recycling and a whole lot more. In today's climate the church needs to work in partnership with other organisations and this partnership we have with Strathmore Primary school is an excellent one.

Chimes Playgroup - Our minister visits Chimes Playgroup on the last Wednesday of every month and we are not too sure who has more fun – the children or the minister. Barbara Ann usually sings a song with them, tells them a Bible story and gets the children involved in some kind of action and game. We're told that she bribes them a lot with little gifts! A few members have commented that it is lovely to see the children shout hello and wave to Barbara Ann if they see her in the street or supermarket.

Accord has been very busy in 2020 and have performed in numerous venues for many organisations – some of which give them a donation and others do not. The team have such fun together but want people to know it is not a closed shop! If you are interested in joining them just speak to Barbara Ann. If you know of a club, organisation or institution that like people coming in to entertain them then let them know Accord is available.



Our **worship team** met earlier this year and spoke of the additional worship services that were held last year and talked about this year also. There were an additional 6 new services last year from Songs of Praise, to Picnic and Praise, to Why! Why! Why! and others. There were on average 20 people at each of these services which means some had more and some had less. The worship team are trying their best to find new ways and ideas that will appeal to our members and friends to come along and hear about and worship God more and have come up with a few new ideas for this year. They like the idea of changing our service format once a month with more modern hymns and music. They also like the idea of another Songs of Praise and a service based around themes like films or food. Our minister is very grateful to the members of the worship team for covering for her holidays and filling in at all the worship services including care home services.



Church Family Trips – since last summer the church has run a family community trip to Edinburgh Zoo, Glasgow Science Centre, and Dynamic Earth and on the 6th April we are off to Active Kids near Perth. These trips have been funded by Angus Presbytery Ministry and



Mission Rebate alongside Angus Council who gave us money for the packed lunches. The trips are to help families spend time together and a low cost day away especially when you have 2 adults and 3 or 4 children.

The funding we received also helped to pay for the Christmas Party in December last year. A big thank you to Paula Stewart for organising these events and being there on the day and also picking up all the packed lunches for between 70-80 people on each trip!

Big Breakfast – our **BB Company** held their Big Breakfast in the church at the end of February and what a feast it was. Fruit juice, fresh fruit, cereal, bacon, sausages, rolls plus as much tea and coffee as you wanted. It was a huge success with over £296 was raised and those present were served by well-mannered young men with a bright smile on their faces. Thank you to the leaders and boys and other helpers.



Lent Bible Studies – once again all the churches came together during Lent for the annual Lent Bible Studies. Each Thursday evening during Lent one of the churches takes a turn to lead the studies in their building with their member of clergy. East and Old kick started the studies but since our minister was double booked Susan Forbes ably lead the group of 22 people who were there on the night. All the people who attend from the different churches find these joint Bible Studies interesting and beneficial and are interested in what each other have to say. The cup of tea and coffee is also always welcome!



Lent Lunches – all the churches come together each year for the lunches which follow the studies the night before. They are all held in East and Old because of our location but each week a different church makes and serves the soup. The lunches have been getting a bit quieter over the last couple of years but it would not take much to bring them back to where they used to be number wise. Each week there is a selection of 6 different soups with bread followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. All that is asked for is a donation which will go towards the FACT charity which this year is the Bellshill Salvation Army Band and Forfar British Royal Legion. Thank you to Isabel Farquharson for organising our soups and helpers and thank you to everyone who came along to any of the lunches.



PVG Co-ordinators Training 16th Feb certificates

PVG stands for Protection of Vulnerable Groups and we have three elders who have been to a number of courses over the years to hold these positions within the church. On Sunday 16th February our minister presented Isabel Farquharson, Lexi Smart and Alf Birse with their updated training certificates. Their photographs are on the wall in the reception area of the church so that if a child or vulnerable person needs to speak to someone about something that is concerning them then they know who these people are by looking at the photographs. Thank you to all three for completing the training and being our co-ordinators.



How can I try to stay well and avoid spreading the virus?



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Work at home where possible and avoid social venues



Catch coughs and sneezes and throw away used tissues



If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Thanks to the BBC for making this poster available for public use

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>

It has been announced by the UK/Scottish Government that as of 16 March anyone developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, however mild, should stay at home for 7 days from the onset of symptoms as per existing advice.

In addition, it is now recommended that anyone living in the same household as a symptomatic person should self-isolate for 14 days after the first household member first gets symptoms.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

Information for the public on COVID-19, including stay at home advice for people who are self-isolating, can be found on [NHS Inform](#) website.

Further, people are advised to take social distancing measures to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. In particular, this is strongly advised for people aged 70 or over, people with underlying medical conditions and pregnant women.

If you have to self-isolate, you could ask a friend, family member or delivery service to collect your repeat prescription, buy groceries or run errands on your behalf.

Groovy Gryphons and Echo Teens

Our kids always keep very busy and have recently been doing experiments using salt and water, trying to grow salt crystals, (which didn't turn out as we hoped) and tasting water and salt mixtures, their faces were a picture, what a laugh we all had.

The children enjoy planning and organising fundraising events and decided to support two Forfar local charities the Guide Dogs and Angus Special Playscheme.

Pancake Sunday - on the Sunday after Shrove Tuesday the Groovy Gryphons and Echo Teens made pancakes to serve to the congregation after the morning service and to sell at the door. You could quite clearly see the fun they were having



as they helped to make the pancakes, and help us choose the various toppings. They were also involved in setting up the tables and serving the tea and coffee. Our minister was talking that day during worship about Jesus and the temptation story so she told the children she hoped that they would not be tempted to eat any of the pancakes before the congregation did – and would you believe it – they didn't have one pancake until all the congregation were served! A total of £175 was raised which they were very proud of, a big thank you to all who stayed behind and supported the children.

Echo Teens – Echo Teens is the new name for the youths in the church. Just when this article was being written our minister the week before in church was talking about Nicodemus and the questions he had for Jesus, that Nicodemus wanted to find out more about Jesus and what it would mean to follow him. Barbara Ann then asked the teens if they had any questions they would like to ask her about her life as a minister, the church or about her personal life. The teens asked two questions which Barbara Ann answered fully and which kept her on her toes and the congregation remarked later

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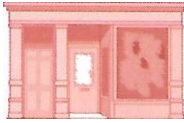
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how impressed they were with the questions the children asked. Our Teens will be joining Lawson Memorial Teens on the last weekend in May to attend Teen Ranch in Invergowrie which is a Christian based activity camp. The children will be taken there and back in the church minibus but each child and leader needs to pay £110 each. We are hoping to find some money in the church budget to help them but if anyone feels they would like to contribute some money to help the children attend this event then please speak to Barbara Ann – we have 4 youths and two leaders attending – a total of £660. ***As with other forthcoming church related events at time of going to press, this activity camp may have to be postponed due to coronavirus restrictions.***

Ladies Night Out

All the ladies of the church are welcome to attend this outing each month or even just when you can and if you need a lift there are enough people there with cars to pick you up. They have no set day to meet and set the dates when they meet the month before and they normally meet in Chapter and Verse who look after them very well indeed. They meet at 7:30pm and then at 8:45pm approx. they have tea, coffee and sandwiches. As you can imagine they talk a bit about church but what they do most is put the world to rights! The next nights out scheduled * are: Monday 6th April and Monday 4th May.

The men of the church meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in the Queen Street Tavern which coincides with the quiz night there. The men have a good natter and join in on the quiz.

They would really like it if more of the men of the church would join them and the main reason for that is that they never do really well in the quiz! No really, they just want the company! The next scheduled night out* is 2nd April.

Men's Night Out

**** These nights out may not go ahead due to coronavirus situation***

Knit N' Natter – our knit n' natter group meet every Monday at 1:30pm in the choir room and they do exactly what it says – they knit and they natter. Some of our knitters are very good indeed while others are in the early stage of learning but they support and help each other. The group are busy knitting fish for the presbytery and the church— if you are a knitter they would love for you to join them on a Monday. Whether or not you are a knitter then can we please ask you to knit fish for the church? We need them for the middle of June. There is a pattern for the fish in the church or simply knit a square and then make into the shape of a fish – speak to Elizabeth McLeod or Esther Kidd for this version.



World Day of Prayer 6th March - We have a World Day of Prayer local committee in Forfar and they organise this prayer event each year. This year it was held in Lowson Memorial Church and although the numbers could have been higher the evening was successful. We are very thankful and blessed that one of our members Mary Pickstone is on the National Committee for World Day of Prayer which meets in Edinburgh just about every month or so.



" Happy Birthday "

Tuesday 17th March – Happy 100th Birthday to Vina McLaren

we are sorry we could not get to see you on your birthday because at the time of writing this piece St David's Care Home had closed its doors to non-essential visitors due to the Coronavirus. We hope you had a lovely day Vina and we will see you soon!

Monday 6th April – Happy 101st Birthday to May Balfour

Just as the magazine is being delivered May will be celebrating her 101st Birthday. Many of us remember the wonderful party from last year and then the special request was made to the church for May to meet the Earl and Countess of Forfar – both of these days were fabulous and May had a real ball at both of them. We hope to join you on your birthday on the 6th if we are allowed in due to the Coronavirus!

Retiring Offerings – our congregation are very generous and to that end the Kirk Session took a look at the variety of retiring offerings we support in a year. So over this coming year we will be holding retiring offerings for the following charities:

- ◆ Leprosy Mission – April
- ◆ World Vision – May
- ◆ Christian Aid – May
- ◆ As a church we also respond to any appeals from the DEC – Disaster Emergency Appeals
- ◆ Motor Neurone Disease – August
- ◆ Remembrance Sunday – November
- ◆ FACT – December



Christian Aid Week 10th to 16th May

This edition of the Steeple Times contains your Christian Aid envelope.

*We hope you will be able to put a donation into it and then **return the envelope to us this year via the Church letterbox** given the present coronavirus situation.*

East and Old Church are a very giving Church and we thank you, our members and friends for all you do for others who are less fortunate



THE GUILD

In February we had a wonderful slide show on 'trekking in Nepal'. Lisa Craven spoke warmly of the country and we felt the joy in her voice as she spoke of seeing Mount Everest for the first time.

On Wednesday 26th we visited the Guide Dog Centre and everyone enjoyed the visit which was made special by the enthusiasm and hard work of the staff who make this centre an asset in Forfar.

On March 11th we had a joint meeting with the other two Guilds in Forfar and our minister Barbara Ann talked to us about the project to help young unmarried mothers in Zambia.

As of now the Guild is closed until further notice but if there are any changes to this we will contact the members to let them know.

THE EVENTS LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK TO CHECK WHETHER ANY OF THEM ARE RE-INSTATED.

- **Sunday 29th March** – Stated Annual Meeting of East & Old Church
- **Saturday 4th April** – Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning
- **Monday 6th April** – Church family trip to Active Kids
- **Monday 6th to 10th April** - Stations of the Cross for Holy Week
- **Thursday 9th April - Maundy Thursday** with the Last Supper and Good Friday Services
- **Sunday 12th April** – Easter Sunday 8:00am at the Lochside & 11:00am in Church
- **Sunday 19th April** – Afternoon Communion Service at 2:30pm
- **Sunday 26th April** – Communion Services at 11:00am and 6:30pm
- **Wednesday 6th May** – Congregation Meeting at 7:00pm
- **Sunday 10th May** – 75th VE Day Commemoration Lunch after the service
- **Sunday 17th May** – World Vision Soup and sandwich lunch
- **Wednesday 27th May** – Duntocher Trinity Guild
- **Sunday 31st May - BIG NEWS!** - we hope to hold a special thanksgiving service to thank Captain Irene Duthie for all her work, loyalty, commitment and dedication to 2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade Company as she retires from the Company at the end of the season. We hope to welcome all former officers, leaders and boys to this service. If you know of any former boys or leaders then please let them know.



Beetle Drive the members of Friends thought this would be a fun night that would not cost a lot of money and it certainly was but the turnout was very poor indeed and very disappointing. We know some people do not like coming out at night but you could have been picked up and dropped off back at home with no problem at all by our willing volunteers.

For those who were there what a fun night it was with a bit of cheating at the beginning – all be it they didn't listen to the rules so is ignorance cheating? No it wasn't but it was good making fun of them on the night! There were lots of prizes and laughter and thanks to Sheena Benvie for making up the A-Z competition!

French Night

Our next venture is a French Night which will be on Saturday 18th April at 7:00pm. We have increased the tickets to £15 because where else can you get a four course French meal, entertainment, community singing and quizzes for that price. There will be a lot going on during the evening and you will be delighted with the French sweet that will be served with your tea and coffee after the meal – it is so unusual but delicious!

Friends annual walk is no longer!

We have decided to stop the Friends Annual Walk at the beginning of August and replace it with the Friends Annual Trip which means you can shop or walk or shop and walk! So the date for your diary is Saturday 1st August and the bus will leave from the church at 11:00am and go to the House of Bruar. At the House of Bruar you can enjoy a nice cuppie or small lunch, walk round the shops or walk up to the waterfall. We will leave there and head for Pitlochry for around 90 minutes or so and then stop at a local hotel on our way back for a High Tea. More details and cost to follow in the next edition.



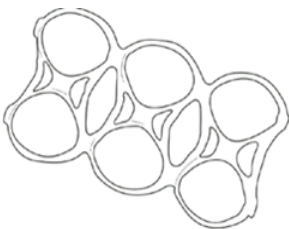
The Walking Group are made up of a variety of of all different abilities and it does not matter if you are a quick or a slow walker– all are welcome. All you need for our walks are a pair of shoes on your feet, a waterproof, a packed lunch or snack

and a tongue in your head! The walking group has been hit with weather problems, injury and holidays so here are the next few dates for you to put in your diaries.

- Saturday 11th April
- Saturday 2nd May
- Sunday 17th May – we hope to join with other church members for a 6km sponsored World Vision Walk
- Saturday 13th June
- Saturday 27th June

Meet at 10:00am at the Myre Car Park and bring a packed lunch.

“RECYCLING”



★ We are now recycling flexible plastic ring carriers. (the plastic holding together 4 or 6 cans). There is a drawer in the Church for them and also a collection bin in the Big Kirk Shop

★ We are still collecting all brands of empty crisp packets which are taken to the Scottish Air Ambulance for recycling.



Renovations Update

Our Phase 2 renovations are quietly – or not so quietly on occasion – progressing largely unseen. The vestry office and toilet are now completed on the ground floor. Electrical works are ongoing in the upper rooms. The lift shaft is completed, and the lift installation is progressing well with commissioning to happen very soon. Once the lift is operational, we will have much better access to the upper level should anyone like to see the spaces we are working on there. An extension to the ventilation system has been commissioned and this work will begin shortly.

The property team have again been heavily involved and saved literally thousands of pounds in labour costs to date. Unfortunately, not all elements of the work can be undertaken in-house and we have some significant costs committed to for the works under way, with external contractors.

- ◆ The electrical works - £21,598
- ◆ The lift - £20,058 – balance to pay – we have already paid a significant deposit
- ◆ Ventilation - £8,900
- ◆ Plumbing works and new water supply – estimate £10,000
- ◆ Roof repairs (leaking above new reception) £9,000
- ◆ Total commitments to spend - £69,556

The remaining works after this stage will include – significant joinery works to build stud walls and partitions; creation of two meeting rooms with a moveable divider; a toilet block and fittings in the Session house; specialist flooring in the large activity space above the Social Space; multiple false ceilings in the upper level and the link corridor by the vestry; fitting of many doors and lastly – decoration throughout.

While it sounds a lot of work it is literally the 'last lap' and we are aiming to complete the works before the end of December 2020. You, the congregation, members and friends of East & Old Parish Church have generously funded most of these works and the future benefit to our Church and Local community will be a legacy and tribute to this support. We have also been supported by local businesses and grants along our journey for which we are also tremendously grateful.

You can see how things will look and also see our 'Supporters' recognition page by visiting:

<https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/million-pound-challenge/phase-two/>

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

January	21	Alex Smart	< 20 >
	25	Janice Livie	<34 >
February	3	Dennis Connelly	
	11	Margaret Anderson	< 24 >
	28	George (Burge) Craik	< 6 >
March	7	George Peters	
	8	Ruby Proctor	
	14	Allan (Humph) McDonald	



BLESSING

February	2	Olivia Beth McIntosh
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MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



If you have paid for your flowers in advance for any of the dates where the church has had to cancel the Sunday service due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a full refund will be available for you in due course unless you wish to opt for an alternative date later in the year.

There are still a number of Sundays available in the second half of 2020 Flower Calendar which is located in the Reception area of the church.

5 APR	Helena Todd	10 MAY	D & M Robertson
12	“ Sheena Benvie	17	“ J & M Herron
19	“ Jean Smith	24	“ J Gair & C J Milne
26	“ Allison McLaren	31	“ J McEwen
3 MAY	Bob Beedie	7 JUN	Elma Milne

Please pass your donations to Catriona Milne, Irene Duthie or pop your money in an envelope and hand it in to Jennifer at PRIMA –Thank you

NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES
 The deadline for submission of articles for the **JUNE 2020** issue is **15th MAY 2020**
 Material can be given / sent to the Editor or e-mail **ed@thebigkirk.co.uk**

Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk		
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treasurer ■ Gift Aid Convener 	Paula Stewart	07715596465
FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Editor of Steeple Times ■ Flower Group Admin 	Catriona Milne	07962065936
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer	Vanessa Ferrie	01307 461111
Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
2nd Forfar Company of The Boy's Brigade	Irene Duthie	01307 465895
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Barbara Ann Sweetin	01307 464935
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228