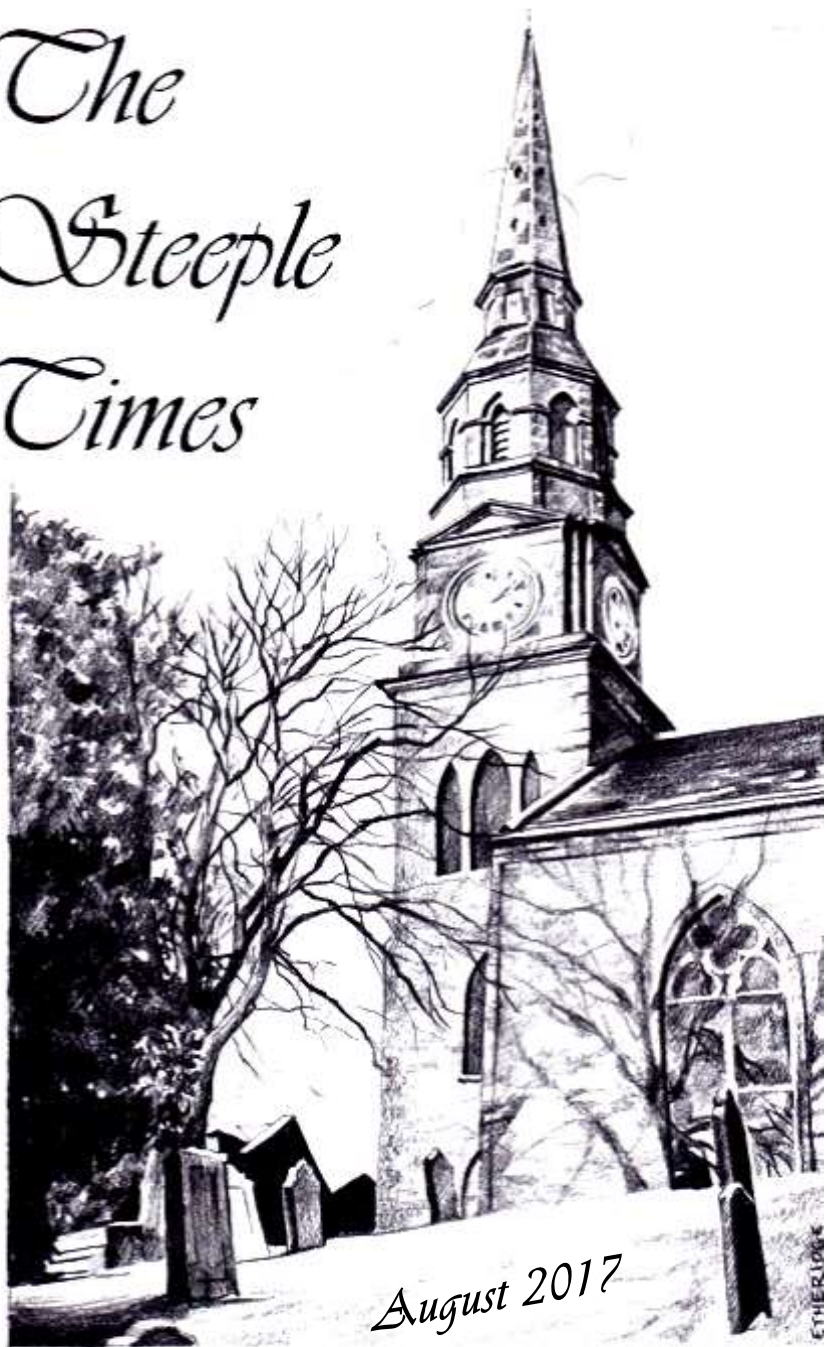


*The
Steeple
Times*



August 2017



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

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

Scottish Charity No. : SC004921

FROM THE MANSE

Letter from the Manse

Hello my dear friends

It is that time again when I sit down at my desk to write this letter to all our members and friends of East and Old. It is during the summer that I am not as busy and that gives me a chance to re-charge my batteries and reflect even more on what God's plan is for me and for East and Old. All I can say is that God is using my slightly less busy time to lead, direct and steer me and ultimately East and Old in a new vision. We have a beautiful new building that is looking fantastic and month by month we are adjusting and adapting to our new surrounds. That leads me on to you the members and friends of East and Old - we also need you to adapt! This month we are starting our new breakfast church service which will be held once a month on the second Sunday of the month and also an evening service which will start on 27th August and will continue on the last Sunday of every month. This evening service will be contemporary in style. This is the build up to our big plans for the month of October so let me say this - please do not plan very much for October because it is all happening at East and Old. During September postcards and leaflets will be delivered to every house in our parish, leaflets will be given to all the primary school children in Forfar about our upcoming events in October and our theme for the whole month will be '**New Look New Vision**'.

Our aim in this project is to encourage members who no longer attend our church or any of our activities to come along and see the new look building and to try a variety of activities that we are offering from baby through to the very elderly. East and Old has something for everyone! This will also give us a chance to let the community of Forfar know what we do and invite them to come along .

When I arrived in Forfar it was all go (and some people say it has not stopped since) but during the renovation period we remained busy but did not develop any new initiatives that promotes God's mission or spread the Good News of Christ however the Holy Spirit is alive and well in East and Old and through that God has given us a new mission to attract those who have forgotten what it means to be part of a community, a church community. It is not just about attending church (although that is essential), it is not just about donating your money (although that is essential), it is holding to those promises members made when they joined the church, to be part of the church community and to give of their time, talents and money but also to spread the Good News in what we say and do!

Later in this edition of the Steeple Times you will see a little taste of the extra activities and events that we are putting on during the month of October and I can assure you there is something for

everyone - including you! Look out for the postcards and leaflets, information posted on our external notice board or in the shop window, look on our web page www.thebigkirk.co.uk and Facebook page East and Old Parish Church Forfar.

The one important part I ask of you in the lead up to October is to take our new plans to God in prayer and ask for friends and foe's eyes, ears, minds and hearts to be open to God's word and to the continued success of East and Old Church.

Last but not least you will read later in the edition that Karen Liddle and I travelled to Zurich in Switzerland in July to meet fellow Christians in the Reformed Church of Zurich. Also at this event were two our friends from Zuglo; Noemi and Zoltan. God is giving us new vision through the people we meet and we are delighted that in March and May we will receive guests from Zuglo and Zurich respectively. In July 2018 we hope that as many members of East and Old as possible will be travelling to Zurich. What wonderful opportunities God has blessed us with in East and Old.

God Bless

Your friend and minister

Barbara Ann

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Guided Tour of Priory – this event was organised by our outreach team and Heather Munro who is the convener of the Green Team and works at the archives at Restenneth Priory. Those who attended both the morning and afternoon tours found the tour very interesting and would recommend it if the tour was run again.



Fairtrade Coffee

Morning – a good morning all round with lots of home baking sold and a good number of items sold from the

Fairtrade stall. Our event clashed with two other events in Forfar and the Angus Show so the numbers were lower than normal. Thank you to all who helped at this event and raised the awareness of Fairtrade and also £360.

Farmington Football Club – Susan Forbes one our elders in East and Old is the chaplain for Farmington Football Club. Barbara Ann and Susan welcomed members of the club; players, coaching staff, admin staff and chairperson to a thanksgiving service for the club. Football skills were demonstrated by some of the team members and as the football was being kicked and headed it was well controlled and nowhere near the stained glass windows! The whole service revolved around being a team just like Jesus had his team and East

and Old has their team.

Rev Johanna Gabarone from South

Africa – at the end of the General Assembly Barbara Ann is normally asked to host a foreign visitor and East and Old were delighted to welcome the Rev Johanna. Many of our members welcomed and spoke to Johanna and she spoke at the service about who she was, the area she lives in, the church she is involved in and a few differences in custom and culture but most of all we are all God's children.

Kirk Session Meeting – this turned out to be one of the longest meetings that the Kirk Session has had since Barbara Ann arrived in Forfar. The Kirk Session were informed that East and Old do not bring in enough money to cover their monthly outgoings and at the moment there is a £2000 shortfall each month and that this must be looked at with some urgency. It was agreed that we hold a Back to Church Month in October and a small committee was to be organised to look at this. However it was good to have the discussions and hear different points of view and to discuss the merits of new ventures that the Kirk Session want to undertake this coming year. Under discussion was also Phase 2 of the church renovation programme and we hope to have more information available for you in the next edition of

the newsletter. We are still having problems with the sound system and the loop system and the Kirk Session want this resolved ASAP. Watch out later in this edition for the new ventures that East and Old are starting in the month of August and the children's holiday club at the end of July/beginning August.

Church Hired Out – Forfar Academy once again hired the whole church for two days to work with their 5th Year pupils that are moving into 6th Year. The school under the leadership of Mr Martin were very pleased with the new look church and the flexible space it offered.

Presbytery Communion – the last act of the outgoing Moderator of the Presbytery is to hold a Presbytery Communion Service in their own church. Therefore East and Old was to host the Presbytery Communion at the beginning of June led by our own minister. A good number of members from Presbytery turned out as did members of East and Old and a few members of others churches. Once again Barbara Ann brought a different style and approach to communion which was well received. Barbara Ann would like to thank all those members of East and Old who turned out and to the elders for serving communion so well. A thank you to Lexi Smart, Jean Alexander and Bob Kidd for arranging bread and wine and to Irene and her team for the tea/coffee and goodies and to Bill for setting up the church

and social area. We think we are going to rename Margaret Robertson's shorties as E&O Shorties because they are appearing all the time – thank you Margaret!

FACT – the FACT AGM took place at the beginning of June with Rev Karen Fenwick finishing her term as Chairperson and Major Jim McCluskey taking this role over with Rev Maggie Hunt taking on vice-chair. A cheque was presented to SEEMA's House the charity FACT chose for 2016/2017 and then a presentation was given by Margaret Benson from the Inspiration Orchestra the charity that FACT are supporting for 2017/2018 which is a charity designed to bring music and instruments into people's lives who are severely disabled.

Elders Thanksgiving Service – at a Kirk Session meeting earlier in the year it was decided that as a church we would not present long service awards but instead offer a thanksgiving service for the work and dedication of the elders serving today and former elders who are still members of the church also. There was a good turnout from our serving elders with a number of former serving elders attending and glad to be there also. Our minister then thanked all elders past and present and also the congregation for the work they do in Christ's name also.

Presbytery Five Yearly Church Review – this took place in the middle of June to which we had hoped a good number of people would have

attended but Barbara Ann would like to thank the 20 people who did show up out of a membership of nearly 800! We were congratulated on many aspects of our work within the Church of Scotland and the variety of mission work that we undertake. Our group brought to the forefront some of the challenges that we face in the coming months and years: how to get our under 60 age group members to become more involved in church life and also for more people to take on responsibilities within the church and money for phase two of our redevelopment. It was pointed out to our members that the culture we are living it at the moment has changed dramatically and the under 40's do not want to belong to organisations or clubs and that is being show in their children also. The report from Presbytery was very favourable indeed.

Inspiration Orchestra – this is FACT's chosen charity for 2017/2018 and a concert was given at Lawson Church towards the end of June. The severely disabled members of the orchestra really come alive when they are playing their instruments with some of them only being able to place their fingers on one note. This orchestra are not only an inspiration to the members and their families but also to all those people who watch the concerts.

Groovy Gryphon's – as you will be aware our minister encourages our youngsters to share their news with us every Sunday and it is a delight to hear

what has been happening in their lives even though sometimes we are not too sure about the modern films and toys etc. Stephanie allowed us to read her story that is going to published in a children's story book from children all over Scotland and she only had a set amount of words to use. Stephanie has given us permission to use the story in the Steeple Times.

Stephanie's Space Story (great alliteration Stephanie!)

...Space. Emma was happy. Ben was happy too. The dog was happy as well. Then they all saw some stars and they were trying to count the stars. All of a sudden an alien showed up. Then the alien said, "Hello, my name is Leeroy. Do you want to come in my flying saucer?" "Yes," said Ben. "Yes," said Emma. 'Bark, bark,' said the dog. Then Leeroy started to go and they started to ask some questions. Then they saw a big, mean monster. The big, mean monster liked the flying saucer. Leeroy said, "Bye-bye," and they lived happily ever after.

Stephanie Scotland (6 years of age)

Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentations

What a delight it was to see three of our award girls receiving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards in June. The girls worked very hard indeed to achieve this award completing four sections of the award through volunteering, physical activity, skill section and then the dreaded

expedition which involves a two day and one night hike. Karen Liddle explained what the girls had been doing to achieve the award and the number of other youths who are working towards other awards also. Our minister presented the girls awards and she then thanked Karen Liddle and Glenda Robertson who run the award scheme in the church and also Jim Nicol who helps with the map work and expedition side of things. Congratulations to Bethan, Chloe and Ellen on receiving their Bronze Awards. Added to this Karen Liddle and Chloe were asked to represent the church at an event in Brechin which Prince Edward was visiting – well done everyone!

The Duke of Edinburgh Award group are taking a short break over the summer holidays, but have been very busy in recent weeks. Firstly, at the end of May 2 of our Bronze participants, Rachel and Beth took part in their practice expedition and were successful in progressing to the final expedition, which will take place in September.

Next we held a presentation for last year's bronze award winners to finally receive their certificates at a special service on 25th June. Bethan, Chloe and Ellen all spoke to the congregation about their experiences and shared photos and stories before receiving their award from Karen. The girls are

now well on their way to achieving their silver award and will be heading out on their practice expedition in September.

Finally, Chloe and I were given the honour of attending a special celebratory event for Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers and participants in Angus on 27th June in Brechin Community Campus, where Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex was attending. Both of us chatted to the Earl for a few minutes and he took a great interest in Chloe's knitting and suggested she sell her garments and start a knitting club!

Karen Liddle

Hungarian Sunday

Our communion table was decorated with the Scottish and Hungarian flags and Karen Liddle updated us on our twinned church of Zuglo Church in Budapest. Involvement has been slow at the moment and that is okay because next year in 2018 it is going to get busier. We are hoping Zuglo church will be coming over in March with their church choir and also give some master classes in choir singing as well as performing in other churches. We also hope to meet up with members of Zuglo Church next July when we take our trip to Zurich as a church as there will be members from our church, Zuglo Church, the Zurich church and a Bavarian Church that the Zurich Church are involved with – it will be some holiday!!! Following on

from that our minister, Groovy Gryphon leaders, and DOE leaders hope to take a trip to Zuglo Church next October to discover why their youth ministry is so successful. Watch out for the joint prayer diary that will be making an appearance shortly.

Strathmore Primary RME Awards –

every year East and Old Church award three prizes in the school for Religious and Moral Education. The awards are for P1-3, P4-5 and P6-7 and this year's winners which Barbara Ann presented on behalf of the church were as follows: Raia Florence and Grace Stewart P2/3
Cameron Millar P5
Chenai Clements P7

Flowers on a Sunday – thank you to those members who donate money every Sunday for the flowers that used in the church sanctuary. Flower ministry is very important in the life and worship of God both in the sanctuary, the reception area and then when the flowers are given to those in our membership and the community.

Marlene Sim is the flower co-ordinator, with Irene Duthie and Morag Milne our flower arrangers and then on the other weeks there are; Margaret Robertson, Marion Birse, Jean McEwen and Barbara Ann who buy bouquets of flowers for display in the church. Thank you to everyone involved in this – it is greatly appreciated.

Faith Discussion Group – After receiving the lovely poem from Lauraine Grant which was published in the last edition of the Steeple Times the

Faith Discussion Group took an idea from something they were discussing in the group and a few members wrote some poems about what a life of faith means. Here are some of the poems for you to read over and we need to say – what a talented bunch of folk we have in East and Old!

Faith

Oh! Lord my God in Heaven
Who above all human understanding
Is ever near to us all
Guiding, comforting and watching

When I go astray
As I often do
You guide me back to your way
With support and forgiveness

I learn of you
Through Bible teachings
Song and Psalm
And through faith to know it is true

Faith is unseen
But evident in practise
In the simplest of forms
Is a gift from you

Love one another
As you told us to do
God we will be ever mindful
Of our faith in you

Written by Margaret Forbes

Faith

Faith is like an omnibus;
It carries mostly, without a fuss.
Although for some who are rather
nervous,
They may oft' complain about the
service!

But my own faith is founded in hope;
I have been told fear not nor worry;
For stress is such a source a care.
So while I live, I'll hope in Christ,
And at the end, I'll hope I'm there.

Written by Ian Robertson

Faith

Faith is to journey with You, O Lord,
Though the road be rough and smooth,
And it's our desire to love and serve
you, too, O Lord,
Acknowledging you in all that we do.

Your amazing love cannot be surpassed
If only we could show a like that too!
Your gifts are our treasure and need to
be used.
And it's our prayer, O Lord, that we do.

Prayer is your special gift to us
It's central to all that we do.
It brings love, correction, guidance and
power,
And that fullness-of-life from you.

Written by Margaret Robertson

Faith

Praise God from whom our blessings
flow through all the changes and
chances of life
From infant devotion, through adult
questions, uncertainties, doubts, to the
faith and knowledge
Of your goodness and mercy, that
transcends all human understanding.

You care for your universe even though
we seem set on destroying it
And ourselves, through wars, plus the

elimination of the fauna and flora,
As well as the heavens you created with
such loving care.

You have given us the pleasure of the
flush of evening,
The blush of dawn, birdsong, the tattoo
of raindrops,
Plus the crackle of frost and snow on a
winter's day.

Praise God who sent your son, our Lord,
and Redeemer

To die on Calvary and rise again on that
first glorious Easter morning.

Who saves us from sin, and death's
grim hold, to give us life everlasting
And to reign in glory within our hearts
and minds forever.

Written by Pauline Greenhill

Time and Talents Wish Board and Money - what we need wish board

You will see in the church every Sunday
two wish boards updated on a weekly
basis. There are many bits and pieces
that are needed for the church,
however many of our members know
nothing about it and we often hear 'oh I
could have done that' or 'oh I could
have helped with this' or 'oh why didn't
you ask me?', 'if only I had
known!' Additionally, due to our
renovations there are lots of things that
we would like to complete and add to
our church to beautify it and to make
life easier. We are starting new
ventures in the coming months and will
need supplies for that. Please take a
look at both Wish Boards and if you feel
you can help with any we ask that you

take the card from the board, write your name on it and then hand it to Barbara Ann, Lexi, Margaret Scrimgeour or Bill. Thank You.

The wish boards went up the second week in July and at the time of writing this article people have donated money to buy all the chairs that we need for the social/session area plus decorating supplies and supplies for our new baby venture which starts in late August and lots more. We also have a few more volunteers to help us man the events that we run and to tackle things like sweeping the car park, painting a room etc. Thank you very much but please keep checking the board.

What's coming up & what to look out for

Breakfast Worship Service – this will take place on the second Sunday of every month between 9.30am and 10 am. A number of people have already signed up to make the breakfast on a rota basis and also to help with conducting the services.

Leading Worship/Making Breakfast

Rota

August – Barbara Ann/Barbara Ann
Sept – Susan Forbes/(tbc)
October – (tbc)/Elizabeth McLeod,
November – Mary Pickstone/(tbc),
December – Groovy Gryphons/Groovy Gryphons,
January - Guild/Guild

Evening Worship Church – we are hoping to have an evening meal at 5.30pm and then the service at 6.30pm and people are welcome to attend one or both of these. These services will have no fixed format and will take on a variety of styles.

Leading Worship – August – Barbara Ann, September – (tbc), October – Education and Prayer Committee, November – Pat and Eric Walker, December – N/A (it is Hogmanay!)

Dedication Service for Groovy Gryphons, Boys' Brigade and the Guild – we are once again delighted to be holding a dedication service for our church groups and look forward to welcoming everyone to the dedication service on **Sunday 17th September.**

Harvest Sunday – how blessed are we in East and Old to always have food on our tables and not going hungry as well as our farmers and fishermen gathering in their harvests safely. We do not need to cope with extremes in weather like other countries do and we are thankful that we can show how blessed we are by giving donations of food to those in need. Barbara Ann asks that you start collecting your food donations now so that when the time comes you can hand in a carrier bag full of food. Harvest Sunday will be on **Sunday 15th October.**

Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning – the Leprosy Mission Committee in Forfar which comprises members from the local churches holds a coffee morning twice a year and the date for your diary is **Saturday 21st October from 10am to 12 noon**. Put the date in your diary please!

Afternoon Communion Service – this afternoon communion service is as popular as ever with more and more people attending and staying for a time of fellowship which involves lots of cake. The date for your diary is Sunday 15th October at 2.30pm and remember to bring your communion cards!!!

Communion Service – our twice a year communion takes place on the fourth Sunday in April and in October and yet again we are letting you know that the fourth Sunday in October is not the last Sunday in October – it is 22nd October at 11am and 6.30pm. at both these services there will be a retiring offering in aid of the church fabric fund.

Back to Church Month – this event now has a new name – NEW LOOK NEW VISION and a number of events will be happening from Monday 2nd October through to Sunday 5th November so keep an eye out for what is happening. Here are a few events so that you can get your diary in order.

Our morning worship services in October will revolve around the theme 'A Journey of Faith'

8th Oct – A time of wonder

15th Oct – A time of love

22nd Oct – A time of Nourishment

29th Oct – A time of promises

Open all days –

Every evening during the week the church will be open between 5pm and 6pm to have a look around or for some quiet time to sit and reflect.

The Guild will be on every Wednesday in October

Children's Event – Sunday 8th October from 2pm-4pm come and join our girls and boys event which will include a bouncy castle, face painting,, lego, hair and nail work up and lots, lots more!

Bingo Tea in the British Legion on Tuesday 10th

Listen/hear/try Choir Night in the Church on Thursday 12th October

Historical Evening – Friday 13th October come and hear tales of the past from members who have been members of the Old Parish and the East Church and then East and Old members and from the old session records – what a difference 100 years makes!!!

Family Event – Saturday 14th October join our street party which will be held in the church and church grounds.

Bouncy castle, stalls, side show games, BBQ and lots more from 2pm onwards.

A taste of East and Old Friday 20th – come along and taste a variety of goodies that our members specialise in from Cameron's McLaren's, North Street Dairies and Saddlers along with members specialities – what talent we have in our church.

Boys' Brigade Family event – Saturday 21st in the BB Halls

Floral Demonstration and afternoon tea

– Saturday 28th in the church
Ghost Walk – walk around our church yard grounds and hear the story of the witches. Remember no torches allowed
– it will be a dark mysterious night starting at 6.30pm on Friday 3rd Nov

Firework Display to finish of our busy month why not come up to the manse on Sunday 5th November at 6pm for home-made soup, Bridies and a great firework show. Sparklers for all!!!

Human Trafficking Evening – Sunday evening service on 29th October the prayer group and education group will focus the evening service around raising awareness of Human Trafficking. The guest speaker at this service will be a member of International Mission who work with people who have been trafficked.

Recycled Stamps Report from Liz Nicoll

I have just heard from World Mission that the stamp appeal raised £4334 in 2016 in support of OTHARA an Eco-Spirituality Centre run by the church of South India. The new appeal from March 2017 is raising money for The Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan, which educates and equips students for the ministry. Because of local violence the institute has been re-established in KAKUMA, a refugee camp in Kenya. Money raised in 2017 will provide much needed resources, including books to replace those lost when the previous library was burnt to the ground. Thank you all for bringing your used stamps and please keep them coming! Please put them in the

drawer in the passage way in the church between the reception area and the social area.

East & Old Parish Church Prayer Group.

The East & old Prayer group has now been established for 12 weeks and is currently attended by six members of the congregation on **Wednesday mornings at 11 am.** in the sanctuary, and **Sunday morning 10.15 to 10.30 am.** Less people attend on Sunday as most leaders are busy with church duties, but the groups are open so please come and give it a go, it is amazing what God does when we pray.

The present format on Wednesday is: We begin with an introductory prayer by the leader, then praise and thanksgiving for answered prayer. Then we move on to prayer concerns for world issues and local concerns in the UK and Forfar. Further prayer is made for, activities planned in the church programme and people attending our church and newcomers.

The group concludes with a Bible reading, short comment and closing prayer

On Sunday the time is shorter .A short bible reading is shared and we pray specifically for East & Old church and its congregation.

We would welcome any prayer requests, which can be passed to Mary Pickstone or Margaret Robertson. All requests are treated confidentially



A TRIP TO ZURICH JULY 2017

Details pages 17, 18 & 19





Left: The hosts for the Zwingli Experience.

Centre Left, lunch out

Centre Right, Zwingli building

Bottom—Karen busy at a meeting



TheBigKirkShop—Update

The Shop is busy with visitors to the town and continues to perform very well.

For the shop, we are looking for shower cloths and round table cloths

Tea Knives China tea sets and cake stands as we would like to repeat this event

Can you volunteer some hours to work in our shop anything from 1 -3 hours would be welcome, we have a great team of people and you would be made most welcome.

Please contact:

Muriel Fairley on 01307 463936 OR

Elma Sim on 01307 465049

FORFARIAN BUS

As you will know, our church has the use of the Forfarian on the first Sunday of each month to provide transport for many of our members. We usually also have the bus for communion dates.

Anyone requiring the bus please call Jean Alexander on 01307 463860 - Please leave a message with your name and phone number if there is no answer and Jean will always return your call.

The help of our volunteers is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU— Jean Alexander

Twinning News

After a relatively quiet time for the Twinning committee, preparations are in full swing for a number of events in 2018 and beyond.

Firstly, from 15th March next year, we are to host the choir of our twin, Zuglo church in Budapest, Hungary who will be visiting us and performing 3 concerts in the area, including our church. This is part of the partnership agreement to learn from each other and cooperate. Zuglo church has a very large and active church choir and we hope this will provide a focus for their visit to East & Old. They will of course be taking part in some other church activities and sightseeing in the area. We shall be looking for volunteers who can host one or more of the visitors in their homes during the 5 day visit. More details to follow but please let Barbara Ann or Karen Liddle know if you are interested in hosting.

Secondly, we have the Zwingli Anniversary Partnership Project which is a new venture for East & Old. On 12th July, Barbara Ann and Karen flew out to Zurich, Switzerland to take part in a steering group planning session. This initial visit was to organise a visit to Switzerland for churches from four countries to celebrate the reformer Huldrych Zwingli's 500th anniversary in 2018. This involved East & Old church, representing Scotland as well as 2 churches from the Zurich area, Switzerland, our twin partners from Zuglo, Hungary and a church in Bavaria, Germany. Following our lengthy discussions we decided to hold the event from **11th-16th July 2018** subject to flight times, with a joint Scottish and Hungarian visit to Switzerland focussing on Reformation history and the Zwingli commemoration. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a four-way cooperation between our churches.

As the Swiss were keen to meet the rest of our congregation and see our church also, a "meet and greet" visit to Scotland was proposed for the Swiss congregations, and the dates for that are to be 9th-14th May, subject to flights. The focus this time would simply be getting to know the church members, our activities, the town and local area and again would involve hosting some visitors. Again, anyone interested in doing so, please see **Barbara Ann or Karen**.

Thirdly, following the Hungarian visit to Scotland in March, it is planned that a few members will travel to Hungary in October 2018 to visit our twin church in Zuglo. The focus of this visit will very much be youth work and education and we hope to get lots of ideas to bring back to East & Old to help develop our youth missions. This was also part of our partnership agreement. Twinning is an excellent opportunity for our church to reach out and give the hand of friendship to other churches across Europe and beyond, and realise that as Christians we are part of a global family and can learn from each other. I hope many of you will take part in the fantastic opportunities we have planned for 2018. It's going to be an exciting year!

Karen Liddle, Twinning Committee

More from Barbara Ann & Karen's trip to Zurich!

As mentioned in the twinning news, Barbara Ann and Karen set off for Zurich on 12th July on a fact-finding mission to plan a Reformation partnership project with churches from 4 countries to commemorate Zwingli next year. It was a great opportunity to meet with the Swiss ministers and members and learn more about the way they work, as well as reunite with our friends from Zuglo church, Noemi and Zoltan. Lots of discussions were had, both formally and informally on church life, faith and similarities and differences between our respective churches. It was a great learning experience for us both.

Due to flight times Barbara Ann and I arrived on the Wednesday evening and enjoyed our evening meal with our hosts. We were given a great tour of Zurich on the Thursday, including the church where Zwingli preached in Zurich, the house where he lived and translated the Bible and many other local sights. A pleasant evening was had getting to know Catherine, the Swiss minister organising the project. The Hungarians joined us on the Friday and the planning meetings took place. Everyone involved in this project was keen to take it forward and could see many possibilities to deepen our faith and understand cultural differences but certainly to learn from each other.

On Saturday we visited Zwingli's birth place and museum and took a trip up the mountain nearby to see God's wonderful creation in all its glory. Switzerland certainly has some stunning landscapes and our walking group would love it!

Dübendorf Church had budgeted for this visit and both we and the Hungarians did not spend any money while we were there. The hosts that we stayed with were lovely, warm and very welcoming.

The church service on Sunday was wonderful. Worship was led by Catherine and the service started with a bagpiper parading down the aisle playing Highland Cathedral and then the organ joined in. Everyone was welcomed and then Barbara Ann presented a PowerPoint and information about East & Old and then the bag piper played Flower of Scotland. The Hungarians presented their information on Zuglo church and a local man played Hungarian music.

The sermon was in German but both Barbara Ann and I picked up a bit since we could both speak a small amount of German and Catherine had told us previously what it was about. We sang two hymns in English and two in German and everyone said the Lord's Prayer in their own language. At the end of the service we celebrated communion together with Barbara Ann, Zoltan, Noemi and I serving the bread and Catherine, Jurg and two other members of the church serving the wine. Everyone left their seats to form a large ring around the sanctuary for the communion. It did feel a bit strange lifting the cubes of bread into the member's hands and not just offering it to them!

Our Hungarian friends left late on Sunday and for Barbara Ann and I Monday morning was another sightseeing trip which took us to Pfannenstiel, Egg where on the viewing platform we saw the Black Forrest on one side and the Eiger summit on the other! We finished our day at Lake Zurich before heading to the airport. A great trip with some fantastic new connections made and a new opportunity for us all to learn from each other as well as the chance to see some truly wonderful scenery and culture. I hope you can all join us next year when we make the return journey!

Karen Liddle

AROUND THE GROUPS

ART GROUP



The art group meets on Thursdays 1.30-4pm. New members are welcome. We do have some materials available if you are a beginner or returning to art after a long break.

The Art Group meets in The Church Hall Chapel Street Forfar.

FRIDAY FLING

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Friday Fling dancing group.

No great experience needed, if you can do a Gay Gordon , St Bernard's Waltz or a Hokey Cokey then you can help bring some joy to a person with dementia.

The dancing runs once a FORTNIGHT in the OAP Hall Chapel Street Forfar from 2pm to 4pm. Contact Jean Alexander on

01307- 463860



Our Boys' Brigade Company were off to camp at Scott Lodge at Glen Doll the first weekend in June. On the Sunday our minister was invited for lunch and then for the prize giving at the end of the camp. What a lunch and then mid-afternoon the cakes and goodies were put out. The boy's badges and awards were given out with our minister being asked to give out the prize for the Bible Class work. Each Thursday from 7pm to 7.30pm members of the church; Barbara Ann, Isabel Farquharson, Margaret Scrimgeour and Susan Forbes discuss with the boys various bible passages which is then brought into today's culture leading them to be good men in later life. The winner of the award was Tristian.



MUSIC CAFÉ

The Music Cafe meets **every Monday , 2pm to 3.15pm**, helpers are there from **1.30pm**. We meet in the Church Social Space. The Music Cafe is for people suffering from Alzheimer's / Dementia and their carers. We sing a mixture of songs, including old favourites, Scottish, hymns and modern well known songs. We break for tea/coffee when people can enjoy a chat. Run by Pat Brodlie, one of our members, who is the Alzheimer Scotland contact for Angus. A very happy afternoon where the helpers prepare the teas/coffees & eats before the session starts & serve during the break, also help with finding songs in the folders for people who attend. **CAN YOU HELP?** Please contact **Jean Alexander** (01307-463860) or **Barbara Ann** (01307-248228) for more information.

TheBigKirkShop

Charity Shop - wide range of 2nd user goods for sale - East High

MENS NIGHT OUT: Monthly

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Monthly

BIBLE STUDY, FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP: Monthly



**Cosy Corner
Lunch every
Tuesday 12
noon**



**Book Group
Once a month**



**Saturday twice a
month**

FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD



Italian Night

What a lovely night this turned out to be and a big thank you to all who turned up on the night. Thank you to the people who organised the quizzes and to all the people who voluntarily gave of their time, talents and money to supply the food and wine.



Annual walk - the walk takes place to Birnham Oaks as this edition is being delivered so a fuller report will be given in the next edition.

Friend's Renewal Evening - date for your diary is **Friday 27th October** which falls into the New Look New Vision campaign. We are delighted that our entertainment that evening will be the Forfar Instrumental band.

FLOWER GROUP



The new Rota System of flower volunteers is working well. We have a team of 6 ladies who buy and arrange the fresh flowers on Sunday mornings.

We ask for a **minimum £20 donation** from the generous people who choose a date in the flower calendar each week of the year. With this we buy the Sunday flowers and a percentage goes into the fund which provides a very welcome floral gift for the folk in the congregation who are in need of a little cheer. We are indebted to Fiona our delivery lady for this service.

The team of 6 will also be responsible for changing over the many silk arrangements in the church, and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with this. Please let me know if you think you would like to give it a try.

With this in mind, we plan to have a **SILK FLOWER WORKSHOP** on Sat 26th August at 10am when you can get some instruction and try your hand. Numbers are limited, so please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the social area. Silk is a great medium to use – they don't die on you and readily bend to your will !

Come along and give it a go – you may have an unexpected talent ! Please let me know if you think you would like to give it a try.

WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD – We are in the process of planning an Afternoon Tea with Flower demonstration in October. Details soon.

Marlene 466616

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|---|---|
| May | 21 | Stanley Hattersley | Benholm Nursing Home, Forfar | |
| | 29 | Frederica (Freddie) Cornford | South Grange Nursing Home, Monifeith | |
| | 30 | Maggie (Peggy) Taylor | Wellbraehead, Forfar | 3 |
| Jun | 3 | Norman Sturrock | Windyedge Cottage, Forfar | |
| | | John Fyfe | Finavon Nursing Home | |
| | | James Gilfillan | Lochbank Manor, Forfar | |
| Jul | 15 | Stuart Gordon | 71 North Street, Forfar | |
| | 16 | Kathleen Gray | 30 Kings Road, Forfar | |
| | 21 | Ian Stewart | Benholm Nursing Home, Forfar | |

WEDDINGS

Jul 7 Renewal of vows – Caroline and Mark Soutar

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Aug 06 Sheena Ewart
13 Beryl Stobie



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

find us on facebook

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



**Do you need Transport to Church ?
The Forfarian bus is available on the
first Sunday of each month.**

**Please telephone Jean Alexander on
463860.**

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

NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

The deadline for submission of articles for
the **OCTOBER 2017** issue is

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Material can be given/sent to the Editor
or e-mail ed@thebigkirk.co.uk

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|
| Session Clerk | Lexi Smart | 01307 464330 |
| Depute Session Clerk | Margaret Scrimgeour | 01307 469145 |
| Church Secretary | Karen Kelly | 01307 465043 |
| Treasurer | Paula Stewart | 01307 641700 |
| FWO Treasurers | Jean Alexander | 01307 463860 |
| Gift Aid Convener | Mabel & Bruce Martin | 01307 462713 |
| Editor of Steeple Times | VACANT | |
| 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 and Life and Work | Esther Kidd | 01307 462701 |
| Big Kirk Shop Organisers | Muriel Fairley | 01307 463936 |
| | Elma Sim | 01307 465049 |
| Prayer Group | Margaret Robertson | 01307 463613 |
| 2nd Forfar Company of The Boy's Brigade | Irene Duthie | 01307 465895 |
| Friends of Forfar East & Old | Mary Daun | 01307 464935 |
| Protection of Vulnerable Groups | Isabel Farquharson | 01307 462053 |
| Minibus Hire | William Sweetin | 01307 248228 |