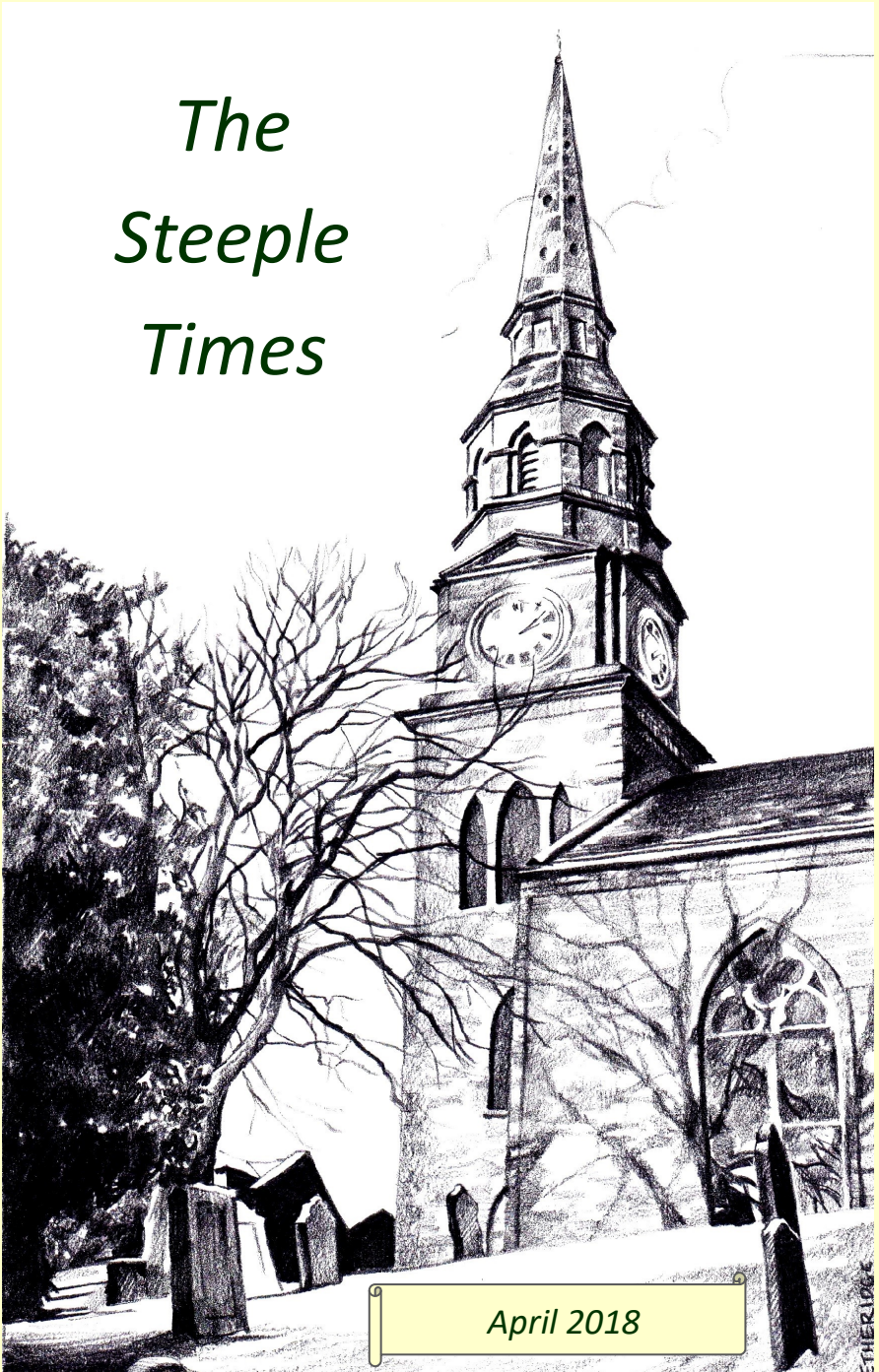


*The
Steeple
Times*



April 2018



Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

† **Additional services:**

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

⇒ Second Sunday of the month: Breakfast Service at 9:30am

⇒ Last Sunday of month: 6:30pm Contemporary Evening Service

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

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church website: www.thebigkirk.co.uk

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

Scottish Charity No: SC004921

find us on **facebook**

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

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends

The deadline for material for the Steeple Times seemed to come around all too quickly and East and Old Church has been busy, busy, busy! (No big surprise there!)

Billy and I hosted Rev Awadia and Rev Paska from South Sudan on the second weekend in March and what a busy weekend it was. Our visitors had a quiet Friday night after a busy week at a peace and reconciliation conference and then on Saturday they attended the Guild Coffee morning. After enjoying pancakes and tea (with warm milk not cold) they spoke for 10 minutes each about who they were, their jobs as pastors and what the situation is like in South Sudan at the present. Over 80 people heard their story and were surprised and horrified at the situation there. On Saturday evening over 20 people turned up at the Manse for food and drink and to get to know our visitors better and hear more of their story. A big thanks to Irene Duthie and Jean Alexander for helping out. And then on Sunday morning breakfast was at the Breakfast Church which was supplied by our BB Company and it was super – well done to the officers and boys and what a selection and thank you for the lovely Mothering Sunday gifts! Our guests then spoke at the main service and stayed for tea and coffee afterwards. Now you may be wondering why I have given you their itinerary for the weekend but it concludes with what Awadia and Paska said to me at the end of their time at East and Old Church and with the interaction they had with our members. They both explained to me that in South Sudan people speak aggressively to each other and are wary of each other. What they felt in

East and Old was the love that we have of Jesus Christ and how we serve Christ in our own church and in the community and then the love of one another, the happiness, the laughter and the support we offer each other. They felt God's love in action in East and Old and wanted to bottle it up and take it home with them. The other points they made to me and are taking home with them is the fact that many of our members are in the older age range and still have such active roles in the church, most of the people who have roles in the church are female and they were in awe of the way in which the children took the service and celebrated communion with us – all of these things were completely alien to them. In East and Old we have also learned from our visitors. They have shown to us true faith in Christ and have such hope for the future even in the circumstances that they live in at present. Thank you to all our members who interacted with Awadia and Paska and left them with such a lasting memory of people of faith in Scotland who will keep them in their prayers over the coming months and beyond.

When I needed a neighbour where you there?

Yes East and Old were there and will continue to be.

Every blessing to you all

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Zuglo Church, Budapest—We warmly welcomed to the church the members of our twinned church Zuglo Church. Twenty seven members of their choir arrived on Thursday 15th March and it was non- stop action for the next few days. Meet and greet with food and drink at the church, a tour of Forfar, attending the Lent Lunches and then a visit to McLaren's Bakers and Station Park – thank you Bill McLaren and Neill Wilson for your tours and time you gave.



The concert on the Friday night was excellent with a variety of worship music. We could tell how much the choir had practiced. Mihaly had practiced in the morning with our own choir and they were super on the night – well done everyone.

Saturday and off we went to Glasgow for a walking tour in the town centre and then to a concert in Houston and Killellan Kirk which is our ministers home church. The choir performed a different programme and once again were wonderful. After Zuglo choir had finished singing Houston and Killellan Kirk choir sang their pieces which were also excellent! Church was a busy affair with lots going on and once again hearing Zuglo choir and our own choir. Lunch after the service was a joint affair with the Hungarians and our own members and then off to Arbroath. The group had some spare time, then enjoyed their fish supper before taking part in the evening service at St Andrews Church. We must say a very big thank you to Karen Liddle for all her organising and dotting of i's and crossing of t's. Thank you also to our hosts and the people who were driving people around – it was great team work and great support offered by many.



Barbara Ann would like to say thank you for those who contributed to the retiring offerings for this trip and to those who gave her money to buy some extras also.

We will meet our friends again in July in Zurich and then again in October when some of us will be heading over to Budapest.

FACT Lent Bible Studies

will be finished by the time this issue comes out and East and Old Church have been the hosts once again in our lovely social area. The material this year was very good and the clergy in Forfar and members of all the churches came together to discuss a variety of bible passages and real life stories. Thank you to the members of East and Old who set up the tea and coffee each Thursday evening.



Lent Lunches — The FACT Lent Lunches were once again hosted by East and Old Church and each church took a week of making the soups. How talented are the people of Forfar in their soup making.

Each week saw a variety of soups — all very tasty indeed.

The total raised has not been announced yet but we will let you know in the next edition with the money going to the FACT charity this year which is the Inspiration Orchestra. Isabel Farquharson was in charge of organising our soups and the serving of them so a big thank you to her and to everyone who made our soups, set up, served and cleared away on our day.

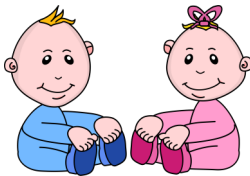
Thank you to Bill and Irene Duthie for helping each week to set up so each church knew what was happening. Thank you to St John's Church who had an additional 27 Hungarians for lunch at their event!



The Beast from the East played havoc with many events over a two week period.



However many of you braved the elements to attend the Lent Lunches and even though the Baby Blethers up-cycle sale was cancelled, the coffee morning part of the event went ahead and made a profit of £200! This event has been rescheduled for Saturday 21st April and we hope you will support it.



Our treasurer Paula really has brought new life to the church with the Baby Blether with over 18 babies attending and we now host a baby yoga class and baby gymnastics also.

Our rooms and halls are being hired out for birthday parties and we have since hired out the social area for a family event also.

If you would like to hire our premises speak to Bill Duthie for availability.

Nepal Trip - Irene Duthie and Barbara Ann as you know are off to Nepal on Saturday 7th April but before they go they were required to attend a 'prepare to go day.' It was an informative day and a busy day being told what vaccinations were required!



Fortunately Barbara Ann had most of the vaccinations for going to Malawi but Irene needed to start from scratch. Who would believe that vaccinations were so expensive! We wish them both well on their travels and look forward to hearing about their trip to Dhading in Nepal on their return.

The Book Club continues to meet every month and the recent books have caused a difference of opinions with a variety of comments on the books chosen.



Over the next month we will be getting ready to choose our next selection and are happy to hear of any books that people would like to recommend.



World Thinking Day for the Guiding Association - we were delighted this year to host the Forfar Girl Guiding Thinking Day Service on Sunday 25th February which was well attended by the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, leaders and families of the girls. The theme this year for the association is 'IMPACT' and our minister covered various aspects that we make an impact on in this life but most of all the impact that Jesus made to our world. There was a little difficulty with the Colour Party flags at the beginning - a bit of a balancing act and the opening hymn was sung three times...



Thank you to our Groovy Gryphon leaders and children who made over 200 pancakes for everyone after the Thinking Day Service.



They sold them as people were leaving Church and also to those who stayed for tea and coffee. The pancakes were very good - so good in fact that they raised £320 towards the purchase of a defibrillator.





year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

Groovy Gryphons also made breakfast at one of the breakfast services and then took the whole service on Mother's Day where we celebrated an *Agape meal* with the children serving the bread and wine – *well shortbread and juice!* The children explained about the old traditional way in which communion would be celebrated.

The congregation celebrated communion around the minister's kitchen table (a van arrived at the manse to take the kitchen table

down to the church for morning worship), each member of the congregation was asked to recite one of the Ten Commandments and if they got it correct they were given a token which they exchanged for the elements.

The minister was very relieved that everyone celebrated the *Agape meal* which means they answered the questions correctly!

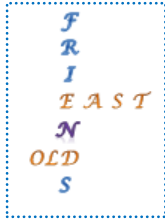
The children will be more involved later in the year also.



Thank you Groovy Gryphons !!!

Friends of East and Old Burns-less Night

This has got to have been one of the best nights we have organised in recent years. Over 60 people attended the evening for a three course meal of lentil soup, steak pie and trifle with Irn Bru, shortbread and tablet. The evening's entertainment was performed by Accord and the members of Friends of East and Old. A big thank you to everyone who donated the food and drink and helped serve and clear away the food. Accord as usual were excellent with their choice of Scottish songs and jokes and not a Burns song or poem in sight!



Flick N' Chips Night

Over seventy people turned up for the Flick N' Chips night and really enjoyed their



evening. The fish suppers from North Street Fish Shop were excellent and they gave us tubs of tartar sauce, ketchup and slices of lemon with our order of 70 suppers and had them all ready for collection. Barbara Ann encouraged everyone to give one pound each for a game of "knives and forks" and then proceeded to inform everyone that she forgot the prize so the winner received their £1 coin back! That's how to make a healthy profit!

Only Barbara Ann could get away with that !!!



The film that evening was Hidden Figures which everyone enjoyed and if you'd like to see this film

we now have a DVD that can be given out. Just speak to one of the elders and they will get it for you.





As you know we are **actively seeking new elders** so it was with great delight that Anne Watt who joined our church a number of years ago realised that God was calling her to take up her eldership once again here at East and Old.



Anne was ordained many years ago in Dumbarton Presbytery and the Kirk Session and the congregation welcomed Anne into this role. Just a few days ago her husband Robin also felt God calling him and he has also agreed to take up his eldership once again. A date will be set for his admittance at the next Kirk Session meeting.

If you have been asked previously to consider being an elder, please pray to God and ask for his direction as the church cannot function without its elders.

We are sorry to give you the news that both Rab and Fiona McLaggan are stepping down as active elders this month and we thank them for their valuable contribution to the life and work of East and Old church in their roles as elders.



Breakfast Church attracts a few numbers but those attending really appreciate the short act of worship around the breakfast table.

Thank you to Lauraine Grant who took her first ever service at the breakfast church and did a great job and thank you to the Boys' Brigade who gave us breakfast on Mothering Sunday. The little gifts that you gave everyone was a real bonus - so when are you coming back!

We look forward to Isabel Farquharson leading worship at breakfast church on the second Sunday in April.



*What's coming up
& what to look out for*

The Baby Blether “up-cycle event” will take place on Saturday 21st April from 10:00am and even if you do not need baby clothes or accessories come along for the tea, coffee and home baking.



Communion Services - Sunday 22nd April at 11:00am and 6.30pm and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these services and just in case this date does not suit then Holy Communion will also be celebrated the following Sunday, 29th April at 2:30pm with Afternoon Tea at the end of the service. If you require transport to any of these services please contact Jean Alexander (01307 463860) who will be delighted to hear from you.



Angus Presbytery

Telling it Naturally
Sharing our Faith

This seminar is designed to look at how we share our faith in everyday situations.

The three sessions will deal with:-

- ◆ **A faith to share**
- ◆ **Why do we share it**
- ◆ **How to share my faith**

Saturdays
14th & 28th April and 26th May
at St Margaret's Church
Forfar
10:00am – 1:00pm

To book your place email Alex Rae

Email - fourraes@btinternet.com

Zurich Church are arriving on Wednesday 9th May and we are really excited about this event.

The Wednesday evening we will meet and greet them over food and drink and on Thursday a tour of Forfar.

Friday we are off to St Andrews to see where John Knox was involved during the reformation and to play the Himalaya Golf Course and then returning to Forfar for a ceilidh in the evening - food, drink, dancing, poems, jokes and much more and our Swiss friends have prepared some entertainment for us also.

Saturday will be a day spent in Edinburgh and we will have spare seats on the bus for anyone wanting to come along.

Our guests will visit the castle, Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament building but the main point of the trip is to visit John Knox statue and his house when he lived in Edinburgh. This is a taster of their visit and there is so much more.

- ◆ *Would you like to be involved?*
- ◆ *Can you host?*
- ◆ *Can you help with transport?*
- ◆ *Can you be in a tour group?*

If so, Karen Liddle would love to hear from you.

Handbag Event — Wednesday 2nd May will see the return of the “Handbag Event” that we ran last November with the company from Glasgow coming up to display and sell their handbags and accessories with a different range from last year. Their stock includes summer accessories with lovely summer colours.



Our minister is the chairperson for the **Leprosy Mission** committee in Forfar and is supported by members from the other churches. To raise more awareness of this disease an event has been organised in the British Legion on **Sunday 3rd June at 2:00pm**. We are delighted to announce that the CEO Leprosy Mission Scotland Linda Todd will be coming along to speak and is hoping to bring the International President with her. Come along and find out more about this disease and the huge advancements that are still going on to help people with this disease.

The Twinning Committee have also been meeting regularly because of our friends from Zuglo in Hungary visiting us but also because in May we will have 28 Swiss visitors and 2 German visitors coming to stay with us in Forfar. If you can host one or two of our guests



then please get in touch with Karen Liddle or Barbara Ann as we need another two hosts for their stay from Wednesday 9th May to Monday 14th May.

Our minister was asked to be a host for two South Sudanese visitors the weekend before our friends from Zuglo arrived.



Rev Awadia and Rev Paska were here for three days and spoke on a number of occasions to our members and friends of East and Old. Thank you to the Guild for allowing us to gate-crash your

coffee morning and thank you to all who turned up at the Manse on the Saturday night and to Irene and Jean for helping with the food.



Our minister went along to the last **Christian Aid** meeting along with our rep Isabel Farquharson to find out what the Christian Aid committee do and organise in Forfar. They were made to feel welcome and took on board the hard work that the team do.

The Christian Aid envelopes will be delivered with this magazine and we ask you to return them (with money in them preferably) to the Church or to the Big Kirk shop.

There is an organised sponsored walk over the Tay Road Bridge on Saturday 21st April starting at 2:00pm from the Newport-on-Tay carpark.



If you don't fancy the walk across the Tay Road Bridge, there is an alternative sponsored walk around Forfar Loch starting at 10:00am on the same day. You have the option to walk around the Loch either once or twice.



Widow/widowers Group
This new group is now up and running and have named themselves – FRIENDS R' U.S.



The group now meets the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm for a time of fellowship and an occasional speaker but keep looking on the notice board because members will put up information if they are planning to do anything.

Already they are set up for a Ghost walk in Dundee, exercise classes and walking events and driving events. This group is open to widows, widowers and single people.



Finances — we have to bring up the subject of our income again as we are still not bringing in enough money to cover our day to day needs and there is simply nothing we can cut down on to make this any easier.



Between our contributions to 121, Presbytery and the salaries to our employees (which is not that big) our projected expenditure is in excess of £100,000 before bills such as gas, electric, insurance etc are accounted for.

We asked in the last edition that you pray to God and then consider your weekly, monthly offering in response to what East and Old is doing in the service of Christ — a few people have since increased their offering and we thank you for that. However, our projected budget for 2018 already indicates a deficit of £27,000 and if the weekly and monthly contributions do not rise, then we will need to have even more fund raising events to balance the books.

Our treasurer, Paula Stewart, asks if anyone has any ideas or suggestions of ways to increase our general income to speak to her or to Barbara Ann.

Guild Report



January 24th

Rev Ramsay was very good on his six favourite 'Desert Island Books'

February 14th

Our own Church Group Accord thankfully stepped in for our musical entertainment

February 28th

Linus UK charity night had to be cancelled through bad weather and illness, but the knitted blankets, hats & cardigans are being collected for premature babies.

March 10th

A very successful Coffee Morning was held and we raised £650.

March 14th

A very good speaker at Lowson on the Christian Aid (solar ovens) for Bolivia project.

March 21st

Our session officially ended with the AGM, election of committee and notice of our **Summer Trip on Thursday 21st June - coach trip to Royal Yacht Britannia followed by High Tea at George Hotel, Perth (sign-up sheet in social area)**

Our speaker for the evening was Ian Milne, the founder of Inspiration Orchestra who sang and played guitar and gave us a deep insight into the amazing work done in Perth giving severely disabled people a chance to make music.

Looking ahead:* - ***Thursday, May 31st**

The Songs of Praise to finish the Guild year will be in Edzell Church.

*You will be made most welcome
at any of our Guild meetings in the new session 2018/19
when the theme will be 'Seeking the Way'.*



Boys Brigade

Over the past few weeks the Boys in the Junior Section have been busy learning the Deaf & Dumb alphabet and making gifts for Mothers Day.

With help and guidance from parent Andy Lovegrove the Anchor Boys cut out, assembled and painted small bird boxes.

Many a colourful tee-shirt went home to Mums that night.

On Mothers Day, the Company Boys prepared and served breakfast in the Church.

small gift made by our younger Boys.



Drill has always been and continues to be, an important part of B.B. work. Our boys are about to take part in the Battalion Drill-down Competition. We wish them well.

NEXT STOP *EASTER HOLIDAYS.*

Each person present was given a

Walking Group

Our walks for April and May are on:

- 🕒 Saturday 14th April
- 🕒 Saturday 5th May
- 🕒 Saturday 26th May



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

Dates for your Diary

Saturday	21 April	Baby Blether & Up Cycle	10:00am
Sunday	22 April	Communion	11:00am
Sunday	29 April	Communion followed by Afternoon Tea	2:30pm
Wednesday	2 May	Handbag Event	
Friday	11 May	Ceilidh with our Zurich guests	
Thursday	31 May	Guild "Songs of Praise" (Edzell Church)	
Sunday	3 June	Leprosy Mission Awareness Talk (British Legion Hall)	2:00pm

GREEN TEAM HINTS & TIPS

Plastic of all types is in the news just now. Try to minimise the amount you use as much as possible and remember to recycle as much as you can in the grey bin.

Fair Trade Fortnight has just finished but be sure to look at the stall in the Social area.

If there is any other product you wish to buy that is not on the stall please let Barbara Ann or Glenda Robertson know.

For the garden.. It is now time to mulch the borders to suppress the weeds when the temperature rises and the weeds arrive with Spring!



MUSIC CAFÉ

The Music Cafe meets **every Monday** , from
2:00pm 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 and 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 "second user" goods for sale
East High Street - FORFAR

Open: Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm

FRIDAY FLING



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

No great experience needed, if you can do the Gay Gordons,
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 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Contact Jean Alexander on **01307 463860**

FLOWER GROUP



The Flower Calendar for 2018 has filled up nicely.

We ask for a minimum donation of £20 which provides the weekly church flowers and a percentage also goes to the flower delivery fund

– delivering flowers to those who need to know that our church community are thinking of them during difficult times.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who beautifully arrange the flowers for every Sunday and also to Fiona who does the deliveries.

If you have a passion for flower arranging, we would love to welcome you to the team.

Contact Catriona on 0796 206 5936



MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



1	APR	Jennifer (PRIMA)	6	MAY	Bob Beedie
8		Helena Todd	13		J & M Herron
15		Sheena Benvie	20		D & M Robertson
22		Allison McLaren	27		C McEwen
29		Margaret Myles	3	JUNE	Morag Milne

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Jan	18	Dolly McDonald	Windyedge Cottage, Forfar
Feb	11	Lizzie Syme	6 Robertson Terrace, Forfar
	13	Ian Sinclair	84 Glenmoy Terrace, Forfar
	21	Marion Valentine	Lochbank House, Forfar
	28	Helen Findlay	4 Donaldson Avenue, Forfar
Mar	5	Jemima (Ima) Anderson	Benholm Care Home, Forfar
	13	Robert Sherriff,	8 Turfbeg Crescent , Forfar

BAPTISMS

Jan	28	Naomi Pearl Masson
Mar	4	John Henry Simpson





NEED A VENUE FOR CONFERENCES MEETINGS etc?

THEN LOOK NO FURTHER

FOR FAR EAST & OLD HAS IT ALL

MULTI MEDIA FACILITIES WITH MULTI SCREEN PROJECTORS,
SOUND SYSTEM AND HI SPEED WI-FI.

ENQUIRIES TO :- BILL DUTHIE ON 01307 465895

Angus Citizens Advice Bureau (SCIO) is seeking volunteers to join their advice teams in Arbroath.

They offer:

- Interesting and varied days.*
- A chance to gain new knowledge and skills.*
- A supportive and friendly environment.*
- The satisfaction of helping people in your local community.*

They provide volunteers with training in the main topic areas they give advice in; all they ask is that you are a good listener, have a wish to help other people, are able to use a computer and can spare one day a week. Should you be looking for employment, volunteering will not interfere with your benefits and will provide useful experience.

The main topic areas of advice include welfare benefits, employment, consumer issues, housing, family and personal relationship problems.

For more information please speak to Elizabeth on 01241 870661 ext. 234 or pop into our office at 11 Millgate, Arbroath.

DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER ?

Then you can help raise funds for
East & Old's Dedicated Improvement Fund.
It costs nothing but will help our funds.



Simply register — then every you shop online,
log on to [http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/
forfareastoldparish/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forfareastoldparish/)

and use their links to visit your favourite on-line shops.
The easiest way is to make this a bookmark or favourite.
More info can be found at
[http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-
information/easyfundraising/](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/easyfundraising/)

Why not give it a try? If you need help setting this up please
contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228



Do you need Transport to Church ?

The Forfarian bus is available on the
first Sunday of each month.

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 your
call will be returned.

NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

The deadline for submission of articles for
the **JUNE 2018** issue is

SUNDAY 20th MAY 2018

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 Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
Gift Aid Convener	Mabel & Bruce Martin	01307 462713
Editor of Steeple Times	Catriona Milne	07962065936
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Property Convener & Lets	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
Groovy Gryphons Leader	Susan Forbes	01307 465200
Flower Group	Catriona Milne	07962065936
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