

EAST AND OLD PARISH CHURCH FORFAR



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

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends

The deadline for material into the Steeple Times for this edition is 15th May and as I sit down to write this, it is Tuesday 9th May because in just over 36 hours 17 of us will be heading to Edinburgh Airport to travel to Switzerland to visit our friends in Dubendorf Church linked with Schwerzenbach Church for 5 days. Sometimes we get caught up in our own wee world, our own country, our own communities and that is good to a point, but we are part of the Worldwide Church and within that Worldwide Church only a very small cog on a very big wheel.

East and Old are delighted that we are twinned with Zuglo Church in Hungary and linked to Dubendorf and Schwerzenbach and each of these churches including our own vary slightly in our views of church life, the Word of God and how we put our faith into action. Just a couple of weeks ago I was speaking to a young girl aged 10 years of age who attended a Roman Catholic Church and a Roman Catholic School in Glasgow. What a great conversation I had with her. She asked if I was a Christian because she could see my necklace that I wear with a cross. I explained I was a member of the Church of Scotland and a protestant. Her reply — but are you a Christian?

I went on to explain that yes, I was and that her religion and mine were not very different and my role in the church was similar to that of a priest in her church. That brought on many more questions! I was a woman; I was married, and I had children – priests can't do any of that she reliably informed me.

So, we sat for a little while longer while I explained the basic differences between our religions and then briefly mentioned that even in the Roman Catholic Church some churches and priests differed in their views and beliefs as did many in the Church of Scotland and many other denominations. Little did I know that behind me there were a number of people listening in with interest. Why is it that children are never afraid to ask questions and the adults are? No one has all the answers on the bible, theology, or faith.

Over the years we have also been blessed with hosting numerous members of other worldwide churches — in fact it has been at least one a year since 2012 plus other guests at other times and who can forget our family from Syria who came and stayed at the manse for a 5-day holiday. Once the General assembly finishes on Thursday 25th May, Billy and I will be hosting Dianna Wright who works for the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America — PCUSA for short! Dianna will be joining us for morning worship on the Sunday and we will be hearing about different aspects of religion and faith in her home country.

Never be afraid to ask question of me either in the church or outside it as I am really glad to talk about God anytime and no question is a silly or stupid question because if you don't know the answer you don't know it and if I don't know

the answer then I will certainly go and research it.

Every blessing to you all

Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

ew Parish Name – East, Old and Inverarity Parish is our new parish name whilst keeping our own identities as East and Old Church in Forfar and Inverarity Church in Inverarity. This whole process of Glamis and Inverarity splitting and then Inverarity joining us is really dragging out and people on all sides are getting a bit fed up with it as we feel we are in limbo land. However, we are hoping it will move on quite quickly now, but we believe there needs to be a congregational vote so look out for the information coming your way. That's unless it's decided this is not needed!

ible Study – why not come along to our monthly bible study in the church office once a month on a Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. We look at a bible passages 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

The Well Bean Café is run in the church every Tuesday between 12noon 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, each Tuesday there is also a dish of the day and sometimes it's 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!

HOLY WEEK BERVICES

aundy Thursday service - Thursday 6th April – another good turn out for this special worship service with members of E&O and Inverarity joining together. Everyone sat around a table and enjoyed a small meal throughout the 'last supper' service.



ood Friday service - Friday 7th April at Inverarity — one of the most special dates in the Christian Calendar and we held this service at Inverarity Church where once again the members of E&O and Inverarity worshipped together.

A very thought-provoking service.

Saster Outdoor service - Sunday 9th April at 8am at the Lochside – for once it was not freezing cold, however the numbers at this service are getting less and less but it was a joy to worship the Risen Lord with other members of the Christian community in Forfar.





aster Day service Sunday 9th April, 9:45am at Inverarity Church - A quick dash from the Lochside to Inverarity for breakfast at 8:45am followed by the worship service. A good turnout at Inverarity and lots of interaction.

aster Day service Sunday 9th April at 11:15am

– another quick dash to East and Old for our
minister for another super worship service with
everyone going home with a chocolate egg!

Christ is risen - He is risen indeed!

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



Training Sessions – As a Kirk Session we have been instructed by Church of Scotland that all elders have to be trained in safe-



guarding. Over the last month nearly all our elders attended the training and now have their certificates to prove it! Thank you to everyone who took 4 hours out of their evening to attend these trainings.

Quiz night 15th April – what a fun evening at the church and some of the answers to the questions were even funnier. Some folk who didn't know the answers to some of the questions just started making things up! Congratulation to Marion Duncan's team on winning



the quiz night. Thanks to Sheena Benvie our quizmaster but remember – don't mess with her – it was her quiz and she had the final say!



Pop-up Breakfast Saturday 22nd April – talk about overindulging! Fruit, pancakes, cream, bacon, eggs, sausage, cheese, croissants, toast, to name a few of what was on offer. Thank you to everyone who came along and big thank you to our cooks and servers and especially our BB company boys who were the waiters.



ommunion Sunday, 23rd April
Our Communion in April was well
attended at both services and the minister

said it was lovely to see so many people willing to come and share the sacrament of Holy Communion together with other members of the church. Over 60 people stayed behind after the 2:30pm worship service and enjoyed a very nice and relaxing afternoon tea with pancakes, scones, meringues, tray bakes, cakes and so much more. Tea and coffee were in abundant supply. Thank you to those who baked and set up and of course cleared up!

C oronation Lunch - This was held on Sunday 7th May after morning worship – what a fantastic lunch and some great company and fellowship. Alison Beattie catered for the main buffet meal and some of the ladies of the social committee made all the puddings. Thank you to the team who turned up on Friday morning to move all the seats and put the tables up. This was followed in the afternoon by the team setting up the tables with table covers, special place mats, beautiful centre pieces for the table made by Doug Robertson and Bill Duthie,

a beautiful flower arrangement from May Clark and specially wrapped coronation chocolate bars and coronation love hearts. The bunting and flags took an age to go up but thank you to that team and the cake was so very, very special. A three-tier cake with a crown sitting on a purple pillow — a work of art — thank you Sheila Kerr and it tasted as good as it looked!





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Switzerland Trip 2023



At the end of last year 18 members of the church signed up to visit our partner church in Switzerland at Dubendorf Church linked with Schwerzenbach Church which is on the outskirts of Zurich during the period 11th to 15th May. Flights booked, those staying with hosts matched up and the hotel rooms booked for those staying in the hotel. Catherine (the minister at Schwerzenbach) and Barbara Ann liaised to form a programme of events. Sadly, one of our members had to cancel two weeks before departure and then the evening before departure another two had to pull out leaving 15 people jetting off. The minibus and one car set off the following morning.

At the airport most people got through bag drop however three were left standing in a large queue and another two with special assistance were whisked off. Security became a bit troublesome with three of the group having liquids either confiscated or thrown out while the three at check-in just made it through in time for the flight — what a start. After that all was good with the flight to Heathrow and then the connection to Zurich which was delayed a little.

All the cases arrived in Zurich, and they were met at arrivals by the Rev Catherine, other friends Annemaire who is an elder and Susanne who is a member of their church, holding up saltires. Hugs, kisses and laughter all around, old friends reacquainted, and new friends made. A lovely supper was waiting for the group when they arrived in Dubendorf and then it was off to bed.



On Friday morning there was a presentation by their environmental team and input from our group (watch out Barbara Ann picked up some new ideas) and yet more tea/coffee and croissants. Then they met some of the staff and heard about their missional work. They have over 20 members of staff both full time and part time. Half the group went to lunch in the centre with people who are on low or no income which runs every day while the other half lunched with the elderly members of the church and community which runs every Friday.



After lunch it was off to EMPA – a well-respected and state of the art research institute – the group said it was an amazing experience!

After a couple of hours, they walked around the corner and received a multitude of cakes, tea/coffee/beer – as much as they wanted!

At that point the group split with some heading for an informal walk about in Zurich while the others attend a Taizé worship service which involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, a period of silence, liturgical readings, and icon - there is no preaching. Then everyone fell into bed!

Saturday was the day trip to Basle with members from their church and our group. A visit to Mission 21 to hear about their history and visit the archives and then a beautiful lunch in the grounds. A short trip to the centre of Basle and then to visit the Basle Minister with a guided tour with a number of our members climbing the 250 steps up the tower! And then sadly it was time for more tea/coffee and cake. Back by 7:00pm and it was free time to spend with hosts and those in the hotel out for a meal.

Sunday morning was worship in Schwerzenbach Church where Barbara Ann preached and both Catherine and Barbara Ann shared the communion service. The people were so warm, friendly and welcoming and the musicians were excellent. Schwerzenbach presented our group with a lithograph of their church in the past which was originally painted by a local well-known artist and our group presented

Schwerzenbach with a handmade cross which was made by Doug Robertson with the word Scotland going across the T-bar and Switzerland going down with the 'T' in the centre of the cross for Scotland and Switzerland.

After worship Catherine and Barbara Ann planted a tree followed

by members of the group shovelling the soil;

Karen, Sandra, Billy and Johnny. Refreshments after church, followed by lunch and then they were all off for an historical tour of Zurich.

Back to Dubendorf for the farewell meal, entertainment and lots of fun and laughter.

Sad farewells were made and on Monday morning and it was off to the airport. The flight was delayed slightly but time was made up however at Heathrow they had 50 minutes to make the transfer from

this flight to the Edinburgh one. The two passengers with assistance were whisked away and everyone else rushed on through security and

passport control to get to the gate.
When Barbara Ann and Billy
arrived at the gate with 15 minutes to
spare, everybody had already boarded
and they were the last two! However,
as Barbara Ann's boarding pass was
scanned, she was asked to seek assistance. The staff at the gate asked if
she was in charge of the 15 people in
the group booking which she replied
yes to. They informed her 6 of the
group had not yet turned up and gave
her their names. She got on her phone



to some of them but no joy – not one of them was answering. Several calls went out over the loudspeaker but nothing. Eventually Barbara Ann was asked to board the gate and was last on the plane meaning that the six missing members of the group (even if they turned up in the next two minutes) would not be allowed to board. Barbara Ann



was frantically trying to contact the other group members as well as looking at times of alternative flights, could the ones on the plane wait on the next flight or what else could be done. Some sent a text to her saying the next flight they could get on was at 9:45pm that evening whereas this flight was at 3:20pm.

So, in the end the 3:20pm flight took off

leaving the missing six in London. Problems continued at arrivals in Edinburgh with only eight of the fifteen cases there – not everyone



who'd landed in Edinburgh had their luggage, it was still in London and other cases had arrived in Edinburgh for those who were still in London. Johnny very kindly offered to drive back to Edinburgh later that night and pick up the stranded six group members! All the group got home eventually, all cases have been delivered and there are lots

of stories that are missed out in this blurb – we will just have to organise an evening to fill you in on everything else! The reason, the six people missed the flight was a hitch at the boarding pass scanner - a bit too long to explain here but it turns out one of the boarding passes for the London to Edinburgh flight that



was issued in Zurich had the wrong name on it which caused that person to be stopped and when other members went to help, they all got stopped from coming through also! Thank you to Barbara Ann for organising this trip and booking everything and to the wonderful people of Dubendorf and Schwerzenbach for an amazing five days.





Hello, I'm Sheila Whitelaw, **Family Worker** for our church. It has been 5 months since I started this job, and it has been busy.

Between Baby Blether and Toddler Time we support around 40 families, with a good turnout each week and it's great to see the children becoming more and more

confident - it's very welcoming and friendly.

We now have volunteers from the congregation who assist with snacks and even enjoy a wee play with the children and chatting to the parents.

One of our regular volunteers is Ailish, she brings a lot of fun to the groups and the children enjoy spending time with her.

Toddler Time is Monday mornings 9:15 to 11:15

Baby Blether is Friday mornings 9:15 to 11:15



A new group started in April – **Neurodiverse** - for families who have under 5's with autism, or ADHD. There has been some interest, however no one has attended as yet.

I have made fantastic links with Strathmore Primary School, Strathie café takes place every second Wednesday 9:00 to 10:30, this now includes P6's who take part in a quiz and their parents are encouraged to come along and have a coffee and a chat.

I am assisting in Mrs. Bruce's P1 class this has given me a great opportunity to get to know the children and how diverse the afternoon is for them.

Future Groups - I am looking to set up a Lego Club after the summer holidays one afternoon a week after school and am looking for Lego so if anyone has any hidden in cupboard and they would like to donate it, I would love to have it, also if anyone has any spare time to volunteer I would love to hear from you.



2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade and Girls Association

All Sections have been very busy over the last few months.

We have made Star Light boxes and visited Mills Observatory.

The Boys have showed off their skills during a circus-themed night, including an excerpt from "The Greatest Showman".

Mother's Day crafts and Easter nests were made, followed by an evening of Keep Fit Bingo.

In the run up to the Coronation, shields have been designed and crowns fashioned.

The Company boys have been busy with competitions and have helped out as servers at both the Pop-Up Breakfast and Coronation Lunch at the church.

Awards/Parents Evening will be held on Thursday, 25th May, when Irene Duthie will be our Inspecting Officer.

Our 1st camp since the Covid pandemic will take place on the weekend of 2nd-4th June at the Jock Neish Centre, Tannadice.

We will resume activities again in late August/September, hopefully with some new members.



At the beginning of March Bob Kidd told us about the visit last year to Oberammergau that some of the church members made and this was followed by a project meeting on the 8th at St Margarets where we heard about 'Pioneers – Chocolate Heaven' where they help the farmers get a fair price for their product, we even got to sample the chocolate, just lovely.

On the 15th we held our AGM. Saturday 18th we had a Coffee Morning and thanks to all who helped make it a special day.

At the beginning of April we held our closing social with entertainment from Accord and would you believe we had 6 members who's birthdays were that week so what better way to celebrate than with cake, whoopee!

Into May on Thursday 25th we will join with other guilds to have a 'Songs of Praise' at Kirriemuir Church. On 31st we hope to get together for a chat and to finalise the summer trip.

We are busy in June as East & Old Church was chosen to hold one of the Guild Gatherings on 14th of the month and we will have members coming from all over Dundee and Angus to hear the speakers Helen Eckford (national convenor) and Karen Gillon (general secretary) in the morning with our own minister (Rev. Barbara Ann) speaking to us in the afternoon.

Looking forward to that.

To finish off our session we are having our 'summer trip' to Banchory, followed by high-tea at Edzell and this will be on Wednesday 21st June.

We hope you will have a wonderful summer and we will all get together again in October.

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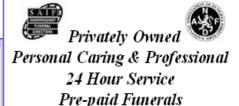


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trawberry Tea on Thursday 29th June at 7:00pm in Inverarity Church Hall.

Come and join us at our Strawberry Tea. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children.





Floral Art Display and demonstration & Afternoon Tea This will take place on Saturday 19th August at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea at 3:00pm.

Our arranger is still to be confirmed but we are sure it will be as good as it always is.

rt Exhibition – once again our talented members of the art group are putting on an Art Exhibition from Saturday 26th August through to Friday 1st September in the church. They will also be producing a calendar of their work once again this year



S

aturday 23rd September

GLUTZ & GLAMOUR EVENING

This is our first big fundraiser for quite some time, and it is to start



raising funds towards the renovation of our stained-glass windows. The last quote was just over £100,000 so we have a long way to go. We are looking for grants to help with this, but we need to get a move along ourselves because some grant offers are match-funded which means

we need money in the bank to start with. Put the date in your diary Saturday 23rd September and start saving up so you can spend lots of money on the evening. Watch out for more information as we will be looking for donations of goods/time/money. The windows at the rear of the church are already renovated and what a difference it has made to them. Have a look at them the next time you are in the church.



ible Reading – we are always looking for people to put their name down on the reading rota. It is kept in the social area on the windowsill or on top of the freezer (now stored in the new cupboard to the right of the kitchen door in social area) – please put your name down.



unday Refreshment – this rota is kept beside the tea rota and we are really struggling to fill it. Please consider putting your



name down – we need two people each week and it is not a lot of work. You arrive a bit earlier and leave a bit later and everyone pitches in to help. Thank you to the very few men who have their name down and thank

you to our regulars for helping out and to Esther for keeping it going week by week.

REGULAR EVENTS (held in the Social Area) **Toddler Time *** 9:15am - 11:15am **MONDAY** Music Café 2:00pm - 3:15pm **TUESDAY** Well Bean Café 12noon - 2:00pm **WEDNESDAY Cosy Corner Lunch** 12:00noon - 1:00pm **THURSDAY** 1:30pm - 4:00pm **Art Group FRIDAY Baby Blether *** 9:15am - 11:15am * during School Terms only



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2	JUL	May Clark	20	u	Jean Alexander
9	"	Mrs McLeod	27	u	Sheena Ewart
16	"	Karen Kelly	3	SEP	May Clark

Please pass your donations <u>prior</u> 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**

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

2	March	Mary Robb	(Member)
11	u	James Watt	(Member)
28	u	Kathleen Yule	(Member)
2	April	Robert Robertson	(Member)
22	u	Gordon Robertson	(Member)

BAPTISM

2 April Yasmin Jane Ali



\sim NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES \sim

The deadline for submission of articles for the AUTUMN 2023 issue is MONDAY 15th AUGUST 2023

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

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Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569			
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