

# The Steeple Times

February

2022



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**EAST AND OLD  
PARISH CHURCH  
FORFAR**

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## Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

## Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: **[bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

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

**Church E-mail:** [eando\\_office@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eando_office@yahoo.co.uk)

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# LETTER FROM THE MANSE

*Hello my dear friends*

*Wishing you all every blessing in the coming year!*

*On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January this year in church the bible passage that was being read and then the whole service based around was the Wedding at Cana. It really was a joyous service with lots of fun and laughter especially at the outtakes video of when something goes wrong at a wedding. There were quite a few funny clips and most of the bloomers were caused by the groom! However, on one clip it was the bride and groom's dog that caused the issue when it lifted its leg and relieved itself over the bride's dress! The other bloomers involved swimming pools and cakes! However even before the service started, I just couldn't keep the smile off my face! Near my office door, two of our members were standing have a quick chat and it was a pastoral issue they were discussing. I came out my office to ask them something and they both jumped high in the air saying "sorry, sorry" and literally running to the door of the chancel. They thought I was going into the sanctuary to start the service and that they were holding me up – it is one of these stories that you needed to have been there to understand just how funny it was! But the smile never left my face for most of the day.*

*We have also started a new idea with the Sunday Club. At the end of the service each Sunday the Sunday Club give me a question based on the bible story of that day and I need to answer it the next week in the church. As well as doing that they also give me a word that I must fit into my service the following week also – oh dear – that is going to be tricky! The question they gave me was, 'Who were the couple that*

*were being married?’ If you are interested in the answer, you may have heard it in church or you can ask me the next time you see me!*

*Also, on this day the choir sang one of my favourite pieces and to put it simply they were great – so good in fact they got a round of applause and then I asked them to sing it again before we left the sanctuary.*

*The reason I mention this to you is that it was so good to be happy, laughing, celebrating and feeling good, back to normality. Covid-19 is wearing people down, the restrictions that we are under are wearing people down, people want to get back to normality or as near normal as we can. Yes we all understand there will be some restrictions for some time but we need back to our clubs and organisations, we need back to socialising over our tea and coffee and not forgetting the biscuits and cakes, we need to be going back on holidays and encouraging people to be out and about again. We are sociable people and we need to interact with other people on many different levels.*

*Remember that our church is a safe environment to be in through all the hygiene protocols and our air system in the building, so we look forward to seeing you back in the church and back at the various events that we have planned over the next few months.*

*Every blessing to you and your family*

**Barbara Ann**



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ....

**F**lower Festival – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November – this event took place as the last edition of the Steeple Times went to press and what a success it was.

May Clark, our member and floral decorator, did an amazing job of demonstrating the wonderful artistic talent that God has given her along



with some memorable stories of her time living abroad with her husband. May donated all the flowers for the arrangements as did the ladies who supplied all the food for the Afternoon Tea which was delicious. Thank you to the flower team for wonderful displays they put around the church and church entrance – they were beautiful and really added to the day.

**Absent Friends Service – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm** – Christmas can be a difficult time of year for many people who have lost loved ones recently or in the past. This time of reflection was very well attended and many people left saying how good it was and how special it was. There were numerous ways to remember people's loved ones and the Remembrance Book was a success.

Remember the Remembrance Book is in the church all year through. Just add your loved ones name at any time – maybe on the anniversary of their death or another significant date.



## Winter Wonderland Musical Evening Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December –

there was lots of Christmas spirit and cheer as the audience listened to the Forfar Instrumental Band, Accord and other guests as they performed and entertained us on this night.



The food selection for the night was very festive – mulled wine, mince pies, shortbread, Tunnocks biscuits, tablet and so much more! A big thank you to Friends of E&O for organising this and donating all the food and drink. A big thank you to Forfar Instrumental Band, Accord and other guests for their performances – it was a great night and brought needed cheer!

## Nativity Service Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00am - a

nativity play with a difference was performed with both children and adults! There was lots of audience participation and the acting quality was great especially with Susan at the last minute sticking a cushion

up her jumper so that she looked nine months pregnant, Barbara Ann bouncing onto the scene as the Angel Gabriel, Matthew as a Panto Dame and Stephanie in numerous roles.

Well done to the Sunday Club once again for all their hard work.





## Nine Lessons and Carols

**N**ine Lessons and Carols 19<sup>th</sup> December – after the enjoyment of the nativity service we held a more quiet and reflective service in the afternoon. Thank you to all the readers and especially Bruce our organist whose fingers must have been worn down to the bone with playing over 20 carols that day!

**C**hristingle Service Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – remember to wear your Christmas Jumpers! We are back and it is all stations go, go, go! **Only it wasn't!** Due to the rise in cases of Covid19, the Kirk Session took the decision it would be better to be safe and wise and not have over 300 people in the same room.



*Roll on Christmas Eve 2022 – bigger and better!*

**C**hristmas Day Service

**CANCELLED**

**26<sup>th</sup> DEC** **S**unday 26<sup>th</sup> December – this was a quieter, shorter service but again due to Covid restrictions we were unable to have tea and coffee after the service. Well done the 45 people who came out on Boxing Day morning!

## The Big Kirk Shop

Best Wishes to all our customers for 2022 – we are looking forward to seeing you all this year. During Christmas we had some alterations done in the shop. It has all been painted and is looking really good and fresh. We're back to our normal hours **Tuesday to Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm**. Winter Coats are all at £3.00. We have lots of Handbags, Jigsaws, Games, Books and general Bric-a-Brac.

## THE COVID BEASTIE

Oh Dearie me times marchin' on  
And Covid's still at large  
The nasty beasties fleein' about  
Are still oot there in charge

We practise 'oor safe distancing  
And wear 'oor fancy masks  
Oor smiles are nowhere to be seen  
As we get on wi' oor tasks

We've a' been jabbed and boosted  
In oor airms, by oor nursing chums  
But how we thank 'oor lucky stars  
It could he been 'oor bums ....

We're getting' affa scunnered  
Stayin' hame noo is the thing  
Oh, how we wish that we could hae  
A richt guid Heilan' Fling!

But we're a' in this thegither  
And we'll carry on in hope  
Supportin' ane another  
So cheer up folks, don't mope!

*By Winnie Brown & Jeanette Milne  
January 2022*





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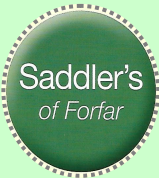
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We are back and ready for what promises to be an exciting year for the East & Old Sunday Club.

It was great to be back in the church in person for Christmas and to perform our retelling of the Nativity story which had a bit of twist with some new characters making an appearance! We hope everyone that was able to join us on Nativity Sunday enjoyed the performance and thank you to all the congregation for taking part.

In our upcoming session, we are excited to lead worship on Mothering Sunday (27<sup>th</sup> March). With lots of exciting games, activities and music planned, we hope you will be able to join us.

Fingers crossed our pancake making skills haven't become too rusty over the last couple years as we are also planning to hold a fundraiser in the not too distant future.

If your child or grandchild would like to join the Sunday Club, they would be most welcome. We meet in the church from 10:45am every Sunday and finish around noon (during school term time).

*Matthew, Joyce, Frances and Karen*



# NEW VENTURES



The Kirk Session believe we need to involve more children and families in church life so to that end we have started a 'Toddler Time' (a new name for Parent and Toddler Group) in the church on a Monday morning and started on

Monday 24th January. Hailey Dalrymple kindly offered to run this new venture along with Paula Stewart and a few helpers from the church who come along on a rota basis, some who come along once a month and others once a fortnight.

Can you offer some Monday's? Please speak to Barbara Ann.

We had to buy play equipment suitable for this age range and we were looking for donations to off-set the costs however we have now received a £500 grant from Early Years Scotland and Learning Alliance.



## WHAT'S ON AT TODDLER TIME IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

For children aged 2 to 5 and their carers on Monday mornings 9:30am to 11:30am at East and Old Parish Church

**7**  
FEB

Stay & Play

**7**  
MAR

Stay & Play and Song Time  
*with Chloe from Dance Studio*

**14**  
FEB

**SORRY - NO SESSION DUE TO MID-TERM BREAK**

**14**  
MAR

Stay & Play

**21**  
FEB

Messy\* Play  
*(bring spare clothes)*

**21**  
MAR

Messy\* Play  
*(bring spare clothes)*

**28**  
FEB

Stay & Play

**28**  
MAR

Stay & Play

\* Our Messy Play sessions help to develop: Imagination, Physical Development, Communication Skills and so much more!

A typical session may include: Sand, Water, Crafts, Playdough, Messy Foam & Painting.



The Baby Blether Group meets every  
**Friday morning: 9:30am - 11:30am**  
(during term time)

**Babies from birth to 2 years and  
parents/carers welcome. Play and  
chat in warm and safe surroundings**



**Baby Blether**







On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December the first of our 'Sunday Night Project' – a new name for a youth club was held.

Karen Liddle is running this new venture every second Sunday evening from 6:30pm and we are hoping some people from the church or community will help out on

a rota basis once again. On the 19<sup>th</sup> there was a Christmas themed evening with party food, party games, music, entertainment and gifts and 21 young folk turned up on the night and it was a hit.

The next night was Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January and more equipment needed to be sourced and bought and the youth club now has an Xbox and PS4 Pro. We are about to bring over a table-tennis table from the BB Hall but we need a new Pool Table – one that folds!

Do you or someone you know, have one you don't use anymore? Could you buy one for us? On the 9<sup>th</sup> we had 17 youths which was great but sadly two of the boys caused a bit of damage to the church premises so the Kirk Session is meeting while this edition is going to print to decide what to do about it. When you run youth clubs some damage is to be expected. If we had a couple of more helpers on a rota basis this would alleviate this problem.

**The club meets every second Sunday evening from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.**

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The Girls Brigade have continued to do some experiments, made salt dough and Christmas decorations. Following advice from their HQ they ended the session earlier than usual on 9th December.

Meanwhile the boys learnt about BB history, patron saints and also had fun making Christmas decorations. The Company section went to see the new Spiderman film on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, while the Anchors and Juniors had a party.



As always both organisations are looking for helpers, so please speak to the leaders if you can spare an hour on a Thursday night, even if only occasionally.

Your support in our activities is much appreciated.

Thanks to all involved in any way with sorting and delivering the Christmas cards, **the amount raised was the grand sum of £4581.**

# THE GUILD



*The last time I wrote to you we were just about to have Mary Ballantyne speak to us about the jeweller Faberge, what a fascinating and informative talk that was. She explained the history of the jewellery business and how it was so intertwined with the imperial family and the Russian revolution. The Faberge firm is still going today and Mary brought a Faberge egg for us to see, those that got to hold the egg I'm sure will remember it for a long time, what a great night.*

*We finished the year on the 8<sup>th</sup> December with a meal at Chapter and Verse and then Covid hit again so we have had to cancel our January meeting and we now **restart on 9th February in the afternoon at 2:00pm** and our speaker will be Arlene Nelson followed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm with a talk from Barbara Ann our minister followed by our A.G.M.*

*We go into March with a joint meeting with the other Forfar guilds at Lawson Church which will be at 7:30pm in the evening where the speaker will be a representative of the 'Vine Trust'. Our **Coffee Morning (hopefully if allowed) will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March** (tickets will be on sale in the church in February) with our **closing social being held at 2:00pm on 23<sup>rd</sup>** with entertainment from Alf Birse and John Young.*

*If you would like to see what the Guild could offer you please come along to one of our meetings where you will be made most welcome.*

East & Old Church working with Soroptimist International Dundee for the  
Worldwide Convention COP26 held in Glasgow in November 2021

The aims of the project called **Stitches 4 Survival** was to knit panels 39inches by 24inches depicting the colours of the environment including blues, greens, yellows etc. telling their 'story' knitted into the panels was a phenomenal variety of Ideas - overall we produced 6 panels . Pictured below is an example of one of the designs - our other 5 were equally spectacular which we have photos of in the church.

The idea of the panels were to ensure that the smallest deprived child in the poorest countries are kept warm. Before their final destination, all the panels were shown by being hung on washing lines - fences etc. throughout the


south of Scotland before being sent to the company known as Stitches for Survival. It is gratifying to know we were part of a spectacular amount of work spreading joy and kindness throughout the world. You should have seen the famous washing greens in Glasgow Green ablaze with the colour of all the panels, before being sent to the final stitchers in the south of Scotland.

The town of Portobello was where ours were finished off for transport abroad. The stitcher ladies there were so complementary of our church ladies work - **well done to all involved.**

We made a difference to a small part of the world!



# Looking Ahead.....

**V**alentines Coffee Morning   
Saturday 12th February from 10:00am to 12noon



**W**orld Thinking Day Service – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February – we have been asked to host this service this year by the Guiding



Commissioner of Forfar – Karen Kelly, which Barbara Ann was delighted to be able to do. We look forward to welcoming girls and leaders from the organisation.

There will be a retiring offering at the end of the service which will be sent to WAGGS – World Association of Girl

Guiding and Girl Scouts. Their theme for the year is Our World: our eco-future, the environment and gender equality.

**F**lick n' chips Night  
Monday 21st February at 6:30pm



**S**unday Club Pancakes – the Sunday closest to Shrove Tuesday is 27<sup>th</sup> February and our Sunday Club will be making pancakes which



we hope to be able to eat after the service and also for members to take home with them – all for a small or big donation! We will let you look at Stephanie's big eyes as you try hand over a small donation! This

money will help the Sunday Club towards the work they are doing which we will hear more about shortly.

**S**HROVE TUESDAY LUNCH - Tuesday 1st March  
12noon to 1:00pm



**F**olk Evenings – these evenings take place every **third Wednesday** of the month with the next evening being on **16<sup>th</sup> February** at **7:30pm** restrictions allowing, and we are so looking forward to getting out and about and together with other people again for some great entertainment. The next few dates after 16<sup>th</sup> February are:-



**Wednesdays' 16<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Walking Group**



*With the Covid-19 restrictions now being lifted, the group is able to start walking again on:*

- **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**B**ook Festival - Our minister and Susan Forbes were knocking ideas about for 2022 and they came up with the idea of a book festival. The idea will be to have tables of books outside the church in the driveway and inside the building at various times and places, and within the church people reading extracts of books and poems. Do you know any authors who might come along and read from their own book? If so, let us know and we will contact them. We need better weather for this to take place it'll **probably happen in late spring – May is looking good!**

Thank you to Friends of East and Old for taking this on board!



**Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – okay everyone get your diaries out! Barbara Ann has been busy planning and asking people to do this and that to get organised for this event. On Thursday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9:30pm there will be a host of things happening from pipers, to buglers, to beacons, to singing – all of which people have been asked to take



part in by the National Platinum Jubilee Organising Committee which covers the whole Commonwealth – more details in the next edition and on our notice boards. **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 1:00pm in the Manse gardens** (or church if it is raining) we will be holding our **Jubilee lunch** and then the following day, **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June** it's Pentecost Sunday as well as the Queen's special weekend, so we are having a **Sundae on a Sunday** after church. Now don't tell us that this does not sound exciting and definitely something to look forward to!



**SPOTLIGHT ON . . . . . Marion Duncan**



*Marion moved to Forfar from Dundee 47 years ago when she married Ian. They have one daughter and are the proud grandparents of Amy who is 13 years old. Marion retired from administration at a Vet Practice 11 years ago and enjoys being at the church by helping to edit the Steeple Times, being a member of the Kirk Session, part of the Media and Worship Teams and at present, a member of the Guild committee. Her hobbies/interests are reading, being a fair-weather gardener, meeting friends and family, the Guild and holidays/days away. She has no special favourite colour but likes turquoise and greens. Her favourite flowers are Daffodils, with roses coming a close second but if an Earwig is close by to the flowers she won't touch them as earwigs are one of her 'pet hates'.*

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

## DEATHS

December 10<sup>th</sup> Margaret Kemlo ( *Member* )

January 16<sup>th</sup> Helen Thomson ( *Parish* )



## Ministry of Flowers



|    |     |                    |    |     |                  |
|----|-----|--------------------|----|-----|------------------|
| 6  | FEB | Marjory MacLean    | 3  | APR | May Clark        |
| 13 | "   | Isobel Farquharson | 10 | "   | Dave Bowman      |
| 20 | "   | Karen Murray       | 17 | "   | Jean Smith       |
| 27 | "   | George Richardson  | 24 | "   | Allison McLaren  |
| 6  | MAR | Margaret Myles     | 1  | MAY | Bob Beedie       |
| 13 | "   | Bruce Simpson      | 8  | "   | Mr/s D Robertson |
| 20 | "   | Esther & Bob Kidd  | 15 | "   | Mr/Mrs J Herron  |
| 27 | "   | Mrs A Hogg         | 22 | "   | Jean McEwen      |

Please pass your donations **prior to your chosen Sunday** to Catriona Milne, Irene Duthie or pop it in an envelope and hand it in to Jennifer at PRIMA Gift Shop which is located next to the church gates.

Thank you



|  |  |              |
|--|--|--------------|
| Session Clerk  | Lexi Smart                                     | 01307 464330 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Depute Session Clerk</li> <li>■ Roll Keeper</li> </ul>        | Karen Kelly                                    | 01307 465043 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Treasurer</li> <li>■ Administrator</li> </ul>                 | Paula Stewart<br>eastandold@yahoo.com          | 07897456655  |
| FWO Treasurer  | Jean Alexander                                 | 01307 463860 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Steeple Times Editor</li> <li>■ Flower Group Admin</li> </ul> | Catriona Milne<br>steepletimeseditor@gmail.com | 07962065936  |
| Organist/Choirmaster   | Bruce Simpson                                  | 01307 468179 |
| Church Officer   |  |              |
| The Sunday Club  | Matthew Scott                                  | 07561317812  |
| 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<br>The Boys Brigade   | Betty Lovegrove                                | 01307 466467 |
| 2nd Forfar Company<br>The Girls Brigade  | Liz McDougall                                  | 07850518394  |
| Safeguarding<br>Coordinator  | Isabel Farquharson                             | 01307 479582 |
| Minibus Hire   | William Sweetin                                | 01307 248228 |

*We are changing the schedule for producing the Steeple Times magazine to four times per year, in other words quarterly.*

*The next edition of the magazine will be published in May 2022 followed by August, November, then next February and so on.*

~ **NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES** ~

The deadline for submission of articles for the **SUMMER 2022** issue is  
**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2022**

Material can be given / sent to the Editor or e-mail **steepletimeseditor@gmail.com**

**CHURCH  
BUS**



Just to remind everyone that our Church Bus is operating on the first Sunday of each month for the 11:00am services also on Communion Sundays. Any member who wishes to make use of this service should contact Jean Alexander on 463860. Jean has an answer-machine so it is easy to leave her a message if she is out.