



THE LINK

ST MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH

No. 162 3 FEBRUARY 2019

Charity No. SC 001506

From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

I am writing this from a sunny but bitterly cold vestry! It is amazing how the sunshine can mask the winter chill but even so there is no escaping the fact that it is winter.

The hills are dusted with snow, the trees are bare and the ground as hard as stone and yet, the sun and blue skies have given us hope of the spring to come. There are times in our lives when the world seems cold and bleak and dark - and yet there is always something to remind us of that hope...that light...that future. Just a month after the longest night, the days are that little bit longer and the world seems that little bit brighter as nature pushes through green shoots and even early flowers like the snowdrop and aconites through the frost and snow. There is always light and hope.

In March and April as we journey into spring we also travel through the church season called 'Lent' the 40 days before Easter when we remember Jesus' time in the wilderness and the long walk he made with his disciples to Jerusalem, the Palm procession and eventually his death on a cross.

Lent is a time of 'preparation' and a time to remember the journey we are on - personally in our faith life, collectively as a church family, and wider as part of a community that seeks to bring justice, mercy, hope and peace to our world through our words and actions.

This lent I invite you to journey with us - from home, at church, on Facebook and in meetings, activities and events throughout the 6 weeks. Come, walk with us as we seek to make the move from 'doing church' to 'being church' - living out our faith by being there for each other - being the light of hope when others face dark times...and carrying the joy when we celebrate together.

Everyone can be part of this - You don't need to be a member to be part of this journey - you don't even need to come to church on Sundays - you just need to be willing to spend a little time to reflect, listen, meet and learn and share...and then be part of something amazing as together as St Margaret's church we explore what it really means to 'build a house where love can dwell' I look forward to seeing you!

Rev Maggie

DIRECTORY

Minister	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: stmargaretsforfar@gmail.com	
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	joan.ross15@gmail.com
	Margaret Reid	460800
Link Distribution	Joan Ross	463186

WEBSITE ADDRESS – www.stmargaretschurchforfar.org

CHURCH REGISTER

I am the resurrection and the life.....

DEATHS

29/11/2018 Ian Douglas Ross, Forfar
 29/11/2018 Harold Murray, Forfar

FLOWER



CALENDAR

February	04 R. Roebuck /E Reid 11 Jean Smith 18 John Murray 25 Alice Ross	Arrangers – Kathleen Low/Mary Coyle Distributor Moira Adam
March	04 Helen Niblock 11 Diane Roy 18 Rona Kettles / Jim Farquhar 25 Alice Smart/Ian Taylor	Arrangers - Diane Robertson/Ann Menmuir Distributors -The Collie Family
April	01 Rona Kettles 08 Margaret Beaton 15 Dorothy Bruce	Arranger – Kay Morton Distributors – See list at top of the stairs

Worship Opportunities

9.30-10.15 a.m. Breakfast Church. (Re-starts on Sun 10th March)

Coffee, Tea & Croissants. More informal Worship. Come and see if it's your kind of worship. Families welcome.

11 a.m. Morning Worship led by Rev Maggie

Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Midweek Worship.

There is also a short informal communion served at the close of the service on the 1st Sunday of each month.

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.

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.

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.

Winter Café Church

Many of you will know that through January we worshipped around tables in the main hall. I thought I would take a moment to explain why. Following the success of café worship in the hall over Christmas and to save on the significant costs of heating the sanctuary through January – especially given the drafts from the missing window panes - the Kirk Session decided to extend our time worshipping in the halls until the end of January. We hope you enjoyed the company, the cuppies and the cosiness. I know some of you have even suggested that we remain in the warmth of the hall until March as you enjoyed it so much. Thank you everyone for being church for and to one another as we tried something new during the January cold and worshipped in the hall.

Rev Maggie

Bingo Tea [9th February]

Our next Social evening and fundraiser is a Bingo Tea at the Forfar Branch British Legion on Academy Street. Doors open at 6.30pm and 'eyes down' to play at 7.30pm. As it is a Friday night, the Legion are very kindly opening especially for us and paying for a member of staff for the bar all evening. It would mean a lot if you could come along and support this fun evening and, even if Bingo isn't your thing, consider joining us for the company or arranging to meet friends through in the bar for an hour to make it worth their expense in welcoming us. As always, your donations of line and house prizes and raffle prizes are much appreciated...a box will be left in the vestry for you to leave any donations.

PRIZE



ON FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY
IN THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL
ACADEMY STREET
EYES DOWN AT 7.30PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM
AND A LIGHT SUPPER

FACT

Just to let you know that St Margaret's is part of an ecumenical [joint churches] group in town called FACT [Forfar Action of Churches Together]. We have a small committee that meets 3 or 4 times a year and plans shared events such as the Remembrance Sunday worship at the Cross, The Big Sing and Bellshill Salvation Army Band concerts at Christmas, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity meetings, Easter morning at the Lochside, World Day of Prayer and the Lent Bible Studies and Lunches. We hope to see you at some of these wonderful shared events and meetings in the coming months.

Ash Wednesday Soul Space [6th March]

In response to a request to offer Soul Space more frequently to offer people time, space and ideas for prayer and reflection we will be opening the sanctuary on the evening of March 6th from 7pm till 8pm with a selection of prayer stations, creative activities and contemporary worship music videos.

Rev Maggie will offer ashes and a blessing to anyone who would like to take part in this old Christian practice reminding us of our life held in God's hands.

Soul Space will return again in Holy Week [15th to 19th April]

FORFAR ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lent Bible Studies & Lent Lunches

Lent Bible Studies: Every **Thursday** at East & Old from **Thurs 7th March to Thurs 11th April incl. at 7.30 p.m.**

There will be a different minister leading the studies each week.

Lent Lunches: Every **Friday** at East & Old from **Friday 8th March to Friday 12th 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 5th April.**

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

Let us Build a House

Named after one of our favourite 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'.

We will be reflecting on it in our times of worship, reading and praying about in some new prayer & bible study times, discussing it at various 'chat time' events across town and joining together for a series of special meetings through March and April to think about our future...to which we hope you'll attend one.

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. 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.

Let us build a House is your chance to find out how you can be part of this future.

We will be holding meetings for ALL church members and EVERYONE who wants to hear more – whether you come to toddler group or Senior Circle, you are involved with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts or live in Forfar and are interested in our future.

We recognise that many of you don't have a lot of free time and some of you prefer not to come out at night for childcare or other reasons so we hope that afternoon meetings suit most of you and that evening meetings can cater for those who prefer that. Each meeting will include a light meal – whether a simple lunch or a light supper...and a short presentation about what our future might look like if we all work together - those of us with a Christian faith – and those who support us but don't profess a faith – to build a house where love can grow.

Please, if you can, come to one of our special meetings. [Transport can be arranged for all dates].

Our meetings will be held on:

Sunday 17th March at 12.30pm

Friday 22nd March at 7.30pm

Sunday 24th March at 12.30pm

Sunday 31st March at 12.30pm

Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30pm

Lent is a time when we can reflect on where we've been, where we going and the blessings we receive on the way. As in past years we'll be thinking about how to live generously – living life to the full. We'd love to see you on the journey!

KIRK SESSION

Session would encourage all members who are on the internet to go on to St Margaret's website to get up to date information on all aspects of the church. The Link magazine is on as are reports from all of the Session groups. Our online address is **stmargaretschurchforfar.org**.

For those members who might be on Facebook, we now have a Face Book page for St Margaret's where information will be placed. This will not take away from the website which also has current information.

Following discussion at our November meeting, **Session** agreed that we would continue to hold our Harvest Thanksgiving/Autumn Communion together in October.

April Communion will be held on **Sun 28th April** and also an informal Communion at Midweek Worship on **Wed 1st May**.

Presbytery's Annual Inspection of Records takes place on **Mon 11th March (St Margaret's Forfar) and Tues 12th March (Arbroath St Andrews)** both from 10 a.m.- 12 noon.

The Clerk reported that our Christmas Fayre had made the fantastic sum of **£2007.84** and our Cantamus Concert had made **£790.96** bringing our total raised for **2018** to **£7473.81**. Sincere thanks to all who help in any way at the events as the success is all down to teamwork.

We've now had our Burns Supper which was a great night and raised **£734.56** which is a great start to **2019**. We look forward to seeing you all at our "eyes down" **Bingo Tea** on **Friday 8th February** at **7.30 p.m.** Prizes for the bingo/raffle are always very welcome.

The Clerk read out the following as being the accurate records of the Congregational Roll as at **31.12.18**

Roll at 31 December 2017

464

Members Admitted:-

A) Profession of Faith	0
B) Certificate	2
C) Resolution of K.S.	5

ADD 7

Members Deleted:-

A) By Death	18
B) By Certificate	1

DEDUCT - 18

Roll as at 31st Dec 2018

453

We now no longer have a Supplementary Roll as under new Data Protection Legislation we are not allowed to hold these names. Those on the Supplementary Roll were written to inviting them to become full members again or become 'friends of St Margaret's' which evoked a good response.

The next meeting of Kirk Session will be held on **Tues 12th March at 7 p.m.**

Maureen Fenton - Session Clerk

Angus Presbytery: December 2018 Report

The Moderator Rev. John Orr opened the meeting with a short reflection on Advent.

Ministries and Appraisal: the congregations of Arbroath West, Arbroath Knox, and Arbroath St Vigeans Church of Scotland voted, almost unanimously, on Sunday 18th November to sever the linkage between

Arbroath Knox, and Arbroath St Vigeans and form a union between Arbroath West and Arbroath Knox to be called Arbroath: West Kirk Church of Scotland. Arbroath: St Vigeans Church of Scotland shall be constituted under a Basis of Guardianship for a period of five years. The Presbytery Plan is to be adjusted accordingly presbytery then broke for refreshments and fellowship. Liz Ross, Christine Hopkin and Mary Coyle were thanked for serving tea, coffee and mince pies.

Training Team: Accreditation of Worship Leaders – Presbytery has an approved training programme for worship leaders, which requires attendance at seminars and working with their minister for 6 months. It was proposed that previously learning should be taken into to account during this training and Worship Leaders could, if they wanted, be allowed to be used by any congregation within the Presbytery. After some discussion and clarification on the legal position of this move the following deliverances were approved:

Presbytery – 1. Agrees to amend the procedure for accrediting Worship Leaders to take account of prior and experiential learning. 2. Agrees that Worship leaders accredited by Presbytery may conduct worship in any congregation within Presbytery.

Training Team: following training Presbytery confirms that the following elders are approved to moderate their own Kirk Sessions; David Adams, Farnell Sheena Benvie, Forfar East and Old, Maureen Fenton, Forfar St. Margaret's, Elizabeth Kidd, Brechin Gardner Memorial, Irene McGugan, Dunnichen Letham Kirkden, Alex Rae, Kirriemuir St. Andrews. Presbytery thanks them for their commitment to take on this extra responsibility

Course update: Leading Worship programme starts in January. It would be appreciated if ministers could approach those they think suitable for this training. The "Telling it Naturally" seminar will run for the first time at Lawson Memorial Church Forfar and the Training team asks that it be promoted in all congregations: it's suitable for all congregational members not just office bearers. Please contact Alex

Rae for more details of any seminar content at fourraes@btinternet.com, Montrose South and Ferryden was given approval to upgrade the church and hall. Presbytery supports the congregation's application for grant assistance towards

various feasibility investigations and awaits the Ministries and Appraisal's view on the disposal of properties.- Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden have been given permission to sell their current manse.

Brechin Cathedral: an offer to cover the cost of repairing decayed timbers in the bell tower of the Cathedral has been received by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland from the Society of Friends of Brechin Cathedral.

Presbytery Review: It is proposed to hold this "seminar" as part of the Presbytery meeting of **5th March**. This one-off discussion which would be open to anyone interested within our congregations, will build on our experience of involvement in the Presbytery Reviews, and take note of the General Assembly remit for Kirk Sessions to reflect on the situation facing the national church.

By starting the meeting at **7 p.m.** it is hoped that ordinary business can be conducted expeditiously to allow time for discussion. When congregations have conducted their "conferences" it would be helpful if these findings were forwarded to the Presbytery office to help set some of the context for the March meeting.

Depute Clerk: Rev Maggie Hunt is willing to offer her time on a limited basis to support the Clerk. This "acting" and interim reduced level arrangement will begin from the February meeting of Presbytery and be reviewed in June. During this time, it might also be appropriate to look at administrative support. Presbytery will next meet: for Ordinary Business at Forfar: St Margaret's on Tuesday 5th February 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Evelyn McPhee – Presbytery Elder

LIAISON ELDERS REPORTS FOR 2018

3RD FORFAR SCOUT GROUP

ALEX MILL

I attended the AGM of the 3rd Forfar Scout Group which was very well attended. They have had another successful year filled with camps, badge work and visits. They took part in the Forfar Gala Week and also attended church as well as helping with other activities. This of course is all down to the hard working adedicated leaders, ably assisted by a working committee of parents. At the time of reading this we will have had the added bonus of Garry Low taking part in the 'Kilt Walk' in aid of funds for St Margaret's building fund.

SENIOR CIRCLE

RHONA SINCLAIR

The Senior Circle once again has had a very successful year with an attendance on average of 45/50. They enjoy a varied programme of talks, demonstrations and musical items, also at Christmas & Easter they have a service led by the Worship Group. In November they had a trip to the Reject Outlet in Kirkcaldy. They had a successful Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy Afternoon. The Christmas Party was held in the Queens Hotel where all who attended enjoyed the meal & entertainment. The last meeting members and guests enjoyed a soup & sweet lunch with entertainment by Maverick. Our thanks must go to Liz for all the hard work and dedication she puts in to organising the programme for the year and the running of the Senior Circle – Well done.

SUNDAY CLUBS

ROSLYN ROEBUCK

I attended Sunday Club one Sunday In June. Although there are few children each week and are of differing ages, Sheila runs the club very well. Working from 3 books to cover the age groups, she provides a variety of activities, including crafts, games and short stories. The children all enjoy the varied programme and are welcomed each week by leaders. On the day I visited Kirsty, a long-time member was presented with a bible to commemorate her time at St Margaret's Sunday Clubs. The Session ends with a game & a short prayer.

Due to small numbers of younger children, the ladies on the Crèche Rota usually join with the Sunday Club Group. Toys are provided for the little ones along with books & puzzles. Again a warm & welcoming environment is provided. I was able to assist Rona Kettles as there were a couple of toddlers attending. The children are cared for in a safe environment.

THE GUILD

MARGARET SPALDING

The small number (18) of Guild members enjoyed a successful year with a variety of talks, interesting topics & entertainment throughout the programme. The opening social was very well attended with entertainment provided by "The Fisher Folk" followed by a wonderful supper. Ally Ballingall from Radio Tay gave an interesting talk on The Scottish Air Ambulance. The Christmas Party was held in the Church Hall where everyone enjoyed the excellent meal provided by "Kirrie Dumplings". There was lots of fun when everyone participated in the games that followed.

In January there was a Scottish evening where John Fyffe entertained by singing a selection of songs. John Crichton gave a presentation of his holiday slides entitled "Highland Islands". Both were excellent. In March after the AGM John Crichton showed an excellent DVD on Andalucía. The year ended with a very successful 'Café Chantant' where Spectrum choir provided the entertainment which was followed by an excellent supper.

FRIENDSHIP VISITORS

GAVIN DRUMMOND FOR MARGARET REID

The 8 members of the team visit, at present, 13 members who are in residential homes or generally housebound. They try to visit their contacts at least every 2 months and spend time chatting with them. The feedback from those visited is that they really appreciate the time that is spent with them and it helps them to keep in touch with what is happening in the congregation. Between the Friendship visitors and the pastoral visitors these members are receiving regular contacts with the congregation. In the Friendship visitors we have a good, dedicated team providing a caring service to some of our members and if any elder or visitor has someone who might appreciate a visit please discuss this with the team leader Norma

Seaton or, at present, Gavin Drummond to see if they meet the guidelines for the visits. The Kirk Session might wish to offer thanks to Norma for the work of the team.

MUMS/TOTS PLAYGROUP

ELIZABETH ROSS

Back in Sept '17 Mums 'n Tots started back with new mums & tots after their summer break. They had a variety of activities with art and painting mornings. In November they had a fundraising day with a Coffee Morning and Craft Groups with various ladies with different stalls. The Christmas Party was a good party morning with Santa bringing their parcels. After the break they were back playing with their toys and the end of the session finished with a party for all the kids moving on to nursery. Sept '18 has started with a new committee and there are 25 children attending between Mon, Tues & Thurs mornings. The next activity they are planning is a Halloween Party.

Monthly Soups These continue throughout the year on the 1st Friday of each month – 12noon – 1.30pm Homemade Soup and Crusty Bread with Tea & Biscuits for £2.50. 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 Lawson Memorial Church who also distribute to those in need in the town. **There is still a huge need for a foodbank in Forfar**

MENS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP

At our inaugural meeting in November our guest speaker Donald Innes enthralled the company with a fascinating talk and reflections on equipment and weaponry in use during World War One.. A retired History teacher from Forfar Academy he had his St Margaret's Church 'pupils' captivated with his enthusiasm and ability to bring relics and memorabilia from the conflict to life.

Our December meeting saw the group enjoy an excellent afternoon of fellowship and good conversation over a relaxed Christmas Lunch at Chapelbank House Hotel. The standard of food, service and company made for a most enjoyable get together.

The first monthly meeting of 2019 took in an outside visit in January to Gin Bothy, Glamis where we were given an insight to the background to the 10 establishment of the business followed by a tour of the premises and sampling of some artisan gins. While the spirit measures were small there was enough to provide a sample of the various flavours and botanicals in use. Thankfully the group was travelling by mini bus.....

The forthcoming meetings over next few months are detailed below

Monday 18 February 2019 Guest Speaker – Angus Glens’ Talk – George Milne

Monday 18 March 2019 Guest Speaker – Scotch Whisky Tour - Keith Headridge

Date tbc April/May 2019 Farm Visit – Craignathro Farm – courtesy of Steel family.

We normally meet monthly in St Margaret’s Session Rooms over coffee and biscuits for starting at 10.30 and finishing by 11.45. Look forward to seeing you.

David Adam

GIFT DAY The Finance Group would like to thank most sincerely all those who contributed to the Gift Day on 3rd November and in the weeks that followed. The amount raised was £2299 – a fine sum which has helped us to have an overall surplus in the accounts again this past year.

Helen McLeod – Convener

SENIOR CIRCLE

Senior Circle enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal in the pensioners’ hall with music by James – Musical Memories. On the 10th December we welcomed the Worship group for our Christmas carols followed by Christmas pies, cake and tea. Our first meeting of 2019 on the 14th January with a toast for 2019 with John Young and Scottish Songs, on the 21st January was a games afternoon and chit chat followed on the 28th a Scottish afternoon with Mike McEwan. On the 4th February we welcome back Liz Crawford and De – Ukes. 11th Feb the manager Kathleen and Deputy Fiona to give a talk on the Deidre Knight Centre, the 18th Feb we have a Quiz afternoon and On the 25th we have the return of the Blair Bell Ringers.

Elizabeth Ross

Good Neighbours Our weather is slowly but surely turning to autumn/winter and may start to be a problem particularly for the elderly and disabled folks in our community. Could we all keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours, friends or colleagues who might need a bit of assistance when a cold snap appears and give them a helping hand if we can?

FORFAR ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lent Bible Studies & Lent Lunches

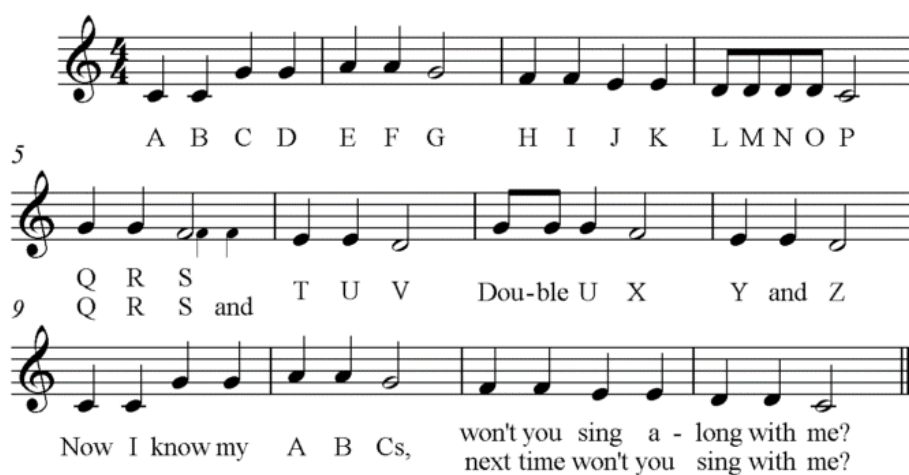
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There will be a different church supplying and serving the soups each week. St Margaret’s will be serving on **Friday 5th April.**

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

*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?

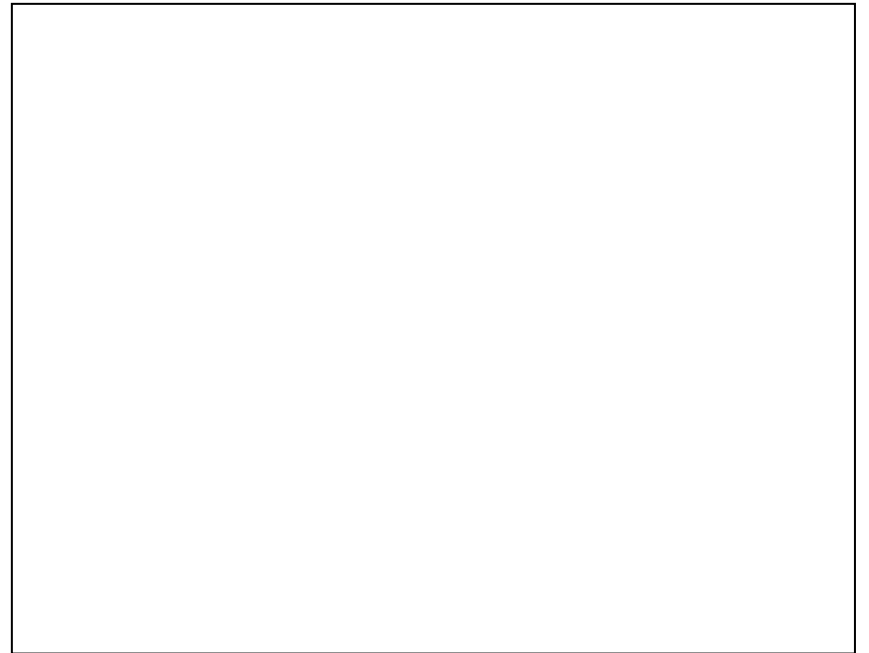
THE MUSICAL ALPHABET

WITH

S FOR **S**PECTRUM

tickets £5

includes a light supper



Saturday
16th . February
10.30 -12.00
Messy Music