

The Steeple Times

August
2021





Services of Public Worship:

✠ **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB


Tel: 01307 248228

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello everyone!

RANT ALERT

Where has the first half of the year gone! For me the time is literally flying by! However, I know that for some of you, this is not the case and you find you have too much time on your hands, the day and evenings are long – if that's the case – LET ME KNOW!

As I write this letter to you today, I am feeling really uncomfortable and stressed! I am a day late in getting this letter to our editor, I am finding the heat very uncomfortable and by far the most stressful thing at the moment is that my Church of Scotland email account is not working properly. Argh !!!

This may not sound like a problem, but it really is an issue for me, but I'm not going into all the details because it will bore you rigid! The Church of Scotland has also issued a communique stating that if we wish to go down to 1 metre social distancing in the church, then we need to fill in a new risk assessment form – for what!?! All we need to do is put signs up stating 1 metre social distancing and amend the notices as to how many people are allowed in each room at any one time and inform all groups and organisations of the change! Talk about being legalistic!

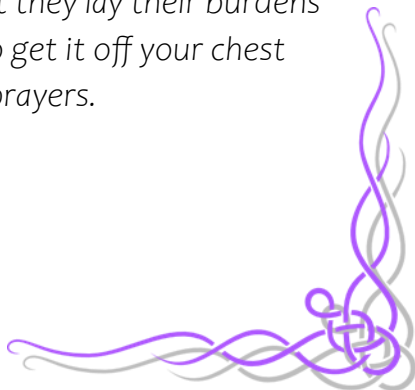
We received great coverage in the Church of Scotland web page and Facebook page about our renovations. The Courier also picked up the story and featured it in the newspaper and also as an online article which had some

additional photographs. However, on the Church of Scotland Facebook page, someone made a comment about the amount of money we spent and that it was not acceptable in this day and age while another asked what on earth was done in the church to warrant that total spend! These people do not know anything about our church, what it looked like, what it really looks like now, they do not know our members, they do not know the community of Forfar and I could go on and on and on. God has given East and Old Church and its members a vision for the future and how thankful are we that we acted upon it when we did. We have a building fit for purpose in the right place for the 21st Century and with all the cuts announced and coming up in Scotland for church unions and closures, we feel we have done enough to ensure the survival and bright future of East and Old Church.

Now that I have got that off my chest, I can also tell you that I had a rant to God about it all as well – ‘lay your burdens on me we are told!’ Well, I certainly did that and between talking to God and now this little rant in the letter, I am feeling much better and less stressed! It’s good to talk in whatever way that is comfortable for you. Many people say to me that they are sorry when I see them that they lay their burdens on me – I DON’T MIND! It is good to get it off your chest and once I know, I keep you in my prayers.

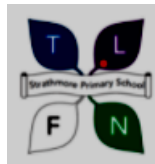
God bless to you all

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Strathmore Primary School - Our minister has missed going into the school for both assemblies and classwork but the school work continued and we are delighted to say that the winners of the RME Awards this year were: P1-3 – Ella, P4-5 – Mollie, P6-7 – Kacey-Leigh. Barbara Ann will be speaking to the Kirk Session to ask if we can have trophies for each year group rather than a combined age group. Well done to the children involved.



Virtual Balloon Race – the primary school ran a virtual balloon race which intrigued our minister so she bought 6 virtual balloons for each member of her family. She told us it was such fun watching the balloon race on the computer but disappointing as one balloon after another fell by the wayside— but the balloon she named ‘JoJo’ eventually travelled the furthest and won Barbara Ann a £50 Asda Voucher! East and Old are about to hold a virtual balloon race and you won’t need a computer to follow it – the race will be up on the screens in the church – so watch this space.

Chrome Books – Strathmore are a bit behind in raising money and buying Chrome Books for every child in the school due the demographics of the school, so after hearing how important these Chrome Books were to the school and to the children, the church held two retiring offerings in aid of the school so they could purchase some Chrome Books. A Chrome Book is really a laptop and each one costs approximately £270. Thank you to everyone who donated money to this cause - we managed to buy the school 6 Chrome Books (laptops). The head teacher Mrs Garnes was overwhelmed by the generosity of our church members.





Our minister has been liaising with Dawn Rennie from Angus Council over this summer campaign. The council received money from the Scottish Government for family activities over the summer. Families with multiple children, single parents, those not getting away, learning and physical disabilities, people from other ethnic background etc. We were awarded £3000 to run 5 events over the summer.

☺ **Parents and babies event** was supposed to be in the manse garden but the weather was not co-operating! So it was moved to the church hall. 20 families came along and had time to chat with other adults, the children had fun playing with the toys and one another. Everyone had a packed lunch and there was a surprise visit from Elsa and Sven from the film Frozen – the children loved it.



☺ **Five Sisters Zoo, Livingston** – normally on away days we take a 70-seater coach and it is full but due to the Covid restrictions we could only take 40 on the bus and it was a very exciting day at the Five Sisters Zoo. The feedback from the families was great and once again they are very thankful for everything we do.



- ☺ **Family BBQ and entertainment** – food was good, weather was good, entertainment was good – what more could you ask for? - the 20 plus families who joined us and the clients of the Deirdre Knight Centre and also two residents of Beechhill Court and their carers. A big thank you to the team who helped on the day plus a big thank you to Cameron’s of Castle Street for supplying the burgers and Chapter and Verse for supplying the Halal burgers.



- ☺ **Landmark Adventure Park –Wed 21st July – update in next issue**
- ☺ **Film Night – Tue 3rd August – update in next issue**

R E-STARTED

With the rules and regulations constantly changing over this month and awaiting the 9th August announcements we are now singing in church! We have moved from 2 metres apart to 1 metre.

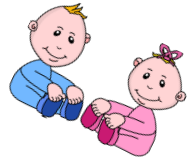


Friends R' Us have started back and are planning a host of activities.

The Art Group are busy, busy!

The Baby Blether was allowed to start much earlier and Paula took full advantage of this and offered Monday and Friday's to parents and babies instead of just a Friday. During the school holidays she has kindly offered to run the Baby Blether on a Friday.

This is such a great way for parents to interact once again and for babies to mix with other children and adults.



Our Boys' Brigade also resumed early as the restrictions were not as tight for them.

They plan on re-starting at the end of August and have asked 2nd Forfar Girls' Brigade to join them.

This will be a pilot study for the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and the church.

Watch this space.





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

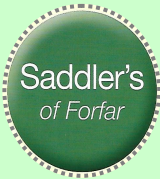
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Forfar Athletic Sponsorship

Once again East and Old Church is delighted to sponsor Darren Whyte of Forfar Athletic – every blessing to you Darren and the team.



Ladies Night Out

We have met twice and how good it was to sit in Chapter and Verse and enjoy a drink and then to have tea and sandwiches brought out.

Chapter and Verse really do us well and we are very thankful. When we met in July we decided to go for a meal – what a lovely familiar feeling it was to have the company of friends again from different households over a meal and sharing fellowship.



The book club members cannot believe we have been picking some really good books over the last 6 months or so. If you need a recommendation then just ask the members of the club.

Here is their list for the next few months: -

- 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stewart
- 'The Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman
- 'The Boy with Two Hearts' by Hamid Amiri
- 'The House between Tides' by Sarah Main
- 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama
- 'The Book Stops Here' by Kate Carlisle
- 'Set Me Free' by Daniela Sacerdoti
- 'I'll Keep You Safe' by Peter May

Church of Scotland Web Page

The communications department of 121 contacted our minister to ask about the Grand Opening of our completed renovation project! East and Old were on the front page of the National Church webpage and received a great deal of support from the many people who left comments and quite a few others emailed our minister direct. Needless to say some people questioned the amount of money spent, but they do not know what our church building was like before, what our members views are, what the community of Forfar is like and so much more. It is so easy just to leave a comment on Facebook and not even try to understand what was going on and look at the story from different perspectives.



Church Building – Grand Opening was on Saturday 24th July which was just as this issue went to press! More information in the next edition.

The Blessing of a new home

Our minister was delighted to be asked to go and bless the new home of Isabel and Jim Farquharson. This is something Barbara Ann has only been asked to do on another three occasions since 2011. “It was a common occurrence many years ago but not so much now, but still a delight to be involved”, she said.



*Blessing
for
the Home*

Twinning News - the Twinning committee have been active over the summer period with Zoom catchups with both our twinning partners in Zuglo church, Hungary and our friends in Zurich, Switzerland. Firstly, we met on 7th June with some members of Zuglo church for an Eco-themed Bible Study, led by Barbara Ann. We looked at texts from the book of Psalms and what they say about creation. We discussed amazing sights we've seen in the world and how God's creation leaves us in awe and some of our favourite hymns that talk of creation. The meet-up with our Swiss friends was a nostalgic reunion, re-acquainting ourselves with the Swiss and remembering our visit to them and their visit here back in 2018. We shared photos, memories and played a quiz game based on the Swiss visit to Forfar and listened to and sang some Scottish songs

including Barbara Ann's favourite - "the midgie song!"

In recent updates from Zuglo, we hear that unfortunately both the ministers at Zuglo church have been suffering ill-health of late and they ask for us to keep Noemi and Janos in our prayers. In more positive news though, the pandemic seems to now be under control in Hungary and life has almost returned to normal, with worships now taking place at full capacity, schools returned and face-coverings no longer mandatory on public transport. They also report the annual church youth camp took place a couple of weeks ago and was over-subscribed with 50 young people attending and a waiting list. The adults are now looking forward to their annual trip north for the congregational family camp next week. We pray they have a successful and enriching trip.

The Leprosy Mission Scotland is launching a new fund-raiser:

WALKING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY



Leprosy can cause nerve damage, leading to loss of feeling in the hands and feet. Without the sensation of any pain, cuts can go unnoticed and develop into ulcers. If left untreated and at risk of infection, the result could be deformity or even amputation.

People whose feet have been damaged or disabled by leprosy can be helped with the provision of Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) shoes.

This specialist footwear is made by Leprosy Mission skilled staff and tailored to an individual's needs. So if a patient has lost part of their foot, the sole of one of their shoes can be 'built up' to support the foot while walking. The sandals and shoes have a layer of soft rubber to cushion the foot, and a hard sole to protect it.

Shansunnar began to show signs of leprosy at a young age. However, by the time she was eventually diagnosed, she had lost all feeling in both hands and both feet. With no feeling of pain, she was unaware of a small cut in her foot, causing an ulcer to form. Shansunnar was admitted to hospital to receive ulcer care before receiving protective shoes to prevent further damage to her feet.



Protective shoes

- Help protect damaged feet and minimise limping with corrective insoles
- Ease the pressure on ulcerated, nerve-damaged, fragile skin
- Prevent new cuts, sores, and infections
- Restore mobility so someone disabled by leprosy can walk, work and take better care of themselves.

1 pair = £10 / For £1000, you can provide 100 pairs

DEFEATING LEPROSY, TRANSFORMING LIVES

If you feel able to contribute towards this very worthwhile initiative, please get in touch with Barbara Ann or Esther Kidd.

Your help will be much appreciated.

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— 02 —

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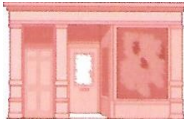
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Hope you are well and keeping COVID free
- Stay Safe Everyone -
Muriel and all the Kirk Shop Team
P.S. We are in need of ladies shoes
and handbags



We thanked all the Big Kirk Shop workers during a recent Sunday morning worship. Shop manager Muriel Fairley was interviewed, outlining all they've done since the shop opened in 2016. The 30 workers present were given a framed thank-you from the Kirk Session. The shop has provided: a showcase for the church and its work, a steady weekly income of £400+ for church funds, an encouragement to the community to tidy & recycle unwanted goods and a meeting place for customers and donors.



Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens - the youngsters are now enjoying their school holidays. Before we broke up for the summer, we enjoyed a picnic and games afternoon at the Manse. We all had a great time playing games in the garden, including a scavenger hunt. A big thank you Irene Duthie for catering for the afternoon.

We will start again on Sunday 15th August. Any children from age 3 years and upwards are welcome to join us.

Joyce, Fraser, Matthew and Karen



We were lucky to be able to have some face-to-face meetings over the last couple of months.

During this time the Boys found items in shop windows, made paper aeroplanes and learnt about the Spitfire. They did some compass work, made bouncy balls, played games and did some circuit training. On the last night we took them to Ryze, where they all enjoyed jumping about on the trampolines.

Congratulations go to Ryan Elliott, who has gained the highest award in the Boys' Brigade, the Queen's Badge.

New and exciting things are planned when we restart again (all being well) in late August.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Any queries phone Betty Lovegrove on 01307 466467.



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Douglas J. Robertson
CANDOWILLDO JOINERY SERVICES

A really **BIG, BIG THANK YOU** to all who gave their time and efforts working on the renovations.



GUILD NEWS

It is so good to say that the Guild will be back in the church in September.

We will start with a *Coffee Afternoon on the 15th of September at 2:00pm.* and our opening social will be held on the 22nd of the month with the musical group Accord.

Tickets for the Coffee Afternoon will be available from the members and on sale in the church at the end of August. We will have a 'cake and candy' stall (items will be pre-packed) and a raffle - tickets will cost £3.

If you can, come along, not just to support the Guild but also to see friends that you may not have seen for a long time.

If you would like to find out more about what the Guild does why not come along to a meeting. We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, in the church at 7:30pm and we have a varied program of speakers that cover a wide spectrum of interests.

It will be so good to catch-up with the members and finding out their news and how they have been during this pandemic. Being on-line helped keep the Guild going in these tough times but it's not the same as face-to-face meetings.



RECYCLE ! RECYCLE ! RECYCLE !

Here we go again on our recycling items. Any stretchy plastic bags can now be recycled in specialised centres. These bags cover your bread, fresh and frozen vegetables, toilet rolls and kitchen towels. Bring them into the church or the Big Kirk Shop.



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



Tees and Coffees – we hope to re-start our teas and coffee's after morning worship from August. It has been sadly missed by so many but with the 2 metre restrictions it just did not make sense. Along with that we are planning to hold **our first coffee morning on**

Saturday 14th August from 10:00am to 12noon – put the date in your diaries!

Cosy Corner – we hope to re-start Cosy Corner our lunch club but we are needing a few more helpers! Can you make a pot of soup and/or a tray of sandwiches? Contact Jean Alexander.



Dubendorf Church linked with Schwerzenbach Church in Switzerland.

Our partner church in Dubendorf is celebrating a milestone in their church building history. The building and worshipping community there will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on Sunday 22nd August. Barbara Ann, Billy and Karen have been invited to join them but sadly



they will be unable to attend however the Kirk Session has sent to them a greeting and message of congratulations on reaching this milestone.



MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



1 AUG	Stewart Davidson	5 SEP	Sheena Benvie
8	Beryl Stobie	12	Karen Kelly
15	Glenda Robertson	19	Wilma Simpson
22	Jean Alexander	26	June Smith
29	Sheena Ewart	3 OCT	Margaret Myles

*Please pass your donations to Catriona Milne,
Irene Duthie or pop your money in an envelope
and hand it in to Jennifer at PRIMA
Thank you*

We are in need of additional volunteers to join the Flower Team who prepare the flowers for church each Sunday.

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

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

May	16	Ian Tosh	<i>(parish)</i>
June	8	James Lamb	<i>(parish)</i>
	9	Margaret Diplexcito	<i>(parish)</i>
	12	Kenneth (Ken) Fenwick	<i>(member)</i>
	21	Elizabeth Watson	<i>(parish)</i>
July	16	Marlene Neave	<i>(member)</i>



~ **NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES** ~

The deadline for submission of articles for the **OCTOBER 2021**
issue is **18th SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Depute Session Clerk ■ Church Secretary 	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treasurer ■ Gift Aid Convener 	Paula Stewart	07715596465
FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steeple Times Editor ■ Flower Group Admin 	Catriona Milne	07962065936
Organist/Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer	Vanessa Ferrie	01307 461111
Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
2nd Forfar Company The Boy's Brigade	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Barbara Ann Sweetin	01307 248228
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228