

Spring cover artwork courtesy of Inverarity Sunday School

EAST, OLD and INVERARITY PARISH



Services of Public Worship:

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

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

Locum Minister:

The Rev. Malcolm Rooney

Tel: 07790993233

e-mail: **malc.rooney@gmail.com**

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

[find us on](#) [facebook](#)

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

A message from John Orr – Interim Moderator

The vacancy at East Old and Inverarity is barely a few weeks old. I've had an opportunity to introduce myself to some of the congregation and to the Session and explain my role as Interim Moderator. For those still wondering, I have the 'legal' responsibilities of the minister – moderating the Kirk Session, guiding the charge through the vacancy, and representing the charge at Presbytery and other such activities. What I don't do though, is become overly involved in the day-to-day activities, the times of worship, or additional services such as funerals. These become the responsibility of the Kirk Session and the Locum, Malcolm Rooney (and I'm sure Malcolm will make his own introductions if he hasn't already done so). Although I may not be so involved with the congregation there will be times when I'm around as part of the process of filling the vacancy and in that regard, I'm pleased to say that the Kirk Session is enthusiastic and ready to go. There will be some frustrations along the way. Sometimes it seems like there are long pauses or unnecessary delays in the process. These are not times to be sitting idly, twiddling thumbs. The whole congregation has a duty and responsibility to uphold and encourage the Elders and those who become part of the process of identifying your new minister. Those pauses are further opportunities for prayer and reflection.



Many of you will have been through the process before. For others it will be new and unfamiliar. Calling a minister can seem like a strange process. There are formalities and procedures, votes and processes that involve the whole congregation and at other times all seems to go silent. It is not always possible to share information that may be confidential, and it's always appreciated when those directly involved are not pressurised to give updates. Information

that can be made public will be, when appropriate.

This is a time for the congregations of East, Old and Inverarity to take stock and give serious thought to how the congregations mission develops in the future. You might seek a minister to further develop the work you have been doing, or seek a minister to explore new opportunities. This is a time of great change, and a time of seeking prayerfully God's wisdom and discernment. That is the work of the whole church and I pray that you will embrace it and be blessed in it.

John



Letter of Introduction from Rev Malcolm Rooney, Locum Minister

I was born in North Argyll, spent my teenage years in Central Region, trained as a teacher of Physical Education and taught in Bannockburn High School and Denny High School .

As a PE Teacher, I gradually felt that there was more to life than what I was doing, and I went to the University of Edinburgh from 1989/92 to study for the ministry. I was ordained as a Church of Scotland Minister in Kirriemuir Old in 1993 and was there for 24 years. I retired from full



time Parish Ministry in 2017 and in 2018 I went (for a short time!) to be the Locum Minister in Brechin and Farnell. I left the Congregation at the end of January this year and became your Locum.

The new Brechin and Farnell Parish Church minister was inducted on Tuesday 13th February after a Vacancy of over five and a half years.

I live in Kirriemuir with my wife Christine and we have three sons and ten grandchildren.

Outwith family and Church, I am a Member / Secretary / Environment Lead in the Kirriemuir Rotary Club of . I am also a Board Member of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group [ESRAG] and the Co-ordinator of its 13 Global Regional Groupings.

As your Locum, my duties are to lead worship, offer pastoral support (in the form of funerals to date) and also, as John says, to have an overview of the daily running of the Church – all in two days a week!

Thanks for the chance to introduce myself to you.

Malcolm

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Chip n' Flick Night on Thursday 23rd November – another great night of eating fish suppers and then watching the film 'Deepwater Horizon' – a true story of what happened to the rig and people working on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform in America. A really good night was had by all.

Theatre Trip - Friday 24th November and 24 members of the church were off to see **White Christmas at the Gardyne Theatre** and what a show it was. Our very own Bruce Martin had a starring role. Great singing, dancing, acting and the costumes were wonderful. What a super theatre – not a bad seat in the house.



A Fun Day was held at East and Old on Wednesday, 29th November - what a blast! Multiple bouncy castles, crafts, toys - 100 children and 40 adults - food, food and more food. A great day enjoyed by everyone.



The Annual Gift Service was on Sunday 3rd December and what a huge amount of toys were received from both East and Old and Inverarity Churches. The Angus Toy Appeal were very grateful for the donations and thanks to Sheila our family worker for taking all the toys away.

new ELDERS



We recently welcomed two new elders to the session of East, Old & Inverarity - Katie Gerrard and Helen Pate were ordained in front of their families, friends and congregation in Inverarity Church by Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin, pictured with Katie(L) and Helen after the service.

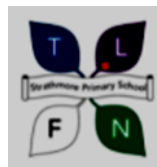
Tayside Symphony Orchestra held their first ever Christmas Carol Concert on the evening of Saturday 9th December in East and Old Church. It was packed, with many people sitting in the balcony. Our minister was asked to do the vote of thanks at the end and she was delighted to do this. The orchestra loved the venue, the amount of space they had and the acoustics in the sanctuary. We hope they will come back again.



The Christmas Cracker Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 16th December in East and Old Church and what a great success it was. The Social Area was packed and we had lots of goods for sale as well as a raffle and bottle stall. **Well over £700 was raised on the day.** Thank you to all the helpers and to those who attended.

Christmas at the Kirk was held the evening of Saturday 16th December – what a fantastic evening of entertainment. A warm welcome for everyone arriving and the talent on display was amazing. Well done to Matthew Scott for organising this event.

On Thursday 21st December, Strathmore Primary visited the church for their Christmas Assembly - there was lots of noise and excitement, fun, storytelling and singing – these assemblies are one of the highlights of the year for Barbara Ann. Some members of the Forfar Instrumental Band played one of the hymns and entertained the children with other pieces, the children were up and down and every chair in the sanctuary was moved to some degree or another – poor Bill – what a job he had getting everything ready for the weekend. Did you know that Bill meticulously uses a ruler when setting out the chairs and he never has two of the same colour of chairs side by side?



The annual Christingle Making morning was on Saturday 23rd December. We prepared nearly 300 oranges with red tape, candles, marshmallows, sultanas and sweets – “one for the orange, one for me” – was heard quite a few times! We had a big turnout of helpers, so got through the mammoth task quickly. Thank you to everyone for helping.

The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve saw a packed Church with just under 300 people. It was great to see familiar faces and even though they only come along once a year, it was so good to see them.



Lots of singing, laughter, storytelling and of course The Twelve Days of Christmas – not once but twice! Our minister is so going to miss this in December 2024! The retiring offering was just under £600, which was put together with the £200 from Inverarity’s offerings, bringing the total to **£800 which was forwarded to Brechin Buccaneers**, the charity set up to help those who suffered from flooding during storm Babet.

Sunday School Report

Inverarity Sunday School held a very successful **Kids, Carols and Cakes** afternoon event in Inverarity Church at the beginning of December when the children and some adults entertained us with their singing and playing of instruments and dancing. We sang lots of carols picked by the children and their families, and enjoyed tea and cake afterwards in the hall – a great success. Well done everyone!

The following week some of us enjoyed the **Community Christmas Cracker Children's Party** held in Inverarity Church Hall and organised by Family Worker Sheila. Entertainment was led by Chloe and the food prepared by volunteers.



Everyone had a great time with the party games, singing, dancing, eating and drinking.

The Sunday School had **their Christmas Party at Frosty's in Forfar** - a good time was had by all.

On Christmas Eve we presented our **Nativity in Inverarity Church.**



The children (and adults) performed amazingly well and we are grateful to the Rev Carleen Robertson for helping out as she had her own services before and after that.

In January we really enjoyed working on the design for the front cover of this Inspire magazine.



- ◆ 22 Market St, Forfar
Tel: 463315
- ◆ 8 The Cross, Forfar
Tel: 462762
- ◆ 9 High St, Kirriemuir

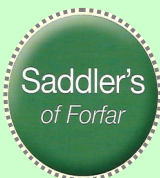
*A family run business with bakeries
in Forfar and Kirriemuir and
a long tradition in baking the
famous 'Forfar Bridie'*



Visit **PRIMA**
right next door
to our church

*Stockists of a
variety of Jewellery,
Handbags,
Home Fragrance,
Accessories,
Giftware, Cards
and more.*

*HOPE TO SEE
YOU SOON*



Gallery Tea Room

35 East High St. Forfar **01307 463282**

*Bakers, Cafe & Takeaway serving cooked meat
products including Forfar bridies, bread, cakes,
pastries, fresh cream cakes/gateaux etc.*



for all your home electricals
www.colinmsmith.com

Forfar ♦ Arbroath ♦ Kirriemuir



DAVID IRONS D.I.Y & HOMEWARE DEPARTMENT STORE

KEY CUTTING ~ WATCH BATTERIES
IRONMONGERY ~ HOUSEHOLD PAINT
TOOLS ~ PLUMBING ~ GARDENING

26 CASTLE STREET, FORFAR

Tel: 01307 462024

Forfar Bathrooms Ltd

**Hundreds of Installations
Hundreds of Happy Customers**

"Family Owned and Run"

"Free Fixed Quotation"

"5 Year Installation Warranty"

72 Castle St, Forfar

Phone: 01307 461646

Email: sales@forfarbathrooms.com



Christmas Day Service was a quiet and reflective service after the excitement and energy-packed service the night before. Numbers have never been big at this service but that adds to the ambience of the worship.

ALEX. CAMERON

Quality Tells, Quality Sells

*For the freshest fish, game, poultry
and finest hand-made pies*

101 Castle Street, Forfar DD8 3AH
Tel: 01307 463520



Natures Way

Offering a holistic approach to healthcare

LESLEY DAKERS Complementary Therapist

Tel: 01307 468646 Mobile: 07939439308

Sports Injury Clinic

Pamela Buist (Sports Therapist)

DSM DRSM DipST

Mobile: 07970079165

Both businesses located at 49 East High Street

THE CASTLE CLUB

100 / 108 CASTLE STREET, FORFAR

☎ 01307 466277

www.thecastleclub.co.uk

Fully Licensed Restaurant

All Home-Cooking with Local Produce

- ♦ LUNCHES
- ♦ EVENING MEALS
- ♦ HIGH TEAS



Tiffins

12 West High St, Forfar

Tel: 01307 461152

G. MURRAY & SON

CAR SALES & REPAIRS

TYRES SUPPLIED AND



FITTING SERVICE



**OLD BRECHIN ROAD,
FORFAR DD8 3DX**

TEL: 01307 466615

Accord - our musical entertainment group, had a very busy time in December - The Stroke Club, the Disabled Club who surprised Barbara Ann with a card and gift, Benholm Care Home, Finavon Care Home, Lochside Connections and the Deirdre Knight Centre – the group were exhausted by the end of the month but had great fun! Keep up the good work everyone! The team did say they were going to miss Barbara Ann and Billy from the group, so if anyone else would like to join, speak to Elizabeth McLeod!



Ladies Night out Our final night out for 2023 was to The Ardler Tavern where we enjoyed a lovely meal from the pre-Christmas menu, complete with Christmas party hats and eye-rolling cracker jokes! This night also doubled up as the staff Christmas night out, with Sheila and Ailish-Louise joining us, unfortunately Paula was unable to make it, due to Yasmin's 1st birthday celebrations on the same day.

The first meal of 2024 was at The Royal Hotel in Forfar - great food, company and conversation was had by all, followed by tea and coffee. What a laugh afterwards sharing our thoughts on how to make the perfect cup of tea! I wonder what your preferred method is? The ladies meet regularly at 6:00pm on the last Thursday of the month and at time of going to press, our next night was planned for 29th February at The Corner House (previously Nonno Nando's / The Volunteer Arms). **Look out for future places/dates in the church notices and on the website calendar.**



The men had their Christmas night out at the Castle Club and they said it was a 'braw' evening. Lovely food, a few wee drinks and great company.

Letter from Barbara Ann

My dear friends – I am missing you all so much, but I am having a great time with my family and especially my grandchildren. I can now just pop in and out to see them all and don't need to leave parties early to travel two hours up the road. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the money you donated to my farewell gift along with the wooden bridie and the hard-back book with so many photographs from over the years – it has given me great joy looking through them.

My farewell 'do' on the 14th January was amazing but there again, I believe at East, Old and Inverarity we know how to do things with a WOW factor and you did not disappoint. I know that I was an emotional wreck, but I cannot thank you enough for all the hard work, dedication, vision, new ideas, love, generosity and kindness you have shown in God's work and to me over these last 13 years and especially on my last Sunday. The attention to detail was fantastic and you all know me so well with all the little bits and pieces put into the presentation. Thank you for all the cards and gifts you gave me, they really are appreciated. I have the money in the bank currently as I don't know what to do with it yet, but it will be put to good use in a way that I will remember East, Old and Inverarity.

I will be up in Forfar the first weekend in July, and hope to see some of you then. Keep up the great work doing God's mission in Forfar and further afield.

*God Bless
Barbara Ann*

Sunday 14th January – Sunday Service marking Barbara Ann's retirement from East Old and Inverarity Parish

The community of Forfar were invited to attend her last Sunday service on 14th January - the turnout was much appreciated by her and her family, who were party to all the behind-the-scenes conversations preparing for this. The day was a very emotional one for Barbara Ann and for many of those attending.

A collection, just short of £2000, was raised and gifted to Barbara Ann and as she has said in her Thank You letter on the previous page, it will be spent on something to remind her of her time here at East, Old and Inverarity Parish. She was also given a photobook, compiled from photos over the past 13 years of her ministry in Forfar, a keepsake of a 'wooden bridie', flowers and 2 delicious celebration cakes – one marking her retirement, the other her 60th birthday – Barbara Ann was thoroughly delighted with all her gifts.



After the morning service, a scrumptious buffet, kindly gifted by a member of the congregation, was available for those who stayed behind, with catering by Alison Beattie.

On behalf of everyone at East, Old and Inverarity, thank you all, for your generous donations, best wishes and to those who came on the day to say your farewells.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

If you require transport to get to one of our Sunday Services, please contact Jean Alexander on Forfar 463860.

Jean has an answer-machine, so you can leave her a message, if necessary.

2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association - Many thanks to all those who participated in any way towards the Christmas Card collecting, sorting and delivery; approximately £4600 was raised and divided between ourselves and the Scouts.

The year ended by taking Anchors and Juniors to the Aladdin pantomime in Kirriemuir, while Company section opted for an Escape Room experience.



This session we have looked at animal behaviour, Australia Day, Easter & Further, Chinese numbers, Hollywood quiz and a Survival quiz. The Survival Quiz was inspired by all sections learning basic First Aid - Company section going into more depth, including how to use a defibrillator.

On a positive note our numbers are steadily increasing, which is really encouraging for the future. (Boys' Brigade has been in Forfar for almost 80 years, speak to Irene Duthie, whose dad was one of the original officers.) This does mean that the staff could do with an extra pair of hands for about an hour on Thursday evenings.

If you can help in any way, please get in touch with Betty Lovegrove on 01307 466467 or mobile 07905392267.

Book Club

We met to discuss our final book of 2023 at Sinclair's Kitchen on Thursday 4th January. The book got a very good review and the rest of the evening was spent enjoying a lovely meal together and planning the books we will be reading in 2024.

*On Monday 29th January at Marion's, we discussed "News of the Dead" by James Robertson, which had mixed reviews. James Robertson is a local author and although not specified, "Glen Connach" bears some resemblance to Glen Esk. After a lively discussion, it was decided that the score for this book was just 5 out of 10, as it jumped confusingly over 3 timescales to tell the story of the glen. **For more information regarding the Book Club, please check out our page on the church website.***

LOOKING AHEAD

Suggestion Box

The session elders of East, Old & Inverarity are now putting together a profile of our united congregation to attract a new minister.

We want that profile to be informative, accurate, truthful and up-to-date.

To that end, we would like you as members to write on a slip of paper your ideas of what has been successful for our church in the last few years and what you think the aims and challenges are going forward.

You do not need to add your name, but please church.

Your ideas will be much appreciated.



media group

This group looks after the E O & I parish advertising, photography, video work and social media platforms including Facebook and our newly refreshed website.

Please view website at: <https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/>

We produce the Inspire magazine and the PowerPoint presentations for our church services. This means that all groups/committees need to send us information about their events regularly.

We can advertise your event, print posters, leaflets, tickets and upload all the information before and after the event.

Marion Duncan leads the team, ably assisted by Matthew Scott, Catriona Milne, Bob Kidd, Val Kidd, Robin Watt and Katie Gerrard.

Do you have an event you wish added to our website calendar?

Let us promote it.

All enquiries to the media team at:

eoimmediateam@yahoo.com



Our folk group restarted on Wednesday 21st February for a very enjoyable evening of music with performances from Alf Birse, John Young, Kenny Orrick, Kirstin, Bob & Val Kidd, Lindsay, Bill Carr, Richard & Carol, Liz & Maggie, Brian Strachan, Ruth Stewart - a mix of singers, fiddle, ukelele, box and guitar players .

We meet regularly from 7:00 to 10:00pm in the church sanctuary every 3rd Wednesday of the month up to 15th May when we break for the summer - these dates are listed on the church website calendar.

WELCOME TO "THE BIG KIRK" FOLK CLUB

Come to the big kirk folk club,
And you will find,
Lots of talent of different kind

A varied programme of now and then,
A relaxed evening,
Shared with friends

You can sing along, or stamp your feet,
Clap your hands
To the beat

At the interval time we meet together,
To have a snack, cuppie,
And a blether

Afterwards we return to our seats,
Ready to enjoy –
More musical treats

We all play for fun, to keep alive,
Our folk tradition,
To please our audience is our ambition

Ruth Stewart



**British Summer Time begins on Sunday
31st March** – Don't forget to put your clocks
one hour forward that morning.

stewarts

window blinds

DOMESTIC ★ COMMERCIAL ★ TRADE

VERTICAL

ROMAN

ROLLER

VENETIAN

INTU

CONSERVATORY

WOODEN

PLEATED

CALL NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATE

01307 467840

*Manufacturers and installers of beautiful
made-to-measure blinds*

SHOWROOM OPEN 10am—4pm

43 EAST HIGH ST, FORFAR. DD8 2EL

STRATHMORE



FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Privately Owned

Personal Caring & Professional

24 Hour Service

Pre-paid Funerals

Tel: (01307) 460777

4 Roberts Street, Forfar

email strathmore-fd@btconnect.com

website www.strathmore-fd.co.uk



ABAUTOLOCKS.SCOT
Mobile Vehicle Locksmith



Keys locked in Car?
Need a Spare Car Key?
Lost all your Car Keys?
Call **Aaron** on **07549590430**



Key Cutting
Lock Fitting
Gaining Entry
Tool Sharpening
Engraving
Kitchenware



Shop Phone: 01307 462424

Emergencies Only: 07729 402245

92 East High Street, Forfar



Established in 1896
Forfar Instrumental Band
Has brought the Brass Sound
To Angus for Generations

- Weekly Practise Sessions
- Free Weekly Brass Lessons for Learners & Improvers
- Loan Instrument for members
- Available for Community Events, Shows & Festivals

For more information please email:

forfarband@gmail.com or telephone: 07891721140



Social Bite awareness weekend.

The Community Team's main focus this quarter has been educating our church community and raising awareness of the charity Social Bite's work tackling homelessness. Over the 27th and 28th of January we held a fundraising weekend as part of Social Bite's current campaign for the Bill Sword Dundee Recovery Village. This was a great example of teamwork with everyone pulling together to combine their time, talents and money leading to a very successful weekend.



We started on the Saturday with a coffee morning including all the usual stalls, organised by the community team and helped out massively by the social committee, as well as the media team who did an excellent job of promoting it, meaning people turned out in force - resulting in us making around £760.

A special thanks to Margaret Robertson for her delicious shortie biscuits, Anne Watt for the tasty pancakes and Bob and Esther Kidd for keeping everyone supplied with tea and coffee. Thanks also to all those who donated to the cake and candy stall and the raffle. Particular thanks also to Val Kidd and Matthew Scott for the great job producing tickets, posters and social media posts.

On Sunday, the worship committee helped out the community team to deliver the morning service, where East & Old members were joined by our fellow parishioners from Inverarity. A great show of unity from our members, for a great cause. We heard about the work of Social Bite and their plans for the Recovery Village in Dundee to support vulnerable people struggling with addiction. We heard a video message from Natasha of Social Bite, who gave us more details about their work and thanked us for our support. Meanwhile Karen told everyone how our connection with Social Bite started, when she and Lexi Smart, our Session Clerk, slept out overnight on 8th December 2018 in Slessor Gardens, Dundee to raise awareness of the plight of being homeless. People donated generously to the retiring offering after the service,

bringing our **total for the weekend to £1022!** A super amount, which Paula has passed on to the cause.

Special thanks to Sheena Benvie, Susan Forbes, Val Kidd and Bob Kidd from the Worship Committee for their contributions to the service and to Matthew Scott for all the video editing and tech support. A great team effort!

• • • • • • • • • •

Heat Hub

This runs every weekday from 9:30am to 12 noon in the Reception Area of East and Old Church and will run up to and

including Friday 29th March.

It is never really busy, but we usually see at least 3 to 4 people a day. Thank you to our volunteers who turn up faithfully on their days and also cover for any who are unable to come. It is great to sit in the warmth, relax, read the papers, chat or have some quiet time. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Missed your bus – pop in for a while. Need to take the weight off your feet during shopping – pop in. Tea, coffee and biscuits in endless supply as well as the daily newspapers and puzzle books.



Two of our regular visitors to the Heat Hub, keeping warm, enjoying their coffee, crisps & biscuits, a read of the daily newspapers, having a good blether and putting the world to rights.

• • • • • • • • • •



*An impromptu bit of fun at **Cosy Corner** lunches on 14th Feb - a pancake tossing competition - 50p a go! Whose pancake landed neatly back in the pan?
- Marion Duncan was the winner!
Well done everyone! Margaret Myles is pictured.
Money was added to the donations for the day.*



INVERARITY GUILD

The Guild at Inverarity will meet in our Church/Community Hall on **Wednesday, 13th March at 7:00pm.**

Our speaker is Mr Tim Podger, who is a trainee minister.

Tim has been shadowing the Rev Carleen Robertson this past year and is to talk about his journey in the ministry thus far.

We look forward to welcoming you to our meeting.

EAST & OLD GUILD ~ SPRING 2024

February – we started our session again (after the winter break) on the 7th of the month with a visit from Louise Soutar, a physiotherapist. With lovely music, she gave us some exercises to help us keep fit and flexible, vital for all, especially as we become more mature (not old).

Thank you Louise, you brought such a joy to our meeting.

As we go to press, our next meeting is the 21st, with Peter Moug from Angus waste and recycling.

March – We will hold our **AGM on the 6th** and Bob Kidd has kindly said he would tell us about his and Esther's rail holiday last year. On 20th of the month, we will be joined in the church by the other guilds in Forfar and surrounding area for our '**guild project**' – '**Starchild Uganda**' highlighting the plight of children with intellectual or physical disability in Uganda. It is this lack of equality and inclusion that Starchild is addressing with the help of the Guild and will be going forward in faith to help these children. **Saturday 23rd of March** we will be holding our **Coffee Morning** so, if you can, do come along and support us.

April – on the 3rd we will hold our closing social with entertainment from the 'Happy Ukes', so looking forward to that. At time of going to press we are discussing where to go for our summer outing, but more on that in the next issue.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 2:00pm in the Social Area of East & Old Church and if you wish to come along, you will be made most welcome.

Family Worker Report

Since the Christmas holidays, we have been very busy in our groups and we have welcomed many new families. On average we have around 15 to 20 children with their parents/carers each session and the children and families appear to enjoy all the activities that are on offer.

The Lego club is going very well and after consultation with the children, I recently purchased Lego with the money from Guild Homes Charity Fund, and we invited Hannah Mathew from Guild Homes, to come and meet the children and see our purchases.

Hannah is pictured here with the group displaying their new Lego. According to Hannah, it may be possible to receive more funding for a similar project i.e. Lego Club for Inverarity Church/primary school.



I am back at Strathmore Primary School assisting in one of the P1

classes, one morning a week. This is about getting to know the children and keeping the link between East, Old & Inverarity and the school. I hope to speak with the head teacher at Inverarity Primary school about also going there.

I meet every quarter with other Family Workers in Montrose and Arbroath, and we discuss what each worker is doing in their area - it's a great chance to network and give each other support – it's proved to be very beneficial to all concerned.

As we go to press, the in-service days are upon us and we have a Family Fun morning planned for 19th February, doing activities and games, with the Social Team providing a lunch for the families afterwards – there will be an update in the next issue.

We have successfully secured funding from Angus Council Family Food and Fun budget for Easter Holiday activities - keep your eyes peeled on our social media pages for more information as our plans develop.

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who give up their time to make the snacks each session - it is very much appreciated, and it gives me the time to talk with the families.

Sheila Whitelaw



★ The Eco Garden at Restenneth, the Kids Kitchen Garden at the back of the Church and the churchyard are about to get their spring spruce-up in preparation for this year's planting and maintenance.

- ★ A programme of classes with the Chimes Playgroup will go ahead from March through to September. Hopefully more of their vegetables will become part of the Harvest Festival in 2024.
- ★ The December Eco Newsletter is available on our Church website - please look at the work we did over the last 3 months of 2023.
- ★ The application for the Eco Church Gold Award has been sent in and an assessment team will come out to the church in March to go over our application and hopefully grant us the final award in our Eco journey.

We Need You! - The Green Team are looking to recruit more gardeners to help maintain the churchyard borders and planters throughout the year. We can supply the tools and a green garden bin as well as a composter to put your weeds in. Do as much as you want whenever you want – weather permitting.



Interested? Please call Heather Munro on 07485198537 or email: hrothach@btinternet.com

Scotland Chaos Fringe Festival - June 2024

The Green Team are looking for ideas for an event related to Eco matters taking place in June 2024, as part of the Scotland Chaos Fringe Festival.

Last year, the kids in Chimes Playgroup, took part in making “wellie planters” which are displayed in East and Old churchyard. Can you think of any other green based topics/events you may like us to take on this year? If so, please contact Heather Munro on 07485198537 or email: hrothach@btinternet.com

TheBigKirkShop Our charity shop has had new linoleum flooring laid in the back shop and is now looking much smarter and safer.

The shop continues to do well and has created a community all of its own, with many people coming in for a chat as well as for a browse.

If you haven't been in for a while - pop in and see the lovely staff and maybe grab yourself a bargain!

More volunteers are always needed and appreciated, particularly those who can help out on an ad-hoc basis, to cover illness and holidays.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who keep the shop running.

We have just started a book donation table in the church Reception Area with some of our donated books. Books are free for users of the Heat Hub to borrow, or for others in the church who want to take one to read for free or a small donation. Help yourself!

Fundraising for Lochside Connections



Some members of our congregation and our Music Café regularly attend Lochside Connections (a local meeting centre for people living with dementia) and we are hoping to help the centre with their upcoming fundraising project:

"Walk the Windmills"

"Throughout the month of April, members, staff, family and friends of Lochside Connections, aim to walk/run/cycle the distance from Forfar to the original Dementia Meeting Centre in Amsterdam and home again (approximately 1500 miles), raising funds as we go....."



Fancy getting involved and helping us along the way?

For more information about what we do at the centre or how to participate in this project, please head to our website at:

www.lochsideconnections.co.uk

INVERARITY SUNDAY SCHOOL



This event is to be held on Sunday 17th March 2024 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Inverarity Church.

Clothes, books, games and toys, with refreshments available in the hall.

The money raised will go to support Jeannie the pony, at Riding for the Disabled, Inverarity.

All donations of books, clothes, games and toys are welcome. Thank you.



Bible Study Group

This group is run by Susan Forbes and Sheena Benvie.

The meetings are currently held on a **Friday evening at 6:00pm for one hour, in the East & Old Church office.** A bible passage is read and talked about. Usually the discussion goes off at a tangent – however, it is relaxed and informal.

We would be delighted to welcome any new members — from East and Old or Inverarity Churches — and may consider alternating the venue between the two churches, if there is a demand for this.

You can find contact details for many of our other groups and committees on the back cover of this magazine



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY UPDATES

Swiss partners - Planning is well underway for a visit from our friends in Dubendorf and Schwerzenbach churches in Zurich, Switzerland, from 4th to 8th July and we are looking for a few more volunteers to host 1 or 2 guests for 3 nights bed and breakfast. All other meals are covered by the church and a full itinerary provided for the guests so you wouldn't need to entertain them during the day. We'd really like some of our Inverarity members to be involved too - please get in touch if you'd be able to help.

There are currently 14 members coming across with some staying in the

Royal Hotel and others opting to stay with host families. Our theme for the visit is **Our Church: Our Community** and will allow our visitors to get to know our church and local community better, including members at East, Old and Inverarity and how we run our church and all our various groups and activities, and how we finance everything.

The visit will include a ceilidh for anyone to come along and, if our ceilidh back in September for our Hungarian guests is anything to go by, it is sure to be a great night! There will also be a day trip to Edinburgh on the Saturday and everyone is invited to join the Swiss guests for the day and get to know them better. More details to follow.



Hungarian partners - Communication continues with our twin church, Zuglo church in Budapest, Hungary.

We have been invited to visit them from 10th to 15th October for the return leg of their visit last September. The focus will be around family and youth work in the church, but will include lots of sightseeing and social activities with them and the visits are always great fun. We are currently taking names for those interested in going and will be booking flights soon. If you are interested, please let Karen Liddle from the Community team know, and we'll add your name to the list.

From Zuglo to Zurich Night - The Community team are planning a fun and **informative social evening on Friday 12th April**. The aim is to give our newer members, including those from Inverarity church, and anyone in our community who might not be so familiar with the links we have with our twin churches in Hungary and Switzerland, the chance to find out more, hear stories about our exchange visits and even hear from our partners via Zoom.

This social event includes a two-course Hungarian and Swiss themed meal followed by teas and coffees. As well as a short informative talk, there will be quizzes, photos and games. Tickets are £10 for adults (to cover food costs and children can attend for free) they will be on sale soon, so make sure to get yours for what promises to be a fun evening!

Local Community Mission - Our Treasurer, Paula, has again applied for grants so we can continue our mission work with local families in our community throughout the Easter and summer holidays. Unfortunately, these grants are only given at the last minute, making it difficult for our Family Worker to plan ahead. Hopefully, there will be some local trips and fun days in the church / Manse grounds, as well as potentially further afield.

The purpose of these trips and events is to support local families in our community who might otherwise not have the money or the capacity to take part in such trips or events. The church supports families in our parish and the wider Forfar area who are struggling financially, single parent families or families with neurodiverse children or additional support needs. This work is so appreciated by the local community and shows there is a real need in Forfar and Inverarity for such work to continue. Advance warning - help will be required to run these events, so keep this to the forefront of your minds.



We've just heard that our bid for Easter funding has been successful! Fingers crossed for our Summer grant bid also!

Dates for your Diary	
Organ Recital at Inverarity Church	Friday 1 st March 7:30pm
Pre-Loved is Re-Loved: Inverarity Church	Sunday 17 th March 2:00 – 4:00pm
E & O Guild Coffee Morning	Saturday 23 rd March 10:00am
From Zuglo to Zurich ~ International Evening	Friday 12 th April 6:00 for 6:30pm
Swiss Visitors	Thu 4 th to Sun 8 th July
East, Old & Inverarity Visit to Budapest	Thu 10 th to Tue 15 th October

CHURCH MINIBUS

Our Church Minibus is available for hire.
Drivers must have a valid D1 code on
their driving licence.

To make a booking, please contact
Johnny Forbes on 07718244872



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS



Marjorie Birnie	16	November 2023	
Muriel Anderson	27	" "	
Davina Jamieson	17	December 2023	
Robert Fullerton	27	" "	
William Milne	6	January 2024	(district 14)
Anne Miller	15	" "	(district 29)
Margaret Low	21	" "	(district 39)
Irene Shepherd	21	" "	(district 29)
Gladys Ferrier	29	" "	(district 3)
Elizabeth Cain	31	" "	(district 11)
Annie Phillip	5	February 2024	(district 20)

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Rita Guthrie

East & Old Church ~ Ministry of Flowers

3	MAR	Maureen Ramsay	21	APR	Ruth Stewart
10	"	Margaret Myles	28	"	Karen Murray
17	"	Bruce Simpson	5	MAY	Bob Beedie
24	"	Esther & Bob Kidd	12	"	Mgt & Doug Robertson
31	"	Available *	19	"	Mr/s J Herron
7	APR	Marion Duncan	26	"	J Gair & C J Milne
14	"	Sheena Benvie	2	JUN	Jean McEwen

** There is further availability on the 2024 Flower Calendar located in Reception Area*

Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
■ Depute Session Clerk	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
■ Roll Keeper	eoisession@yahoo.com	
Administrator	Paula Stewart	07897456655
	eoiparish@@yahoo.com	
FWO Treasurer	Margaret Myles	01307 467428
■ INSPIRE Editor	Catriona Milne	07962065936
■ Flower Group Admin	eoieditor@yahoo.com	
Organist	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Choirmaster	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
Church Officer	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
The Sunday Club	Matthew Scott	07561317812
Inverarity Sunday School	Anne Wilson	01307 818624
Family Worker	Sheila Whitelaw	07735938528
	eoifamily@yahoo.com	
East & Old Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
Inverarity Guild Contact	Lillian Carnegie	07944 294848
Property Convener	David Pate	01307 820340
Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
Minibus Bookings	Johnny Forbes	07718244872

~ NEXT ISSUE OF INSPIRE ~

The deadline for submission of articles for the **SUMMER 2024** issue is **WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2024**

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

Magazines will be ready for elders to collect by 2nd June