The Steeple Times

October 2019



Services of Public Worship:

- ✤ Every Sunday at 11:00am
- Additional services:
 - \Rightarrow 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

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

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends

Brexit! What a word to start off my letter to you. The whole nation is divided and sometimes when you hear the discussions you think there will never be a breakthrough one way or another, however some people are finding it all a bit unsettling while others don't care one little bit – what will be, will be! Or maybe not! But for Billy and I life is going on as normal and that means that I now take my Friday off work every week as we travel down to Glasgow for the day to babysit our grandson Finlay. We still have another week's holiday to take in October and we are heading off to Northern Ireland for 8 days.

Church life is also continuing as normal and that means busy, busy, busy – would you have it any other way? Oh yes we would! Oh no we wouldn't! Pantomime season has arrived early! I am currently writing some Christmas material for my writing group and have started planning all the activities around Christmas time! But the one thing that never changes and should settle people down is the missional work that East and Old is involved in – it needs to continue no matter what else is happening in and around the country.

The Kirk Session are looking at new ways to interact with the community around us and that involves starting up new ventures and events, supporting and strengthening existing projects and programmes and also looking for funding for these. We are delighted that the Presbytery of Angus has awarded us £7,500 to go towards our missional work here at East and Old and we are very grateful to them. Trips, cooking and baking classes, parties and so much more and you will find out more about it elsewhere in this issue. You will also read about Lachlan Macleod in this edition – a young man looking to train for the ministry – he has already organised a 'Darts Tournament' for the church funds which will bring in new people and a new age group into our buildings and into contact with us. Some may not see this as missional but it certainly is.

Our biggest challenge in our missional work is to fund a family/youth worker in the coming few months. A number of people have spoken about this to me and some people have already pledged the money but we still need more people. So the time has come to let me know whether you can give to this project or not because we need to get moving on this or the church and the young folk will miss out in so much over the next little while. Numerous churches and other organisations are doing lots in this area but unfortunately our church activities are not attracting younger people and our helpers are getting older also. If we get enough people signing up we hope to advertise for a youth/ family worker this side of the year or early next year.

Sometimes in life people will say 'God needs to show me the way or give me a sign' but at church today a young mum came up to me and said she would be very interested in this type of job! Is this the sign we have been waiting on? I will leave that to you to decide.

Every blessing to you all

Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

achlan Macleod - is a gentleman who will be with us for the next six months or so. Lachlan is in the Discernment process with the Church of Scotland to find out if ministry is really what he feels he is being called to do. Lachlan will be popping into various events and activities and will attend a couple of services a month. He will also be visiting some people at home and in hospital. If you meet Lachlan be sure to give him a big welcome.

C hurch Lift - we would like to say a very big thank you to one of our members in the church who donated the money for the church lift -£32,000. This has helped us greatly and frees up other money so that more work can now be done to get phase 2 moving forward – thank you very much. The building team in the church are working on the lift shaft at this time and once complete it is a twelve week lead in time from the lift company to supply and fit the lift!

ater Supply - thank you to Neill Wilson and Bill Duthie for meeting up with the water board to discuss our water supply into the church premises. You may not be aware that we do not have enough water coming into the church for the use we have at present so when the new toilets go in well that means even more problems. However the news was good and it doesn't look like it's going to be a big job and therefore hopefully not a lot of money!

otor Neurone Disease (MND) - for a number of years our church members have been collecting their pennies and 5 pence pieces for Capability Scotland. The Kirk Session



took the decision to change our charity to MND and we are happy to take your small jars of coppers and 5p's or you can place your donation in the collecting cans in the church and church shop. We would like to say thank you to the Groovy Gryphons for supplying lunch on the 8th September and selling MND pens - they raised an amazing £300 for MND – well done everyone.

The Kirk Session agreed to pay for **Fischy Music** to come to Strathmore Primary for a music workshop on mental and wellbeing health. They ran three workshops in the morning with 70 children at each and then a concert in the afternoon for the whole school with parents joining them also. What a great day it was and the school were very grateful for this opportunity.

edia Team – a big thank you to the team for producing a great leaflet for the church to use at numerous events over the next year or so. The leaflet has the church information, contacts, and photographs of rooms for hire and what's on. This is a great asset to the church and has been used widely already. The team are busy preparing Thank You cards and Appreciation Cards – watch this space. They are also developing posters for the Remembrance Big Sing and contacting the local papers to let people know what is happening in East and Old.

CTV – the media team wanted to put in some cameras and a screen into the church so we can see what is happening in the church if the doors are open and there are meetings or services going on. The Kirk Session agreed to spend a few hundred pounds on this and fortunately one of

our members heard about this and offered to buy us the equipment – thank you very much!



he weather just about held out for us on Sunday 21st July at the Priory. The numbers attending this event were disappointing but those present felt the benefit of it and enjoyed one another's company as well as worshipping God and eating the picnics.

Thank you to Heather Munro for opening up Angus Archives for our members to have a look around and putting out information that was relevant to Forfar and our church. Heather had even a children's table set up for activities – thank you!







Pastoral Afternoon Tea was held in the church on 7th August and what a fabulous afternoon it turned out to be. The minibus and cars collected our members



and brought them to the church where they enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, scones, tray bakes,

biscuits and meringues to name a few things. Thank you to the pastoral team for organising this event - our members were very grateful.

_ dinburgh Zoo - an idea was floated by our minister to the Kirk Session that many families in the area struggle to get away over the holiday period and even for a day away so Barbara Ann asked for a subsidy from the church funds (there is money set aside for things like this). Barbara Ann paid for the bus and the subsidy was for the entrance into the Zoo. Within 40 minutes of the information going on Facebook all the places were taken – a 70 seater coach and our own minibus – a total of 80 people and people who are not really involved in church life at present which was the point of the trip. Barbara Ann contacted Dawn

Rennie from Angus Council who said she would supply the packed lunches for everybody on the trip. Paula went to Tesco who gave us a discount and a freebie and Barbara Ann purchased Noah's Ark activity books for the children.

What a fantastic day with so many people thanking East and Old for

a fabulous trip which did not cost them much money. Some of the comments were; *it is great to spend*



time as a family; we don't really get anywhere as a family because of the cost – it is usually one or two of us at a time; can't believe we got the whole family to Edinburgh and back and into the zoo and our lunch for £20! East and Old you are so good; East and Old are miracle workers said the lady in the wheelchair. When is the next trip? Hopefully the answer is October!

ike Smith – on the same day as the give-away we held a farewell tea for Mike who was moving back down to Yorkshire. Mike has been with us for a number of years now and we wish him every blessing in the years ahead.

 \sim

S upporting Refugees in Scotland - Monday 12th August. The area of Angus has very few refugees and through that we are not exposed to the situations that the refugees find themselves in both good and bad and there are so many ways in which we as a community in Forfar can support them. Thank you to everyone who attended the information event.

nspiration Orchestra - Once again we were delighted to host the orchestra in our church. They put on such an amazing performance and left the audience speechless at what they could achieve. Those at



the concert felt truly inspired and FACT presented the orchestra with a cheque which was gratefully accepted and will be put to good use. If you are in Perth make sure you pop into their new charity shop.

raditional Afternoon tea – Saturday 17th August.

The good china was out! The cake stands were out! The prosecco was out! The food was out! The people arrived and what an afternoon it was! Great food, great company, great venue and a great time! When is the next one! Thank you to everyone who donated the food and helped to set up and serve and for the raffle prizes and balloon prizes.

Refugee Training Programme – Tuesday 20th August. Our minister will be hosting a Syrian refugee family consisting of mum, dad, two children and a baby! It was a gruelling process with lots of paperwork, house visits, disclosure checks, references and so much more and then Barbara Ann, Billy and a few people who would be interacting with the family needed to attend the training course run by the Church of Scotland. Barbara Ann hopes that if all goes well this can be done again not only with her and Billy but with other members of the church also.









Relay for Life Fundraisers: Steeple Chasers Quiz Night

On 2nd August, we held a family quiz night in the church to raise money for CRUK Relay for Life in Kirriemuir, which was due to take place the following week. The church

team (Steeple Chasers) led by team captain Isabel Farquharson did a great job organising this fun night with nearly 70 people squeezed into the Social area coming from Dundee, Monifieth and even Edinburgh to join us. Sheena Benvie took on the role of quiz mistress and ensured the old grey matter got a good stretch. A huge raffle proved so successful we kept some of the raffle donations for the team tombola stall the following weekend. The refreshments were praised by the participants with the delicious home baking by members of the team worth a special mention. Well done to our relay team who raised a magnificent £643 on the night.

Kirriemuir Relay for Life - The weekend of the 10th & 11th August was most definitely a washout! As the storm clouds gathered and rain lashed the ground, it was clear that the Relay for Life would have to be cancelled, the field was waterlogged and dangerous and safety was an



issue with a high risk of lightning. But the community pulled together and the Relay committee managed to organise an alternative mini event in Forfar Mart on the Saturday evening within a matter of hours. The evening gave all the teams a chance to run their fundraising stalls with a party-like atmosphere. Despite the atrocious weather, spirits were high and East & Old were going at it with gusto. The 'Water or Wine' stall proved extremely popular and a large queue formed around the Steeple

Chasers. The tombola was also a hit and with sales of the guizzes, team members home baking, homemade jam and some amazing salted caramel fudge the team raised another £300 on the night. With live entertainment all evening, including human foosball, local musicians and bands, Kirriemuir Operatic Society and others. The evening started off with perhaps the most poignant part of all, the survivors lap. As the piper played, 34 cancer survivors did a lap of honour around the hall to the cheers of all the relay participants and supporters. Our very own Isobel Archibald and Dave Bowman took part. We were all very proud of them and there wasn't a dry eye in the house as everyone reflected on the reason for the event. Once again, the fun stopped at 10:00pm when the Candle of Hope Ceremony took place with the hall in darkness, lit up by all the candles with their special messages to remember loved ones taken by cancer. Two cancer survivors told their story and reflected on the progress made in fighting this disease, poems were read, and music played. It was a beautiful ceremony and a time for everyone to reflect. Some of the Steeple Chasers walked from Forfar to Kirriemuir, others also walked many miles independently and on Sunday 15th September, eight members of the team walked from the Church up to Lochlands corner, past Lour estate and Ladenford Den then on to Kingsmuir and back into Forfar to ease our conscience that we hadn't taken your money under false pretences.

The team would like to thank everyone who sponsored them, came to the quiz night, bought raffle tickets, quizzes, fudge, cakes, collected 20p coins or helped in any way to boost the 'Steeple Chasers' total. The last few pounds are still to be banked but we estimate the team total at circa £3200, a fantastic effort and East & Old's best to date! This year the money will help research treatment for brain tumours in children in Edinburgh - what an amazing thing to know that all that money is going to such a good cause. Once again, well done everyone at East & Old for your generosity.

Letter to Editor



Just to say a big thank you to Isabel Farquharson, our team leader of the Steeple Chasers, for organising us in the above event.

Although, due to the extreme weather the Relay had to be cancelled, we still had a productive, fun evening in the Strathmore Hall.

I think it was so important for some kind of event still to take place, especially for the brave cancer survivors, who donned their purple tee shirts to complete

the lap of honour, while some of them are still going through gruelling treatments. That really hit home as to the purpose of such events, and the importance of fundraising, so that we can all enjoy a longer life on this planet, with new and improved treatments being made available all the time. Seeing and reading the messages on the candles, dedicated to lost loved ones and messages of hope was very poignant.

Hopefully the team will be able to take part in another Relay or cancer fundraiser in the future, supported by the Minister and congregation.

M Pirie

Open Doors Weekend 14th and 15th September Thank you to our team of volunteers who manned this event and greeted the people coming through the doors and made them feel welcome. It is so good to see the information of the church and its history out and easily accessible for everyone to look at.



A rt Exhibition 14th to 22nd September – once again our Art Group put on an Art Exhibition and this time they excelled themselves.



The paintings were simply beautiful and a joy to look at. They also organised calendars for 2020 which were on sale at £5.00 so if you didn't manage to get one for you or your friends we still have some left which are for sale in the church and the Big Kirk Shop. Well done everyone - a great exhibition once again.







We are so thankful to God for the organisations that are in our church and so at the worship service held on 15^{th} September we dedicated our organisations to God and offered our thanks.



Christian Aid Coffee Morning – Saturday 21st September in St John's Church Hall Find out how it went in the next edition.

Wusic Café 400th Meeting – this took place on Monday 23rd September with invited guests; current and retired helpers and of course our many clients. More details in our next edition.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



C offee Morning - Saturday 19th October in East and Old Church from 10:00am to 12noon. Tickets priced £3.00.

A fternoon Communion and Afternoon Tea – Sunday 20th October at 2:30pm.



ommunion Sunday – 27th October 11:00am and 6:30pm
(retiring offering at all above services in aid of the Fabric Fund)

D ig Sing for Remembrance – Sunday 3rd November at 6:30pm – not to be missed. The community has come together for this event with variety of people, organisations and churches being involved. Donations at the end of the evening will be going to the Normandy Memorial Trust. Don't let this event be one that you say 'I wish I had been there.'

arts Night Friday 15th November – this event is being organised by Lachlan who is on placement in the church. It will take place in the church hall on the above date at 7:00pm. It doesn't matter of you have played darts before or not but since there will be semi-professionals there then we will be looking to see who gets the wooden spoon.



Entry is £5.00 and Lachlan has already got the bar, food and raffle organised! The money raised will be split between East and Old Church and Voluntary Angus Action.

ooking and Baking Classes will begin in October on two Saturday's each month. The first Saturday will be a cooking class and the second Saturday a baking class. There will be space for approx 6 to 8 people depending on what is being made and there will be sign-up sheets—if you can help please get in touch with Barbara Ann. We have received funding for this through the Presbytery of Angus therefore there is no cost to come along. The dates are as follows:

	COOKING	BAKING
Saturday Morning 9:30/10:00am start to 12 noon	12 th October	26 th October
	16 th November	23 rd November
	14 th December	21 st December

ay Trips - After the success of the day trip to Edinburgh Zoo the Kirk Session agreed to run further day trips and the Presbytery of Angus has given us funding to do that. Angus Council has also given us funding for the packed lunches. Therefore we hope to run one or two trips in October with further trips next April.

amily Christmas Party on Saturday 7th December at 2:00pm in the

Church - this is open to the community and there will be lots to do from play equipment for older children to a soft play area for the younger ones and lots of food and drink!



R eal Live Nativity Tour - Come along to the church grounds on either Tuesday 17th December or Wednesday 18th December between 5:30pm and 7:30pm for the Nativity Tour in the grounds. Walk the



route around the grounds and meet the sheep and donkey (real ones!), follow the star, meet Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men. Hear our team of volunteers singing Christmas carols and then come into the church for some home-made soup, tea and coffee. For the children there are clues to collect to get a prize at the end. Put the dates in your diary now!



Do You Know About Them?

Every Tuesday we serve lunches in the Social Area at church between 12 noon and 1:00pm, we offer a choice of two home-made soups (one vegetarian) with crusty bread, followed by tasty sandwiches, tea/

coffee and biscuits. The food is prepared and served by volunteers.

No fixed price – all we ask is a donation, e.g. £3 per person or more if you wish to give extra.

Why not come along – on your own or with a friend, you will be made most welcome.

The lunches are open to all – not just members of East & Old. <u>WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS</u>, to find out more please contact Barbara Ann or Jean Alexander (463860). Everyone is very friendly; it's a great way of meeting people and making friends. <u>GO ON – give it a try!</u>





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We take it for granted. Going to the loo, flushing afterwards and being able to wash our hands in a safe, hygienic environment.

Yet today in 2019 there are 2.3 billion people who still don't have a safe clean toilet and 844 million still lack access to clean drinking water. In the communities where Toilet Twinning works people have to go to the toilet in the open because they don't have a proper toilet. This means that open water sources are easily contaminated, especially in the rainy seasons when human waste on the ground is readily washed into reservoirs and water courses where people drink and bathe. Without a toilet or clean water people are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty, disease and sometimes debt. In poor countries having something as basic as a pit latrine is literally life changing. A key reason why girls drop out of school in developing countries is because schools lack proper toilets and perhaps the most shocking fact is that a child under five dies every two minutes because of dirty water and poor sanitation.

It is therefore proposed (that with the agreement of the Session) that as we install the new toilets upstairs in phase 2, we take the opportunity to twin them with toilets in the developing world and consider twinning the toilets of Strathmore Primary with a school overseas.

If you would like to twin your toilet at home with a latrine abroad and enable a family to have their first proper toilet, you can get details online at <u>www.toilettwinning.org</u>. or speak to Jim Stewart (Forfar 467020). In return for a one-off donation of £60, you will receive a certificate with a photo of your 'toilet twin' and its GPS coordinates. Every £1 spent on sanitation has a return of £5.50 thanks to increased productivity and lower healthcare costs.

F R 1 TAST OLD S

his year's annual walk was around the Letham area and was enjoyed by twenty people. The walk was led by Mike Johnston and following the walk the high tea was in the Castle Club which as normal was an excellent meal. Thank you Mike for helping to organise this event.

riend's Renewal Evening – will take place on Friday 25th October in the Church. This year we will be entertained by Finnmill a guitar group which starts at 7:30pm and if paying your renewal membership then we ask you to come along at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be available on the night and the ticket price for the concert will be £5.00.



andbag Party - Monday 11th November in the Church at 7:00pm. Come along and try out new bags, gloves, scarves and other accessories. Barbara Ann has a new game too!

S t Andrew's Night on 30th November - Come along to the church for a three course Scottish meal, drink, entertainment of singing, dancing, poetry, jokes and so much more. Tickets are priced at £10.00 and will be available in the church and the shop.





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. G roovy Gryphons & Echo Teens We are delighted to welcome back all the children after the summer break. We started off learning about Samson,

how he gained his strength

from his hair and his



capture after his hair was cut. We all made our own Samson and planted cress seeds in his head, the children took these home to water and watch his hair grow.

Heather from the Green Team kindly accepted our invitation to come along on Sunday 1st September. We learned about what the team do and also planted some winter/spring bulbs in pots for a project later in the year. Thank you Heather for helping the group with this project, we look forward to inviting you back in the future.

The Groovy Gryphons love being involved in fundraising events in the church and recently organised a Ploughman's lunch after the service. A variety of breads, rolls, ham, chicken, cheese, pickles and grapes were greatly appreciated by the congregation. We raised a total of £300 which has been donated to MND, thank you fir all your donations and to all the children who worked very hard on the day including tidying up and doing all those dishes.

You will have noticed we have a new name, Echo Teens. We think the children and teenagers will thrive and enjoy their time more in their own age groups instead of one group as we have done for a few years. The primary aged children are happy to remain as the Groovy Gryphons with the secondary school children changing their name. Echo the Bear took his name from E & O and CH from church, Echo Teens was a perfect choice.

We have a busy schedule planned for the Autumn/Winter months ahead, more about this in the next edition.

Joyce, Frances, Matthew and Karen



MUSIC CAFÉ 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. This is a very happy afternoon for all who attend where the helpers prepare the teas/coffees & eats before the session starts and serve during the break. They also help with finding songs in the folders. PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? Contact Jean Alexander (01307 463860) or Barbara Ann (01307 248228) for more information.

THEGUILD

On the 4th September we started with an 'Afternoon Coffee' in the social area where we were able to enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship, and members were able to collect the new syllabus for the year ahead.



We celebrated 'Guild Week' with a joint meeting of the three Forfar Guilds at Lowson Church on 11th September. We were entertained by Monifieth Singers who gave us a very varied program that was enjoyed by everyone, this was followed by a lovely supper prepared by Lowson Guild, thank you for organising a wonderful evening.

We had our dedication service in the church on Sunday 15th and it was so good to see so many Guild members there. Our own opening social is on Wednesday 25th September when we will be entertained by Accord.

Congregational Register

DEATHS

July	29	Ann Stobie
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- August 1 Charlotte Sherriffs
 - 4 James Cooper
 - 11 William (Bruce) Prophet
 - 31 Margret Emerson
- September 18 Margaret Scrimgeour



BAPTISM

September 1 Skye Adriana Armas-Soutar



\$			
	Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
	Depute Session Clerk		
	Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
:	Treasurer Gift Aid Convener Property Convener	Paula Stewart	07715596465
	FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
-	Editor of Steeple Times Flower Group Admin	Catriona Milne	07962065936
	Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
	Church Officer	Vanessa Ferrie	01307 461111
	Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
	Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
	Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
	Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
	Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
	2nd Forfar Company of The Boy's Brigade	Irene Duthie	01307 465895
	Friends of Forfar East & Old	Mary Daun	01307 464935
	Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
	Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228

