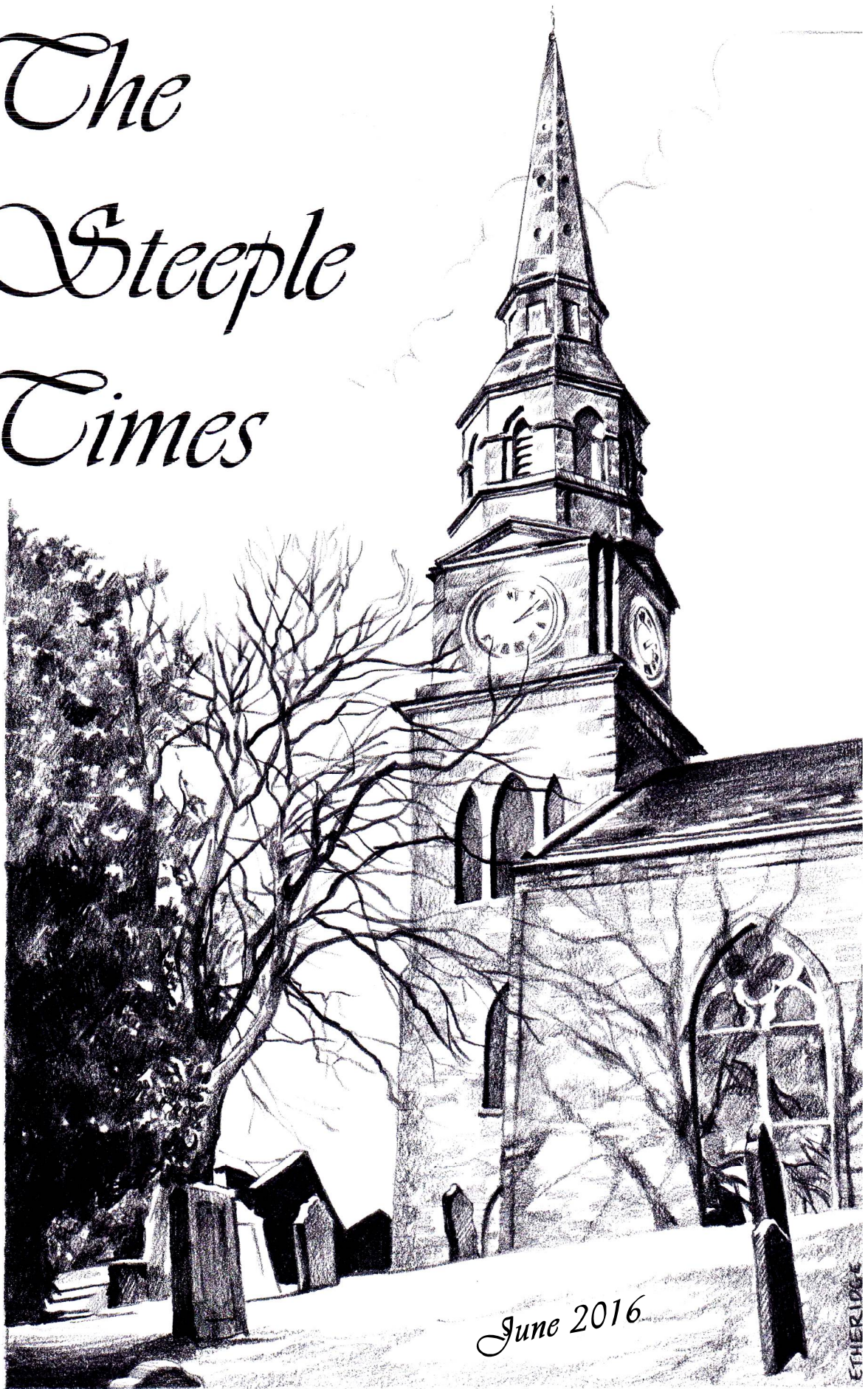


*The  
Steeple  
Times*



*June 2016*

ETHERIDGE

**Services of Public Worship:**

Every Sunday at 11. a.m.

A short service is also held on the first Sunday of each month at 9.30 a.m. and on Wednesdays at 12.10 p.m.

**Minister:**

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: Barbara\_ann17@yahoo.com

**Web Site:** [www.thebigkirk.co.uk](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk)

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

**Scottish Charity No.:** SC004921

## FROM THE MANSE

My dear friends

Our editor Elma Milne is breathing down my neck to make sure I get this letter for the magazine written before I head off to China on my holiday in a few days time - Elma can be really bossy you know!

I am awaiting news from our architect, our finance people and our project co-ordinator Angus Spence over the next two days and hope to have much more information from them before I head off to China. This is because at a recent meeting of the Kirk Session a new revised figure of expenditure, budget and fundraising for the renovation was given and it looks as though there is going to be quite a shortfall in our money. A number of suggestions were put forward about altering the plans, the specification, borrowing money and a few more ideas but the one that caught my attention I am going to explain to you.

The Kirk Session may or may not go with this idea but as your minister I want to put this challenge out to you. Talking about money, offerings and donations in the church is always seen as a taboo subject and I can understand why because it is not all about what you can give in monetary terms but I hope and pray that you give what you can afford.

When you become a member of the church you take a promise to give your time, talents and money for the upkeep of the church, God's mission and spreading the Good News of Christ. Billy and I pay our offerings by standing order every month and we also pay our building pledge money every month and with every pound we pay the church also claims gift aid on it - in total Billy and I pay into the church over £200 every month. Now I know that I am working and earning money but Billy and I also have the upkeep of the manse and our own house in Houston however, being part of a church and helping in God's work has always been important to us and when money is tight we still find the means to pay our church giving's. God sacrificed his only son for us, that is real sacrificial giving so I need you to really think about how much you are giving the church whether it be weekly or monthly or yearly. When was the last time you raised your weekly/monthly giving's? I personally increase my giving's every 15 months or so.

I need you also to think about our buildings and the work that is being done in them to bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to further God's mission not only for the members of East and Old but also for the community of Forfar and further afield.

To that end I am looking to see if we can find a minimum of 100 people who would willingly give £1000 donation to our renovation project or 200 people willing to give £500 so that we do not need to borrow a large sum of money to pay for the renovations. Is that you? Can you make a sacrificial giving to further Christ's work? Billy and I are not savers money is for spending in this life because as we all know you cannot take it with you - so to that end Billy and I

would like to start the challenge off by donating £1000 each to the renovation plan and believe me my friends that is a lot of money to Billy and I .

I ask you to think about this carefully but most of all pray about it and if you feel you would like to help even more than you are doing now in God's mission and God's work here in East and Old and in Forfar I look forward to hearing you. I will be more than happy to come and collect your money personally and say thank you very much!

I have heard a few comments about people being older and not receiving or getting much benefit from the new buildings but my dear friends that is always the way of the church and has been since the church began. We need to look to the future and the future generations who will use our buildings as did the members of East and Old for last 225 years. There is a well-known statistic in the church circles; 10% of people in a church are the visionaries and then there are 10% of people who will catch on and support these visionaries. After a while and the momentum starts another 35% start to see and understand what is happening and join in and then after a year or so the next 35% see the vision and start contributing and helping in a bigger way and the last 10% - they just don't like change and will not come around.

To help our members and friends understand what is happening during the renovation period the Kirk Session appointed Angus Spence as our Project Co-ordinator and he will be giving updates through the Steeple Times and also on our Web Page.

The Kirk Session of East and Old Parish Church need your support and help at this time.

Every blessing to you all

*Barbara Ann*

**STOP THE PRESS!!!!**

Our minister Barbara Ann would like to apologies in advance to all those members who contact her by email because the Church of Scotland is insisting that all ministers change over to a new email address that they have been given for work related business so to that end our minister's new email address from now on will be:

[bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **OUR MINISTER'S TRIP TO MALAWI!**

As many of you know Barbara Ann was asked to organise and attend a conference in Malawi during the first two weeks in April with her colleague Carol Finlay who works at 121 as the Local Development Secretary of World Mission.

The preparation beforehand included lots of injections and tablets from the travel clinic and lots of shopping especially for long skirts and long dresses because as a minister Barbara Ann would have lost a great deal of respect had she worn skirts and dresses at or above her knees or had worn trousers! Then there was the mosquito net and the mosquito repellent!

Barbara Ann and Carol got their heads together and discussed what would be happening at the conferences they were organising and at the end of the conference the hope was the churches in the south of Malawi, the churches in Mozambique and the Church of Scotland could all work together and sign a tripartite agreement which would last for three years in the first instance where all three churches would work together to help our sister churches in Mozambique who are struggling at this time in gaining ministers, their finance and opening up their congregations to other Christians around the world. Barbara Ann said she could wax lyrical about the trip and the events but there is not enough room in the Steeple Times.

Barbara Ann held an evening in the church on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May which lasted just under 2 hours and there were interesting points that came across, the people there felt they had been educated quite a bit on Malawi, some heart breaking stories and lots of funny stories – especially MR COCKROACH!!!!!! Barbara Ann will be speaking to our Guild in their new session on her trip also and will cover different aspects of the trip there – no doubt MR COCKROACH will be talked about again as he seems to have made a lasting impression on our minister. Barbara Ann said she will write an article for the next issue on her trip to Malawi as she is running out of time before she heads of to China! What a life!

PS – if speaking to Barbara Ann please do not mention her mobile phone bill – let's say it was well into three figures for just over 40 minutes of calls!

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



The services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were relatively well attended and the people who were at these services for the first time found them thought provoking and very moving. The Easter Day service at the loch side was once again well attended by all the different churches albeit was very cold! What a wonderful way to start Easter morning off standing by the loch and being with people from different churches who are all followers of Christ. Our thanks go to FACT for organising this event. Our own service on Easter morning was well attended and congratulations to all the members who donned their Easter Bonnets and paraded around the church – they were fabulous! The Groovy Gryphons were super with all their hats and decorations and they really brightened up our sanctuary! Once again the Easter Egg hunt went very well with over 350 cream eggs hidden in the sanctuary! Christ had certainly risen and was among us that day!

**STATED ANNUAL MEETING** took place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March and our minister was delighted with the turnout at this event. Normally the SAM is held on a Sunday immediately after morning worship however there were no spare Sundays to do this and was put in the diary for the Monday evening. Thank you for all the reports given and for the questions raised and answered. Our biggest thanks go to our former treasurer Mabel Martin for the fantastic job she did in getting the accounts sorted, printed and approved by the Kirk Session beforehand and for her presentation on the evening. We have been given the scoop that our minister wants to conduct the SAM during morning worship next year – so watch out for something different yet again.

### JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT EVENING

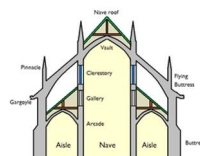


in the church – what a good night and lots of challenges – especially singing the songs in the right key! Some of the quizzes were easy while other were far more difficult. Well done to the karaoke singers and then the calypso dancers as well as everyone taking part in a Mexican Wave. The food was multi-coloured, many people dressed up in multicolours and we had a beautiful multi-coloured cake also. On the tables were multi-coloured Skittles and Smarties and the design a coat was impressive. Even the corn game had everyone on their feet!

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April was our **AFTERNOON COMMUNION** service with approximately 60 people present and nearly everybody remembered their communion cards. The service was enjoyed by all and nearly everybody stayed behind for tea and cake at the end and a great time of fellowship. We hope to hold this service the Sunday before our main communions.



### TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL



was the meeting in the church for the congregation to look at our plans and ask questions of the architect. There were over 100 people present and Bill Duthie had set the church out in a way that people could try to visualise what it would look like. On screen there were images of the new walls which helped to settle many people in what was planned. A number of questions of course could not be fully answered because we are still awaiting more details but the questions will be answered once we have the answers to them. The main point being we hope the church sanctuary will reopen mid to late November.

We are short of funds and that will have an impact on what we can do but we are speaking to the architect regarding this. The Kirk Session will be meeting on Barbara Ann's return to discuss the plans and finance in greater detail. You will also see a report in this issue from Angus Spence our project co-ordinator.

**COMMUNION SUNDAY** was relatively well attended at the end of April but it could have been much better. The numbers were down by approximately 30 people and have been dropping like this over the last two years or so. Our minister and the elders are wondering why? Is the fourth Sunday in April and October no longer suitable? Is it the time of the evening service? Have members forgotten their commitment to attend communion services? Please speak to Barbara Ann or your elder and help them understand why you feel unable to attend communion.

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY** was our last Sunday worshipping in the church in its current format and there were 4 baptisms and also the Groovy Gryphons leading us in worship on the theme of 'Let us Build a House' our charity we have been supporting. It was a very busy service and the church was really busy too. It is going to take time for us to settle down into our services being held in the church hall but I hope you will be patient over this period.



### **CHURCH OFFICER**

You may be aware that our Church Officer Bill Duthie is away on holiday so over this period Doug Robertson has stepped in to help out along with other people who will be on duty on a Sunday at the doors and setting out chairs. Thank you very much for all your help folks. Any information you need about access or any problems that crop up please contact Doug on 01307 467637. If you would like to book any of our rooms or our halls contact Karen Kelly please on 01307 465043.

### **WORKERS**

The Polish workers arrived on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to start dismantling the organ. Within a few hours all the decoration pipes at the front of the organ were dismantled and packaged. By the Wednesday when the first lorry arrived all the pipes both external and internal and the console were packed onto the lorry and sent to Poland. On the lorry were over 2,500 pieces from the organ. The work then began on the bellows and the real heavy parts of the organ.

These men worked from 7am to 7pm every day and at the end of every day until our minister went on her holidays were up at the manse getting showered. Thank you everyone for opening up their houses for showers after that.

Thank you also to the members who handed in food to help out the builders food supply and give them something different to eat. Thank you also to the people who donated sleeping bags and we hope you got the right ones back!

That then brings us to our workers! They must be exhausted! A number of people stayed behind after morning worship on the 8<sup>th</sup> May to start clearing away a lot of items and moving a lot of other items down to the church hall – this included men and women! Carpets were lifted, temporary walls erected, and on and on the list went – they finished at 5.30pm – thank you all so very much for your hard work.

During the first week as the Polish workers worked on the organ our men worked on removing

radiators, taking down the plasma screens and building a room under the west balcony to store the chairs, the new organ, speakers, plasma screens and a whole lot more.

A

fter the Polish workers left our men went back in to dismantle the four stations and take out the last 4 pews that were remaining downstairs. This all sounds quite simple as it is written but our members have been working extremely hard and have saved us a fortune. Bill Duthie even roped in his son and grandson to help on the 8<sup>th</sup> May because he wasn't available.

### **BOOK CLUB**



Our choices this last little while have not been particularly good but that is about to change because we now have a new list which was recommended by people who have read them, so for the next few months here are our selections: A Petrol Scented Spring by Ajay Close, The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle by Kirsty Wark and Raven Black by Ann Cleaves.

Even if you are not a member of the book club why not read some of these books and give us your opinion.

To shake things up a bit Barbara Ann and her friend Linda who is a member of New Kilpatrick Church in Bearsden near Glasgow got talking and came up with the idea of East and Old selecting a book to read and they would read it too. When it came to discussing and reviewing the book the E&O team would go to their meeting in Bearsden and then 6 months to a year later we would reverse that. Watch this space!

### **TREASURER**

As you will have read in the last edition Mabel Martin retired as our treasurer at the end of March this year. Karen Gibb stepped in to help us out of a big problem and then Sheena Archer took over as our new treasurer working alongside Karen until things settled down. Alas the job is far too big for the hours that Sheena can work so with the Kirk Session's approval we had to go looking for a part-time bookkeeper/administrator that could work approximately 17 hours a week. Word of mouth spread and we met with a lovely young lady a few weeks ago who is delighted to take on the role as our treasurer. Paula Stewart will be coming in a few times to see what is what before starting officially in early June.

### **FUNDRAISING**

The steering group of East and Old are looking for ways in which to raise large sums of money – do you have any ideas? Have you been involved in something that raised a large amount of money and can tell us about it? If a significant amount of people take up our ministers challenge in the opening pages of this issue then we will not need to fund raise so much!

### **CAPABILITY SCOTLAND**

**Due to the work being carried out in the Church the Capability Home boxes have been moved to the Choir Room and are on the windowsill if you need one.**

**KEEP SAVING YOUR PENNIES**



**THE DEDICATED IMPROVEMENT FUND  
BALANCE NOW STANDS AT**

**£218488**

**WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR!**

**THE QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LUNCH**

This is to be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Church Hall immediately after morning worship. Stay behind after the service for a buffet lunch and be part of a nationwide lunch programme being organised by the Queen's grandson Peter Phillips. A retiring offering will be taken after the church service and sent to one of the Queen's charities.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MODERATOR OF ANGUS PRESBYTERY**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June is when our minister becomes Moderator of Angus Presbytery at the June presbytery meeting. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church Hall and it would be great if some of our members could come along and support Barbara Ann at this event.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TALK ON REHOBOTH CHILDRENS HOSPITAL**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August in the Session Room we will have a guest speaker – Connie Andrews who will be talking to us on the Rehoboth Children's Hospital in the Philippines. As the UK representative she travels around the country not to raise funds but to raise awareness. She and her late husband Vernon had the privilege of founding children's homes in the Philippines in the early 80's. Please come along—it should be a very interesting talk.

**A MILE OF 10 PENCE PIECES!**

**WE'VE NOW COMPLETED 1083 YARDS AND RAISED A TOTAL  
OF £3951**

**Well done!  
But a long way to go, keep them coming**

## **FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD**

### **ANNUAL WALK**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August is the Friends annual walk and this year they are off to Pitlochry. For those who do not want to walk there are plenty of shops and cafes for you! Dinner is in the Ardler Inn and the total cost of the day is £20 (including dinner and transport). There will be a sign-up sheet in the hall from mid-June onwards.

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August is the Friends Quiz Night in the church hall. Teams will be made up of four people and if you are coming as a couple or a single person we will make a composite team up. Cost is £5 and tickets will be on sale in July.

## **SPEAK OUT CAMPAIGN**

A number of members of the Congregation gave their views on the above campaign (on post-cards for Christmas) and these were forwarded to the Church of Society Council.

The Council announced that almost 11,000 people from all over Scotland have responded to their request for views which will guide the Council's work for the next decade and beyond as they seek to move to a deliberately more pro-active and community based approach to their work. The Council also say that the campaign asked people to identify the core issues which would enable Scotland and the world to become fairer, more equal and more just.

## FINANCES and STATISTICS

At then end of 2015 the members on our Roll was 829. The number of those who took communion at least once during that year was 356. Less than 50%. (This does not take into account those who took communion on the first Sunday of the month.) During the year 2015 the undernoted was the average monthly givings.

**By Gift Aid:-**

£5 & under	108
£16-25	56
£26-34	7
£35-50	25
£51-100	12
Over £100	1

**Through envelopes :-**

£15 & under	71
£25 & under	74
£16-25	15
£26-50	3
£51-100	1
£100 plus	0
Nil	12

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU PAY TAX, YOU CAN SIGN A GIFT AID FORM  
AND THE CHURCH CAN GET ANOTHER 28 PENCE FOR EACH £1 YOU GIVE.  
IT COSTS YOU NOTHING.**

### **STAMPS—Liz Nicoll**

World Mission have informed me that 2015 used stamps raised £3511 for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

From March 2016 the money raised is going to Eco-spirituality Centre run by the Church of South India. Innovations supported include re-use of rain water, a bio-gas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds. The Centre hope to pass this on to their communities because "caring for the earth is not a calling, but a lifestyle". Another 2kg of stamps have just been sent to Wishaw.

Thank you all who have given stamps and please keep them coming.

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\*  
\* **FLOWER LISTS** \*  
\* While the church is closed the Flower List for the year will be on the \*  
\* notice board at the door of the church and also on the notice board at \*  
\* the hall if you need to refer to it. \*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Mar	26	Margaret Walker	Manor Court, Forfar	*
Apr	5	Dorothy Parr	Wellbrae Cottage, Forfar	3
	6	Charles Lyon	217 East High Street, Forfar	3
	8	Alexander McNicholl	Tweed Mill Brae, Forfar	*
	14	Alex Adam	14 North Street Forfar	4
	15	Ina Cheyne	Cairnie Lodge, Arbroath	*
	17	Gladys Forbes	59 Glenclova Terrace, Forfar	24
	21	John Rawlanson	80 Viewmount, Forfar	*
	30	William Glen	Lisden NH, Kirriemuir	46

### NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Bain                      28 Toll Crescent, Forfar

### Baptisms

May	8	Iris Anne McQueen
	8	Grace Rose Adaline Wood
	8	Harry Daniel Anthony Wood
	8	Bethany Beaux Lachlyn Grimes

### MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

June	5	Morag Milne	July	10	C J McEwan
	12	Alistair McDonald		17	Sheila Mactavish
	19	Jean Morris		24	Ruth Stewart
	26	Barbara Ann		31	Stewart Davidson
July	3	Lorraine Dick	Aug	7	Esther Kidd

## **HAVE A COMPUTER? THEN YOU CAN HELP**

You can help raise funds for East & Old's Dedicated Improvement Fund by clicking on the links below. It costs nothing but will help our funds.

Do you shop online then click on <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forfareastoldparish/> then follow the simple steps on how to register then every time you shop online always go here first then shop. The best way is to make this a bookmark or favourite.

Even if you don't shop online you can still raise funds by clicking on <http://forfareastoldparish.easysearch.org.uk/> and use this every time you want to search the web. This uses Bing, Yahoo and Ask.com to search the web. Again the best way is to make this a bookmark or favourite.

For more information click on <http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/easyfundraising/> Why not try it. If you need help setting it up please contact Billy Sweetin 01307 248228

**NEED A VENUE FOR CONFERENCES MEETINGS ETC?  
THEN LOOK NO FURTHER**

**FORFAR EAST & OLD HAS IT ALL .**

**MULTI MEDIA FACILITIES WITH PLASMA TELEVISIONS,  
SOUND SYSTEM AND WI-FI.**

**ENQUIRIES TO :- BILL DUTHIE ON 01307 465895**

## **PARKING AT THE CHURCH**



There are two available car spaces beside the east door of the church for members with poor mobility.

Other members can park around the front of the church.



Do you need Transport to Church -The Forfarian bus is available on the first Sunday of each month. Please telephone Liz Nicoll on 462480 or Jean Alexander on 463860.

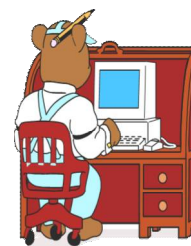
## **Next Issue of the Steeple Times**

The deadline for submission of articles for the **August 2016** issue is

**SUNDAY 17 JULY 2016**

Material can be given/sent to the Editor or e-mail

**[elma.milne@virgin.net](mailto:elma.milne@virgin.net)**



Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307465043
Treasurer	Paula Stewart	From June
FWO Treasurers	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
Gift Aid Convener	Bruce Martin	01307 462713
Roll Keeper and Editor Steeple Times	Elma Milne	01307 463821
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Property Convener & Lets	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
Groovy Gryphons Leader	Susan Forbes	01307 465200
Flower Group	Marlene Sim	01307 466616
Guild Contact	Jean Smith	01307 463308
Life & Work	Esther Kidd	01307462701
Prayer Group	Margaret Robertson	01307 463613
2nd Forfar Co. The Boy's Brigade	Irene Duthie	01307 465895
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
Minibus Hire	Billy Sweetin	01307 248228