

EAST AND OLD PARSH CHURCH FORFAR



Services of Public Worship:

- Every Sunday at 11:00am
- Additional services:
 - ⇒ First Sunday of the month: Informal Communion at 9:30am
- → Midweek Service every Wednesday at 12:10pm

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

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Scottish Charity No: SC004921

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My dear friends!

Over the summer months our bible readings will be a little bit different – they will be from the Apocrypha part of the bible – that is the part of the bible that sits between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The preface to the Apocrypha in the Geneva Bible explained that while these books "were not received by a common consent to be read and expounded publicly in the Church," and did not serve "to prove any point of Christian religion save in so much as they had the consent of the other scriptures called canonical to confirm the same," nonetheless, "as books proceeding from godly men they were received to be read for the advancement and furtherance of the knowledge of history and for the instruction of godly manners." Later, during the English Civil War, the Westminster Confession of 1647 excluded the Apocrypha from the canon and made no recommendation of the Apocrypha above "other human writings", and this attitude towards the Apocrypha is represented by the decision of the British and Foreign Bible Society in the early 19th century not to print it. Today, "English Bibles with the Apocrypha are becoming more popular again" and they are often printed as intertestamental books. The books in the Apocrypha are: Tobit, Judith, Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach, Baruch, Additions to the book of Daniel, including Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, 1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh, Psalm 151, 3 Maccabees, 2 Esdras, 4 Maccabees – in that order. These additional books and passages make very interesting reading so as an additional support to you I am including in this edition of the Steeple Times a booklet with the readings we will be using over the

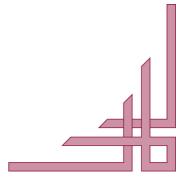
summer – because there is quite a bit to read and not enough time to read it all on a Sunday morning so I hope you will take the time to read part of the books and verses.

It is good to hear other stories from the bible that we are unfamiliar with and it can be a challenge for us to read some of these books however I believe that we should be challenged by what we see and hear in the world around us today just as the early Christians were challenged in their following of Christ all these years ago and ever since. We need to stand up and be counted, be a voice for the voiceless, help those in need but also not to be walked over. As I write this letter it is two weeks before the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and I am just about to go on holiday (yes again!) I look forward to returning home which is after the General Assembly to see what challenges they are putting forward to ministers, churches, presbyteries and to the national church so that through the challenges we can come to see God even more in our own churches, in our nation and around the world. Change is needed in the church and even though some people struggle with change it is all heading our way in the next few years.. Just remember we are post Christendom – just think of the changes that Jesus brought in his time, the changes the reformers made – change is not always a bad thing. Just look at our church building!

Blessings to you and your family

Your Minister and friend

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

trathmore Primary School J Rock Challenge

In the last edition of the Steeple Times we mentioned that the school



had moved the show to the Campus and what an excellent night it turned out to be. Over 50 children took part in the show which they performed twice and then some past performances were put on the screen to watch.

The enthusiasm and excitement in each child and teacher.

The enthusiasm and excitement in each child and teacher was super to watch. Congratulations to everyone involved and hopefully this really worthwhile venture will continue.

Offee and Scream morning
Our men rose to the challenge of fundraising for the
Church Improvement Fund with Dave Bowman, Dave
Duncan and Mike Johnstone all getting their heads shaved!

Johnny Forbes also got his head shaved as well as his back and front waxed (Ow!) Jim Stewart's arms were waxed while Billy Sweetin got his legs waxed! Graham Scattergood got his beard shaved off! Thank you guys – you are brave souls! A big thank you to Rae McLaren for the shaving and to Paula Stewart for the waxing. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the sponsor and for helping on the day and this venture raised £1673 – a big, big, thank you to you all.

Sound system in the social area
We reported last month that we had received a grant for the
installation of the sound system and loop system in the social area which
Is now installed and working great. It has already been used for the Baby



Blether Dance-athon and at the Kirk Session meeting. Thank you once again to Angus for his patience in filling in forms and to Graham Irving for installing the system. We will be running a few training sessions so that people can become familiar with the system.

orfar Christmas Lights
East and Old Church, the Baby Blether of East and Old
Church and the Boys' Brigade of East and Old Church all
signed up to be one of the 50 people/organisations to raise
£50 each to help with the cost of this year's lights. Barbara
Ann asked all the elders for £1 which they gave willingly and the Church
£50 was paid out in April. The Baby Blether ran a Dance-athon at the
end of April and raised over £100 and we are looking forward to finding
out what the Boys' Brigade are going to be doing to raise their money
for the lights which we all enjoy seeing.

ay Balfour's 100th Birthday party

May Balfour is our eldest member and she celebrated her 100th birthday on the 6th April. Her family asked if they could host the party in the Church and our minister jumped on the idea. May's party was a great success with many of her family members travelling to see her as well as many, many friends turning up. May of course was the star attraction and she was

also visited by the Lord Lieutenant Georgina Osborne, Depute Provost Colin Brown and Councillor Ian McLaren with apologies being given by Councillor Lynne Devine and MP Kirstene Hair — however both these ladies sent cards to the Church. The card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took pride of place beside May and her 100th birthday cake. Thank you to everyone who helped organise this amazing event, served tea and coffee and fed everyone - there was literally enough food to feed the 5,000! May, just a wee reminder that your next card from the Queen will be when you are 105 years old!

eprosy Mission Coffee Morning

Barbara Ann and Esther Kidd (our representatives on the Leprosy Mission Committee) would like to say thank you very



much to everyone who came along to the Leprosy Mission Coffee morning and also those who helped on the day and supplied various bits and pieces. Over £700 was raised on the day.

The S.A.M. took place during worship where our minister and treasurer gave their reports on what has been happening in the Church and plans for the future. The reports were well received and many people found the minister's report enlightening. Session clerk Lexi Smart, treasurer Paula Stewart and the minister all stayed behind after morning worship to answer any questions that the congregation had.

A fternoon Communion
We now hold an afternoon communion one week before the

main communion in April and October. In April one week before the main communion service was Easter Sunday, so the Kirk

Session took the decision to bring it forward another week to Palm Sunday. Over 60 people were in attendance and the majority of people stayed for a very nice afternoon tea with enough food to feed everyone. We would like to say thank you to the many people involved in this event who supplied and served the all the food and drink and to our minister for another innovative communion service.

oly Week - We held worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and this year an additional service led by Bob Kidd, was held on the Wednesday. It was the first of two services entitled 'The Bible Building' and focussed on various parts of the Church which have bible readings on them. For this service Bob selected the wedding door 'Enter his Gates' and whilst explaining the bible passage also gave a history of the door, who built and designed it and why we call it the wedding door. The other item Bob selected was the Burning Bush window which is in the Session Room and was brought from the Fast Church when the two churches merged. Thank you Bob for a great evening which worshipped God, explained the history of part of our Church and sang praises to God. The next evening was Maundy Thursday where half-way during the service this time we re-enacted The Last Supper. A few people have commented how much they got from the Good Friday service – it was very moving and emotional and many people thanked Barbara Ann for this excellent service. If you don't come along to the Holy Week services you have no idea what you are missing out on.

aster Sunday — On Easter morning our minister and husband Billy were in the Church at 6:55am hiding the chocolate eggs for the children to find before joining members from all the churches at 8:00am at the Lochside. Thanks to Isabel Farquharson who was our representative helping at this service. At our own 11:00am service we were delighted to see so many people and children present. We thought the Chocolate Morning in December had lots of chocolate, well our minister was at it again and the children loved it! This service had something for all in it.

commanion sanoay

The two main communion services in the Church are held on the 4th Sunday of April and October at 11:00am and 6:30pm. The morning service was busy as per normal

and over 40 people at the evening service. We also had a baptism that day and welcomed baby Hudson to the Church family. Thank you to Jean Alexander and Lexi Smart who do most of the preparation work for communion and were helped out by Sheena Ewart and Karen Liddle. Thank you to the elders who visited their districts and to Karen Kelly the roll keeper for the communion cards and the rota and marking up of attendance after the event. At our communion services we also hold a retiring offering in aid of the Fabric Fund (not the Dedicated Improvement Fund) because we have to keep all the Church buildings in good repair: - church, church halls, BB halls and the manse.

ig Day Out - On Saturday 11th May, Angus Presbytery held their biennial Big Day Out. East & Old is the venue for this event and our social team prepare lunch on the day (funded by the presbytery). An excellent day with the keynote speaker being Robert Allan who is very vocal about the state of the Church at the moment and posed some serious thinking how we can help and adapt in today's climate. The workshops were very interesting with Jo Love speaking about worship in different styles, Phil Melstrom talked about music in worship, Chris Blackshaw on his pioneering ministry in farming, David Williams on funding and how to apply for grants and Charis Robertson about project Hot Chocolate, a programme for teenagers in Dundee. These events take time to organise and are really worthwhile attending — if you missed it, you missed something inspiring, challenging and thought provoking.



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hristian Aid Week
Christian Aid week was from 12th – 18th May which is when the information for the Steeple Times is sent to our editor. There have been a number of Christian Aid envelopes returned to the Church and to the shop and once again the members of East and Old have risen to the challenge in helping others. Quite a few of you have bought the Christian Aid quiz sheet which we are told was not the easiest – IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE! However quite a few of you

not the easiest – IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE! However quite a few of you have returned the form filled in! As the Christian Aid collection is covered by all the Churches a total will not be available just yet but will be reported in the next edition. Thank you to Isabel Farquharson for being our representative on the Christian Aid committee and for giving all the envelopes to the elders.

Steeple Times - There is so much goes into organising, editing, printing and delivering the Steeple Times to our members and friends of East and Old. Jim Stewart and Paula Stewart (not related) organise our advertising in the Steeple Times so if you contact anyone or shop in any of the shops advertised please say you saw it in the Steeple Times. Catriona Milne does most of the editing for the magazine and is helped by Marion Duncan – thank you ladies. Irene Duthie and Janet Milne print and collate the magazine and then put them into the pigeon holes to be delivered. There are many, many people who also deliver the magazine – thank you to everyone involved.

Our Steeple Times is sent to various places in Scotland and is also available in the Big Kirk Shop so we would like to say a big hello to all of you who read our magazine and are not members of East and Old. We are delighted you take an interest in reading our magazine and wish you every blessing. Hello to the folk in Erskine, Bishopton, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth and if your area is not mentioned then let us know where you are please and either phone or email our minister whose details are elsewhere in the magazine.

hurch Officer/Property Convener - Our Church Officer and cleaner is Vanessa Ferrie and our Property Convener is Paula Stewart It has been about 8 weeks since these ladies took on these roles and so far all is well There have been one or two teething problems but they quickly got sorted out. Can we remind you that if you notice something; a leaking tap, door not shutting properly, something unclean please let these ladies know or just leave a message on the general notice board which is next to the freezer. We have also put notes beside the radiators asking people not to touch the individual thermostats in the Church at all – they remain high all year round and the temperature in the Church is controlled by the wall thermostat. If too hot or cold adjust that but return it to where it was please. All the other radiators in the building are controlled by individual thermostats. Again if you are too hot or cold adjust them but please return them to their original setting. Thank you to Doug Findlay who has been covering Bill's door duty on a Sunday while Bill has been in Australia.

riends R' Us



This is a very sociable group of Widows, Widowers and Singles set up in April 2018. We meet in the Social area of Fast and Old Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm, when we discuss and decide outings etc. for the following month. Quite a wide variety of suggestions to take part in e.g. walks, visits to the cinema/theatre, local places of interest. We have visited Dundee Science Centre, Verdant Works, Discovery, Broughty Ferry Castle, Pitmuies Gardens and Abernyte Antiques. We have walked around Balgavies Loch to see the Ospreys, enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal together and are also hoping to have some interesting talks at some of our future meetings. Church members, non-members and friends are very welcome to come along and join us.

rt Group - The art group numbers have grown in the last few months - we now have 13 members and so we can return to producing a calendar. Members use a variety of media to create paintings with different themes. We were lucky enough to be given a large number of containers of powdered pastel, something none of us have previously used - hopefully in May we will have a go. We are also planning our next art exhibition which will be around August/September. The art group meets on a Thursday afternoon from 1:30 – 4:00pm in the social area of the Church. If you are interested in joining us feel free to drop in and see us – 3:00pm is a good time — as we have our coffee then and you will be able to chat to the members. We do not meet in the month of July.

he Guild - the trip this summer is on Wednesday 3rd July to Pitlochry. There will be free time after you arrive in Pitlochry and then the bus will take you to the theatre for the show (Blond Bombshells of 1943) and then after that it is back on the bus to the Red House Hotel in Coupar Angus

for High Tea – thank you to Bob and Esther Kidd for organising this. The new committee of the Guild has met to work out dates, events and activities for the new session of 2019/2020. The overarching theme for 2018 to 2021 is 'One Journey Many Roads' with the theme this year being 'Companions on the road'. The committee this year is as follows; Lauraine Grant – Convener, Anne Watt – Treasurer and committee members; Margaret Anderson, Marion Duncan, Sheena Ewart, Harry Grant, Betty Millar, Jean Smith, Wilma Smith and our minister who is co-opted onto the committee. We wish the committee and the members of the Guild every blessing in the new term. Speakers who have confirmed so far are; Neill Wilson and Susan Forbes on ladies and gents football, Guide Dogs, trekking in Nepal, McDonalds, Nature's Way (across the road from the Church), our minister and a number of events have also been organised. Keep your diary free for Wednesday 4th September for a coffee afternoon and 14th March 2020 for a coffee morning.



roovy Gryphons - Easter Sunday was an exciting service for the children, there was the usual Easter Egg hunt, but also having a go at smashing chocolate eggs as part of the story telling - big smiles all

round. They even had fun handing out some of their eggs to the congregation and members of the choir. We are blessed to have caring, sharing children in the Groovy Gryphons.



After Easter we learned a

little more of what Jesus did after the resurrection, in particular when 7 disciples out fishing were having no success until someone on the shore shouted to cast the nets over the right-hand side of the boat. The nets filled up so quickly, 153 fish in total. The children had their own fishing net and went out in to the reception and social area catching fish, we managed to count 153 fish in the net so there shouldn't be any stray fish "swimming" around the Church!

By the time you read this, the older children will have been away on their trip to Alton Towers with Joyce and Karen, the girls are very excited to go and I'm sure you will have heard all about it when the children tell their news to Barbara Ann during the Sunday Service. Frances and Matthew took the younger children to Activity Kids, Stanley, an outdoor adventure park the same weekend.

We have a few busy weeks ahead, the children and leaders will be taking the service on Sunday 16th June, followed by the **Prize Giving** service on Sunday 23rd June.

Joyce, Frances, Matthew and Karen.

O berammergau Trip Update



We now have 46 people booked on our trip to see the Passion Play in July 2020. This is the world's most famous religious production run every 10 years. We can now say that we are "going next year!" - it is getting nearer and nearer. The key cast has now been selected and the young man who played Jesus in 2010 has been cast again for 2020. All the men with roles have a beard and long hair is required. The male actors have been told to stop cutting their hair and must grow long beards until the play finishes October 2020! Imagine ladies, not being able to go to the hairdresser for 18 months! At least we don't have to grow a beard! McCabe our tour operator is now requiring the 2nd deposit of £400 pounds per person which you pay direct to them. You will receive a letter or invoice soon to remind you. I will keep you all updated in future publications of our Steeple Times.

Lexi – Tour Leader

reen Team



The Green Team are looking for images of any recycle projects you have completed involving glass, plastic, wood, metal etc. These photographs will feature in our new Eco Idea articles which are published in the Eco Newsletter. Photographs can be sent to: hrothach@btinternet.com

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR!

hy, why, why – worship service on Sunday 9th June at 6:30pm – come along and ask any of your 'Why' questions at this service.

rskine Guild - On Wednesday 12th June we welcome members of Erskine Guild into the Church for lunch. Our minister spoke at one of their meetings last year and extolled the delights of Forfar and surrounding area. They will arrive in Forfar at approx. 11:30am to visit our town and at 12:30pm will have lunch in the Church and will be on their way by 1:30pm to Dundee where I am sure they will see many of the wonderful attractions there.

riday 21st June – Longest day
On this night we will be holding a Sundown service which will start at 9:00pm with a supper; 10:00pm a sponsored walk around Forfar and then 11:00pm our Sundown service with all proceeds going to the HIV Church of Scotland Charity. You will need a pair of red laces which



our minister has a supply of. If your shoes have no laces you can tie the laces to your jacket, wrist etc.

Sunday 21st July - Another new idea from the worship team by holding a Picnic and Praise at the Priory (PPP) at 3:00pm in the afternoon and we hope many of our members and their families will come along to this outdoor event. It will be worship like you have never known before so put the date in your diary now!

Walking Group Dates
Saturday 8th June
Saturday 29th June



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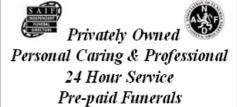
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elay for Life – Kirriemuir: Once again East and Old are putting in a team for the Relay for Life to raise funds for Cancer Research. The 24 hour event starts at 12noon on Saturday 10th August and finishes 12noon on Sunday 11th August.

Sponsor sheets will be go up on the notice board

nearer the time and we wish our team every success as they raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. I wonder who'll be walking between midnight and 6:00am!

Inspiration Orchestra — We are delighted to announce that the Inspiration Orchestra are once again coming to Forfar and will be using our sanctuary as their venue. Many of you were very moved by the concert they performed last year and this time you will be even more impressed. The orchestra is made of people who are severely mentally and physically disabled but when you hear the music and see the joy on their faces you cannot help but be inspired. The date is Friday 16th August at 7:30pm.



winning News - After a very busy time in 2018 building our twinning relationship with our friends in Zuglo Church, Budapest 2019 would seem somewhat quieter! We were able to meet the Hungarians in person a total

of three times last year, firstly when they visited us here in Forfar in March, then again when we all travelled to Zurich in Switzerland in July for our joint Zwingli pilgrimage and finally when some of us travelled to Budapest in October. A lot of organising, a lot of travelling and a lot of money, so this year our focus is not so much meeting in person, but developing other aspects of our Twinning Agreement which we signed in Budapest in October 2015. To this end, we hope to improve our communications and share news more frequently, without the need for travel. The new Outward and Forward committee now holds the remit of twinning and it was suggested we organise a sort of "pen-pal" scheme. Anyone who is interested in getting to know the Hungarians a little bit better is welcome to do so. This might suit

someone who maybe wants to find out more about them, but might not be able, or want to travel across to visit or be able to host them when they come to visit us. It's simply a correspondence to develop possible friendships and a better understanding of other cultures. This could be correspondence in the traditional sense by sending letters in the post or using more modern methods such as email and social media: whatever you feel comfortable with. The Hungarian side is asking for volunteers on their part, of those who have a good amount of English. (any fluent Hungarian speakers out there?) Whilst many of the Hungarians speak excellent English, it is the language barrier that has been the biggest issue of late, so we're hoping this small step will encourage more people to communicate with each other. If anyone would like to find out more, or put their names forward for a "pen-pal", please let Barbara Ann or Karen Liddle know and we'll try to put you in touch with someone.







F R I E A S T N OLD S aster Sunday
On Easter Sunday morning the convener of the
Friends Committee Mary Daun presented our minister
and treasurer Paula Stewart a cheque for £3500 for
the Church funds from the proceeds of various Friends
events. The Friends team want to say a big thank you
to everyone who supports their events.

merican Night
Friends next event is an American Night 31st May
which will take place just as this magazine is going to be
delivered so more information will be available in the next
edition.



nnual walk
The sign-up sheet for our annual walk will be put up on the general notice board in June. This year our walk is a lovely 4-5 mile walk around Letham and surrounding area. This was suggested to us by Elizabeth and Hebbie McLeod so thank you. We have still to decide on where our High Tea will be (either Sinclair's Kitchen or Castle Club) but information as stated already will be on the noticeboard in June.

Keep the date free – Saturday 3rd August early afternoon onwards.

Dates for your Diary

- **★ Friday 25th October** Friends renewal night with entertainment
- **★ Saturday 30th November –** St Andrew's Night Event



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No fixed charge - all we ask is a donation, for example £3 per person, or more if you wish to give more.



CHURCH BUS - On the first Sunday of each month we offer a service to members who have difficulty getting to church - they are picked up at their homes from 10:00am onwards and transported to the 11:00am Service, then taken home afterwards. We have an escort on the bus to assist passengers on & off. Anyone wishing to use this service should contact Jean Alexander on Forfar 463860, or Barbara Ann.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

April 2 Jeanette Morrison < 20>

May 1 Elizabeth Allardice < 39 >



BAPTISMS

April 24 Jessica Faye Daun

28 Hudson Charles Daun

May 5 Elliott Gordon McQueen

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Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
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NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

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