

The Magazine of Inverurie West
Parish Church

NOVEMBER 2024



EM
GO
UN
TER



Artist – Ignacio Gomez.




Scottish Charity SC016907

REFLECTION

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS by Fred Kaan

Fred Kaan was a hymn writer who sought to address issues of peace and justice. He was born in the Netherlands in 1929 and lived through the Nazi occupation. Three of his grandparents died of starvation, and his parents were deeply involved in the resistance movement. They took in a number of refugees. He became a pacifist and was ordained at the Windsor Road United Reformed Church, Bristol in 1955.




For the healing of the nations,
Lord we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair Your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
men may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas keeping man from man.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
Your great Name on all mankind;
for our growing in Your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.



From the West Manse



“If I could turn back time”, so sang Cher in 1989.

Well, presumably Cher, as an American, gets the chance to do exactly that every autumn. Americans, like approximately 76 other countries, practise daylight savings time, meaning clocks go forward an hour in the spring and back in the autumn.

Having said that, North Americans turn their clocks back a week later than we do in Scotland, which confuses me greatly if I happen to make a transatlantic call at the end of October!

Of course Cher and the rest of us aren't really turning back time. In the first place, the real change to our clocks happens in the spring when we move them forward. The ‘fall back’ merely returns us to the status quo.

More importantly, time itself is unaffected by any ‘footering’ we do with our clocks.

Time itself is something of a mystery. When some physicists talk about time their language can take on an almost theological flavour. I'm still trying to get my head around Italian physicist's Carlo Rovelli's description of time. According to Rovelli, from the point of view of physics, the past and the future are really the same, and the present doesn't actually exist.

And then there's the fact that apparently if it wasn't for gravity, there wouldn't be any such thing as time. Or something like that.

Time for us as humans is both an objective reality and a subjective experience. We agree common ways of measuring and recording it; yet it remains one of the few forces we have virtually no control

over. We cannot stop it or pause it. We all *feel* it passing, but that feeling is very individual. The same minute, or hour or year passes quickly for some, slowly for others.

Individually and collectively we use memory to try to pin down or freeze particular moments in time. Unless or until someone invents time travel, it's the closest we can get to pressing the rewind button. And maybe that's a good thing. If humanity really could turn back time, would we make better choices or repeat the same mistakes? Instead, maybe we can use our memories - as we do on Remembrance Sunday - not just to hold onto and honour the past but also to guide and shape the future.

Ultimately the best we can do is make the most of whatever time we have been given, trusting that our God has the rest of it in hand. As it says in Psalm 90, "*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom*". There is wisdom in knowing our limitations. There is peace and even joy to be found in accepting that we can't control or even understand everything.

I remain grateful that God gave humanity the reasoning capacity to produce physicists who can make a decent stab at capturing the big picture on behalf of the rest of us. My brain is full enough calculating time zone differences! However, I'd prefer to leave the management of unlimited time to the God whose love also has no limits.

Every blessing Rhona



Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget

"At the going down of the
sun and in the morning,
We will remember them"



THE GUILD

We were treated to a real dose of Doric when Barbara Forbes's 'Basket o' Blethers' was unpacked at our October meeting. Poems, funny stories and anecdotes kept us amused while a list of Doric words '*tae rax yir harns*' tested us at tea time. We were fair '*dumfoonert!*'

Only a few days later our West Fest stall after church proved to be a great success, making **£151** for Guild funds. Thanks go to all who provided the jams, cakes, biscuits and other tasty treats. We certainly enjoyed our purchases!

Dates for your diary:

Monday 11 November

'My Life as a Midwife' with Janice Paton

Monday 9 December

Christmas Celebration with Chris Gardner and friends

NB: If you have not, as yet, paid your subs please do so at the November meeting.

HARVEST



As always, the church was beautifully decorated for the annual harvest festival. The bright colours of the flowers and produce remind us of how lucky we are to have an abundance of food – grown both locally and internationally.



The posies were very artistically arranged and after the service were distributed to elderly members of the congregation – they were gratefully received. Thanks to all who assisted with the decoration of the church, arranging the flowers and distributing the posies.

GRAMPIAN HOSPITALS' CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

CONDUCTOR: TIM TRICKER

FEATURING
THE GRAMPIAN HOSPITALS' CHRISTMAS CHOIR
CONCORDIA STRING ORCHESTRA
BON ACCORD BRASS QUINTET

AND IN THE FOYER PRECONCERT
ABERDEEN CITY SENIOR STRING QUARTET

SUN 15 DECEMBER 2024
2:30PM
ABERDEEN MUSIC HALL

Adults £20 | Children £15
 Under 12s free

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN 2024

YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER

FR REGULATORY

NB Tickets are available from the Music Hall or online through Aberdeen Performing Arts.

Pray for a just peace

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.
 May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.
 We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.
 God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.
 May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.
 We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.
 May the clamour of violence cease, Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.
 God, in your name,

Amen



What is Remembrance Day?

The first Remembrance Day was held in 1919 throughout the Commonwealth and Britain. Originally called Armistice Day, it commemorated the end of the hostilities of the Great War in 1918. It came to symbolise the end of war and provide an opportunity to remember those who had died.

Australian journalist Edward George Honey proposed a respectful silence to remember those who had given their lives in the Great War. This suggestion was adopted by King George V who announced that a two-minute silence would be observed, and thus began Remembrance Day as we know it today: *"All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."* - King George V.

Cenotaph means 'empty tomb', and at the end of the Second World War in 1945 Armistice Day became Remembrance Day to include all those who had fallen in the two World Wars and other conflicts. Interestingly, on the first-ever Remembrance Day, nearly 15,000 troops took part; however, many veterans refused to participate in what they saw as a 'militaristic celebration'.

The Red Poppy was first created as a symbol of Remembrance by an American, Miss Moina Belle Michael, a professor at the University of Georgia. She was inspired on 9th November, 1918 by the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Canadian John McCrae, with its opening lines referring to the thousands of poppies that were the first flowers to grow in the churned-up earth of the battlefields and on soldiers' graves.

The Last Post had its origins as a simple bugle call – used to alert troops to the fact they could stand down for the day. Now, accompanied by the poignant lines from Laurence Binyon's poem, it is an integral part of Remembrance Day service.

SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING TEAM UPDATES



Have you any unwanted/pre-loved baubles and other Christmas decorations languishing in your loft or cupboards?



If you are happy to donate them, we'd like to reuse/recycle them! We will sort them out and prepare them for selling in the Acorn Centre.

From late November we will have a table set up with Christmas items which you can pick up for a donation to church funds. Items can be dropped off at church on Sundays after 27 October or at the Acorn Centre from Tuesday 29 October. If you need items collected, please let us know.



Thanks in anticipation!

Joyce Petrie





REMINDER

UBUNTU

Fairtrade Shop

Christmas Open Evening
Monday, 4 November 2024
6.30 - 8.00 pm

Complimentary fairly traded refreshments.



EVERY LITTLE HELPS

I wanted to tell you how easy it is to use the Easyfundraising website and while shopping online earn some funds for the Church without any cost or inconvenience to yourself.

With Christmas round the corner we may all be shopping more online, so please consider connecting to the Easyfundraising website before making any purchases.

Simply find the Easyfundraising website -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Click to sign up, then choose our cause to support i.e. Inverurie West Parish Church, enter your email address and a password and your first and last names, then choose whether or not you want to receive emails ... as simple as that!

You have to go through the Easyfundraising website each time before shopping, but that is really the only 'inconvenience'. Last week, I bought something online for £33 and the Church will receive £1 with no extra cost to me. Ok, it's not a lot, but 'every little helps!'



Please email me

(ablair26@btinternet.com) or

phone/WhatsApp message me
(07905 580371) if you would like

more information. If I send you the

link, we even have a chance of winning an extra £300.

Happy shopping!

Alison Blair

ADVENT EVENING

The annual Advent Evening will be on **Friday 6th December** at the Acorn Centre. We start at **6.30 pm** with tea and mince pies, then move onto discussing our theme, which this year is "Give Me Shelter!" Mary & Joseph sought shelter for the birth of their child, but many in our society seek shelter, too. A thoughtful evening for Advent, and we hope a few people will join us.



*West Church
Education Team
Advent Event*

Give me Shelter!!

**Friday 6th
December
Acorn Centre**

**Come along at
6.30 pm for
Tea and Pies
Discussion starts at 7.00pm**

CHURCH CALENDAR/WAYS OF CONNECTING – NOVEMBER 2024

Please note that **two services this month begin at 10 am- our Remembrance Sunday service on Nov 10th and our shared service with St Andrew's on Nov 24th.** If you are worshipping from home, you can connect as usual via the West church website and youtube channels .



- Sun 3 Nov 11 am Morning Worship
Hospitality time after the service, including our Gifts Fair.*
- Mon 4 Nov 6.30-8.00 pm Ubuntu Christmas preview evening.
- Wed 6 Nov 7.30pm Zoom bible study
All welcome. Contact Rhona for the link.
- Sun 10 Nov **10 am** Remembrance Sunday worship followed by shared Act of Remembrance in the town square.
- Sun 17 Nov 11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.
- Sun 24 Nov **10 am** Joint Worship at St Andrew's church.
Featuring a performance of Paul Mealar's 'A Scottish Prayer' for HM King Charles III, with Iain Milne as tenor soloist.
- Tue 26 Nov 7.30 pm Kirk session meeting.
- Wed 27 Nov 7.30 pm Climate Matters Café.

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter please email encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org by Wed 20 November.

*Our Gifts Fair on Nov 3rd is a chance to talk to representatives of the various activities and groups in the church and find out how you might use/explore your own gifts to help support our community.

Rhona will be on annual leave from **18 to 25 November**. Pastoral cover for the week will be provided by Rev Carl Irvine.

Children are welcome at all services. Most weeks we offer Junior Church for children who wish to go downstairs partway through the service. Activities and toys can also be found in our 'play as you worship' box in the sanctuary.

The prayer group continues to meet regularly on Thursday mornings. Prayer requests can be sent to olive.duncan@hotmail.co.uk or duncan.linda1@btinternet.com

CHRISTIAN AID CHARITY GIFTS



Start your Christmas shopping with a difference. Gifts that make the impossible possible. Fancy sending a pair of chickens or sending a child to school? These are just two of the gifts in the Christian Aid Charity gifts.



To find out more and shop now click the link below:



Christian Aid Christmas Card Delivery Service 2024



Planning for the annual collection and delivery of Christmas cards within Inverurie/Port

Elphinstone/Osprey Village has begun. Post boxes will be placed in the Acorn Centre, St Andrew's Church, Strachan's, Morrisons, Tesco, and J.G. Ross at Highclere during the course of the evening of **6th December**, allowing people to post their local cards from 7th December until the last posting date of **16th December**.



The minimum donation requested per card is 50p which is the same as it was last year. All funds raised go to Christian Aid.



Current volunteers, for whose help we are very grateful, will be contacted nearer the time. We are always on the look-out for new volunteers to help deliver the cards, and if you would like to get

involved we would do our best to match you to a street or two close to your home. Only one delivery is made, once all the cards have been sorted, so it is not very time-consuming, but many hands make light work! If you are at all interested in helping to deliver, or to sort the cards at St Andrew's Church, please ring either Sheila Rennie on **01467 623156** or Alison Young on **07790976939**.

We would be delighted to have your help!

WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

Minister	Rev Rhona Cathcart r.cathcart@inveruriwestchurch.org	620285
Session Clerks	Mark and Gillian Paterson sessionclerk@inveruriwestchurch.org	625675
Church and Acorn Centre Administration	Judith Will admin@inveruriwestchurch.org	670850
Church Officer	A team approach will be implemented.	
Rollkeeper	Chris Gardner rollkeeper@inveruriwestchurch.org	07791 630495
Life & Work	Irene Jamieson irenejamieson@live.co.uk	
Safeguarding Co-ordinators	Valerie Napier Gail Buchan	623279 622145
Transport Co-ordinator	Linda Mathers	622586
Acorn Centre Management Team	Laura Gray lauragray25@btinternet.com	620658
Environmental Matters Team	Joy Doorghen doorghens@hotmail.com	620823
Fabric Team	Jim Lyle jimlyle@hotmail.co.uk	624159
Finance Team	Alan Sharp sharp3@btinternet.com	
Treasurer	Alison Blair treasurer@inveruriwestchurch.org	620677
Committed Giving Envelopes	Cindy Farquhar Cindyfarquhar25@yahoo.com	
Gift Aid	Mandy Aitken mandyaitken@sky.com	07532 487788
Junior Church Team	Biff Barrow biff.barrow@tiscali.co.uk	623096
Pastoral Care Team	Rev Rhona Cathcart r.cathcart@inveruriwestchurch.org	620285
Social/Fundraising Team	Joyce Petrie joycepetrie21@hotmail.com	620932

CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

There are no changes to the Roll this month.

Please advise the Roll Keeper of any change of address:
rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.org

FLOWER CALENDAR – NOVEMBER

CONVENER - Margaret Sangster

Oct 6th Margaret Sangster

Oct 13th Susan Rucklidge

Oct 20th Ian and Liz Nelson

Oct 27th Ian and Liz Nelson



ENCOUNTER ONLINE – Currently we are producing and distributing Encounter online and in print. If you have not already provided details of your e-mail and would like to ensure you receive the online version, please contact the Session Clerk (**01467 625675**).

