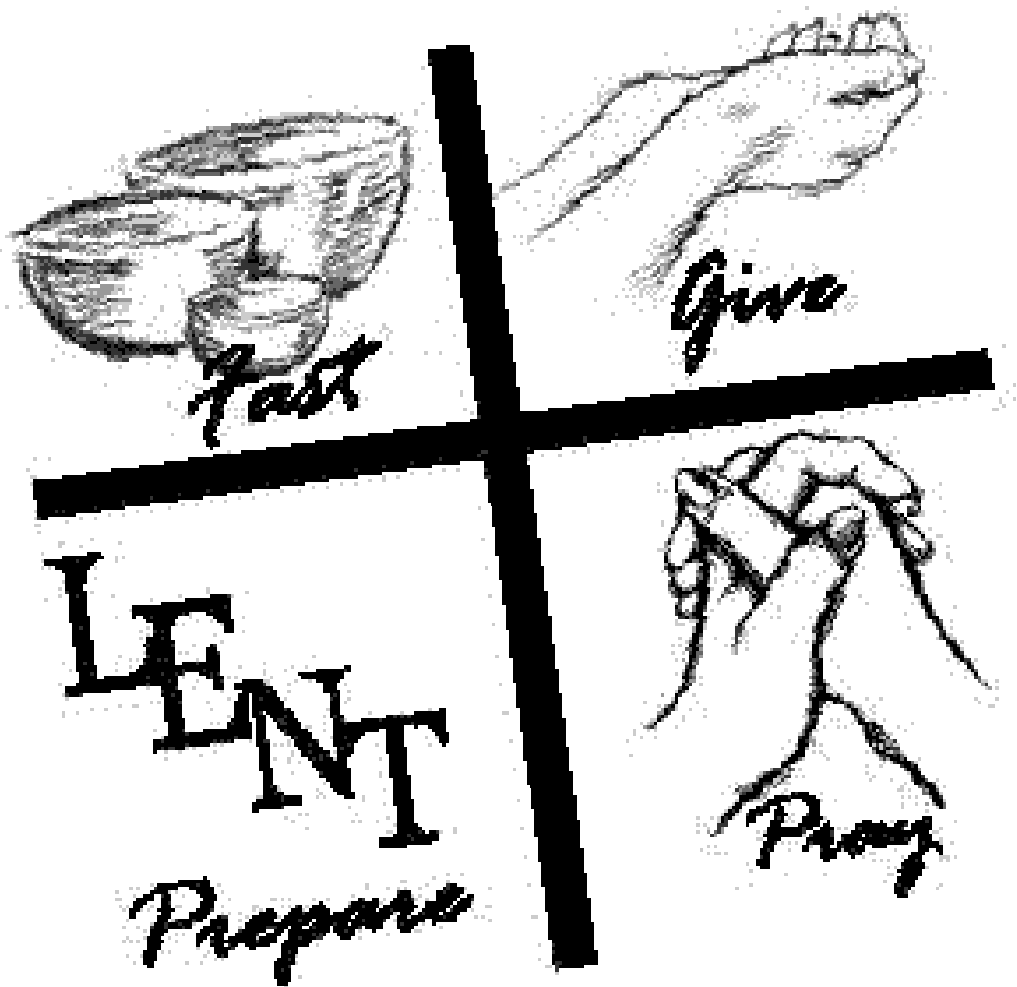


March 2011

ENCOUNTER



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

Calendar For March

- Thurs 3rd **7.30 p.m.** Fabric Committee meets in the Acorn Centre
- Fri 4th **7.30 p.m.** World Day Of Prayer Service in Roman Catholic Church, North Street
- 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. "Habitat For Humanity" with Dr Burnett.
- Sun 13th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Junior Church and Crèche.
- Mon 14th **7.30 p.m.** Congregational Board meets in the Church
- Tues 15th **7.30 p.m.** IDCT meets in West Church Chapel
- Sun 20th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship for the First Sunday of Lent with Sacrament of Baptism. Junior Church and Crèche.
2.00 p.m. Hospital Worship in Ashcroft Ward
- Mon 21st **7.30 p.m.** Congregational AGM in the Church
- Tues 22nd **7.30 p.m.** Junior Church leaders meet in the Centre
- Fri 25th **7.30 p.m.** Christian Aid Quiz Aid in Daviot Village Hall
- 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

Dear Friends

Towards the end of this month we will enter the season of Lent, that time of preparation for Easter. I heard recently about a challenge to *take* something up for Lent rather than *give* something up for Lent and I must say I like the positive nature of that.

Let's face it, for the vast majority of us the giving up is pretty minimal and has very little connection with any religious practice. It is also quite likely that the sacrificial giving up of chocolate for Lent will be followed by a veritable gorging on the nearest stack of chocolate eggs once the time limit has expired.

But taking something up for Lent. No I am not thinking about just gorging on the chocolate during the six weeks, but about something a lot more positive. A new challenge perhaps. A new activity. A new interest which will either enrich our own life or the life of someone else.

After all isn't that what we are reflecting on as we approach Easter - the action of Jesus which had the intention that all our lives would be enriched?

So go on let's take something up for Lent!

Maybe we could take the E100 Challenge (see page 4). Maybe we could offer our particular skills as a volunteer in some group which needs extra help. Maybe we could make a plan to find out more about something we have only paid lip service to in the past. Maybe we could just make space to spend time with someone who would appreciate the company.

Lent, the time to prepare to recognise again the power of God's love made available to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Best wishes.

Jan B. Groves



WEST CHURCH GUILD NEWS

The February meeting was led by Elsie McRae with very meaningful readings and hymns pertaining to our speaker for the evening.

Ann-Marie Coleman, our Co-ordinator, gave a very interesting talk with excellent photographs on her various visits to the Holy Land where she met and was befriended by numerous people and visited many interesting places.

Some of the photos she showed were haunting and provoked deep thought in us all. The people she met were all so friendly and invited her to see their villages, towns and historical biblical sites.

Ann-Marie's collection of photographs was excellent and it was very gratifying to be able to put faces to the many names that we have heard about since the start of her travels. We were also able to see all the fine work done to the hospital and Al Sharooq School with the many donations from her many bike rides and support from our own Junior Church.

The only business for the evening was in the form of an invitation from Cluny Guild for their March meeting.

The meeting on the 8th of March will be our A.G.M. The speaker for the evening will be Dr Burnett with the subject being "Habitat For Humanity". All are welcome especially non members.

Margaret Harrow.



Part of the BibleFresh initiative the E100 challenge is an new exciting way to read through the Bible. The challenge is based on carefully selected short Bible passages – 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament – that helps us get the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down.

To take the E100 challenge, follow these simple steps:

Find a Bible translation that you are comfortable with.

Set aside a special time and place to read the Bible each day.

Use the “Track Your Progress” card that will be available from Sunday 6th March.

Take the E100 Challenge!

Order forms for the full E100 will also be available on 6th March



The Fairtrade Foundation has congratulated The Co-operative Group on its' announcement that it is rolling out an ambitious three-year Ethical Operating Plan.

The foundation is delighted, on behalf of Fairtrade producers around the globe and UK Fairtrade supporters, that a key element of the plan is devoted to tackling global poverty through Fairtrade.

The plan includes a major programme of unequivocal support for Fairtrade, including that 'if it can be Fairtrade, it will be Fairtrade'.

By 2013, The Co-operative plan that 90% of the primary commodities sourced from the developing world will be certified to Fairtrade standards. They are also



developing a range of projects and initiatives that will benefit producers.

'At the check-out, there is a modern day revolution going on as people flex their consumer muscles to demand and look for Fairtrade products in order to drive social, economic and environmental changes in the way our food, drink and clothes are made and traded,' says Harriet Lamb, Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation. 'At the forefront of those changes is The Co-operative and its six million members – a living example of just how much ordinary people can achieve when they put their minds to tackling injustice.'

Deep Impact 2011

I had the privilege to be invited to steward at Deep Impact 2011, a conference for Christian Youth workers and volunteers held over the weekend of 21-23 January at the Macdonald Aviemore Resort.

Deep Impact, which has been running for five years, is an opportunity for anyone working or volunteering with young people in a variety of settings across Scotland. As a volunteer with North East Scotland Youth for Christ it gave me the opportunity to find out what was going on across the country. It was a weekend filled with opportunities to worship, network and attend seminars and workshops, all of which had prayer at their core.

The main speaker, Pete Grieg, is one of the founders of the 24-7 Prayer movement. His style is very relaxed and he uses humour and personal experience to illustrate his message. The highlight was on the Saturday night when he had all 300 plus delegates shouting to God to 'come on' and stir everyone to be a light for Christ in Scotland. You can find out more about 24-7 Prayer at www.24-7prayer.com/about/what.

I came home exhausted but filled with inspiration and hope for the young people of Scotland. It has often been said that young people are the future of the church, but we know that they are the present *and* the future.

There were many opportunities for creative prayer over the weekend and we were encouraged to try them out. One of the most powerful was a 'prayer loom' where people wrote someone's name or a situation for which they wanted prayer on a strip of cloth and wove it into the loom. These were interwoven with gold and silver strips which symbolised God and Holy Spirit.

If you would like to hear more about the weekend or the work of NESYFC I would be happy to speak to you.

Gillian Douglas (01467 670799)

Congregational AGM
Monday 21st March 2011
7.00 p.m.
in the Church and Acorn Centre

New members of the Congregational Board are always welcome.
 If you wish to volunteer please speak to our Clerk to the Board Alistair Mackay (01224 790153

If you wish to nominate someone else please seek their permission and then nominate them at the AGM.

Under current rules Board members require to be over 18 and on the Congregational Roll.

Congregational Givings

Do you give your offering by standing order?

When was the last time you reviewed what you give?

All you have to do is contact your bank and make the change.

Are you a tax payer?

Have you signed up for Gift Aid?



All you have to do is contact Mandy Aitken (623065, in strict confidence, for a form. The congregation receive an extra 28% on top of what you give with no extra cost to yourself.

The Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh has been awarded £148,000 by Lloyds TSB over the next three years to run the service which supports children aged 5 to 14 affected by parental substance abuse.



The Bungalow in Stonehaven has received a £230,000 legacy which will be used to improve the building for service users.

Perth Prison Visitors centre has a new family support worker, Charlene Kennedy, who is funded by the Guild and working in partnership with Families Outside

Guild Members across Scotland have raised over £82,000 up to December 2010 for the “On The Other Side” Project which supports the work at Perth Visitors centre.



Kenneth Gibson MSP tabled a motion in the Scottish Parliament in September “commending the 2000 committed staff working for Crossreach across Scotland for their determination and dedication to improving the lives of those most in need on a daily basis.”



21 year old Amanda Philip is the 2011 Youth Assembly Moderator. She works at Morlich House in Edinburgh a residential care home run by Crossreach.



The situation in Egypt directly affected a number of folk in our congregation.

This is Katie, the youngest granddaughter of Alan and Margaret Harrow alongside one of the tanks guarding the road into the estate where they live in Cairo.

We hope and pray for all Egyptians and others living there, a peaceful and constructive outcome to this time of change.

Towards 2020

Over the recent months the Kirk Session has been engaged on a review of where we are as a congregation. It is now three years since the reopening of our building and we felt it was the right time to set priorities for the next ten years – hence the title of Towards 2020.



Out of our discussions two areas have emerged that we feel we would like to focus on in the immediate future. One is Ministry with two particular areas of interest –how we minister to young families and how we could better use the Acorn Centre as a place of ministry.

The second area relates to Worship - again how might we, for example, move to offer more than just the Sunday morning time and style of worship.

To help look at these areas the Kirk Session has set up two groups to look further into the possibilities and report to a future Kirk Session. However, the Session is anxious that others be involved in these groups and so the invitation is open to all to join the group of their choice.

If you are interested then please get in touch with Eleanor Mitchell (620852 or Ian Groves (620285 and they will ensure you are included in future discussions.

HE KING JAMES BIBLE *in retrospect*

Exploring the influence of this landmark publication not only on theology, but on politics, law, literature, sociology and history.

King's College Conference Centre, University of Aberdeen

Four hundred years old but very much alive today, the King James Bible was at the time controversial, provocative, enmeshed in the politics surrounding religious discourse as much as in theology. It wrote about the heart of God but also very practically spoke into local disputes in England, Scotland and Ireland, as well as national and international affairs.

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the University of Aberdeen will be presenting a series of six public lectures entitled The King James Bible in Retrospect, both honouring the book and placing it in its wider context. You are warmly invited to attend these lectures.

(Full programme on page 10)

Tuesday 1 March: *The King James Bible: an overview*

Professor Alister McGrath, King's College London

Tuesday 15 March: *The Long History of the King James Bible*

Dr Eyal Poleg, University of Edinburgh

Tuesday 29 March: *The King James Bible in Scotland*

Professor David Fergusson, University of Edinburgh

Monday 11 April: *The Social Universe of the King James Bible*

Professor Naomi Tadmor, Lancaster University

Wednesday 4 May: *The King James Bible as a 'Savage Text'* Professor Adrian Thatcher, University of Exeter

Thursday 12 May: *The King James Bible as Literature*

Professor Gordon Campbell, University of Leicester

All lectures will begin at 6:30pm in the King's College Conference Centre, and will last about an hour with time for questions afterwards. The final lecture will be followed by a cheese and wine reception. To reserve your free place, call 01224 272084, email w.gibb@abdn.ac.uk or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/king-james-bible.



Christian Aid Roadshow
Saturday 12th March 2011
10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
In
St Mark's Church
Aberdeen

Learn about the theme for
Christian Aid Week 2011



"Quiz Aid"
Friday 25th March 2011
7.30 p.m.
Daviot Village Hall
£10 per table of four or per
family.

Come and test out your general
knowledge, have fun and
support Christian Aid Projects
throughout the world.

"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



Beware Scam Mail



Police expect to seize up to 5,000 items of Scam mail destined for UK addresses. Of that number they would expect that 10% of recipients would fall for the scam.

The letters, sent by professional fraudsters encourage people to invest in schemes like fake lotteries.

Police say an estimated £3.5bn is scammed from UK citizens each year, and about £2.4bn of this is believed to be as a result of mail scams.

Len Howell, 92 was one such victim. "I get anything up to 70 letters a day. I've spent up to £3,000 in total. People will think I'm stupid. I think I'm stupid, because I go on doing it.

I find it very hard to believe that so many people in businesses can go on and pull your legs by making you pay money to enter into whatever they're selling."

The fraudsters, who send letters from several overseas countries, try to persuade people to part with money on false promises of holidays or luxury items.

After replying to one of these so-called "tempter letters" a victim's name is put on what is called a "suckers list" and sold to criminals all over the world.

These lists comprise many vulnerable people, including the elderly, who will be bombarded with mail. Some have ended up in desperate financial straits, and some with health problems.

So beware and in this case remember the old maxim – if it sounds too good to be true it probably is!

(Details in this article are sourced from BBC News)

FLOWER CALENDAR**March 2011****Convenor :** Margaret Sangster

Date	Donor
6 th	Elsie McRae
13 th	Jan Williams
20 th	Jean Maitland
27 th	Lesley Muir

The Flower Calendar is in the Acorn Centre and dates are available for 2011.

Many thanks to all who donate flowers and deliver. Deliverers please note that the flowers can be uplifted from the hall kitchen after morning service.

The deadline for the April 2011 edition of Encounter is on
Wednesday 16th March 2011
encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org

Happy Birthday

Iona Duncan, Finlay Masson, Neil
Johnston, Amelia Maude,

**And to the****which is 3 this month!**