



*SEASONS
GREETINGS*



INSPIRE

WINTER 2023



EAST, OLD and INVERARITY PARISH



Services of Public Worship:

✝ **EAST & OLD: Every Sunday at 11:15am**

✝ **INVERARITY: Every Sunday at 9:45am**

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

Tel: 01307 248228

e-mail: **bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk**

after 17 January 2024

Interim Moderator The Rev John Orr

The Glens and Kirriemuir United

26 Quarry Park, Kirriemuir

DD8 4DR

Tel: 01575 572819

e-mail: **jorr@churchofscotland.org.uk**

Church website:	www.thebigkirk.co.uk
Church E-mail:	eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk
Scottish Charity No:	SC004921

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

My dear friends

Welcome to the first edition of the new church magazine 'Inspire' – 'IN' for Inverarity and 'SPIRE' for our steeple and a very warm welcome to our new friends from Inverarity Church. I ask God's blessing on this new journey we are all taking together to further God's work and mission locally, nationally and internationally. We cannot stand still in our endeavours to further God's work and to be noticed and acknowledged in our communities. The days of just coming to church on a Sunday are long gone and we the members of the new East, Old and Inverarity Parish need to work together. I foresee lots of challenges and changes ahead but I see this as a way forward and it gives me hope for the coming years ahead.

And talking of challenges and changes, this will be my last minister's letter to you in the church magazine. As many of you are aware, I retire on my 60th Birthday which is on 17th January 2024 - I must admit it was a difficult decision to come to. I am a great believer in sitting down and writing out the pro's and con's of any major decisions that Billy and I make and naturally the pro's were being nearer to my family, babysitting my grandchildren on a far more regular basis and only working a few hours a week by picking up pulpit supply here and there and whether or not we could afford to lose our main income. The con's to the decision – I love my job, I love my congregation and I love all the achievements we've worked so hard to accomplish. I feel that I'm letting you down in East and Old and of course in Inverarity where we have recently joined together, but in my heart, I know it's the right decision for Billy and I.

The sign of a good ministry is more evident once a minister leaves and that is seen by the good work the churches will continue to do and the love and support that they offer to each other. One of my fears is that numbers may drop once I am away and the various activities and events that we run may dwindle but we cannot allow this to happen. I have met with the various committees over the last few weeks to give guidance and support to them to keep up the great work they are doing – that will be the success of my ministry – not me but the legacy I leave behind.

My last service is on Sunday 14th January and to be totally honest with you I am dreading it, so it will be a lively and upbeat service. There is no way that I can get around to seeing you all personally, but I hope to see you on Sunday 14th and to thank you all for the last amazing 13 years at East and Old and the last 20 months at Inverarity that I have spent with you.

Going forward, the Interim Moderator will be the Rev John Orr who is the minister at the Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church. John's role is to deal with the legal aspects of church business and conduct kirk session meetings. Our locum minister, the Rev Malcolm Rooney will commence his duties on 1st February and will conduct our worship services, funerals and pastoral visiting, working 2 days a week and each Sunday .

*God bless you and your loved ones,
God bless East, Old and Inverarity Parish and I wish you
all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Gleneagles Afternoon Tea – 13 members of the church headed off to Gleneagles to sample their afternoon tea – a little road trip and pampering. It was a great success with a great menu, great service and great company – look out for afternoon teas being organised in 2024!



Bible Study – the bible study has recommenced and although we only number 6-8 people, we find the time together of great value. We read the bible passage together and then discuss various points within it that we had not noticed before. We bring it right up to date by discussing how that affects our communities today and usually head off in another direction. The next bible study is Thursday 14th December at 6:00pm in East and Old.

Alzheimer's Drop-in Café – this drop-in café that met on the second Thursday of every month has now joined up with the Music Café in East and Old on a Monday afternoon. Rosemary from Alzheimer Scotland will be at the Music Café once a month to chat to people and offer any advice.

Art Exhibition – once again our talented members of the East and Old Art Group put on an art exhibition from 26th August through to 1st September in the church. The exhibition was a great success with many paintings being sold. We are delighted to inform you that the Art Group calendars are ready for sale in the church and the Big Kirk Shop at a very reasonable cost of £5. Next year we will need to include paintings from the Inverarity area.



As you know, East and Old Church has twinned our toilets with Bangladesh and Strathmore Primary is twinned with a school in the same area. Inverarity have now done the same by helping their school twin their toilets with a school in one of the developing nations. Inverarity Church using proceeds from a previous 'Pre-loved is Re-loved' event, have twinned their 4 toilets with Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zambia – well done everyone - but remember **you** can twin your own toilet as well.

Scottish Coffee Morning – Saturday 26th August in East and Old and what a busy morning it turned out to be. Lots of people in attendance, lots of food and drink and we left feeling totally Scottish! Thank you to the social team and other helpers.



Organ Recital – what a fantastic evening at Inverarity Church with Lionel Fotheringham playing the organ. There were many different pieces that Lionel played and each one was as good as the next. Thank you so much Lionel for a wonderful evening. Thank you to the team for the catering afterwards.



This was held on Saturday 2nd September in the church and church grounds from 11:00am to 3:00pm and we had another great success with over 200 people around on the day. Bouncy Castles, face painting, burgers, tuck shop, crafts, indoor and outdoor games, books, bands and so much more. What great fun everyone had. Thank you to everybody involved especially the organisers and volunteers who helped on the day and to the many people who turned up!

Pre-loved is Re-loved event in Inverarity Church and Hall held on Sunday 3rd September. Although

this event could have been a bit busier, it was still a great day with lots of browsing, buying and drinking tea and of course eating too! The team did a marvellous job and the money raised went to Riding for the Disabled in Angus.

The next 'Pre-loved is Re-Loved' event will have taken place on Sunday 19th November at Inverarity again, this time the proceeds will go to Brechin flood fund – we'll report on how this went in the next edition.



Youth Orchestra Concert at Inverarity Church

– what a fantastic night everyone had at the concert on Thursday 21st September in Inverarity Church. We have heard so many different stories of how wonderful the school pupils were, and everyone had favourite parts of the night. Thank you, Lionel Fotheringham, for organising this event. Once again thanks to the catering team!

Floral Art Display and Demonstration with Afternoon Tea – we are so blessed in East and Old to know so many talented people like Gloria Mitchell. A lovely, relaxed and very entertaining afternoon was followed by a marvellous afternoon tea. Thank you to everyone involved and as the saying goes these events do not happen all by themselves.



Harvest Sunday – Sunday 1st October and the members of Inverarity Church and East and Old Church once again supplied copious amounts of food that were given to the schools for families in need. This is what we call love in action! Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Sacrament of Holy Communion – all the services were well attended at Inverarity and East and Old at 9:45am, 11:15am and 2:30pm.



The afternoon service is proving to be very popular and maybe that is because of the afternoon tea that follows it. Thank you to all elders who set up communion, who participated on the day and helped to wash and clear up afterwards. Once again, the social team did an outstanding job for the afternoon tea.

Service of Disjunction for Glamis, Inverarity and Kinnettles Parish This service took place on 29th October in Inverarity Church and was conducted by the Rev Carleen Robertson, the outgoing Interim Moderator for Inverarity and Kinnettles. At the end of this service, Inverarity Church joined with East and Old Church to form East, Old and Inverarity Parish. It was a very uplifting service and the Rev Dr John Ferguson spoke on behalf of the Presbytery. May Kidd, one of the organists at Inverarity Church was presented a gift from Glamis, Inverarity and Kinnettles members and she also received a gift from the Sunday School. Thank you May for your many, many years as organist at Inverarity.



Desert Island Hymns – our minister was the guest at Monifieth South Angus Parish for a Desert Island Hymns evening. Just like the programme Desert Island Discs, Barbara Ann was given the Bible, the complete works of Shakespeare, allowed 8 hymns, a book of her choice and a luxury item.



Her answers were: Hark the Herald, In Christ Alone, Before the throne of God above, The Lord's my

Shepherd, Ye Gates, To God be the Glory, How lovely on the mountains, How great thou art. If you know Barbara Ann, you will know which one she voted as her all-time favourite – Hark the Herald! Favourite bible books were: OT – Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Job, Obadiah, and NT – All the gospels, Acts, 1 Corinthians. Her favourite Shakespeare works are MacBeth and Othello. The book of her choice was The Kashmere Shawl by Rosie Thomas and her luxury item was a pack of playing cards with photographs of family members on the back. It was the conversation around these items and other questions people asked that made the evening such a success. Barbara Ann did admit in church that the person she would like to see come and rescue her was Tom Cruise! This is a great idea that we could do here at East, Old and Inverarity!

Carnoustie Singers – we are delighted that the Carnoustie Singers agreed to come to East and Old Church to entertain us and help us raise funds for the church. There were 30 members in the group and they all looked amazing in their different coloured tops. The singing was super, and the selection of music was also varied. Thank you very much to the singers and musicians. Another shout out for the social team of East and Old for a fabulous supper on the evening.



Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 12th November and a busy day for our minister starting with 9:00am at Kinnettles Cenotaph, 9:30am service in Inverarity Church, 10:15am at Inverarity cenotaph and 10:45am in East and Old Church with a service at The Cross at 12:30pm - once again all these services were well attended – thank you!



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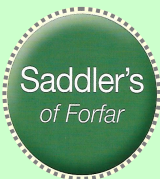
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*Our folk group held its last get-together
for the year on 15th November when we
had a very enjoyable evening of music from a
wide variety of performers.*

*We start up again next year on Wednesday
21st February 2024 at 7:00 to 10:00pm in the church sanctuary
and then every third Wednesday of the month thereafter.*

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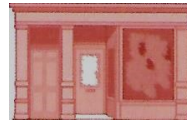
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As we go to press, the following events are upcoming, and we'll report on each of them in the Spring edition of Inspire:-

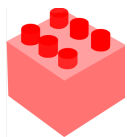
- **Thursday 23rd November – Chip and Flick Night** in East and Old showing *Deepwater Horizon*
- **Friday 24th November – Church trip to see White Christmas at the Gardyne Theatre**
- **Saturday 25th November – Open morning** for any member of Inverarity Church to call in and look around the East & Old building
- **Saturday 2nd December – an evening with the Angus Choral Society in East and Old Church – a great night of music and entertainment.**
- **Sunday 3rd December – annual Gift Service for Angus Toy Appeal**
- **Sunday 3rd December – Kids, Carols and Cakes – an afternoon of entertainment from Inverarity Sunday School at 2:30pm in Inverarity Church, with your favourite Christmas Carols**

Heat Hub

We are running the **“HEAT HUB”** again this year to provide a place where anyone, young or old, on your own or as a group or a family can come along to East & Old church Reception Area to help save some money on heating costs at home. Relax on our sofas and chairs, enjoy tea or coffee, biscuits and snacks, and if you are around at lunchtime on a Wednesday, some soup and sandwiches at the Cosy Corner Café too. You don't need to be a member of the church – we welcome everyone. The Heat Hub **started again on Monday 27th November and runs weekdays Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 12 noon.** This will run from now through to Friday 29th March 2024.

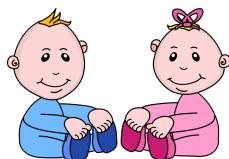
FAMILY WORKER REPORT - we've been very busy over the October Holidays, with around 200 children and their families booked onto our trips. Over the 3 days we had trips to Frosty's Soft Play, Dynamic Earth, Scottish Parliament, Ten Pin Bowling and The V & A - we received funding from Angus Council's Food and Fun Project, which is designed to help bring families together, giving them fun experiences that are often not achievable due to financial and transportation restraints. Overall, a great success.

On the 18th of October we launched our **Lego Club**, we have around 30 children signed up and are getting new enquiries every week. Forfar and Glamis Primary Schools attend and we would love to welcome children from Inverarity also. This club is held on a **Wednesday after school from 3:45pm to 5:00pm** and we could really do with some new volunteers to help out.



GREAT NEWS - The Lego Club was awarded £200 from Guild Homes Charity. This will help greatly towards purchasing some new Lego sets and Lego boards.

Our groups **Baby Blether and Toddler Time** are thriving, they are well attended with an average of 10 to 12 families each session. We've a great team of church volunteers who make the snack on a Monday, and we are looking to get some volunteers for a Friday if anyone has a spare couple of hours to help us out.



At time of going to press, a Fun Day is planned in the church for the School In Service day (29th November 10:00am to 2:00pm) with Bouncy Castles and other activities in the reception and sanctuary.



Looking ahead, we have a **Bookbug Session** booked for **Monday 11th December at 10:30am** with Sylvia Main.

Details of our upcoming Christmas Parties are listed on **page 22**



Friends R' Us - this is a group held on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00pm for widows and widowers in the Congregation and they would be glad to welcome new members along.

Weather permitting, we go out and about visiting places of interest or enjoy a walk and finish off the afternoon with a cuppie and chat. If this isn't possible due to the weather, we meet in the church for a Games afternoon or we have a guest speaker. We're looking forward to an enjoyable Christmas meal together prior to our Christmas break. The club will resume in the church on Tuesday 9th January at 2:00pm, when the next few weekly meetings will be decided.

East & Old Church Prayer Group - Due to health concerns and other circumstances the group will not be meeting in the church over the winter period. However, they will be continuing to pray in their own homes for world issues, our own community, our two churches, our elders and our minister Barbara Ann and her family. If you have any prayer requests, please contact Mary Pickstone, Margaret Robertson or Sheena Benvie.



2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association - this session we have been very busy learning the history of the BBs, and the basics of First Aid. We were also making giant pandas, stick men, anchor pictures, animal poo (from icing and fondant!) as well as marching and games. The Company Section helped out at the Family Fun Day. Our Enrolment Service was held on 29th October when we celebrated 140 years of the Boys' Brigade. We also took part in the Remembrance Parade.



Our numbers are steadily rising, but still room for more boys and girls aged 5 years upwards. Any adult help would be much appreciated too.

We will be offering a Christmas Card delivery service again this year in partnership with the Scouts as detailed overleaf.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY 2023



The red Christmas Card boxes will be at the locations listed below from 1st December.

The cost for each card is 30p.

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| * Hamptons | * Indoor Bowling Club/Ice Rink |
| * Taranty Road Shop | * R S McColl |
| * McLaren Bakers (Market St) | * Poundstretcher (Castle St) |
| * The Big Kirk Shop | * All Forfar Churches |

Deliveries scheduled for 9th/10th and 16th/17th December.

**Please note that the LAST POSTING DATE
is THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER**

Thank you for your continued support




Scouts



TWINNING UPDATE

Zuglo church - Our friends from our twin church in Zuglo, in Budapest, Hungary send their greetings. Back in mid-September we welcomed 9 members from Zuglo reformed church to Forfar for a 5-day visit, when we got to know them a little better. The theme for the visit was Eco Church: Caring for God's Creation and we had various environment themed activities showing how we tackle this topic here at East, Old and Inverarity.

They arrived on Thursday 14th and were given a tour of the church and gardens and then a short talk from Glenda and Doug of the Green team on how we have achieved the Eco Church award.

Friday was spent getting to know Forfar and Inverarity Primary, then we had a very pleasant evening enjoying the hospitality of the members of Inverarity Church.

Saturday saw us all enjoying God's wonderful creation as we took a trip up Glen Doll to Corrie Fee. On the way back down, we stopped off in Kirriemuir to explore the 'wee red toon'.

Sunday worship at Inverarity and East & Old was followed by lunch at the church, then a visit to the Pate's farm. In the evening we held a ceilidh which had a great turn out with music and dancing and delicious food - the evening was enjoyed by all.

Monday was a sightseeing day exploring Dundee and St Andrews, followed by evening farewell drinks in Queens Hotel for hosts and guests.

It really was a most successful visit and we were delighted that they invited East, Old and Inverarity members back to Budapest in October 2024. Please let Karen Liddle know as soon as possible if you are interested in going . It is sure to be a great trip!

Dubendorf & Schwerzenbach churches - Following our fantastic trip to Zurich, Switzerland in May, we invited our friends in Dubendorf & Schwerzenbach churches for a visit set provisionally for 4th to 8th July 2024. We hope to explore the idea of a twinning church with our friends in Switzerland. We are looking for hosts to provide bed and breakfast accommodation for our guests, this wouldn't be a big task as they will be busy all day, just provide them a bed for the night - let Karen Liddle know if you can help with this.



Sunday 25th February at 3:00pm - Twinning Event - Everyone welcome. With many new members in our church (not least Inverarity members!) who have joined since we started our twinning journey with Zuglo over 10 years ago now, we are holding a special event to celebrate our journey and all we have done. It promises to be a fun but informative afternoon with presentations, photos, quizzes and of course, some Hungarian and Swiss food! More details to follow.

Community Committee Updates - After a busy September with our hugely successful Family Fun Day, with dozens of Forfar families joining us, then we had a jam-packed few days when our Zuglo friends came to visit. The Community team then had a bit of a rest in October! However, we're back in full swing and planning events for the coming months.



TheBigKirkShop **We** are currently doing very well at our charity shop and are thankful for the many donations during the past year. We're blessed to have such a wonderful band of volunteers. Of course, we could always do with a few more helping hands, especially to cover holidays and illness, so please have a think about volunteering if you can. Speak to Muriel Fairley or any shop worker.



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CHRISTMAS COLOURING



CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS



1	ESHJOP	7	GRAMNE	13	LNETINSITHG
2	ERAGBIL	8	YUSSEJABB	14	SENKAFECNRIN
3	NEWSIME	9	BEALTS	15	EEHEBLMTH
4	GLANE	10	TECLAT	16	KNYEOD
5	VANIYITT	11	ASRT	17	DRHESEPHS
6	YARM	12	HRYMH	18	TIHCSMSRA

Answers on inside back cover

Silverarity Sunday School - This term the Sunday school has been looking at God's wonderful world and how he loves and cares for everyone and everything in it. God wants us to care for his world too. This includes making good choices and we made paper 'choosers'.

We learned that God wants us to be happy, caring people and that he likes us to talk to him in prayer. We made prayer pyramids.

During the Autumn Holidays we held a Fun Day at the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) at Bottymyre, kind permission of Mrs Elinor Phillips. We did a sponsored walk going up



Fotheringham Hill (not right to the top, our youngest member is only two) and we raised £180 which we donated to the RDA funds and Jeannie the foal that we sponsor.

Anne Wilson

Woodturning - I took up the craft of woodturning soon after retiring in 2008. I find it a very interesting hobby and it can be addictive. I am largely self-taught and am a member of Taywood Turning Club which meets once a month.

I turn mainly small items mostly from hardwood and I always look for interesting grain and colour in the timber. Most of the items I make are sold at outside events and coffee mornings etc. in the church.



Items range from spurtles made from beech; apples, pears and mushrooms from yew; tealight holders and bowls of many sizes. My latest items are sheep (blackface – Wallace & Gromit style) and they sell really well. I normally donate a

proportion of the profits made to the church funds aided by Gift Aid. I hope to see you at my table at

the Christmas Cracker Coffee morning on Saturday 16th December.

Doug Robertson

Some Good Advice to Heed

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better,
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need?
Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.
Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come round again.
Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind,
And when you go and go you must,
Remember it's not what you gather,
But what you scatter,
that tells what kind of life you have lead.



Come along to the Cosy Corner Café at East & Old church every Wednesday for homemade soup and sandwiches. You will be given a warm welcome, where you can enjoy a bowl of soup - lentil, pea and ham, tomato, leek and potato.... the list goes on.

You'll always be offered a choice of 2 soups (at least 1 is vegetarian) and a selection of sandwiches with 3 or 4 different fillings. It's a great time and place to meet up with other people for your lunch and have a little chat.

No charge, however donations are always gratefully received.

We are a group of 10 people who volunteer every 3 or 4 weeks.

Each week we have 3 on duty, 2 providing a pot of soup each and the

other does sandwiches. We meet around 11:00am to set up tables and prepare, serving is at 12noon and we're usually all cleared away by 1:15/1:30pm. We always have time to sit down for a bite to eat ourselves, have a chat over lunch and refreshments. Lunch is open to all, not just church members, so please come along and bring a friend. If you would be interested in joining our team, please speak to one of us or pop along any Wednesday lunchtime to see what's involved.



CHURCH CHOIR



We try to make it fun, taking part in church music. Our organist Bruce and I look over the minister's choice of hymns early each week. We choose a suitable introit to sing while the Bible is brought into the sanctuary at 11:15am on a Sunday.

The choir has a rehearsal every Thursday at 2:30pm. If any of the hymns are unfamiliar, we practise them to help those who are not too sure of the tune or harmony parts. We couldn't do that without Bruce's ability on the organ and his patience.

Most of the time is spent on a choir anthem for the week, chosen a month ahead with Barbara Ann's approval and appropriate to the worship theme. I started logging our bank of religious songs, hymns and carols in May of 2021 and the list (still growing) now extends to around 100 pieces which we rotate over the church calendar year to avoid close repetition. Members have their favourites of course and these are fitted in when we can. We keep it light and there is often laughter during rehearsal. If you like singing, why not join us?

You'll be made most welcome.

Bruce Simpson - Organist & Bob Kidd - Choirmaster

WHAT'S COMING UP



★ Saturday 9th December – **Community Christmas Cracker Children's Party** in Inverarity Church Hall and Church from 1:30pm to 4:00pm with a surprise guest arriving at 3:30pm. All children welcome just email Sheila our family worker at eoifamily@yahoo.com

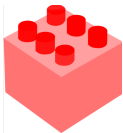
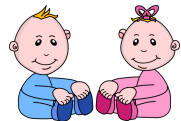
★ Saturday 9th December – **Tayside Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert** at 7:30pm in East and Old Church - come along and enjoy a wonderful evening of Carols and Christmas songs. Tickets £10



★ Saturday 16th December – **Christmas Cracker Coffee Morning** in East and Old Church from 10:00am to 12 noon. Come along for a chilled-out morning and enjoy pancakes and mince pies and a chat. Buy a few last minutes gifts from the gift stall and the raffle stall. Tickets £5

★ Saturday 16th December – **Christmas at the Kirk** is back for 2023! Our annual concert from 6:30pm. Come along for some fantastic easy listening and toe tapping entertainment and some lovely refreshments. Tickets are £5 each and are available to purchase from the Big Kirk Shop, East & Old Church and Inverarity Church.

★ Monday 18th December – **Baby Blether & Toddler Time Party** from 9:15am to 11:15am (East & Old church)



★ Wednesday 20th December – **Lego Club Party** 3:45pm to 5:00pm (East & Old church)

★ Saturday 23rd December – **Christingle making** in East and Old Church at 10:00am – many helpers needed, so please come along.

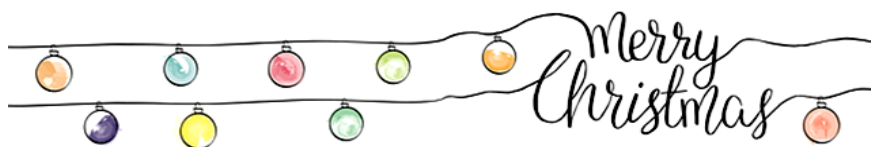


★ Sunday 24th December – Christingle service in East and Old at 6:30pm with the retiring offering going to two local charities.



★ Sunday 24th December - A Christmas Nativity Service at Inverarity Church at 6:00pm led by Rev. Carleen Robertson

★ Monday 25th December – Christmas Day service in East and Old at 11:00am – we look forward to welcoming you.



The community team want to raise awareness of the latest campaign for the charity **Social Bite**, a Recovery Village of 15 sustainable modular homes based in Dundee.

Social Bite is a homelessness charity, set up by Josh Littlejohn in 2012, which does amazing work.

We hope to hold an awareness raising and fundraising weekend for the campaign at the end of January, with

a **Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th January** and a special worship service dedicated to the theme **on Sunday 28th January**, where will have a retiring offering. Make sure to come along and beat the January blues with a cuppa and something tasty on the 27th before joining us at worship the following day.



PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR:

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eoiparish@yahoo.com

KAREN KELLY – Depute Session Clerk

eoisession@yahoo.com

CATRIONA MILNE – Magazine Editor

eoieditor@yahoo.com

SHEILA WHITELAW – Family Worker

eoifamily@yahoo.com





East & Old Guild - The guild started the new session with guild dedication services held in both churches on Sunday 10th September and these services were led by members of both guilds. It was wonderful to see so many members stand up to renew their vows.

We had an opening social on 4th October and were entertained by the singing group 'Both Sides of the Tweed', and I can only say that the guild members were treated to a wonderful experience with songs from Scotland, England, Ireland and America. They sang unaccompanied and our members all thoroughly enjoyed it. Our next visitors in October were from 'Forfar Men's Shed'. Brian Douglas and Steven Lowe gave us a wonderful insight into the work they do, and brought some examples to show us.

In November we have had representatives (Eleanor Gledhill and Aileen Elliot) from 'Forfar in Flower' telling us how it all started. We should be so proud of the people who help to make our town of Forfar a more beautiful and pleasant place to live in, thank you ladies and all the members of the gardening group. On the 15th of the month, Pauline Lockhart came to tell us about starting her own businesses S-Mart in 2019 on West High Street. It was the first social supermarket in Angus, selling surplus food at 50% discount and saving hundreds of tons of landfill waste. She and her team opened BRAND next door for once loved clothing and in 2021, the Green Cafe at Myre Road. Members were most impressed with her drive and social conscience.

Come the 6th of December the members will meet for **our Christmas lunch in Queens Hotel**, and as winter is approaching fast, we will have a break starting again in February with a visit from Louise Soutar, showing us some gentle exercises all can do. Lauraine, Anne and Marion would like to wish all our members a very happy and joyful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Marion Duncan



Inverarity Guild - We alternate our meetings with Glamis Guild, so Inverarity meetings were in September and November. Our Guild won't now meet at Inverarity until March 2024.

Both speakers for these meetings coincidentally chose the same topic -
Preaching at Crathie and weekend at Balmoral!

September 2023 - Rev Martin Fair spoke of his earlier years of study in Glasgow and America. He then spent probationer time in Bermuda, where he first met the Queen when she visited. He was minister at St Andrews Church, Arbroath from 1992-2023 and Moderator of the General Assembly during 2020-21. His first visit to preach in Crathie Kirk and weekend at Balmoral was in 2014 he was invited back in early September 2022. He found the Queen in good spirits, bright and sharp. They enjoyed chats about a whole host of subjects, which Rev Fair reflected on. Sadly, the Queen passed away a few days later, on 8 September 2022. Rev Fair said it was an enormous privilege to have spent that time with her.

November 2023 - The Minister at Crathie phoned Rev Carleen Robertson to ask her to preach in his church. She accepted, and then the royal invitation to spend the last weekend of September 2019 at Balmoral, arrived. Much protocol is involved with these visits and Carleen went through some of the list of "do's and don'ts!" After meeting with the Crathie Minister on the Friday, she made her way to the castle. Later she was rather daunted, however, when she realised the Land Rover to travel to one of the bothies for a barbeque, was to be driven by the Queen herself! On the Saturday, Carleen explored the estate with Castle staff and on the Sunday she chose "World Peace Day" for her sermon, which she said was well received. A wonderful experience for Carleen, which will always stay with her.

Ann Richardson



- ☺ Save a tree and send e-cards when possible
- ☺ Recycle your wrapping paper and cards via the recycle bin
- ☺ Have a pre Christmas clear-out and donate the old toys and clothes to a charity shop
- ☺ Walk or cycle to the Christmas Eve service and save on car emissions

East & Old Church Ministry of Flowers



3	DEC	Lorraine Dick	28	JAN	Jennifer Gair
Sundays 10th to 31st December FLOWER GROUP ARRANGEMENTS			4	FEB	Marjory MacLean
			11	"	Isobel Farquharson
7	JAN	available	18	"	Karen Murray
14	"	Jean McEwen	25	"	available
21	"	Wilma Simpson	3	MAR	available

Please pass your donations **prior** to your chosen Sunday to Catriona Milne, Irene Duthie or pop it in an envelope and hand it in to Jennifer at PRIMA Gift Shop which is located next to the church gates. **Thank you**

Thank you to all who contributed to the flower fund throughout the year, which brought cheer to so many people.

Special thanks also to everyone in the flower team who generously give their time to make it all possible.

If you would like flowers for a special date, please add your name & contact details to one of the available slots on the **2024 Flower Calendar** which is situated in the Reception area of the church.

We are always seeking additional volunteers to join the team of ladies who place the flowers in church each Sunday.

If this is something you could help with, please speak to either Catriona Milne or Irene Duthie.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER


DEATHS

27 July	Petronella Cable
28 August	Rita Guthrie
1 November	Rosa Black
24 "	Alison McLaren



WEDDINGS

16 September	Rob Ogston to Susan Rankin
7 October	Kelly Soutar to Toni Lybeck



**CHURCH
BUS**

Just to remind everyone that our Church Bus is operating on the first Sunday of each month for the 11:15am services also on Communion Sundays. Any member who wishes to make use of this service should contact Jean Alexander on 463860. Jean has an answer-machine so it is easy to leave a message if she is out.

~ NEXT ISSUE OF INSPIRE ~

The deadline for submission of articles for the **SPRING 2024** issue is **THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2024**

Material can be given / sent to the Editor or e-mail **eoieditor@yahoo.com**

Magazines will be ready for elders to collect by 3rd March

Answers for Christmas Anagrams:

- (1) JOSEPH (2) GABRIEL (3) WISEMEN (4) ANGEL (5) NATIVITY (6) MARY
(7) MANGER (8) BABYJESUS (9) STABLE (10) CATTLE (11) STAR
(12) MYRHH (13) SILENTNIGHT (14) FRANKINCENSE (15) BETHLEHEM
(16) DONKEY (17) SHEPHERDS (18) CHRISTMAS

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