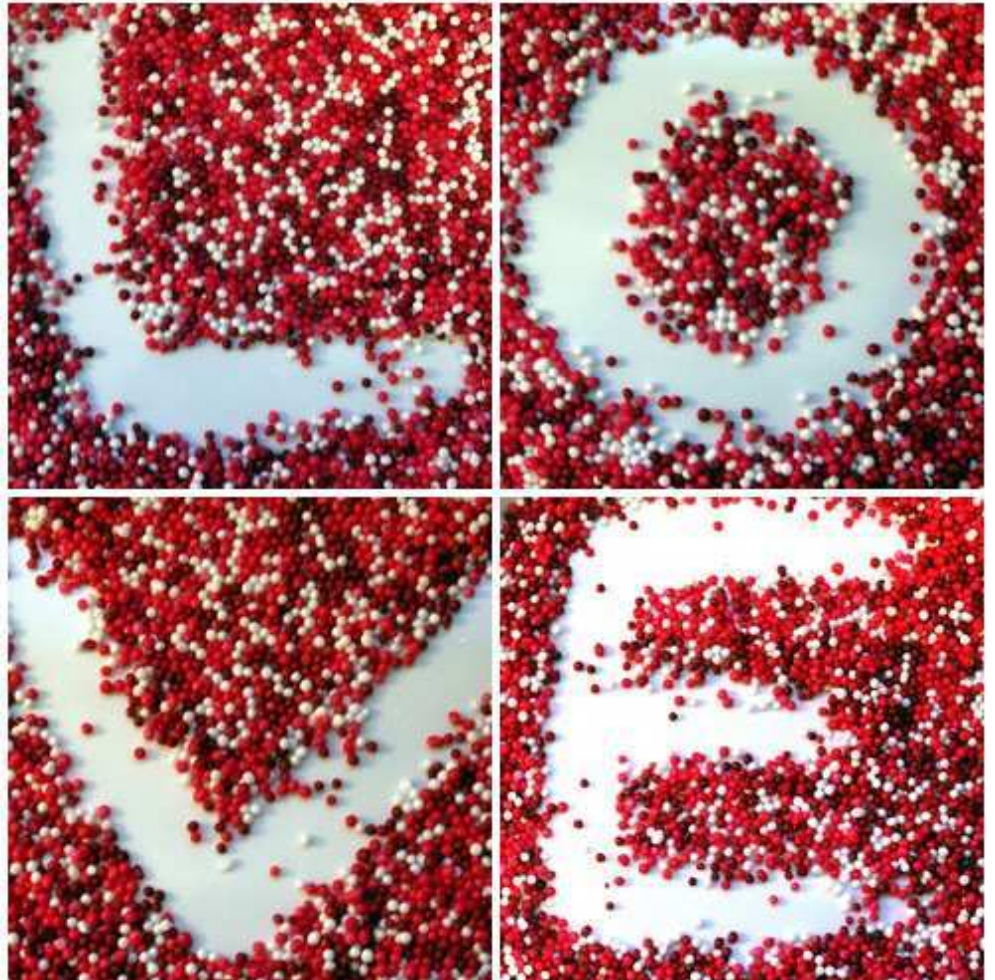


February 2011

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The Magazine of Inverurie West Parish Church
www.inveruriwestchurch.org

Calendar For February

- Sun 6th **11.00 a.m.** Worshipping Together. Crèche available.
6.30 p.m. Focus + Supper in the Acorn Centre
- Mon 7^h **7.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Management Committee
meets in the Chapel
- Tues 8th 7.30 p.m. West Church Guild meets in the Acorn
Centre. "People and Places of the Holy Land" with
Ann-Marie Coleman.
- Sun 13th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Junior Church and
Crèche.
- Mon 14th **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session meets in the Church
- Sun 20th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Junior Church and
Crèche.
2.00 p.m. Hospital Worship in Donbank Ward
- Tues 22nd 7.30 p.m. Junior Church leaders meet in the Centre
- Sun 27th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship followed by short
celebration of the Lord's Supper. Junior Church and
Crèche.

Prayer Group meets at 7.30 p.m. each Thursday in the Centre

??? Enquirers Group ???

Interested in exploring the Christian faith?

Are you seeking Baptism as an adult?

Are you new to the Church and want to know more?

Are you a long time member of the Church
and simply what to take stock of where you are at?

An Enquirers Group will meet from the beginning of February for
approximately six weeks.

Interested? Contact Ian Groves 01467 620285 or
i.groves@inveruriwestchurch.org

Dear Friends

You know those words you are most likely to hear when you are at a religious wedding ceremony that go, “Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited or proud” Those words that we all nod at wisely and say yes, but in real life

What we have there is a description of grace. The description, as the writer understands it, of the love of God in all its perfection.

But truth is that for us, love has all kinds of meanings and associations. The excitement of meeting someone whom we connect with on all kinds of levels and love grows. The pleasure of being with someone we have expressed our love to and they to us. The love which is between child and parent and that of parent for child.

Then there is that other aspect of love, the pain of love. Because we have invested so much of ourselves in a relationship there is the huge sense of loss when that relationship comes to an end for whatever reason.

Of course there are a whole host of other things in life that we will express our love for be it a place, a building, a favourite food but there is no escaping from the fact that the biblical view of love is expressed in context of human to human based on the unconditional love of God.

A love which despite who we are is offered, we believe, through the person of Jesus and which is offered as a way in which to share ourselves with one another.

Sure it is a challenge, but that’s what a patient, unselfish, seeking the truth kind of living is going to be about but then the promise – love never gives up: and its faith, hope and promise never fail.

Best wishes.

Jan B. Groves



WEST CHURCH GUILD NEWS

The January meeting was well attended considering the weather, and was led by Doreen Tough. The reading, prayer, and choice of hymns were done with great thoughtfulness.

We were treated to some light relief watching a video of the “3 Crows” (Joy Doorghen, Joan Feltham & Eleanor Mitchell, assisted by Margaret Harrow as their nurse) shot at last Sunday’s Congregational Party.

Doreen then introduced Dr Geoff Gill who very professionally and with a wealth of knowledge gave a very informative talk on the Inverurie churches then and now. He showed us a huge selection of photographs to support his text.

The largest part of the evening was about the “ West Kirk “ from birth to present day, which included many photographs of the buildings through the decades and of the people involved, past and present.

Members were notified of the Annual Rally to take place in the Kintore Arms Hotel, Inverurie on Thursday 2 June 2011 and of a Guild Theme Training which will take place on Saturday 19th March 2011 in the Acorn Centre.

The sales table on the night raised £70.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th February when Ann-Marie Coleman will speak about “People And Places of the Holy Land”. See you all there.

Margaret Harrow.

What's My Line?

goes in search of the people behind the people.

This time of year is busy for those involved in financial planning. As well as being the Finance Convenor of the West Church, Derek Yule is Head of Finance with Aberdeenshire Council.



In your post within a Local Authority what are your major challenges at this time.

To balance the budget!

We have heard a lot of doom and gloom recently about major cuts to public services. How do you deal with that?

Well like any household what is spent can only be equal to what comes in and so in local government we have to cut the cloth to fit.

Does that mean some difficult decisions?

Yes it does. Many people think that accountants only look at the figures on the page. In finance we are guided by the Service Managers and what they are seeking for their departments, but as an individual I am only too well aware what the consequences might be if the budget is reduced in certain areas such as social work or community care.

Have you always been involved with public service?

Yes I began my career in the National Health Service and have worked in some form of public service ever since?

Until May 2010 I was Chair of the Scottish Branch of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy and at present I am Vice-Chair of the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee which sets accounting standards for local government.

How do you balance faith and finance?

The basic commitment we make to the Church involves time, talents and money. Whether we like it or not money is the way things happen in our society and with what we have achieved in the West Church over these past few years we have moved this congregation on beyond the perhaps simple equation of givings in and ministry and property costs out.

It is good to see the Church being at the heart of the community both in providing a place for groups to meet, but also putting cash into the community through the Small Grants Scheme.

Of course we need to remember we are also a Presbyterian church so we have a financial responsibility to the wider work of the Church of Scotland.

I also find being an Elder keeps me in touch with the real needs of people. As I said before accountants are often said to be very good at telling you what you can't do but not always how to do what you can. Being in touch with my district helps me to understand the needs which people have and how much they may depend on the services provided by the local authority or the church for that matter.

You speak about being an Elder in a Presbyterian Church but you have an interest elsewhere don't you?

Yes I am a shareholder in Celtic Football Club! From a young boy I have been a supporter of Celtic. It wasn't something that was part of my family life, but it is now, as it is something I can share with my sons.

I have always enjoyed sports playing football and badminton and golf at school. I have represented Scotland in junior golf and as a referee in junior football have run the hallowed turf of places like Easter Road and Tynecastle.

Do you have any other hobbies or interests? How do you relax?

With work, family and church commitments – and following Celtic! – other time is limited, but I do enjoy a game of golf (I play off a handicap of 12) and find that a round of golf of a summer evening is a good way to relax after a day at meetings.

Derek is married to Hilary and they have four children – Claire, Craig, Andrew and Fraser.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 28.02.11 – 13.03.11

Create a Buzz for Fair Trade

Bees are vital for our environment - it's estimated that a third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees. Their honey also provides much needed income for many poor communities in the developing world as beekeeping requires little land and doesn't take high investment.



Traidcraft works across East Africa, with over 50,000 poor beekeepers, helping them to improve the quality and quantity of their honey by providing training, equipment and support.

In the UK we only produce 12% of the honey we consume so we need to import more from overseas. Think of the difference we could make if all of the honey was fair trade!



Available in Ubuntu - Wild
Blossom and Sweet
Justice Honey from Chile



Squeezy Honey from Guatemala

And don't forget, all Geobars contain Traidcraft Fairtrade honey – and with over 20 million sold, that's a lot of developing world beekeepers who have been helped.



Fruity Flapjacks

- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 4 tbsp Fairtrade honey
- 150g/5oz butter
- 150g/5oz porridge oats
- 100g/3½oz desiccated coconut
- 75g/2¾oz Fairtrade sultanas
- 75g/2¾oz dried Fairtrade mango, chopped



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Grease a medium-sized deep baking tray. Approx 7" x 9".
3. In a large saucepan, melt the golden syrup, honey and butter together over a low heat, stirring to mix.
4. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the oats, coconut, raisins and mango.
5. Pour the flapjack mixture into the tray and press it down gently.
6. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until deep golden-brown on top.
7. Score the flapjack into pieces whilst still hot.
8. Allow to cool in the tin before turning out.



Nkhoma Hospital
 PO Box 48
 Nkhoma
 Malawi



Dear Family and Friends,

One of the biggest challenges of living and working here is that the problems and difficulties never stop coming. Just when you think that one thing is sorted out, another comes.

The finances have been a big challenge, but there is now a good accounting system in place, with regular accurate reports on income and expenditure and the audit for 2008 through June 2010 is complete.

It seemed as though things were shaping up. Then, in the midst of a huge influx of malaria cases in the children's ward, came the news that the primary oral medication we use [LA] which has been supplied for free through the ministry of health by USAID [for you Americans that means your tax dollars hard at work], is not currently available. For us to purchase what we need is over \$1,000 per week. It is not clear what the problem is [though it is not due to the donation stopping, rather it seems to be a distribution problem], though we cannot get a clear explanation.

Then there is the sheer number of patients to attend to. The children's ward has 52 beds. Over the last 2 weeks we have had up to 80 admissions per day and up to 180 patients in the ward. Since every child also has a guardian or parent, just picture 360 people in 52 beds.

We had a visiting family practice resident from the USA helping out, making rounds in the children's ward. After seeing four children in one bed, he was about to move to the next bed, when the nurse told him there was still one more to see, and from underneath the bed another child rolled out!

In December there were over 750 admissions and "only" 15 deaths. Another mark of African medicine, although every death is tragic, is the fact that given our overloaded situation and severe understaffing, with at least 10-15 patients who in the UK or USA would be in a paediatric intensive care unit with 1 to 1 nurse to patient care, rather than the 1 to 40 or 50 nurse to patient care we have here, we are relieved to see so few deaths. It is a testimony to the hard work of the staff, and wisdom and strength from our Lord.

Both Rebecca and I are trying our best to not burn ourselves out with the demands. With so many admissions and discharges, just getting charts made, supervising the ward clerks and handling much of the data entry herself, Rebecca has had 7 day work weeks.

Over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, two of our doctors were away so that added to the load for me. Then to top that off, our Malawian doctor, Kondwani Katundu, informed us that he was given an offer for further training that he felt he could not turn down, so is leaving this month after only being here for 6 months.

It is funny how things come to mind. As I was bemoaning my lack of time for rest and celebration over Christmas, I was reminded how God spent the first Christmas, the second person of the Trinity being incarnated as one of us in the most humble circumstances. Not much rest and celebration there either I guess.

My aunt Ruthie sent me a devotional from Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good." That was a timely reminder as I was becoming very weary of doing good and needed to be pointed away from myself and rest in Christ, working out of his strength and not being so anxious about sorting everything out.

Pray that we will find our rest in Christ,

David and Rebecca Morton www.davidrebeccamorton.wordpress.com



**Inverurie Churches Christmas
Card Delivery Scheme 2010**

**Thank you to all who helped
with or used this scheme.**

**Just over 10,000 cards were
processed raising £2100 for
Christian Aid projects**

Shhh...tars
in their
Eyes



Befriend  Child

 turn a frown upside down

Friday 25th February
Inverurie Town Hall
7.30pm - Tickets £8
Raffle - Licensed Bar
www.shhhthemusical.com

**“Handel’s Messiah”
performed by
Inverurie Choral Society
7.00 p.m.
in Inverurie West Church
Sunday 20th March 2011**

**Tickets £10 available from
The Acorn Centre
or Morgan’s Music**



Festive Party 2011



**Games, Music, Food,
Dancing and Three Crows!
Who says West Church folk
don't know how to enjoy
themselves?**

