

# INSPIRE

EAST, OLD & INVERARITY  
PARISH MAGAZINE



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Issue 5: SPRING 2025



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## **EAST, OLD and INVERARITY PARISH**

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### Services of Public Worship:

- ✝ **EAST & OLD: Every Sunday at 11:15am**
- ✝ **INVERARITY: Every Sunday at 9:45am**

### Locum Minister:

The Rev. Malcolm Rooney  
Tel: 07909993233  
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](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk)

**Church E-mail:** [eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk)

**Scottish Charity No:** SC004921

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**Vacancy Update** - In the previous Inspire I summarised the progress in our search for a new minister. It might seem like not much has happened, however, a lot has been going on behind the scenes and much progress made. The elected nominating committee members met in October to appoint office bearers.

What's been happening since:

- November 2024: Sale of former East & Old manse at Lour Road was completed.
- December 2024: Acquisition of new East, Old & Inverarity manse at Turfbeg Road. Following this, with all the Church of Scotland criteria met, Perth Presbytery gave us permission to start preparing to call a minister.
- December 2024 -January 2025: Final preparations made to the Parish Profile (a brochure-like document shared with prospective ministers to give a background to the charge with information about the church, the community, the congregation and the work we do). Video recordings were made, photographs taken, and a dedicated vacancy web page prepared.
- January 2025: Susan Forbes stepped down from vacancy committee. The committee met to plan the call process and agree wording. Parish Profile formatted and edited.
- February 2025: Draft Parish Profile sent to Vacancy Advisory Committee, a team of 3 Perth Presbytery members, who check that the content is in obedience of church law and appropriate. This committee approved our Parish Profile, then it was sent to all Kirk Session members for final edits and approval. All relevant edits made as per requests and final draft approved for publishing on vacancy webpage. Videos and additional information for vacancy page edited. Call for a minister now sent to Church of Scotland for listing on their vacancy page.

From now on, the vacancy committee's work will remain confidential during the recruitment process. It is extremely important that potential candidates have privacy, especially as their own parish may not know their intention to move on, and not to jeopardise a candidate's chances. It is important, therefore, that all information is dealt with in the strictest confidence, and the nomination committee will not be at liberty to disclose any details on the recruitment process until there is a sole nominee. This may take some time. Please, in the interim, do not ask any of the nominating committee members how things are going, if anyone has applied, if there are many applicants, where they come from etc. You will simply be told that we cannot answer that. We hope you all understand, and we will share any news with you when it is permissible to do so. Please be patient as we take the next steps.

*Karen Liddle, Chair of Nominating Committee.*

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING . . . .

**C**hristmas Tree Decorating - A magical night was had by all at East and Old Church on the last Thursday of November. Starting the festive season with a bang was a Christmas Tree Decorating Competition themed – '12 Days of Christmas' followed by refreshments and carol singing.

A massive thank you to the Social Team for organising this event, our 3 VIP judges (Angus Provost Linda Clark, Councillor Ross Greig and Stuart Pirie - Chair of Forfar Action Network), the 12 teams who took part, Bruce the organist and all who showed their support. 1st Prize was Baby Blether & Toddler Time, 2nd Prize The Choir & 3rd The Guild. All 12 trees were displayed in East & Old Church and the Big Kirk Charity Shop throughout December.





Held in Inverarity Church, an excellent afternoon of carols, with prayers led by Charlie and Alannah, while Andrew and Peter told us Christmas stories. The kids sang 'Away in a Manger' and the congregation sang a selection of carols.

The afternoon was rounded off with refreshments, mince pies and cakes! The total raised by donations was the fantastic sum of £268.60 for Sunday School funds.

*Anne F Wilson*

**T**he Boys Brigade & Scouts Christmas Card Delivery Service moved up a gear from 6<sup>th</sup> December as the first deliveries went out around Forfar, Kingsmuir, Lunanhead and Padanaram. The public were encouraged to put their cards into the red collection boxes with 40p each across Forfar shops, supermarkets and churches before the last post on 12th December. Forfar East, Old & Inverarity Parish thanks you for your support for their workers and the 2 youth organisations. The total sum raised was just shy of £5000.

**C**hristmas at the Kirk Concert – on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December in Forfar East and Old Church Sanctuary. This was a resounding success with 90 performers and supporters taking part in an evening of song and dance. Matthew Scott and his family must take the credit for organising the event — hosting, casting, lighting, sound, advertising, tickets and raffle, while the church social group handled the interval refreshments. Forfar & District Pipe Band led off with Scottish and Christmas favourites on their pipes & drums all tinselled-up. Acapella group 'Both Sides of the Tweed' sang, while Creative Academy of Performing Arts Angus danced on the chancel stage. Spotlight Youth youngsters sang a festive medley and Arwen Stewart, Kiaa, Karissa, Hali Sage and Coll McKiddie delighted the audience with songs from the shows. Thanks to everyone who helped to raise over £900 for church funds.



**T**he Big Sing concert, a fund-raiser for Christian Aid involving the local churches who make up



Forfar Action of Churches Together, was held in East & Old Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The numbers were not huge, but the singing was of high quality and through everyone's generosity, £448.50 was raised. The campaign highlighted on video was South Sudan and thanks go to the readers, Nancy Nolan, Mary Coyle and Sheena Benvie, Elizabeth McLeod the organist, Rev Maggie Hunt who introduced the evening, the E&O social team who managed the catering, Marion on sound & vision, Evelyn McPhee who researched the songs and written material and Rob Myles who proposed thanks and gave the blessing.

**P**astoral Team - The Pastoral Committee made up over 30 Christmas gift bags with a selection of treats along with Christmas cards for



our elderly housebound members, plus 7 larger bags of treats delivered before Christmas to all the Care Homes in Forfar and Kirriemuir. These were all very much appreciated by the recipients.

We wish to say a big 'Thank You' to the Elders who assisted with Forfar deliveries as our committee was reduced to two.

*Jean Alexander*

**C**hristingle Making - 20 volunteers worked hard on 23rd December at East & Old preparing the Christingle oranges for the Christmas Eve service. The assembly line workers attached red tape, sweets, raisins and mini marshmallows to the cocktail sticks and secured the all-important battery tea-light. Well done to the workshop crew completing 160 Christingles in 1 hour - they deserved their cuppie!



**C**hristmas Eve Christingle Service - The Christingle Service at East and Old Church on Christmas Eve was not as well attended as in the past, but everyone had a super evening with Elizabeth on the organ, the congregation singing traditional Christmas Carols and Hymns and also a 'Scottish' rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas. The minister provided colourful Glowsticks and those along with our Christingles added to the festive spirit.

## **I**nverarity Sunday School Report

The children visited the Pantomime in Forfar for a Christmas treat. They thoroughly enjoyed the performance of 'Snow White' and after the show, they had their pictures taken with the stars of the production. On Christmas Eve we presented our Nativity to the congregation. After the service we had a visit from Santa.



**E**ast, Old and Inverarity Parish supported the Angus Toy Appeal for another year with a carload of toys being generously donated by members of both congregations, families who attended various groups and activities at both our churches and the Big Kirk charity shop customers. Members of the Parish also participated in the Forfar and District Junior Agricultural Club's (JAC) Tractor Run on Christmas Eve, where they helped to raise over £10,000 for both Angus Toy Appeal and the JAC. 🚗

**Burns Supper** - Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> January - A Night to Remember!  
Over 60 folk enjoyed speeches, music, singing, great food and laughter at East & Old Church. The haggis, expertly prepared by Neil Cameron, was stirringly piped in by Wendy Rae, carried effortlessly by



Edith Watson, addressed by Ian Stewart who cut it up neatly, served with culinary skill by the Social Team and devoured by the company. Ruth Stewart fingered the accordion sweetly and her poem was warmly appreciated.

The Immortal Memory was cleverly worded by Provost Linda Walker, the Toast to the Lassies and Reply cleverly crafted by Johnny and Susan Forbes, the Burns ballads brilliantly played by Alf Birse & John Young, 'Name That Tune' from Elizabeth McLeod delighted the musical guests, the raffle well-organised by Doug Findlay & Edith, the Vote of Thanks generously proposed by Anne Watt and keepin' everything dravin' on wi' sangs an' clatter was Holy Willie - Bob Kidd. Thanks everyone for your support!

**Tearfund Quiz Supper** - A grand evening's quiz and supper with all profits going to a good cause! That was East, Old & Inverarity Church's Friday night fund-raiser for Tearfund - a Christian charity partnering churches and tackling poverty in 50 of the world's poorest countries. Thanks go to all 10 tables of quizzers who supported the event, Anne Cant, Edith Watson & Angus Norrie who set the questions, the social committee who made and served the food, with Jim Stewart & Doug Findlay on the raffle. The Memory Seekers team won with 89/100 and a grand total of £370 will go to the charity. Well done everyone!

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The money collected for Angus Young Carers at the Christmas services was handed over with additions from the offering plates on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Receiving the cheque at both Inverarity & Forfar churches were Service Manager of the charity Laurie Easom and Rights & Engagement Officer Errol Obran. They presented this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETNJleQjVhs&t=23s>) and talked about the 300 members of the Angus group aged from age 6 to teenagers, who care for a family member in their own home. With a staff of 10, the group offer holidays, work experience at Murton Farm, crafts, cinema visits, sport and leisure activities to give the youngsters a break from their vital care work. Laurie and Errol were delighted with the donation of £1180 and will stay in touch with news of how that money keeps their charity going.

**Social Committee** - Our Social Committee provided Festive Foods for the following events:- Thursday, 28th November - Christmas Tree Decorating Competition; Saturday, 7th December - The Big Kirk Concert; Saturday, 14th December - FACT 's 'The Big Sing' - all of these events were all held in the East & Old Church Sanctuary.

On Saturday, 25th January we held a Burns Supper in East & Old Social Area. More than 65 people attended, raising £1150 for church funds; Friday, 7th February - Tearfund Quiz Night was thoroughly enjoyed with light supper and raffle, raising £370 for this Christian charity.

Future events the Social Committee will be involved in are:-

- Bacon Roll Morning - Saturday 5th April
- Potluck Supper and Picture Quiz - Friday, 16th May

*Elizabeth McLeod*

**F**amily Worker Report - We hosted a late-afternoon Pizza & Movie Night on the In-Service day at the beginning of December!

The film shown was 'That Christmas' to get everyone into the Christmas spirit! Around 40 adults and children attended, they all appeared to enjoy the pizza and sweets from the tuck shop.

A fun-filled Christmas Party was held for the families who attend Baby Blether and Toddler Time at East & Old Church with around 50 – 60 adults and children enjoying the party games, yummy food and a special visit from Santa who gave each child a book and a chocolate tree decoration.



Our recent Family Fun morning was a great success with around 46 adults and children attending - they all enjoyed a variety of activities and a tasty lunch. One of the parents said “ a great range of activities and lunch was very tasty”.

All groups continue to be well supported, we have between 20 and 30 families who attend the Baby Blether and Toddler Time. Sarah King from Angus Alive visited and facilitated a Book Bug session with the families, enjoyed by all.

I continue to support the children in both Strathmore and Inverarity Primary schools. This is an important link between the church and the schools. Strathmore Primary have requested assistance from the Green Team and myself to help with their new polytunnel and planters.

The Lego Club is going very well, we have introduced a baking activity once a month and the children are very excited about this. Sarah King from Angus Alive Libraries attended two sessions with Lego Monster Truck Building, which everyone enjoyed.

Every Tuesday after school I support the Inverarity Activities Club and this is going well with the children enjoying lots of different activities, art and crafts, Lego, games and outdoor activities.

## UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- 3 March from 3:30pm - World Book Day event working with Mrs Bruce (Strathmore Primary School) in East & Old Church Social Area - school pupils will help make food relating to various books they are reading
  - Sensory Session Toddler Time and Baby Blether - Date TBC
  - Easter Holiday Family Fun Mornings in April
    - Week 1: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 12 noon
    - Week 2: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 12 noon
- ~~ Visit our social media pages regularly for further information ~~
- As always, thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to support these groups, your help is very much appreciated.

*Sheila Whitelaw, Family Worker*



**I**nverarity 'Souper Friday' Lunches - We are grateful for the continuing attendance of our 'Souper' diners who come and enjoy our food, have a good chat and give great support to our chosen charities.

Our November lunch raised £159 for the Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) and the January donation for Lochside Connections realised £143.71 - thank you all so much.



Our February lunch, Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, will benefit Guide Dogs for the Blind. Donations from the March 28<sup>th</sup> lunch will go to Forfar Daycare

Centre. Future dates are 25th April and 30th May, charities to be set nearer the time. The soup pots will be bubbling away, so we'll look forward to seeing you there!



Our book for December was **'Being Emily'** by **Anne Donovan**. We discussed it at our meal in January at the Corner House restaurant. It was written in the Glasgow vernacular which wasn't easy to follow sometimes. It

tells of a young Catholic girl Fiona who finds life in their tenement far less interesting than Emily Bronte's. She is forced to look after her family after their mother dies. Her father cannot cope and sets fire to their flat. The family are farmed out to relatives. Fiona is a talented artist at college. She meets an Asian Muslim Jaz but eventually falls in love with his brother, who is very self-centred regarding his sitar music. She has a miscarriage, and her lover is indifferent to her plight. She goes to London to exhibit her work, only to discover that her brother who is gay and her lover are a couple! She makes friends again with Jaz who buys her old flat for her. In spite of their differing religious beliefs, they marry and have children. Some of the group enjoyed the book more than others,

January's book was **'The Reading'** by **Sara Nisha Adams**. Another family affair where an Indian man in London is feeling very lost since the death of his wife. Unbeknown to him, when he returns her library books, inside is a list of books he should read, all with a moral including Little Women and A Suitable Boy. He becomes fond of the young librarian who gives him each book in turn. He meets several people at the library and finds out about their respective lives — some tragic.

They all form a group and when the library is set for closure, they band together to save it. This allows him and his family to come to terms with their grief. An enjoyable and interesting read liked by all.

Our February book is by **Jeffrey Archer - 'Only Time Will Tell'**. Between March and June we will read **'The Wager'** by **David Gann**, **'The Precipice'** by **Robert Harris**, **'The Island of Sea Women'** by **Lisa See** and **'The Bookshop Ladies'** by **Faith Hogan**.

The Book Club meet in each other's houses at 7:30pm on the following dates:- Mon 24 Mar; Wed 23 Apr; Mon 19 May; Wed 18 Jun; Mon 14 Jul; Wed 13 Aug; Mon 15 Sep; Wed 15 Oct and Mon 10 Nov.

*Linda Spence*



**2nd Forfar Boys Brigade and Girls Association** - Our grateful thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Card sorting and delivery, especially Bill and Irene Duthie and their team of volunteers. We had two entries in the Christmas Tree Decorating competition, 3 French Hens and 11 Pipers Piping - unfortunately we weren't amongst the winners, but had good fun trying and mixing with the other groups.

Promotions were given at the end of last session. Alvin Lovegrove was promoted to Lance Corporal, whilst Tyler Lovegrove and Alistair Low were upgraded to full Corporal. Alvin will be attending a Building Your Skills course at Kinross on 22nd February, leading to the Presidents Badge award and beginning his journey to gain King's Badge. Tyler and Alistair are going to Carronvale from 4 - 6 April for the King's Badge completion course. The King's Badge is the highest achievement in the Boys' Brigade and we are very proud of all these boys. Badges and certificates will be presented at our annual Parents Evening in May, date to be confirmed.

This session so far, we have spoken about resolutions, not necessarily for New Year; diversity of a box of crayons, Chinese New Year, coral reefs, underwater creatures, made thistles and recited Burns. Juniors are expanding their games skills in badminton and table tennis .



# \*TheBigKirkShop\*

## CELEBRATING "10" YEARS



A steering group came up with the idea to open the shop and thought it would be just for an initial period of about 6 months.



Members of the Property Team gave of their time and talents to gut and sort out the shop premises and over the years continue to work tirelessly maintaining it.







We are so grateful for our volunteers who selflessly give up their time to manage, organise and work in the shop - quite a few of us have worked there since we opened!

Donations are received from the general public, members of the congregations and local businesses. Thank you so much as this has meant that the shop has made in the region of £200,000 gross in sales since opening in 2015



We also like it to a community hub with so many regular customers who pop in for a cuppy and a catch up - some of our regular visitors travel to Forfar only to visit the shop.

**Thank you for your continuing support**

**P**roperty Report - After many months of discussions, on 12th December East, Old and Inverarity took possession of a house in Turfbeg to become our new manse. There was nothing dramatic. Alistair Cluley the fabric convenor of Glamis Kirk simply met me at the “manse” to hand over the keys.

Here is a bit of background. The house was built by Mark Guild and was the show house for his Turfbeg scheme. Then a few years later Glamis,



Inverarity & Kinnettles were looking for a replacement for the old manse at Glamis which had been sold. The scenario was very similar to us now with the East Manse in that it was a difficult home to heat and maintain.

The Turfbeg house became the manse for the then Glamis, Inverarity & Kinnettles minister until he retired. It was then let out until August last year. When Glamis and Inverarity went their separate ways in October 2023, the building was the responsibility of Glamis, but Inverarity retained a half share of its value. Thus in December 2024, East, Old & Inverarity paid the new Strathmore Parish half of the valuation figure to “buy out” their share of ownership.

The property team have inspected the manse and were satisfied with its condition. However, as with any building, we have identified maintenance required for external painting and electrical upgrades.

Now having a suitable approved manse allows Karen and the Nominating Committee to make progress with the vacancy.

The property team are now satisfied that water ingress problems are resolved at East & Old, so internal remedial work will proceed shortly. An electrical safety upgrade was completed along with general maintenance.

At Inverarity the original hall kitchen units have been replaced and

equipment upgraded to reflect the increased use of the hall. In the Spring there will be repairs to church windows and long held off external painting work.

We are fortunate to have excellent well-maintained buildings to aid our search for a new minister.

*David Pate*

**Inverarity Kids Club** held at Inverarity Church Hall is now well into its second term. It runs from 3:20 - 5:30pm three days a week, Tuesday to Thursday during the school term, with Sam leading the activities. At the club the children take part in a range of activities including arts, crafts, puzzles, games and Lego.

Sheila (our family worker) helps with the club on a Tuesday when Lego is the main focus. It has an amazing buzz about it and the children really enjoy the range of activities and the chance to socialise with their friends after the school day.



**F**riends R' Us - we are a group within the Church for Widows and Widowers. We meet regularly at the Church on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm when we often play board games, have a cuppa and a chat. Our previous activities include enjoyable walks and occasional visits to local attractions. New members would be made most welcome.

**PLEASE NOTE**

We regularly take photos and videos in all of our buildings. They can be used in print, on our website and on social media.

If you are not happy for your image/recording to be used, please make an elder aware or contact:

[eoiparish@yahoo.com](mailto:eoiparish@yahoo.com)

## LITTLE SNOWDROP \*

There is this little flower,  
Which blooms when other die,  
And bravely lifts its little head,  
Towards the winter sky.

And though it scarcely can be seen,  
Amid the sparkling snow,  
It's blooming there to cheer us,  
As on our way we go.



And so in life's dark winter,  
When troubles come and go,  
Let us be like the snowdrops,  
Blooming in the snow.

Let's cheer each other onward,  
When days are full of strife,  
And brighten like the snowdrops,  
The darkest days of life.

*Mrs Joan Slater*

\* Did you watch Esther's 'Midweek Reflection' about the Snowdrop on Wednesday 19 February, and published on Facebook and YouTube—it's very interesting.

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**Internet Feeds** - I get daily/weekly emails on topics ranging from the News [well – the Courier], to Which and spirituality-based feeds.

One is a monthly newsletter from American Spiritual writer Joyce Rupp. Part of her February 2025 Newsletter struck a chord with me:

*I'm grateful that I can embrace the sacredness of the natural world. When I am mindfully there, I feel a peace and equilibrium for my spirit found nowhere else.*

*In January I spent several weeks writing at a cabin in the woods. There I could sense all of life dwelling in the heart of the Holy. The ferocious winds, the bitterly cold below-zero nights, the dazzling stars I went out to admire before bedtime, the strength of moonlight casting long tree-shadows across the hills, the soft, gradual light of morning and the blazing red sunsets—all this led to inner harmony.*

*I felt a kinship with the frozen land and water, creatures and birds, including the nervous pheasants that went flying and screeching out of their roosts as I walked through the woods at sundown.*

*Within this sphere of contentment, I recognize how a struggle for harmony also takes place in the natural world, as with human life. Creation does let us forget how everything teems with its own life-death-rebirth cycles.*

*As I watched eagles dive to snatch squirrels and downy woodpeckers tap for insects in tree bark, I thought of the California wildfires consuming humans, homes, trees, vegetation, and creatures. Not everything Holy consists of consolation and joy. And yet, every part of what exists has been embraced by the Sacred.*

Joyce ends her Newsletter with:- *Abundant Peace*

May you know abundant peace in your lives.

**B**ooks that have made a difference - Have you ever had an **ah-ha** moment when reading a book? One book that had that effect on me was 'God of Surprises', written by a Scottish Jesuit Gerry Hughes.

The book invites us to move beyond conventional religious thinking and embrace a more personal, experiential, and liberating relationship with God. It speaks to those who feel spiritually restless, offering a fresh and hopeful perspective on faith. Hughes highlights:

**God's Presence in Everyday Life** – God is not confined to religious rituals or doctrines but can be encountered in ordinary experiences, personal struggles, and even doubts.

**The Inner Journey** – The book encourages introspection and self-awareness, helping readers uncover their true selves and recognize the divine at work in their lives.

**Overcoming False Images of God** – Many people struggle with distorted images of God—seeing God as distant, judgmental, or rigid. Hughes challenges these misconceptions and invites readers to embrace a God of love, mercy, and surprises.

**Faith as a Journey, Not a Destination** – Rather than presenting rigid doctrines, Hughes views faith as a dynamic process of questioning, growth, and continual discovery.

As I say, for me, God of Surprises is an **ah-ha** books. I would be happy to run a short four-session discussion on the highlights above. Please let me know if you are interested.



*Malcolm Rooney, Locum Minister*



**T**he Art Group has restarted for the year ahead in East & Old's Social Area 1:30 -3:30pm on Thursday afternoons. All are welcome from beginners to artists in drawing and painting oil, acrylic and watercolour, but spaces are limited, so if this is something you would like to do, please email Glenda Robertson on [robertsonglenda2022@gmail.com](mailto:robertsonglenda2022@gmail.com) to discuss joining the group. The cost is £3 per session - bring your own art materials - help will be given to beginners. There will be an exhibition and sale of members' work at the end of the year, some illustrating in the 2026 calendar, commercially printed and sold in aid of church funds.



**East & Old Guild** - The last time I wrote was November and since then May Clark gave us a flavour of her life, traveling with her husband to various places abroad and how they coped with a young family. Thank you May, you gave us a most entertaining talk. Into December and we tried our hand at Christmas crafts with Esther showing us how simple it is to make decorations ourselves. This came just in the nick of time as the Guild entered the Christmas tree decorating competition and came 3<sup>rd</sup>, well done to Esther, Anne and Bob. On 11<sup>th</sup> December we went to Forfar Golf Club for our Christmas lunch where we had a lovely meal and in such a nice setting.

Into the new year and in mid-January we had a get-together for a chat, when we took time to remember our friend and fellow Guild member Wilma Pringle who sadly passed away at the end of December.

We started the session again in February with a talk by Mark Guild from Guild Homes. He told us about his life and how he came to start his



business. On 19<sup>th</sup> February we will hear from The Archie Foundation who ease a difficult and stressful time for the families.

In March we will hold our AGM and, on the 19th, Malcolm Rooney will tell us about his path to becoming a minister. On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> we have our Coffee Morning and hope to see many of you then. We will then have a closing social in April with entertainment from the church singing group Accord.

As I write this, the Guild has lost another dear friend, Ian Robertson, and we will keep his wife Margaret and family in our thoughts and prayers.

*Marion Duncan*

**Inverarity Guild** - The next meeting of our Guild is on Wednesday 9th April at 7pm in Inverarity Church/Community Hall. Arlene Nelson is our speaker - her talk is based on a book 'Britain's Brown Babies', by Lucy Bland, a professor of Social and Cultural History at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. Arlene will recount how the book came to be written and growing up in Britain as a brown baby. We will be pleased to welcome you to this meeting.

*Anne Richardson*



Our first Folk Night of the year was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February with performances from our first Folk Night of the year was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February with performances by Alf and John, Kenny Orrick, Richard & Carrol, Liz (one half of Liz & Maggie from Monifieth), Brian the Poet, Bob Kidd, Brian Bass player & sound engineer, Ruth Stewart, Kirsten - it was a pretty good night all round and quite a good crowd for first session back.

Our musical evenings are held regularly in East and Old Church Sanctuary on the third Wednesday of most months (excluding the summer period) from 7 – 10pm. We look forward to you joining us for our relaxing evenings in good company and with great local music.

*Alf Birse*



Members of the Green Team are looking forward to the Spring so we can start planting. We hope to plant flowers to encourage insects. We would also like to work with the primary school children on their garden project but desperately need volunteers to help with this.

Glenda Robertson

**B**ible Study Group (Alpha Course) - From January to the beginning of April, instead of the usual Bible Study Group meetings, some of us are attending the Alpha Course sessions held in the Forfar Community Church on Sunday afternoons. These sessions are interesting and informative, designed for people who want to know more about God and explore life, faith and meaning.



***The Media Team desperately need additional members to join us as our numbers have depleted in recent months, and we also need a new Editor for the quarterly Inspire magazine.***



Our team looks after the E O & I parish advertising, photography, video work, Facebook and Youtube accounts and our website. We ask that all groups/committees keep us regularly informed about their events and projects so that we ensure accuracy of the information being published.

Members of the team also prepare and project the Sunday PowerPoint services.

Do you have an upcoming event? We can promote this through advertising on the website and Facebook, produce posters and tickets.

Enquiries to the media team: [eoimediатеam@yahoo.com](mailto:eoimediатеam@yahoo.com)

Please take a look at the website:

<https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/>

## Twinning Reports

### **Zuglo, Hungary**

In his latest email Mihaly sends seasonal greetings to everyone and wishes us well in our search for a new minister. They had a very busy time during Advent, holding special services and hosting events. Their elderly members were invited to an Advent programme with entertainment by members of the congregation, tea and cake. They held a concert by one of their members who is blind but very accomplished on the keyboard. The elders visited housebound members and delivered Christmas packages. There are clearly many similarities between our two churches.

After many years of service, their treasurer retired at the end of 2024 and a member has agreed to take on this responsibility.

Finally, good news that one of their young elders Vicki who was here in September 2023 and is currently working as a doctor, has heard God's calling and applied to study theology at Budapest University in order to enter the ministry as a pastor. We have passed on our best wishes and pray for success in whatever challenges she face.

### **Dubendorf and Schwerzenbach**

We were delighted to hear they have formed a committee to maintain the connections built over the past years and that our partnership is now deeper than Rev Catherine and Rev Barbara Anne's friendship that brought us together in the first place. It was a real concern that our links might come to an end.

After the successful visit last July, three of their ladies Kate Luke originally from Brechin, Susanne Hess and Sylvia Ziegler would like to continue the partnership with us and maintain the strong links between our churches. We look forward to working with them in the future to enhance and develop the existing links.

*Jim Stewart*

# Looking Ahead .....

## **P**reloved is Reloved

The next 'Preloved is Reloved' event is in Inverarity Church on Sunday 23 March from 2 - 4pm. Refreshments will be available in the hall as usual. All money raised will go to Angus Riding School for the Disabled and upkeep of pony Jeannie. All are welcome.



## Forfar Action of Churches (FACT)

- The Lenten Studies start on Wednesday 5 March at 7pm hosted by Forfar Community Church, Wellbraehead for 6 weeks.
- Lent Lunches will be hosted in East & Old Church at 12 noon starting Friday 7 March prepared by EOI; 14 March by the Community Church; 21 March by All Souls; 28 March by St Fergus; 4 April by St John's; 11 April by EOI - Donations for Christian Aid.

World Day of Prayer service - Friday 7 March at 2pm in Community Church (written by Christian women of the Cook Islands).

# Dates for your Diary

Saturday	22 March	East & Old Guild Coffee Morning East & Old Church Social Area	10am
Sunday	23 March	Preloved is Reloved Inverarity Church Hall	2 - 4pm



**British Summer Time begins on Sunday  
30th March - Don't forget to put your  
clocks one hour forward that morning.**

Saturday	5 April	Bacon Roll Morning East & Old Church Social Area	Time TBC
Monday + Wednesday	7 April 9 April	Easter Holiday Fun mornings East & Old Church	10am - 12 noon
Monday + Wednesday	14 April 16 April	Easter Holiday Fun mornings East & Old Church	10am - 12 noon
Sunday	20 April	FACT Lochside St Margarets Inch open-air service followed by bacon-roll breakfast at Lowson Church Hall	8am
		Easter Sunday Breakfast Inverarity Church Hall	8:45am
		Easter Day Service - Inverarity Church	9:45am
		Easter Day Service - East & Old Church	11:15am
Sunday	27 April	Sacrament of Communion - Inverarity	9:45am
		Sacrament of Communion - East & Old	11:15am
Saturday	16 May	Pot Luck Supper & Picture Quiz East & Old Church Social Area	Time TBC

## **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



### **East & Old Church ~ Ministry of Flowers**

<b>2</b>	<b>MAR</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>APR</b>	
<b>9</b>	“	Margaret Myles	<b>27</b>	“	Dave Bowman
<b>16</b>	“	Bruce Simpson	<b>4</b>	<b>MAY</b>	Jean Alexander
<b>23</b>	“		<b>11</b>	“	Doug/Mgt Robertson
<b>30</b>	“		<b>18</b>	“	Mr/s J Herron
<b>6</b>	<b>APR</b>	Glenda Robertson	<b>25</b>	“	J Gair & C J Milne
<b>13</b>	“	Sheena Benvie	<b>1</b>	<b>JUN</b>	Ruth Stewart

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.

We are always seeking additional volunteers to join our Flower Team - please contact either *Irene Duthie* or *Catriona Milne*, if you are able to help. Thank you

***If you would like to donate for Sunday flowers, there are still several dates available to choose from, please add your name to the Flower Calendar in the Reception Area***

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Joan Petrie	22 November	< 24 >
Ian Harris	12 December	< 22 >
Patricia Malcolm	19 " "	< 27 >
Peter McDiarmid	21 " "	< 24 >
Alexander Black	24 " "	< 29 >
Wilma Pringle	26 " "	< 23 >
Margaret Pate	11 January	< 38 >
David Jackson	28 " "	< 35 >
Ian Robertson	30 " "	< 16 >
Joan Coghill	3 February	< 18 >
Elizabeth Bain	11 " "	< 10 >

### BAPTISMS

Sophie Victoria Drummond	12 January at Inverarity
Grace Margaret Eve Ellis	9 February at East & Old



#### ~ **NEXT ISSUE OF INSPIRE** ~

The deadline for submission of articles for **SUMMER 2025** issue  
is:- **THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025**

Articles to Editing Team or e-mail:- [eoieditor@yahoo.com](mailto:eoieditor@yahoo.com)

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<b>Prayer Group</b>	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
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<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
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