

# The Steeple Times

Spring  
2023





## Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:15am**

† Additional service:

⇒ **First Sunday of the month 09:30am**

## Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: **[bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

<b>Church website:</b>	<a href="http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk">www.thebigkirk.co.uk</a>
<b>Church E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:eando_office@yahoo.co.uk">eando_office@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Scottish Charity No:</b>	SC004921

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# LETTER FROM THE MANSE

*My dear friends*

*We are now into the month of March and as you receive this edition I will be on holiday – YES AGAIN! Billy and I had a lovely week with the family in Gran Canarias in early January with a temperature of 23 degrees during the day and 17-18 degrees at night. However, before I went on holiday, I had a mild case of the flu, so the holiday was a welcome relief and aided my recovery. The one thing that has come to my notice this year is that so many people are catching colds, flus, coughs and Covid, and those catching the Covid seem to have avoided it for the last three years – I know of at least 5 people in this situation. Sadly, there has also been a number of deaths over this time and one of my friends has just been diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease and will be in hospital for months.*

*On the first Sunday in February I preached about Jesus, his healing powers and that Jesus passed these healing powers onto his disciples and ultimately to you and I. We all know the NHS is going through a rough period at this time but where would we be without them – the NHS workers are angels in disguise. Yes, there will be some of you who have been let down by the NHS now or in the past but I for one really appreciate them and thank them and of course the tax-payers who pay for it. The NHS cannot do everything, and they also rely on organisations and individuals in the community to help out – that is where we come in – we are Jesus' healing hands in our community and further afield.*

*In the church we offer companionship, fellowship, warm spaces, two different ways to help people with Dementia and their carers, we support the staff and children at Strathmore Primary School, we support families in the community with*

*pre-school clubs, BB, food parcels and food vouchers. Our shop supports many people in the community and not just because our prices are good but because of the friendly staff who have formed a community in the shop. I know many of you visit and phone members in the church to see how they are doing or if they need shopping and even a wee run in the car somewhere for a coffee.*

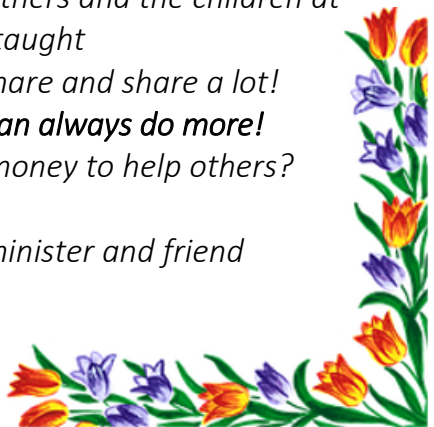
*Another form of healing hands comes from our prayer group. Did you know our prayer group prays for you, your families, this town, and a whole variety of situations both locally and across the world. They meet every week to discuss what is happening in the church and ask for God's support in our missional work, for God's intervention in war torn areas and as I write this letter especially in Turkey and Syria. Can you pray to God and thank God for what we have in our life, for our climate, our houses and food and yes holidays! When was the last time you praised God for all we have? When was the last time we said sorry in our prayers for hurting others or doing wrong? When was the last time you prayed out-with a church service? Praying for others helps them.*

*At the time of writing this letter we had just launched the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for Turkey and Syria and we will let you know how much we raised through retiring offerings and donations in the next issue.*

*Jesus instructed us to care for others and the children at Strathmore Primary are always being taught – Sharing is Caring! Many of you do share and share a lot! However, you know my mantra – **we can always do more!** Can you share your time, talents and money to help others?*

*Every blessing to you all, your minister and friend*

*Barbara Ann*



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ....



**A**t the time of writing this we had just launched an appeal in the church for the Disaster Emergency Committee for Turkey and Syria. The absolute devastation and loss of life is too vast for us to understand. The whole of Forfar being raised to the ground and every person dead does not even reach the devastation in these areas. We have asked people to donate money – not goods! When the Ukraine appeal went out, they received far too many clothes with some reaching the Ukraine and Poland while other donations were given to local charities, recycled and even skipped. The people of Turkey and Syria do not need our clothes – they need money (or the agencies do). Tents, sanitation, generators and so many more essential supplies are needed at this time. If you have not already donated money, we can forward it on for you. A total will be put on Facebook and our Web Page. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

Quite a bit has been happening since our last edition of the Steeple Times. Congratulations must go to our Treasurer Paula and her fiancé Sonny on the birth of their beautiful daughter Yasmin who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and both mum and baby are doing well. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards a donation for them and thank you to Paula for sending us a lovely Thank You card – the money was very much appreciated.



**F**amily Worker - We now have a new employee in the church and her name is **Sheila White-law**. Sheila has settled in well within the church and all our activities. She comes with a wealth of experience and we are delighted she is with us.



## Heat Hub

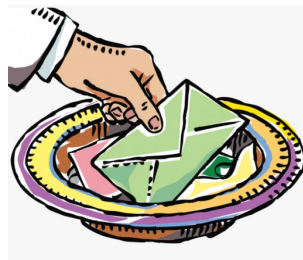
The Heat Hub is open to everyone Monday to Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm and although it was a little slow to start with, it is very

rarely that we do not have a whole variety of people popping in. Some just for 15 minutes others are there for the full three hours and many people pop in not because they don't want to put their heating on but because they like to have company and a bit of a chat. If your bus doesn't turn up or is running late – pop in for a cuppie and a chat or read the newspapers. A big, big thank you to the volunteers who help at the heat hub Monday to Friday.

**N**ew Property Convener – after Angus Spence stepped down as property convener and left the buildings in a great condition with a full list of instructions and relevant dates, our minister took on the role for a few months. Barbara Ann is delighted that from the beginning of February, Alf Birse took over this role. Remember if you see anything wrong with the building let Alf know, if you see litter around the building – pick it up. Please use the recycling bins in the corridor beside the disabled and ladies toilets – don't leave it lying in the kitchen.



**W**eekly Freewill Offering – after many, many years of organising the weekly freewill offering envelopes and being on the count every Sunday morning our thanks go to Jean Alexander as she steps away from this role. None of us are sure how long Jean has been doing this task but it is a very long time. Thank you to Margaret Myles for taking over this role and we offer her our support.



**A**rt Group – our art group, which was started and lead by Mary Daun meets every Thursday in the social area. The art group hold exhibitions, produce a calendar every year and are very warm and welcoming to any newcomers. Sadly, Mary has had to step down as the group leader and organiser but is still attending and helping other artists. Therefore, we are delighted that Glenda Robertson (Maryton Glenda and not Kingsmuir Glenda) has taken over the role as group leader. The date of the next exhibition is set for the end of August 2023 and deadlines have been set for the calendar also.



**F**lick N' Chip Night – this took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November where everyone enjoyed a lovey supper from North Street Fish and Chip shop and then watched 'Sully' on the big screens.



**Our next film night will be on 23 March** and we will be showing 'Bruce Almighty' – a fun look at being God for the day.

**F**orfar Outdoor Christmas Market – we took a stall at the market, but it was a cold and wet day and also so many other organisations had events on that same day – it really was a pity people were split in so many different ways or where to go and who to support. We handed out free chocolates with little blessing cards in them and on our stall we sold sweetie jars full of different chocolates.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated the chocolates the three weeks before. Doug Robertson was also part of our stall selling his woodwork designs which once again proved to be very popular. Doug makes the items, sells them and gives the church most of the profits. He keeps a little of the money to buy more wood – thank you so much Doug!







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- ◆ 8 The Cross, Forfar  
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- ◆ 9 High St, Kirriemuir

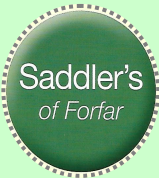
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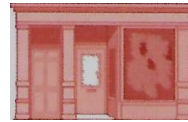
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**2<sup>nd</sup> Forfar Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies** – it was with deep sadness that just before Christmas our Girls' Brigade captain Elizabeth (Liz) McDougall died suddenly. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, parents and extended family members. To that end it is not viable to have a Girls' Brigade company in their own right and we thank Caroline Orr for her work as a leader within our GB company and for the extra work in now closing the company down. Some of the girls who attended on a Thursday night had asked to stay on so the Boys Brigade leaders agreed to this and a name change has now been made they will **now be known as 2<sup>nd</sup> Forfar Boys' Brigade and Girls Association**. In addition to this we now have two new leaders within the company – one who has completed their training and we welcome Jenny and Andy Lovegrove.

Just under £5000 was raised from the recent Christmas Card delivery. Grateful thanks to those who helped out in any way.

This session so far has been busy learning new games, such as hand tennis, and making crafts for Valentine's Day, learning about home and road safety and geography of the British Isles and number puzzles.

Three of our Company Section boys are undertaking their President's Badge and attended a course towards this on 19th February.

Plans are going forward to arrange a weekend camp towards the end of May, beginning of June. Meanwhile we continue with our programme and as always, new recruits and anyone willing to help out, even just for an hour or a week or two, will be made very welcome.

**G**ift Service – once again our members of East and Old outdid themselves at our annual gift service. A huge amount and variety of toys for all ages, hairdryers, tongs, makeup, aftershave for the older children and so much more. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

### ~ Pyjama Appeal ~



While working at Inverarity church our minister discovered that they along with Glamis church hold a **Pyjama Appeal** each winter for Angus Social Work Department and naturally we now do too! An appeal went out just before the toy appeal and over 100 pairs of brand-new pyjamas were brought into the church and then taken to the Social Work Department.

Our members could simply not believe that in our town today some children go to bed cold and either have no pyjamas or threadbare pyjamas. Again thank you, thank you, thank you!



As though our minister had not got us spending enough money already another **Reverse Advent Appeal** was launched and generously taken on

board once again by our members. For 24 days the members were asked to buy something from the list of items given out.

Things like: - toothpaste, soap, washing-up liquid, soap powder, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, long life milk, selection box, teabags, coffee, and on and on the list goes as well as bringing in £2 every Sunday.

Over these three appeals some of our members must have spent well over £100 - **Sharing is Caring!**

**C**hurch Christmas Concert – CCC – A big thank to Matthew for organising this great evening with a huge variety of acts on the stage. Thank you for all the raffle donations and the beautiful table decorations which everyone wanted to win. Thank you also to folks who set up the tables, provided and served the refreshments – a great evening all around.



**C**hristingle Making – our numbers were a little down for making the Christingles this year, but we got through all the oranges pretty quickly. As the sweets were being put on the cocktail sticks there was a little bit of one for the stick one for me! However, there was plenty to go around! All the Christingles were made and set in the church for the next day.



**T**he Christingle Service was held on Christmas Eve – after a 2-year absence we were back!

Thank you to everyone who came along, to those who took part and those who contributed to the retiring offering which came to well over £300. This was split between the local **Guide Dogs Association and Riding for the Disabled in Angus**. Santa was a big hit as usual at the end and the variety of Christmas jumpers was amazing.

**M**idnight Service on Christmas Eve at Glamis Church – as you know our minister also looks after Inverarity Church which is a union with Glamis Church at present. Inverarity have a service at the same time as our Christingle so Barbara Ann was unable to do it. Therefore, she and the Rev Carleen Robertson organised that Rev Carleen would cover Inverarity at 6:30pm and Barbara Ann would cover Watchnight Service at Glamis starting at 11:30pm. The service was well attended with over 70 people and a big thank you to the members of East and Old who came along on the night to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The warm mulled wine and baking was very welcome at the end.

**C**hristmas Day Service – this service is never very busy but we had a good turn out this year from our members, their families and we always welcome a few visitors to the church on this day and it was no different – 7 new faces. It could be that our service is the only one locally that starts at 11:00am.



**N**ew starting time – the Kirk session along with Inverarity Kirk Session took the decision to amend the starting times of morning worship. **The Inverarity starts 15 minutes earlier at 9:45am and East and Old starting time is 15 minutes later at 11:15am.** No one has really commented on the new start times, so we are taking it that people are happy with it – we know the minister is as she doesn't need to rush from one church to the other.

**11:15 AM**

**N**ew Name – East and Old Church and Inverarity Church are joining together hopefully very soon, which means we need a new name for the church. A number of suggestions were put forward and at the last Kirk Session meeting and the names were whittled down to the three most popular as shown below (not listed in order of preference.)

A final decision will be made with both Kirk Sessions very soon.

*East, Old and Inverarity*

*The Big Kirk and Inverarity*

*The Steeple Church and Inverarity*



**P**rayers Group – our prayer group has changed time and venue and now meet every Thursday in the church office from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. They have also changed the format so that people do not feel threatened about praying aloud and discuss what it is that we, our community and world need to prayer about.



**B**ible Study – why not come along to our monthly Bible Study group in the church office **once a month on a Tuesday evening from**

**6:30pm to 7:30pm.** We look at a bible passage and think through anything that we agree with or disagree with and how that relates to us today. It is an informal meeting with lots of different views shared and it is amazing what we learn about the bible, ourselves, others and different situations.

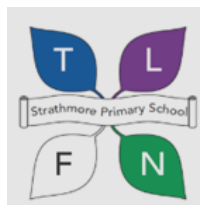


**T**he Wellbean Café now run their café in the church **every Tuesday** between **12 noon and 2:00pm** and is open to everyone in the community. What a fantastic lunch you get. On offer every week is home-made soup, toasties with a variety of fillings, home-made cheese scones and as much tea, coffee and juice as you can drink. However, there is also a dish of the day which is sometimes themed to fit in with the time of year. There's been Haggis, Beef Hot Pot, Stovies, Curry, Baked Potatoes and so much more. Cost – a donation if you can afford it!



**C**osy Corner Café is our own lunch club and is held **every Wednesday** from **12 noon** where you have a choice of home-made soup and a selection of sandwiches. Everyone is welcome and once again all that is asked is a donation.

**S**trathmore Primary School – we all know what a great relationship our minister has with the staff and pupils of Strathmore Primary and now Sheila our family worker is involved there too. The school were delighted to receive all the food at Christmas and many of the Strathmore families received vouchers for £20 at the end of January to help with their food bills and this was in conjunction with Angus Council Food Provision and ourselves. Barbara Ann was also invited to help judge the Scottish Poetry Competition for P2 to P7 and she said that the standard was excellent, the diction super, the acting and the enthusiasm were a joy to see and hear.





**F**orfar Disabled Club – the disabled club had to vacate their meeting premises for a couple of weeks and East and Old were delighted to be able to help out along with our BB company. The first week they used our social area but the second week the whole church was busy – with most of the rooms in use so the BB leaders reorganised their evening to help accommodate the Disabled Club. A few of our members turned up to help set up the chairs and tables upstairs and took up the cups and tea and coffee - thank you to the helpers. Thank you also to the Disabled Club for their donation for the use of the premises – we were glad to be able to help them out.

**O**ngoing Training – a number of people in the church are trained in using the defibrillator situated in the building, and a number are trained in First Aid, food hygiene and hygiene in the kitchen and now our minister is trained in administering naloxone to people who have overdosed on drugs. As a Kirk Session we have been instructed for all elders to be trained in safeguarding. At present only 4 elders plus our minister have this training so over the next little while all our elders will need this training to be completed. The general Assembly of the Church of Scotland has also instructed that all ministers need advance training and then leadership training in this area.



Communion Sunday is always the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April and October so we warmly invite you to the **Sacrament of Communion on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 11:00am and 2:30pm.**

If you are attending the 2:30pm service, we hope you will stay for some afternoon tea following the worship service.

Remember we can offer transport to and from the church.

## THE STORM

*A storm wis brewin' ae Seterday nicht,  
The wind blawin' wi' a its micht,  
Howlin' through every crack and cranny,  
Frichtnin' the life oot o' oor wee Danny.*

*Snaw noo wis fa'in fest,  
Swirlin' roond fae east tae west,  
Doors bangin'- slates rattlin',  
Through the drifts fouk battlin'.*

*Trees lyin' about the roads,  
Workers scurryin' tae their abodes,  
Fair pleased tae be inside,  
Warm and cosy at their ane fireside.*

*Lichts flickerin, then gaen oot,  
Doon the lum comes a lump o' soot,  
Somebody stands on the cat's tail,  
Grandad cowps his jug o'ale.*

*A flash o' lichtnin' brichtens the room,  
A clap o' thunder comes rumblin' doon,  
Syne through the roof wi' sic a clatter,  
The auld Oak tree made a' body scatter.*

*The icy blast gies up at last,  
Nae langer are we in its grasp,  
Danny's heid keeks roon' the chair,  
"Can I come oot noo, is the storm nae mair?"*

Ruth M Stewart

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The ever-popular folk nights have now restarted for 2023. The venue is the same, **but the time has changed**. A few people thought it was going on too late, so the **start time is now 7:00pm** in the church sanctuary and a very warm and relaxed welcome awaits you. A variety of acts perform with a variety in style of music and singing. £5.00 is payable at the door and all proceeds go to the church. A big thanks to Alf and John for coming up with this idea last year. **Remember it's the third Wednesday of every month – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June.**



## THE GUILD

We held our first meeting of 2023 at the beginning of February with our speaker Marlene Graham, who for 12 years has run the Charlie and Tara legacy. This is a local group, set up to help rescue ill-treated dogs and cats in Eastern Europe. This was followed on 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by a visit from author Kenneth Stephen who spoke to us about 'Land, Connection and loss'; -he is an advocate for country workers in Scotland, especially crofters, farmers, ghillies and gamekeepers and highlighted the problem of carbon offset projects in the highlands.

In March we start the month with Bob Kidd telling us about the visit to Oberammergau that some of the church members made last year then we will have our **AGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am till 11:30am we will have our Coffee Morning,** so I hope you can come along and support us.

Into April and we close our session on the 5th with entertainment from the church group Accord.

If you feel that you would like to come along to one of our meetings, you will be made most welcome.

# Dates for your Diary

Thursday	23rd March	Flick n' Chip Night (Movie: Bruce Almighty)	6:00pm
Thursday	6th April	Maundy Thursday Service East & Old <u>OR</u> Inverarity	7:00pm
Friday	7th April	Good Friday Service East & Old <u>OR</u> Inverarity	7:00pm
Sunday	9th April	Easter Outdoor Service Forfar Loch	8:00am
		Easter Day Service Inverarity Church	9:45am
		Easter Day Service East & Old	11:15am
Saturday	15th April	Quiz Night	
Saturday	22nd April	Pop Up Breakfast	
Sunday	23rd April	Sacrament of Communion	11:00am
		Sacrament of Communion (followed by Afternoon Tea)	2:30pm
Sunday	7th May	Coronation Lunch after morning worship. Tickets £15 for a two-course meal and refreshments. Sign-up sheet coming soon and will be in the church and shop.	
Saturday	27th May	Coffee Morning	
Saturday	19th August	Floral Art Display	
Saturday	23rd September	Glitz and Glamour Evening (Fundraiser to repair stained glass windows)	

The **2023 Flower Calendar** is situated in the Reception area of the church.

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

There are plenty of free slots from July onwards.



## Ministry of Flowers



5	MAR	Margaret Myles	23	APR	Alison McLaren
12		Bruce Simpson	30		Bob Beedie
19		Mr & Mrs Ian Robertson	7	MAY	Mr & Mrs D Robertson
26		Ruth Stewart	14		Mr & Mrs J Herron
2	APR	May Clark	21		J Gair & CJ Milne
9		Sheena Benvie	28		Jean McEwen
16		Jean smith	4	JUN	Helen Todd

*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***

### ~ NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES ~

The deadline for submission of articles for the **SUMMER 2023** issue is **MONDAY 15th MAY 2023**

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

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

## DEATHS

12	December	James (Jimmy) Nicoll	( Member )
12	"	George Richardson	( Member )
30	"	Henry Lander	( Member )
3	January	Alexander (Sandy) Fraser	( Member )
17	"	George Bruce	( Member )
21	"	Keith Ferguson	( Member )
24	"	Richard (Dick) Guild	( Parish )
25	"	Patricia Milne	( Member )

## WEDDING

24 February Chloe Higgins to Alic Crawford



Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Depute Session Clerk</li> <li>■ Roll Keeper</li> </ul>	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Treasurer</li> <li>■ Administrator</li> </ul>	Paula Stewart eastandold@yahoo.com	07897456655
FWO Treasurer	Margaret Myles	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Steeple Times Editor</li> <li>■ Flower Group Admin</li> </ul>	Catriona Milne steepletimeseditor@gmail.com	07962065936
Organist/Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
The Sunday Club	Matthew Scott	07561317812
Family Worker	Sheila Whitelaw familyworker@yahoo.com	07735938528
Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
Property Convener	Alf Birse a.birse@sky.com	01307 464702 07828073658
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 & Girls Association	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228