



"All are welcome  
in this place."

THE  
LINK

## ST MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH

No. 163 17 MARCH 2019

Charity No. SC 001506

### From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

I wonder what your dream is for our church?

If God answered your prayers for our church tonight, what changes would we see or feel?

- Would you like to see us reach more families with our school uniform pop-up shop?
- Would you like to see more working age adults attend on Sundays?
- Do you dream of a weeknight evening church?
- Would you love to see our Messy Church develop and grow to become a congregation in and of itself – where folks of all ages can share together in communion and even baptism at our Saturday gatherings?

As our church changes to become more welcoming and open to everyone in our community, there are lots of 'hopes and dreams and visions' that are building-up amongst us...a desire to see families fully integrated into all we do and not just on the fringes of our kids activities and organisations, and a wish to see more opportunities for fellowship / getting to know each other. Alongside a hope that we can keep the things that are special to us whilst making space for new innovations.

So how can we create this church for the future – taking on board the hopes and dreams and visions of many and also ensuring we hear the voices of those who currently DON'T come to church – who feel that 'going to church' isn't for them but who will be key to growing our church in the future? How do we 'build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live'?

Over the next few weeks we will be talking, meeting, reading, praying and discussing how we can live out the words of one of our favorite hymns and build a house where all are welcome. Please join us!

**Rev Maggie**

## **Let us Build a House - what is happening and when?**

Named after one of our favorite hymns, we're going to journey together in Lent exploring what it means for us at St Margaret's to really 'Build a house where love can dwell'. Lots of different strands are coming together to create a 'campaign' or theme for our Lent season together.

### **Every Sunday**

Our Breakfast church at 9.30am will offer a place to explore our faith by looking at the weeks' news and giving us a place to discuss and share how we feel about what's happening in our world and how our Bible readings can help us make sense of it or encourage us to question together.

Each Sunday at 11am we will be reflecting on how to become a church for the future. We're going to look at a story from Luke's gospel – our gospel for the year [or Jesus story for the year]...and learn from it how we need to BE church so that we can build a house – a safe place – where love can dwell and ALL can safely live. Our stories should encourage us to tell OUR stories of faith and church, passing on our faith to our friends, our children and grandchildren. We hope to learn together what we need to do to make the changes we need to make – to BE church to each other, and to those out in the community where we live.

### **Every Monday @ midday**

We are challenging you to join us on 'Mondays @ Midday' to take a moment to pray.

Each Monday at midday we're going to be intentional about stopping if we can, or noting and looking skyward for a moment if we can't – and taking a minute to **pray**. We will provide you with ideas to pray for each Monday but you can pray the Lord's Prayer or any prayer you know or use a book. Maybe you could just ask God to 'speak' and then take a minute or two in quiet just to listen and hear what God is saying to you. Rev Maggie will be at the church most Mondays and you can join her, bring lunch if you want and pray together and chat about where we're seeing God at work in our midst.

### **Every Monday Evening at Costa Coffee**

Each week there will also be a 'coffee and chat' pop in /drop out time to meet others and be church in a new and different way at Costa Coffee on a Monday eve from 7pm till 8pm. Pop in drop out between 7pm and 8pm at Costa Coffee on Castle Street. Bring your questions, your ideas, your chat and company.

### **Come to a meeting**

Choose a time and date that suits you. Then come, share food, enjoy conversation and **be** church around a table for each other...listening, sharing, helping and being there for each other. Each meeting will include a light meal – whether a simple lunch or a light supper...and a short presentation about how our future might look if we build a house where love can dwell...where all are welcome.

Our meetings will be held on:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm – 9pm

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12.30pm – 2pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm – 2pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm – 2pm

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm – 9pm

## **Building a reality from our dream**

This time last year we got the go ahead for our new build in terms of planning permission from Angus Council. This permission came in two parts – permission to demolish the existing sanctuary section of our church building and permission to rebuild with a single story disabled accessible multi- purpose community centre where we will continue to meet as church on a Sunday and be able to move our Wednesday Worship up to the new centre and our Saturday Messy Church too. We will also be able to open up that space and BE church all day every day in how we share and offer our space to the community to create community café spaces, cooking lessons, sports and activity clubs, prayer space, hospitality space etc.

At our 'Let us Build a House' meetings we hope to share with you more about what our new centre will look like, what we hope it will contain and where we are with our plans and how you can be part of it all.

## **Kirk Session future priorities**

Every Church of Scotland across the land was asked to meet last year to reflect on and discuss the massive changes taking place in our Kirk – the decline in numbers and increase in average age of congregations and the drop in the number of ministers nationally. It was at the General Assembly last year in May that a possible strategic plan for the future of the church was thrown out entirely because it was recognised that it wasn't radical enough. With the massive and fast paced change in our society, the reduction in traditional Sunday congregations and the huge numbers of ministers that are due to retire in the next 5 years – dropping the number of parish ministers by nearly half. Each Kirk Session was then remitted by the General Assembly to talk about these issues and come up with three year priorities.

Our Kirk Session met in October and we had an excellent conference session thinking about how our church was going to face the challenges of the future. We shared the great things we already do and how the Path of Renewal movement is helping us change from 'going to church' and 'doing church' to 'being church' - a move that will help us be strong and be family for each other and to each other whatever the future brings. We agreed on three priorities:

To engage with the community – encouraging the wider community in and us going out into the community to become more prayerful and prayer focused – deepening our faith, learning together and listening to God. To push ahead with the plans for our new building – recognising the benefits it will bring to the church that will call it 'home' and the community it seeks to serve.



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## Holy Week and Easter



On Palm Sunday we hear the story of Jesus' final week, journeying from Palms to Passion at 11am worship with various members of the congregation reading different parts of the story for us. In the afternoon, at 2pm, we gather in the halls and join with other churches around Angus on a pilgrimage walk around the loch.

Then in Holy Week [15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>] we are offering 'Soul Space' in the church sanctuary each evening for an hour as in previous years. It is just a space for church folks, for people without faith and for those of other faiths even, to come, and to reflect and renew our souls in the midst of the busy-ness of life. There will be a mix of quiet reflection activities, modern worship music and prayers from Monday till Wednesday 7pm till 8pm.

We enjoy a Maundy Meal on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm where tables will be set out in the hall for us to share in a simple meal together and enjoy a little of what it must have been like for the disciples as they gathered for a meal together – what would be their last supper.

[If you'd like to come but have dietary requirements – just let me [Rev Maggie 07557 381932 /mhunt@hchurchofscotland.org.uk]]. Last year we had a great turn out and all really enjoyed a special chance to meet, to share together and get to know others better. After dinner there is an opportunity to go through to the sanctuary and experience 'Soul Space' till 8pm.

On Good Friday [19<sup>th</sup> April] we will have a 'One Friday' service at 7pm with reflections on the events of that one day that changed the world.

There will be 30mins of silence for prayer and reflection on Saturday eve from 7 – 7.30pm.

On Easter Sunday we gather round by the sailing club at the loch side at 8am for worship joining with Christians from all the churches in town, with a breakfast afterwards in the hall. We have our family EGG-stravaganza at 11am with all our favorite Easter hymns and songs, fun activities and an egg hunt for children...all welcome!

## Holy Week and Easter

**'Palms and Passion'** 15<sup>th</sup> April – 11am – readings and songs telling the Holy Week story.

**'Palm Sunday Pilgrimage'** 15<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm – meet in the hall for a walk around Forfar Loch.

**'Soul Space'** 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm till 8pm - Contemporary reflective church

**'Maundy Meal'** 18<sup>th</sup> April - 6pm - a meal together as a church family and Soul Space.

**'One Friday'** 19<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday reflections at 7pm in the Sanctuary

**'Holy Saturday'** 20<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm till 17.30pm– just silence...waiting for the stone to roll away.

**'Easter at the Lochside'** 21<sup>st</sup> April - 8am [7.45am at N Loch Rd car park]

**'Easter Egg-stravaganza'** 21<sup>st</sup> April – 11am – a fun family service for all ages

**Easter Holy Communion** - Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am & 11am and Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10.30am.



## DIRECTORY

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Maggie Hunt	462044
Session Clerk	Maureen Fenton	464424
Treasurer	Gordon Menmuir	464981
Organist	Helen McLeod	463082
Gift Aid & FWO	Diane Roy	468185
Church Office		464224
Church	Email address: <a href="mailto:stmargaretsforfar@gmail.com">stmargaretsforfar@gmail.com</a>	
Roll Keeper		
Guild Secretary	Rhona Sinclair	464063
Sunday Clubs	Sheila Crichton	460991
Flower Convener	Ann Menmuir	464981
Hall Lets	Office	464224
Widows Group	Alice McLaren	465327
Transport	Norma Seaton	463730
Friendship Visitors	Norma Seaton	463730
Webmaster	Joan Ross	463186
Link Editors	Joan Ross	<a href="mailto:joan.ross15@gmail.com">joan.ross15@gmail.com</a>
	Margaret Reid	460800
Link Distribution	Joan Ross	463186

**WEBSITE ADDRESS – [www.stmargaretschurchforfar.org](http://www.stmargaretschurchforfar.org)**

## CHURCH REGISTER

### DEATHS

07.01.19	Mrs Alice McLaren
10.01.19	Mrs Sylvia Litterick
03.02.19	Mrs Maureen Stewart
08.02.19	Mrs Dorothy Fraser
08.02.19	Mrs Helen Aitken,
22.02.2019	Mrs Ella Murray
04.03.2019	Mr John Fyffe

### NEW MEMBER BY TRANSFER

12.03.19	Mrs Lynne Tyrie
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## **FORFAR ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER**

### **Lent Bible Studies & Lent Lunches**

**Lent Bible Studies:** Every Thursday Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March to Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April incl. at 7.30 p.m.

We will be visiting a different church for the studies each week.

We welcome our friends to join us at St Margaret's on Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Lent Lunches:** Every Friday at East & Old from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April incl. from 12 noon-1.30 p.m.

There will be a different church supplying and serving the soups each week. St Margaret's will be serving on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Please come along to all or some of the above dates where a warm welcome awaits you.

**All money raised will go to FACT's chosen charity which for 2018 is "The Inspiration Orchestra"**



## FLOWER

## CALENDAR

		<b>Arrangers</b> - Diane Robertson/Ann Menmuir
<b>March</b>	<b>17</b> Rona Kettles / Jim Farquhar	
	<b>24</b> Alice Smart/Ian Taylor	<b>Distributors</b> -The Collie Family
<b>April</b>	<b>07</b> Rona Kettles	<b>Arranger</b> – Kay Morton
	<b>14</b> Margaret Beaton	
	<b>21</b> Dorothy Bruce	
	<b>28</b> Evelyn Main	<b>Distributors</b> – See list at top of the stairs
<b>May</b>	<b>05</b> Ena Mitchell	<b>Arrangers</b> – Lynne Morrison/ Rona Kettles
	<b>12</b> Peggy Currie	
	<b>19</b> Moira Adam	
	<b>26</b> Flora Downie/Jim Farquhar	<b>Distributors</b> – list at top of stairs
<b>June</b>	<b>02</b> Diplexcito Family	<b>Arrangers</b> - Ann Menmuir/ Diane Robertson
	<b>09</b> Ian Whitton	

## FLOWER REPORT

We have lovely floral displays in the church each Sunday morning which are then given out to those who we feel would benefit from flowers whatever the reason. If you know of anyone who you think would like flowers then don't hesitate to tell Rev. Maggie or the Session Clerk and we can arrange delivery of them. Also if anyone feels they would be able to deliver flowers on even one Sunday in the month/year **please** contact our Flower Convener Ann Menmuir on **464981**. It's lovely to have made someone's day by unexpectedly delivering flowers to them from the church, so please volunteer if you can.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the flower ladies for the lovely flower arrangements they arranged this past year 2018 and for giving of their time. One of the longest serving flower ladies is retiring, **Nan Calder**, I would personally like to thank Nan for all the years she has arranged the flowers. It was a pleasure working with you. Enjoy your free time. We will miss our little chats when it comes to Easter and Harvest time.

**Ann Memuir - Flower Convener**

## PARKING IN CHURCH GROUNDS

Could we ask that wherever possible people **refrain** from parking in front of the "Disabled Access" sign at the side of the church unless it is to **drop off** someone who needs to use the ramp at the side access?

If this space is left it allows folks who find the front steps impossible, access to the side entrance and in certain cases a car to go round to the access. **This is only possible if this space is kept clear.** Sincere thanks in advance for your help with this.

**Monthly Soups** These continue throughout the year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month – 12noon – 1.30pm Homemade Soup and Crusty Bread with Tea & Biscuits for £2.50. Soup on 5<sup>th</sup> April will be in East & Old during Lent Lunches I would like to thank the ladies who help with making and serving throughout the year and would welcome some new volunteers – if you would like to help please come along and join us.

**Margaret Spalding- Organiser**

**Forfar Foodbank** : PLEASE keep donating the tins etc. as before as we have another outlet for your donations. We are now collecting for the Trussle Trust in Forfar and liaising with Lowson Memorial Church who also distribute to those in need in the town. **There is still a huge need for a foodbank in Forfar**

### **ST MARGARET'S SUNDAY CLUBS**

#### **For children of Primary School Age.**

The children come into the church first and then after their special time with the minister go to their own activities in the Lower Hall. The welcome team at the door will direct you if you don't know where to go and the leaders will be on the lookout for the children. The leaders are Mrs Sheila Crichton, Mrs Moira Adam and Mrs Mary Coyle.

#### **Sunday Crèche**

Our Sunday Crèche is designed for babies and tots who are too young to attend Sunday Clubs. The Crèche lets parents come to church knowing that their little ones will be looked after in a safe environment whilst having fun. Please bring them along and have peace of mind that if they don't settle someone will come into the church for you. All of these clubs are run by responsible adults who have been through the Child Protection disclosure system of the Church of Scotland.

#### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP:**

The guest speaker at February meeting was George Milne who provided an illustrated talk on the Angus Glens. George previously taught Biology at Webster's High School and since retiral has spent time enjoying the beauty and splendour of the various Angus Glens. His excellent presentation was interspersed with wonderful panoramic images of the Angus hills together with views of lesser known paths.

Our March meeting was a Scotch Whisky Tour given by Keith Headridge, Commercial Director, Scotgrain Agriculture. Keith informatively spoke of the history of Scotch whisky industry in Scotland highlighting particular distilleries and used some whisky samples to assist in identifying different characteristics of whisky distilled by these producers.

Our next meeting is a farm visit to Craignathro Farm, Forfar courtesy of the Steel family. Date to be confirmed dependent on spring cropping demands on the farm.

We normally meet monthly in St Margaret's Session Rooms gathering at 10.15 for coffee and biscuits and starting at 10.30 finishing by 10.45. Why not come along. Even better bring a friend.

**David Adam**

**MESSY CHURCH – Our next Messy Church will be held on Saturday 27<sup>TH</sup> April in the Hall.  
The Theme 'MESSY SPRING'**



*St Margaret's Church Guild*

*Café Chantant*

*In the hall*

*Wednesday 27th March*

*At 7.30pm*

5 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P

9 Q R S and T U V Dou-ble U X Y and Z

Now I know my A B Cs, won't you sing a - long with me?  
next time won't you sing with me?

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the notes A through P. The second staff contains the notes Q through Z, with 'Dou-ble U' for the letter U. The third staff contains the lyrics 'Now I know my A B Cs, won't you sing a - long with me? next time won't you sing with me?'.

## THE MUSICAL ALPHABET

WITH

**S** FOR **S**PECTRUM

*tickets £5*

*includes a light supper*













