

The Steeple Times

December

2021

Season's
Greetings





Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB


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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends



Well who can believe it is nearly Christmas once again! However I am sure it will be a better Christmas this year than last (no lockdown!) for most people but we will remember in prayer those where Christmas will bring back painful memories or memories of the loss of a loved one in recent times.

*During the last 6 months or so I have discovered a new disease that is affecting not only East and Old Church but the nation! It is a disease that creeps up on you and it can't be found under a microscope. It can affect all age groups and all genders, but the good news is that it can be cured, and cured really quickly and easily! What's the disease I hear you say? This new disease is called, **'I CAN'T BE BOTHERED!'** I wonder how many of you have caught this disease over the last 6 months or so. I know that it is not just affecting our members and friends because I hear it from my colleagues and other people who deal with the voluntary sector but remember this, it is easily cured! There are many, many opportunities to help in the church and you are never too old. It can be taking names at the door for track and trace, helping out in the kitchen, putting tables and chairs up and down for our Guild who are struggling with this, helping with the flowers (even if you are plonker! – that is what the ladies who put the flowers in vases and don't use an oasis to make a flower arrangement call themselves!), help put the Christmas tree up, visit some of our members at home and so*

much more! Later in this issue you will see we are looking for people to help at our new Toddler Time group – it needs to be people who are retired or only work part-time. We need you to use your talents and perform at our Winter Wonderland event, help make Christingles, work in our shop, donate clothes, handbags, bric-a-brac etc to our shop, join the choir, join our twinning group, help the social team at events, bake some goodies for events and the list goes on and on and on. I also know that people like to be asked to be involved but it makes life easier all around if you would offer to do or help in various situations. If we don't get more volunteers many of our events and activities will cease and that affects many, many people in many different ways. Church life can keep you active and motivated and you made a promise to God to give of your time, talents and money but at this point we really need your time and talents. Lord Kitchener's famous image of himself pointing his finger saying 'Britons Lord Kitchener Wants You' can re-imaged to say 'East and Old, God (and Barbara Ann) Wants You' – how will you respond? 'I CAN'T BE BOTHERED' can be wiped out easily and lets us get on living a good and healthy life – what more can you ask? I wish you all a very happy Christmas with family and friends and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

God Bless

Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann



Ministers Plea !

We have just finished COP26 and many, many discussions took place about what countries and big organisations can do to help God's Creation. We have given out our leaflets and seeds and are planting trees and doing the best we **can**.

My PLEA to you this year is not to send Christmas Cards to those people that you see often, maybe every week or every two weeks. Why can't you just wish them a Merry Christmas when you see them. For people in the church can I ask you to put one card on our notice board from you to all the members of East and Old and not send individual cards this year.

Cut down on cards and envelopes, cut the cost of buying them, save paper, save the energy and time it takes to write them and ultimately saves even more recycling in a few weeks' time.

Billy and I will be putting up a single card to this effect this year and in subsequent years.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



This is a brand new venture for the church, which is being run by Alf Birse and John Young of the church. It is held on the **third Wednesday of every month from 7:30pm to 10:00pm**. Alf and John and few others perform their songs the evening and everyone can come along and listen to the music - sometimes it will be an open mic night where others just get up and do a turn. There has now been three folk nights which has proved very, very successful and after every evening Alf and Marion count the money and then hand it over to the church for the church funds. Over the three evenings they have raised £750! Thank you very much Alf and John and please thank all the entertainers on our behalf.

Entry is £5 with tea/coffee and soft drinks being served or BYOB!

Harvest Sunday and BB/GB Dedication Service – this took place on Sunday 26th September and what a bumper of harvest food were donated on the day and the day after. Lowson Memorial Church were very grateful for the donations and for the weekly donations that people bring in to the church each week. It was so good to see the BB and GB in the church on that day also and the wee ones were so funny at times (especially the wee boy who didn't like soup!) Ryan Elliot was presented with his Queens badge and Liz McDougall the leader in charge of the GB was presented with her 30 years' service award – congratulations to them both. The BB then presented Irene and Bill Duthie with gifts from the Company for all the time, effort and dedication they put into working with the BB over so many years. Due to the Covid restrictions nothing could be done sooner and along with the BB the minister, the Kirk Session and the congregation also thank Irene for her work within the Boys' Brigade.



Accord entertainment group – have performed on a couple of occasions over the last month or so and it was so good to be back out performing and entertaining they told us. Fun, laughter and catching up with lots of people.



Tattie Festival: **Week 1 – Tattie Craft Event and Tattie Brunch**

A good number of people attended these events and the craft event was fun followed by homemade tattie soup and tattie and leek soup followed by bars of macaroon. Our minister was shocked, yes **SHOCKED**, that most of the helpers at the brunch had never tried potato scones before! And then there was a discussion about how to cook them! Being from the West of Scotland it had to be fried our minister said! However it was a great morning and everybody left feeling very full up.



Week 2 – Tattie Games Event, Tattie memory dreel and Tattie Tea

The games morning was a hoot and when we ran out of space moved into other areas of the church. Some of the games got peoples' hands dirty, they had to use their brain in others and lots of hand to eye co-ordination. The big hit that day was lunch from McDonalds! The memory event was also a big hit and our minister said she has never seen so many of our members talk so animatedly on any other subject. It took them right back to days they knew well with the stories they shared and also the hard work that it was. A big thanks to Bob Kidd for organising and hosting this event. The tattie tea was great! Four kinds of stovies, oatcakes, trifle and macaroons! The people ate so much they practically rolled out the door. A big thank you to our ladies who made the stovies and helped to serve.

Communion Sunday is always the fourth Sunday in October which was 24th October this year.

Both daytime services were well attended and even though we are still using the fellowship cups due to current restrictions, they were great services. The retiring offering that day was in aid of the Church Fabric Fund and **raised £376.15**. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Remembrance Sunday 14th November - this service was well attended with the retiring offering going to **Poppy Scotland and Erskine Hospital raising £285.22**. Thank you to Jim Nicol, Ian Brymer and to Tyler Lovegrove from the Boys Brigade for laying the church wreaths. Another thank you goes to Mark from the Forfar Instrumental Band for playing the trumpet at the act of remembrance. Our minister asked for minimal decorating of the church this year and Irene Duthie and May Clark made a very impressive job of decorating the church for Remembrance – simple, elegant and very eye-catching—thank you ladies. The service at The Cross resumed this year although numbers were down slightly, but it was good to be part of the Forfar Community remembering those who gave their all.



Leprosy Mission Shoe Appeal – this appeal has been a huge success and very big thank you to everyone who donated, from members to visitors to the church and to people in the community. £1000 was the total raised just from East and Old Church.

Wooded Area at Padanaram – we raised £900 to plant trees in the new wooded area in Padanaram in conjunction with the Woodland Trust and Angus Council. There was enough money for that area and some money left over so we have been given permission to plant two new trees in the church graveyard and these trees are established trees so they cost £150 each from Angus Council. We have also given a tree to Strathmore Primary for them to plant a tree in their grounds and sent money over to Hungary for them to plant a tree in their grounds also. Once again thank you to all who donated money for this wonderful venture which is also helping our environment.



COP26 – In a number of sermons and on-line reflections our minister reiterated the hopes of COP26 and how we can help the people and the lands that are so affected by the changes in the environment. In addition to this a banner was put up on the church rails next to Prima and everyone in church was given a useful hints booklet on how they can help the environment in a small way. The leaflets were also given out in the shop and at the gate to passers-by. We handed out wildflower seeds at the gate our church to encourage people to plant these seeds in their gardens or window-boxes.



Care Home Services – Our minister was delighted to be invited back into Benholm, Finavon and Lochbank Care Homes to conduct worship service once again. Barbara Ann and Elizabeth McLeod visited in November to all three and are to be going back in December. The residents were happy to see them and enjoyed singing the hymns. We are hoping the other three care homes will soon allow church services once again.





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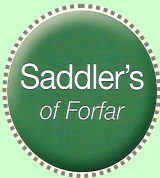
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Staff – Many of you will be aware that our long-standing Church Officer and cleaner Vanessa had to resign from her post due to ill-health. Vanessa is a great loss to East and Old Church and will be sadly missed. A collection was taken for Vanessa and over £400 was given by the members. We now have a new cleaner and her name is Jane. If you are in the building and see her please say hello and offer her a warm welcome. Paula has settled into her new role as administrator and is keeping everyone on their toes. Now that Paula is in this role, we didn't realise how invaluable she has become to the day to day running of the church.

Room Names – we have quite a number of rooms in the church now so to that end we asked all the elders to submit names for the rooms and the Kirk Session took the final decision – so here they are!

Sanctuary, Reception Area, Social Area, Church Office – all ground floor

Willow Room – was the old session house

Activity Room, Rowan Room and Spruce Room – all on the upper floor

Thank you for all the suggestions and for not suggesting 'birch' as one of the room names!

CHURCH BUS



Just to remind everyone that our Church Bus is operating on the first Sunday of each month for the 11:00am services also on Communion Sundays. Any member who wishes to make use of this service should contact Jean Alexander on 463860. Jean has an answer-machine so it is easy to leave a message if she is out.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Flower Festival - Sunday 28th November – this event is happening as this edition was going to print.



Men's Night Out

Men's Christmas Meal in Chapter and Verse at 7:00pm on Thursday 4th December – put your name on the sign-up sheet if you would like to come along.

Absent Friends Service – Sunday 12th December at 2:00pm – Christmas can be a difficult time of year for many people who have lost loved ones recently or in the past. Come along to this service and let their memories surround you and remember them in prayer and music to God.



Winter Wonderland Musical Evening Friday 17th December at 7:00pm – come along for some Christmas spirit and cheer and listen to the Forfar Instrumental Band, Accord and other guests as they perform and entertain us on this evening. Our food selection for the night is very festive – mulled wine, mince pies, shortbread, Tunnocks biscuits, tablet and so much more!

Nativity Service Sunday 19th December at 11:00am – a nativity play with a difference (so be prepared) and will be performed with both children and adults!



Nine Lessons and Carols

19th December at 2:00pm – after the enjoyment of the nativity service why not relax with this quieter and reflective service in the afternoon.

Ladies Christmas Meal in Chapter and Verse at 6:00pm on Thursday 23rd December – put your name on the sign-up sheet in the church if you are coming along.



Friday 24th December at 6:30pm – remember to wear your Christmas Jumpers! We are back and it's all stations go, go, go!

Christmas Day Service at 11:00am – bring along a gift you have been given for this short reflective service.



26th DEC **S**unday 26th December normal morning worship at 11:00am – there will be tea and coffee after this service and a chance to catch up on the Christmas Day mayhem!
(After all these services our minister will need another holiday!)



NEW VENTURES

The Kirk Session believe we need to involve more children and families in church life so to that end we are hoping to start 'TODDLER TIME' (a new name for Parent and Toddler Group) in the church on a Monday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am.

However, to run this we need some volunteers from the church and community to put out the toys, make the tea, coffee and juice and put out snacks. Is this something you can do? Either every Monday or on a rota basis? Please pray about this and give it some consideration and speak to Barbara Ann.

SUNDAY NIGHT PROJECT

On Sunday 19th December we are holding the first of our 'Sunday Night Project' – a new name for a youth club. Karen Liddle is running this new venture every second Sunday evening from 6:30pm and we are hoping some people from the church or community will help out on a rota basis once again. On the 19th it will be a Christmas themed evening with party food, party games, music, entertainment and gifts!

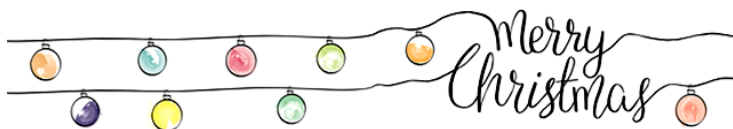
Please pass this information on to any S1-S6 youths.

Book Festival - Our minister and Susan Forbes were knocking ideas about for 2022 and they came up with the idea of a book festival.

The idea will be to have tables of books outside the church in the driveway and inside the building. At various times and places within the building we will have people reading extracts of books and poems.

Do you know any authors who might come along and read from their own book? If so, let us know and we will contact them. We need better weather for this to take place so it'll probably late spring!

Thank you to Friends of East and Old for taking this on-board!



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THE GUILD

In September we had our opening social with the singing group Accord entertaining us, what a lot of talent there is in that group and this fitted in with our theme this year of “Lights and Bushels”.

In October the leadership team took the church service and this again worked well with our theme of using our talents (hopefully well).

Our speakers were Lynn Devine, explaining to us about her role on Angus Council as a “champion for the elderly’ and Heather Munro who spoke to us about what the “green committee” do in the church.

As this is written we are into November and we have had a joint meeting with the other guilds in Forfar with a speaker from one of our projects where Kerry Coull came to talk to us about the eating disorder charity ‘BEAT’. What an inspiring speaker Kerry was, explaining how the charity try to support the whole family of those affected and how she herself has been able to work through an eating disorder that she has had since early adulthood. To end November we will have Mary Ballantyne on the 24th speaking to us about Faberge Eggs.

We are looking forward to our Christmas meal on the 8th December in Chapter & Verse and then we break until January 26th when we will be changing from evenings to afternoon meetings at 2:00pm, starting with Arlene Nelson telling us about her time as a school nurse.

***We wish all our members and readers of this magazine
a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year***





Since we have returned from the October break, we have been busy preparing for our favourite time of the year.....it is of course Christmas!

We are delighted this year to be able to be back in the church in person to perform our retelling of



the Nativity story live. This **year's Nativity will take place on Sunday 19th December**, and we hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a fantastic show.

During this session, the Sunday Club also led their first service on Sunday 21st November. We explored the theme "Reign of Christ" by playing games, reading verses from the Bible and enjoying some lovely hymns.

If your child or grandchild would like to join us, they would be most welcome. We meet in the church from 10:45am every Sunday and finish around noon (during school term time).

Matthew, Joyce, Frances and Karen

At our joint dedication/enrolment service on 26th September Ryan Elliott was awarded his Queens Badge, Liz McDougall of Girls Brigade received her 30 years service badge and a presentation was made to Irene and Bill Duthie, thanking them for all that they do for the Boys' Brigade.



This session began with a Halloween party for all, with some weird and wonderful costumes.

Anchors/Explorers have learnt Bible stories, done experiments and crafts and made Bonfire cakes.

Juniors learnt about dangers in the home, knots, harvest, leaves and about children's lives during wartime. Company section have discovered alternative games, tried out the PIGPEN code and enjoyed a film night.

Tyler Lovegrove laid a wreath in church on behalf of the Boys' Brigade on Remembrance Day.

As always, all sections are looking for helpers on a Thursday night, so if you can spare an hour, even if only for a few weeks, please speak to one of the leaders.

Thank you for your continuing support, it means a lot to all of us.



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

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| ★ The Big Kirk Shop | ★ All Forfar Churches |

Deliveries scheduled for 11th/12th and 18th/19th December.

**Please note that the LAST POSTING DATE is
THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

Hello everyone - Greetings from Zugló church!

We hope you are doing well.

As you may have heard from Barbara Ann, one of our ministers Noémi passed away on November 23rd. She was only 45 and this is a great shock to all members of the congregation. She was the wife of our pastor János who is now left alone with their two teenage children. There is no information about the funeral yet, but the congregation will surely hold a memorial service soon.

The second half of 2021 has been overshadowed by health issues of both of our pastors. Noémi was in hospital from the end of September in critical condition. Her case had nothing to do with covid, her death was caused by an internal medical issue.

Our congregation and other congregations/denominations in Zugló kept praying for her recovery during her hospital stay, but God had something different in mind. The congregation, like a big family, must also go through a period of mourning, after which we'll be able to think of all the nice memories and happy moments we shared with Noémi. But now this looks distant and the process may take several weeks or even months over the Advent period.

Zugló church has officially one elected pastor position (János) and an assistant pastor, so the current situation does not necessarily imply further management change. János can stay with us in the long run and eventually work together with a new minister.

As Noémi was in hospital, the whole work of the congregation got reorganised exempting János from his duties until the end of this year. Many tasks have been taken over by our junior pastor Áron who has earned his degree and got his ordination lately. (He and his wife Erika were with us on the choir trip in 2018.) Áron and Erika are expecting their first babies (twins) in a few weeks' time, so this will be a very difficult period for them. But also happy news.



Another female minister Gyöngyi (pronounced junji) who serves primarily as a religion teacher in schools of Zuglo also helps with worships now. Church members serve as volunteers for administrative duties. Besides the two ministers mentioned, we also get external substitution one Sunday a month.

Worships of our church this year have been going on with personal presence since May, with two services each Sunday. Most worships are audio broadcast live on the internet. Since November, church members have again been asked to wear a mask at church just like they do on public transport and in shops and people are disciplined to do that.

János celebrated his 50th birthday at the end of September and was congratulated at church on September 26th, with greetings from elders, the choir and many church members. Noémi's mother (also a minister) preached at this special service. (She served in the ethnic Hungarian communities of Slovakia, but is now retired.) This was the last time the congregation actually saw Noémi.

To finish with our permanent topic, the pandemic, sees Hungary in the middle of the fourth wave. New cases exceed 10,000 every day and there are over 150 deaths daily. 6 million of the 9.5 million population have been vaccinated twice and about 2 million have had their third jab also. There is an abundance of various vaccines available, but some can't be persuaded to have the vaccination.

The government has enabled employers to make vaccination mandatory for employees or else be put on unpaid leave. However, with a shortage of manpower in many areas and services, employers do not want to risk losing more people due to a decision they don't absolutely have to make.

Thank you for your sympathy and prayers and we hope to be able to give you better news next time.

Mihály

Ministry of Flowers



5	DEC	Lorraine Dick	9	JAN	Jean McEwen
Sundays 12th December to 2nd January 2022 FLOWER GROUP			16	"	Jean Alexander
			23	"	Wilma Simpson
			30	"	Joyce Archibald
			6	FEB	Marjory MacLean

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

Thank you to all who contributed to the flower fund in 2020/21 which brought cheer to so many people and special thanks to everyone in the flower team who make it all possible.

The 2022 Flower Calendar is situated in the Reception area of the church.

If you would like to donate money for flowers for a special date, please add your name & phone number to one of the available slots.

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

August	19	Margaret Lamb	<i>(parish)</i>
September	25	Eleanor Gibson	<i>(parish)</i>
	28	Margaret (Maggie) Main	<i>(member)</i>
	30	Frances (Bunt) Findlay	<i>(member)</i>
October	6	Maureen Milne	<i>(member)</i>
	11	Margaret Robertson	<i>(member)</i>

BAPTISMS

October	3	Ada Avril Forbes
	17	Mirren McKenzie Wilkie



~ **NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES** ~

The deadline for submission of articles for
the **FEBRUARY 2022** issue is
MONDAY 17th JANUARY 2022

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

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