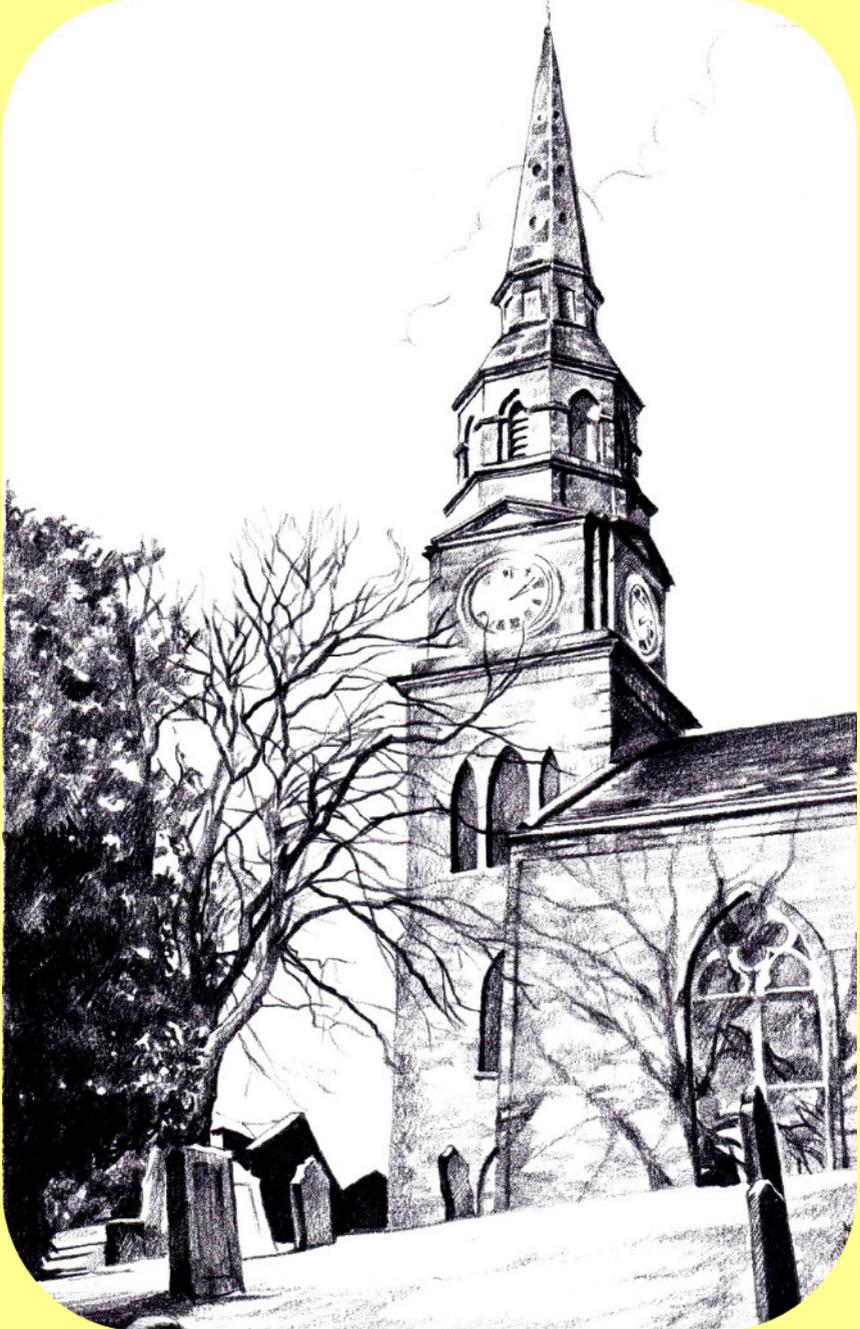


The Steeple Times

May
2022



**EAST AND OLD
PARISH CHURCH
FORFAR**



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

E-mail: **bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk**

Church website: www.thebigkirk.co.uk

Church E-mail: eando_office@yahoo.co.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC004921

find us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk/>

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello everyone

Over the past few months I am sure like me you have been horrified with the news and images coming from Ukraine and the people and country of Ukraine are in my prayers continually as are the Russian leaders, and I know we are to love our neighbours but when you see such devastation and destruction by a world leader it does feel difficult! Then to see that same world leader in his church on Easter Sunday – well his interpretation of being a Christian is very different to mine. I would like to thank the many people who donated money to our Ukrainian appeal a couple of months ago and we raised over £1800 which was bank transferred immediately. Many of you know that Billy and I have registered with the Homes for the Ukrainians but we need to wait to see how many people are coming to Scotland and which areas they will be settled in – I did hear a rumour that Angus Council are looking to house some refugees in the Montrose area. It is not simply a case of people moving into an area there needs to be a support mechanism also and access to other Ukrainian families – watch this space!

Easter Sunday was only a short time ago and we talked of death and resurrection but also of hope, peace, love and the birth of something new and that is very evident when you witness the various countries helping not only the Ukrainian government but also the Ukraine people in their homeland and all the countries who have taken in refugees. ‘When I needed a neighbour were you there’. We may not have any refugees coming to Forfar but I hope and pray we can continue to support this awful crisis in different ways but especially through

prayer which only costs you a little of your time.

And that leads me on to talking about hope, peace and birth in our own area when quite a number of our members helped to plant the trees that we purchased for the new woodland area in Padanaram. The woodland area has been named 'Garden of Hope' in memory of the Covid-19 and Pandemic period that affected all our lives and dedicated to anyone who lost their lives, their families, the workers and so many more. We are getting a plaque made and will have a special service of dedication in the near future.

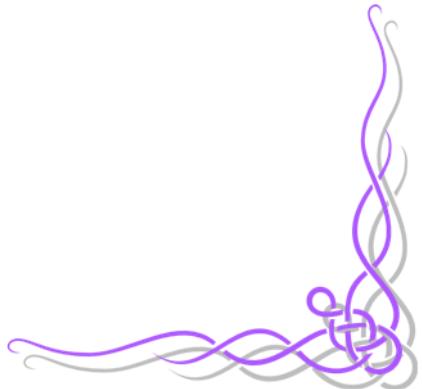
And talking of hope and birth, everything in the church is up and running once again and I am full of hope that many of the people who came along to our organisations and events will return once more as well as volunteering to help in various activities. No matter what is going on in your life remember the resurrection story of Easter – renewal of life, light and hope. What can you do to offer new life or hope to a person or situation?

I wish you every blessing as the summer approaches.

Your friend and minister

Barbara Ann

PS. Billy and I would like to thank you for your good wishes on the birth of our second grandson Theo Alexander Sweetin born on 12th April.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Forfar Churches and surrounding village churches Congregation update

There is a big change coming within the Church of Scotland. The Church of Scotland, following years of decline have made some difficult, hard and big decisions at the General Assembly (GA) last year. In the year 2000 the Church of Scotland had 650,000+ members and we are now under 300,000. We are waiting to see what the new census figures will show! One of the decisions at the GA was to cut the number of ministries down from 1040 ministers in 2011 to just around 500 ministers for the whole of Scotland in the next few years. This is a massive cut in the number of ministers and, alongside a parallel buildings review which looks to reduce the church buildings by 40% - there are massive changes coming to each and every parish across the country and East and Old is not excluded from that. I believe we are in a good position with regards to our building but as from the month of May my workload as minister has increased significantly.



Every Sunday I will now be preaching at Inverarity Church and at the time of going to press, they meet at 10:00am for a short service. I am hoping they will consider moving to 9:30am but in the meantime I will not be arriving at our church until approx. 10:45/10:50am. It also looks like further change may happen over the summer months as well. These changes will be centred on 'Mission' (doing God's work) here in Forfar and further afield and how best to use the resources of all the churches in the area. In Angus Presbytery we currently have 21.5 ministries and that is to be reduced to 15.5 ministries – every Church of Scotland in Angus is going to be affected.

Myself and three of our elders attended two meetings recently with the ministers and elders of all the churches in the Forfar and surrounding areas to discuss the why's and wherefores of Mission in our area and of course the number of ministries and our buildings. Here are some questions for you to answer that we were asked at the meetings: -

- *What missional work do we undertake at the moment?*
- *What has our congregation got to offer Forfar in 2022 and onwards?*
- *Would it matter to Joe Bloggs on the street if this building closed?*
- *How can we use our assets for co-operation with other churches and future partners?*
- *Does our building and congregation have a life beyond 2030?*

New Vision going forward

The Church of Scotland are moving forward at a pace with their new vision called '**The Five Marks of Mission**'. The mission of the church is the mission of Christ!

- **TELL** – to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- **TEACH** – to teach, baptise, and nurture new believers
- **TEND** – to respond to human need by loving service
- **TRANSFORM** – to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- **TREASURE** – to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

It is important for all of us to take note of these five marks of mission because congregations are going to be asked in the coming months **how** we are to meet these five marks of mission and what more we can do to further them.

Another way of putting these **Five Marks of Mission** is this:

- 1) Where are the signs of life in the church?
- 2) Where would it make sense for us to invest our time, talents and money within East and Old?
- 3) Where, if anywhere, are the under 40's?
- 4) Where should hospice care be offered in our church? Some of the groups we run, parts of our buildings etc. Many groups and buildings in churches across Scotland should be left to die a natural death – they are no longer fit for purpose or people want to hold on tightly to tradition or out of date groups.
- 5) How many people have proclaimed their faith by profession of faith in the last 5 years?

The problem is that many churches and church services have not changed in many, many years. The numbers have changed but church has not! That may sound safe and secure to some of you, but it is not!

At the meeting we attended we were given three scenarios to discuss so that by the end of this year there can be less ministries and less buildings in Forfar and the surrounding area. Remember the churches involved are East and Old (1 minister), Lawson Memorial (1 minister), St Margaret's (1 minister), Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden (1 lay person and overseen by minister of another church), Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie (1 minister) and a total of 7 buildings, 7 Kirk Sessions, 7 treasurers, 7 property conveners etc, etc.

Scenario 1

- One team made up of three ministers of Word and Sacrament plus one Ordained Local Minister (OLM) – the team working cooperatively over town and countryside.
- In the town – two congregations with two Kirk Sessions retaining two centres of worship, with hall complexes and parish boundaries redrawn.
- In the countryside – one congregation, one Kirk Session with reduced number of buildings

Scenario 2

- One team made up of three ministers of Word and Sacrament plus one OLM – the team working cooperatively over town and countryside.
- In the town – one congregation with one Kirk Session retaining two centres for worship plus an ecumenical Mission Centre.
- In the countryside – one congregation, one Kirk Session with reduced number of buildings

Scenario 3

- One team made up of three ministers of Word and Sacrament plus one OLM – the team working cooperatively over town and countryside.
- One congregation, one Kirk session with reduced number of buildings
- Countryside buildings retained as appropriate, operating as Local Mission Churches with a management team.

People at the meeting came up with other scenarios about sharing resources such as treasurers and property people but until a building audit is completed by every church and sent to the General Trustees at 121, nothing can be decided. However, the presbytery will make the final decision alongside the advice of 121 by December this year and implemented by 2025!



Winter Food Fund – our minister has been working in conjunction with Dawn Rennie of Angus Council to help support families who have low income, single parents, multiple number of children, children with additional support needs etc. To that end we were awarded a grant of £4000 which had to be spent by the end of March. Over one hundred adults and over 200 children have been helped with this scheme with food vouchers and food parcels. We have also been awarded £1500 for food and fun during the Easter School Holidays which we as a church will supplement. You will see later in this issue where we went. Needless to say, Barbara Ann has already applied for summer funding.

S-Mart, West High Street, Forfar – Their vision is to tackle food insecurity and reduce food waste in the local communities. They can achieve this by using surplus, over ordered and “no longer stocked” food from big chain supermarkets and local food suppliers. The food at S-Mart is heavily discounted and is open to all members of the public not only those who are in need. Single people can buy smaller quantities of goods so less food goes to waste, free toothpaste and toothbrushes and period products and so much more. We currently keep a few food vouchers from S-Mart for people who come to the church doors who are in need but at a recent conference they informed our minister they had been awarded some grant money and to that end our minister was given thirty £40 vouchers to help those in need within our community.





- ◆ 22 Market St, Forfar
Tel: 463315
- ◆ 8 The Cross, Forfar
Tel: 462762
- ◆ 9 High St, Kirriemuir

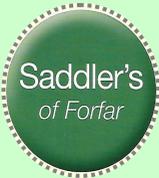
*A family run business with bakeries
in Forfar and Kirriemuir and
a long tradition in baking the
famous 'Forfar Bridie'*



Visit **PRIMA**
right next door
to our church

*Stockists of a
variety of Jewellery,
Handbags,
Home Fragrance,
Accessories,
Giftware, Cards
and more.*

*HOPE TO SEE
YOU SOON*



Gallery Tea Room

35 East High St. Forfar **01307 463282**

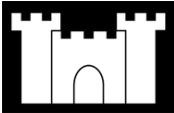
*Bakers, Cafe & Takeaway serving cooked meat
products including Forfar bridies, bread, cakes,
pastries, fresh cream cakes/gateaux etc.*

COLIN



for all your home electricals
www.colinmsmith.com

Forfar ♦ Arbroath ♦ Kirriemuir



DAVID IRONS D.I.Y & HOMEWARE DEPARTMENT STORE

KEY CUTTING ~ WATCH BATTERIES
IRONMONGERY
PLUMBING ~ GARDENING

26 CASTLE STREET, FORFAR

Tel: 01307 462024

LIDDLE & CALDER

Building Contractors
QUEENSWELL ROAD, FORFAR, ANGUS, DD8 3JA

All types of Builder Work

Telephone: 01307 463292

Mobile: 07801 368663

email: djliddle54@aol.com

Thomas Doig

— Est. 1888 —

FURNITURE - BEDS - CARPETS

Little Causeway, Forfar

Forfar Bathrooms Ltd

Hundreds of Installations
Hundreds of Happy Customers

"Family Owned and Run"

"Free Fixed Quotation"

"5 Year Installation Warranty"

72 Castle St, Forfar

Phone: 01307 461646

Email: sales@forfarbathrooms.com

Did you know that M&S Richardson;
Forfar's largest stockist of
magazines and newspapers, can deliver

direct to your door?

We deliver 7 days a week in your area.

To arrange delivery direct to your door, please contact the shop on:



01307 463184

or pop into the shop at 19 West High Street, Forfar.

THE CASTLE CLUB

100 / 108 CASTLE STREET, FORFAR

☎ 01307 466277

www.thecastleclub.co.uk

Fully Licensed Restaurant

All Home-Cooking with Local Produce

- ♦ LUNCHES
- ♦ EVENING MEALS
- ♦ HIGH TEAS



ALEX. CAMERON

Quality Tells, Quality Sells

*For the freshest fish, game, poultry
and finest hand-made pies*

101 Castle Street, Forfar DD8 3AH

Tel: 01307 463520



Tiffins

12 West High St, Forfar

Tel: 01307 461152

G. MURRAY & SON

CAR SALES & REPAIRS

TYRES SUPPLIED AND

FITTING SERVICE



**OLD BRECHIN ROAD,
FORFAR DD8 3DX**

TEL: 01307 466615

As part of our response to the Ukrainian Appeal we held two retiring offerings and placed a collection box in the Big Kirk Shop. Your response was amazing and a total of £1850 was raised and sent off immediately to the charity dealing with this appeal.

UKRAINIAN

APPEAL



Toddler Time – this new venture runs every Monday morning (excluding holidays) from 9:30am to 11:00am and is a great success. Over 20 different families come along and we are very grateful to Hailey Dalrymple, Paula Stewart, Esther Kidd, Anne Findlay and our minister for giving up their time to help out. Free play, soft play, dancing, singing, storytelling and so much more! It's fun, fun, fun! **WE NEED MORE HELPERS ON THE ROTA!**

Ladies and Men's Night out – these have re-started and are both held at Chapter and Verse (on different nights – they need their space). These evenings are very informal and great way to catch up and chat. However, the ladies do have sandwiches and tea and coffee at theirs!

Care Home Services – some care homes are allowing our minister in to conduct worship services while others are still a bit hesitant. Barbara Ann and Elizabeth attend these services to keep the numbers going into the care homes at a minimum, but the residents are really enjoying the stories, the chats and especially singing the hymns.



Valentine's Coffee Morning – Sunday 12th February with everything heart shaped! What a lovely morning this turned out to be with everyone seeing each other, chatting, eating and drinking. The food was lovely as was the service from the workers! Our bakers excelled themselves with the variety on the baking stall and thank you to everyone who donated goods for the Tombola stall.

£500 raised for church funds.



The next church coffee morning is Saturday 21st May
- it is a **MAY MADNESS COFFEE MORNING!**

World Thinking Day Service – Sunday 20th February – it was super to see the Guiding Association of Forfar in the church and what a crowd there was with all of them and then parents too. Thinking Day is for WAGGGS – World Association of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouts. Their theme for the year is Our World: our eco-future, the environment and gender equality. Our minister asked about what they would like to be once they were older and on screen she had examples of very courageous and inspiring women of their time.



The Passion of Christ – because of the success of the Flick N' Chip nights our minister wanted to show The Passion of Christ during Holy Week. However, our church is not suitable for showing films in the evening when the nights get lighter so it was shown on 23rd March. The Passion of Christ is an honest and brutal portrayal of what might have happened during the last week of Jesus' life. To say people enjoyed the film is not the right words and it did make people feel uncomfortable with what they were witnessing but we should feel uncomfortable with many issues that are affecting our local communities, country and world events at this time. A life of faith and following Jesus as we should is difficult!



Cosy Corner is back – we have restarted Cosy Corner on a Tuesday lunchtime at 12 noon for soup and sandwiches along with tea and coffee, biscuits and cakes. We ask for a donation on the day. To get us up and running we are running the lunch club on the **first Tuesday of the month** and the first couple have been a great success so why not come along on **Tuesdays 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August** and so on. Can you help make a pot of soup or sandwiches? If we had more helpers we could go back to running the Cosy Corner every week! Please speak to Jean Alexander or Barbara Ann.



Easter Holiday Trips and Food – with the help of Angus Council, Angus Presbytery and our own members, we were able to organise three events during the Easter school holidays for our families in the community. On Monday 4th April we took over Frosty’s Soft Play for the whole morning with 50 adults and 50 children in attendance– it was such great fun especially seeing our minister being persuaded to go into the climbing frame to help a little boy! On the Wednesday it was off to Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre – another great day with 70 adults and children off on another venture. During the second week of the holidays it was Active Kids at Stanley and again all 70 adults and children had a fantastic time. The two trips involved lunches which everyone enjoyed and the drink and fruit at Frosty’s was a big success. A big thank you to Paula and Barbara Ann for organising these trips and also attending them! Who said working for the church was hard work!

Motor Neurone Disease Boxes – this is a gentle reminder that you can pick up MND boxes for your loose change. Once it is full, just empty the contents into a bag and bring the money into the church. Keep the box and start to refill it again. Every penny counts!



We are looking for volunteers to help maintain the borders and flower tubs in the graveyard. Anyone interested in volunteering a couple of hours please contact Heather Munro on 07485198537.





Our recently established youth group for teenagers, **The Sunday Night Project**, is going well and we have now had over forty different young people come into the church over the past 3 months, with average numbers around 15-20 of an evening. The group is still in its infancy, and so we are focussed on getting to know the young people, finding out their interests and gauging the needs of young people in our community. We've kept the format very relaxed, with the Rowan room set up café style, so they can come just to chat with their friends and relax if they wish, knowing they can be safe and warm. We also have activities on offer, energetic games are proving to be very popular, particularly among the boys, but also table tennis, computer games and more structured activities. We have had visits from Susan

Forbes who taught them how to make choc chip cookies and from local gym owner and personal trainer, Wade Bowen who put them through their paces. At the time of going to press we are due to have Elizabeth Mcleod visit and teach them how to make her famous sausage rolls!

Please continue to pray for the success of the group and that we can reach out to the young people of Forfar and welcome them into the church and off the streets, providing a safe space for them and to carry out God's mission.

If you would like to help out with the group in any way, whether to join the rota for supervision or to offer your talents for a one-off visit, please just get in touch with myself or Barbara Ann. We'd love to see you sometime. Also, if you know of any teenagers in S1-4, please let them know about us and encourage them to come along.

We meet from 6:30pm - 8:00pm every other Sunday and there is always a notice on Facebook to remind people of the dates.



Both sections have had a busy session, starting with a pancake making evening led by Irene Duthie. The girls have watched an Easter movie, planted seeds and are making a banner of Charities. The boys have made dinosaurs and explored ways of constructing bridges with various materials. All this as well as doing crafts for Valentine's Day, Mothers Day and Easter, so they have been very busy children over the last few months.

Whilst the girls are creating their banner, the boys have been doing some woodwork. Yes, even the Anchors and no injuries to date!

At time of going to press, we are planning a day out for everyone at **Monikie Country Park on 21st May**, where there will be ranger-led activities, a BBQ and time to play.

Our last evening, a **Jubilee themed awards night, will take place on 26th May at 6:30pm**, to which all parents and families are cordially invited.

The new session will begin in August/September and we look forward to welcoming lots of new boys and girls.



Christian Aid Week **15th — 21st May 2022**

Your Christian Aid envelope has been delivered with this edition of the Steeple Times.

We hope you will be able to put a donation into it and then return the envelope to either the Church, the BigKirk shop or to your elder.

Thank you

Greetings from Zuglo church in Budapest - we hope you're all doing fine and that the Lord keeps you safe. We've appreciated East & Old's contribution to the purchase of our new hymn books which have been in use since February and we now introduce a new hymn every Sunday at 10:00am worship.



I won't discuss the pandemic in detail, because Hungary on the whole has appeared to have forgotten about it since February 24 because of Russia's war against Ukraine. We now don't have to stay at home or wear masks and you have to search for any Covid statistics if still interested. We're looking forward to a relatively pandemic-free summer period. Many of our church members have returned to church now and we've had open worships at church since May 2021.

Noémi's death last November is still hard to believe. She would have celebrated her birthday on April 23 and now the family can only visit her grave and sing there in remembrance of her. We are happy, though, that God has given us the capacity to remember and the privilege to have known her and keep sharing some typical stories of her. As time passes, I'm sure the family and friends will also learn to live with their loss and they will also enjoy remembering their happy days with her.

János has preserved his position as minister of our congregation and receives assistance from 3 other pastors - Áron is now junior minister, basically the same position as Noémi had. (Erika and Áron's twins were born in December, a girl, Lujza Erika and a boy, Áron Ezra. The other pastors are Gyöngyi, a primary schools religion teacher with a theology degree and Noémi's mother, Éva, whom the Zuglo congregation have known for many years as a family guest. She retired from her congregation in Slovakia as a minister in 2020 and is now able to visit her son-in-law and grandchildren more often. It was Éva who preached at our Easter Sunday worship also remembering her lost daughter.

The major worships of Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday

(all bank holidays here) were well-attended and the congregation celebrated Communion too every time. May month will have three focuses - May 1st is Mothers' Day here - it is customary in our church to think of mothers in the sermon, e.g. reading the story of Samuel's birth, dedication and his calling. Two weeks later is the adult confirmation at church and it's always special to welcome those who have understood God's word at a later stage of life. Finally, there is the 13-14 years old's confirmation just before Pentecost. The children's camp and the common week of our congregation in Mályi, northeast Hungary, will take place in June-July, although organising these is more challenging now, as Noémi used to work so much towards their success.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees have arrived here in the last 2 months. Their reception was first coordinated by both Christian and non-Christian charity organisations at the border crossings and at major railway stations in Budapest. Currently a large sports and events hall in Budapest offers food, shelter, medical help, travel information, etc. and this is now a government initiative. Ukrainian passport holders can use our public transportation free of charge. The official charity of the Reformed Church of Hungary is deeply involved in helping the refugees and many of our members have donated money for this purpose. Of course we also keep praying for peace in the east of Europe. A key problem of helping these refugees is the language barrier - their Indo-European language is closer to English than to Hungarian. As we approach Pentecost, we're now longing for the mutual understanding that the people of the first Pentecost had, suddenly understanding everything in their own language. May God also grant us his wisdom to find out why he has allowed this war to happen and to know how to react to it as Christians. And may He give us his power to preserve peace in our countries.

We wish you every blessing for the upcoming summer season!

Mihály



What an exciting start to the year we've had at the Sunday Club!

Our first in person fundraiser was a roaring success, so much so that we sold out of pancakes! Thank you to everyone who helped us raise a fantastic £140.

The Sunday Club led the worship on Mothering Sunday (27/03/22). We started off with a quiz which saw a team from the congregation go up against the Sunday Club children and leaders – our Sunday Club team triumphed! Thank you to everyone who came along and joined us on Mothering Sunday and we hope you enjoyed the service.

Coming up this session, we are excited to be going to see Shrek! The Musical, performed by the Downfield Musical Society, in Dundee as our first Sunday Club trip of the year.

We are also looking forward to leading the worship again on Sunday 26th June.

If your child or grandchild would like to join the Sunday Club, 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

Natures Way



Offering a holistic approach to healthcare

LESLEY DAKERS Complementary Therapist

Tel: 01307 468646 Mobile: 07939439308

GL SPORTS INJURY CLINIC

GARY LOW (Sports Therapist)



DipST, BN Degree, DipSMT, DipHM

Mobile: 07709691308

Both businesses located at 49 East High Street



AB AUTO LOCKS.SCOT

24-hour mobile vehicle locksmith

Keys Lost/Locked in Car?

No Spare Car Key?

Car Remote Buttons Faulty?

Car Door Locks Faulty?

Call Aaron on **07549590430**

— 03 —
ABACUS
 ANTIQUES
 — 02 —

*We buy and sell antiques
 collectables, vintage, retro*

Roberts Street, Forfar

Tel: 01307 464641

North Street Dairy

22 NORTH STREET, FORFAR

Tel: 01307 463796

**Retailers of Milk, Cream, Eggs,
 Homemade Butter & Yoghurt**



**Established in 1896
 Forfar Instrumental Band
 Has brought the Brass Sound
 To Angus for Generations**

- Weekly Practise Sessions
- Free Weekly Brass Lessons for Learners & Improvers
- Loan Instrument for members
- Available for Community Events, Shows & Festivals

For more information please email:

forfarband@gmail.com or telephone: 07891721140

BRUCE LOCKSMITHS AND HARDWARE

Key Cutting—Household and most vehicles

Lock Fitting—Door and window

Gaining entry—Non-destructive is possible

Tool sharpening—shears, knives, chisels
 etc

92 EAST HIGH ST, FORFAR DD8 2ET

STRATHMORE



FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Privately Owned

*Personal Caring & Professional
 24 Hour Service
 Pre-paid Funerals*

Tel: (01307) 460777

4 Roberts Street, Forfar

email strathmore-fd@btconnect.com

website www.strathmore-fd.co.uk

stewarts window blinds

DOMESTIC ★ COMMERCIAL
 TRADE

VERTICAL ROMAN
ROLLER VENETIAN
INTU CONSERVATORY
WOODEN PLEATED

CALL NOW FOR FREE ESTIMATE

01307 467840

*Manufacturers and installers of
 beautiful made-to-measure blinds*

SHOWROOM OPEN 10am—4pm

43 EAST HIGH ST, FORFAR. DD8 2EL

Forfar's Fantastic Fund-Raising Ferris Wheel

We were unable to hold our annual Christingle service on Christmas Eve because of the Covid restrictions. The Kirk Session had already decided to donate the offering that night to 2 local youth charities:



Strathmore Community Rugby Trust and Murton Farm Nature Reserve.

I felt so disappointed that Forfar folk had lost the opportunity to give to these worthwhile groups, that I ran a fund-raising competition during January. Worshippers at church on Sundays and customers in the BigKirk Charity Shop during the week were invited to work out the number of metal pieces used in building a model Ferris wheel on display.

Everyone was very generous, **£260 was raised** and presented to Maggie Lawrie and Alison Elliott representing the groups after they informed the congregation of their work:



**Strathmore Community
Rugby Trust**

The trust started in 2017 as a charity which believes rugby has the power to enhance people's lives. They aim to instil the rugby ethos into participants, coaches and volunteers of all ages so that they can develop and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of rugby, play an active part in their local community and have a lifelong involvement in the game. They do this through: -

- 1) Autism-Friendly Rugby for with specially-trained coaches for children aged between 5 and 12.
- 2) Rugby Academy for youths aged 11 to 18 years old for pupils from Forfar Academy, Brechin High School and Websters High School, Kirriemuir.
- 3) Visually-Impaired Rugby for anyone over 18 with a visual impairment using the sight classification developed by British Blind Sport.
- 4) Youth Unified Rugby for young people with additional support needs open to anyone of secondary school age who is able to walk unaided.

You can find out more at - info@strathmoretrust.co.uk

Murton Farm, Tea Room and Nature Reserve has an abundance of safe, open space and fresh air for all to enjoy but they do still need your support to maintain their wonderful site. All donations made are greatly appreciated and every penny goes towards, running their educational programmes, the continued care of animals and year-round maintenance of the entire site. Enjoy something delicious from their tearoom (yes, all profits from the tearoom go towards their site upkeep). Book one of their events, sponsor or adopt one of their animals or become a “Friend of Murton”, which comes with its own tearoom treats. Buy wooden goods, many of which are made by their students, or why not purchase a flat pack and take it home for a rainy day task with the kids. If you shop on Amazon, you can use Amazon Smile. Everything stays the same for you, but Amazon donates to us every time you shop.



Events & Tipi Hire – They offer a wide selection of events and hire opportunities on their nature reserve and Rural Skills Cabin next to the tearoom. These can be hired for birthdays, gatherings, schools/groups or for meetings. The hire options are flexible and they can provide food/drinks, staff led activities.

You can find out more at www.murtontrust.org.uk

Thanks everyone for your continued support for these charities

CHURCH BUS



The bus service operates on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of EACH MONTH for the 11:00am Service .
Our Bus is available to pick up members who need transport to and from Church - please contact Jean Alexander on 463860.
If she is unavailable, please leave your name & phone number and she will call you back.

We look froward to seeing you

Looking Ahead

Folk Evenings – the folk evenings are proving to be very popular indeed and big thanks to Alf and John for organising this. They take place the third Wednesday of every month and the final evening for now was held on 18th May. They are taking a break over the summer but will be up and running again in the autumn.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – okay everyone, get your diaries out! Barbara Ann has been busy planning and asking people to do this and that to get organised for this event. Bob Kidd kindly offered to take on the event on Thursday evening at the church on **2nd June** and there will be a host of things happening from pipers, to buglers, to beacons, to singing – all of which people have been asked to take part in by the National Platinum Jubilee Organising Committee covering the whole Commonwealth. On Saturday 4th June at 1:00pm in the church, we will be holding our Jubilee lunch and then the following day Sunday 5th June it is Pentecost Sunday as well as the Queen's special weekend so we are having an Ice-cream Sunday after church. Now don't tell us this does not sound exciting!

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON

*You are invited to join us from 9:00pm
in front of the East & Old Steeple door on Thursday 2nd June
to prepare for the Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon.*

Forfar Instrumental Band will play music from 9:00pm.

A Proclamation will be read out at 9:30pm.

Piper James Robertson will play for the ceremony at 9:35pm.

Bugler Mr Neil Smeaton will sound the bugle call 'Majesty' at 9:40pm.

The Beacon close to the East High Street railings will be lit at 9:45pm.

The Band will play and we will all sing the National Anthem.

*Refreshments including Jubilee Tart will then
be available inside the Church.*



Awareness and fundraiser – as a church we like to raise awareness and money for worthwhile charities who offer so much to people and what more could we offer than clean drinking water in developing nations through Water Aid. We are hoping many people will get involved walking around the town on **Saturday 11th June from 11:00am** with a Water Aid lanyard and carrying a bottle of water and an empty bucket to signify that many people still need to walk miles for clean and sometimes not so clean water! If walking is not for you, please be on hand to give out free bottles of water with a leaflet at the church gates or help make a cup of tea during the morning. Watch out for the church sponsor forms in the church and the shop! If you can be involved in any way, contact Jim Stewart or Barbara Ann.

Inspiration Orchestra – exciting news! The Inspiration Orchestra are holding a concert in our church on **Friday 17th June**. They have performed here before and those who attended were truly inspired by what they witnessed and listened to. It is not a long concert but please buy your ticket and come along or pay at the door and bring a few pounds to put in the offering plate.



Book Festival – a team has been formed to organise this event which will take place on **Saturday 25th June** which is the Saturday during Forfar Gala Week. A number of authors have been approached and to date the following authors have confirmed their attendance: Chris Longmuir, Kenneth Stephen, David Potter, Margaret Bowman and Wendy Jones. All these authors have connections to Forfar. There will be stalls in the driveway of the church grounds selling second-hand books in a variety of genre and during the day the authors will be reading extracts from their books and then time for any questions people may have - e.g. Kenneth Stephen's time slot is 11:30am.



Tea and coffee supplied all day from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Forfar Gala Week – we will be taking a stall at the gala day on **Sunday 26th June at the Myre** so come along and see us and join in on the fun at our stall! It is going to be a blast!

THE GUILD



It was so good to be back at the Guild but due to Covid restrictions we were unable to meet until 9th February when we welcomed Arlene Nelson to give us a talk on being a school nurse. We all enjoyed her talk but when it came to speaking about the 'head lice' I wasn't alone in scratching.

On the 23rd of the month we had our A.G.M. followed by Barbara Ann talking to us about our theme Lights and Bushels, who knew we had a 'tap dancing, netball playing' Minister in our midst and she made us think about our hidden talents and how we should share them.

Into March and we had a joint meeting with the other Forfar Guilds at Lawson Church and our speaker was a representative of the 'Vine Trust' telling us about their project 'Kazunzu Village of Hope' where they enabled volunteers to provide medical, home-building and care support to communities living in severe poverty in Tanzania.

Our Coffee morning was held on Saturday 19th March followed by our closing social on 23rd with 'Travelling Light' - Alf Birse & John Young. Their easy style with music from Scotland, England, Ireland, America and France made for a most enjoyable afternoon's listening. Lauraine Grant thanked Alf and John and closed the meeting with a prayer.

*We are so looking forward to having our **Summer Outing to the House of Dunn on Thursday 23rd June** followed by a meal in Montrose, this will be our first trip since Covid restrictions and it will be fun to get together again.*

DIARY DATES "AT A GLANCE"

Saturday	21st May	Church Coffee Morning - MAY MADNESS!
Thursday	2nd June	Start of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee at the church at 9:00pm
Saturday	4th June	Platinum Jubilee Lunch in the church
Sunday	5th June	Ice-cream Sunday after morning worship
Saturday	11th June	Water Aid Walk from 11:00am
Friday	17th June	Concert with the Inspiration Orchestra
Saturday	25th June	Book Festival in the church
Sunday	26th June	Gala Day at the Myre
Saturday	9th July	Church Coffee Morning - STRAWBERRY SENSATION!
Saturday	6th August	Flower Festival and Afternoon Tea
Saturday	27th August	Themed country dinner evening with entertainment—Ireland
Saturday	15th October	Church Coffee Morning
Wednesday	30th November	St Andrew's night dinner and entertainment

Walking Group



Walks scheduled on the following
Saturday's: -

- ◆ 28th May 2022
- ◆ 18th June 2022
- ◆ 30th July 2022
- ◆ 27th August 2022
- ◆ 24th September 2022



Ministry of Flowers



22	MAY	Jean McEwen	17	JUL	Karen Kelly
29	"	J Gair & C J Milne	24	"	Helena Todd
5	JUN	Wilma Pringle	31	"	Stewart Davidson
12	"	Alistair McDonald	7	AUG	Beryl Stobie
19	"	May Clark	14	"	Glenda Robertson
26	"	Barbara Ann	21	"	Jean Alexander
3	JUL	Sheena Benvie	28	"	Sheena Ewart
10	"	Ruth Stewart	4	SEP	May Clark

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 **AUGUST 2022** issue is

MONDAY 1ST AUGUST 2022

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

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

January	30th	Alex Cowie	(Member)
February	7th	Lewis Baxter	(Parish)
March	11th	Douglas Munro	(Member)
	24th	Kathleen Masterton	(Member)
	25th	Helen Lindsay	(Member)
	27th	Graham Scattergood	(Member)
April	17th	Max Milne	(Parish)
	22nd	Stuart Clark	(Member)

BAPTISMS

March	13th	Riley David James Cull
		Molly Georgina Mary Adamson

WEDDING

May	7th	Kevin Smart to Lyndie Brown
-----	-----	-----------------------------

RENEWAL OF VOWS AND BLESSING

April	30th	Mr & Mrs Alistair and Emma Doak
-------	------	---------------------------------



Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Depute Session Clerk ■ Roll Keeper 	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treasurer ■ Administrator 	Paula Stewart eastandold@yahoo.com	07897456655
FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steeple Times Editor ■ Flower Group Admin 	Catriona Milne steepletimeseditor@gmail.com	07962065936
Organist/Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer		
The Sunday Club	Matthew Scott	07561317812
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 Boys Brigade	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
2nd Forfar Company The Girls Brigade	Liz McDougall	07850518394
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228