

November 2010

ENCOUNTER



The Magazine of
Inverurie West Parish Church

encounter@inveruriwestchurch.org

Calendar For November

- Mon 1st **7.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Management Committee meets in the Chapel.
- Sun 7th **11.00 a.m.** Souper Sunday “Worshipping Together” with Marjorie Clark from the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids Project. Crèche available
12.00 p.m. Soup and Bread Lunch in the Hall. Donations to HIV/Aids Project.
6.30 p.m. Focus + Supper in the Acorn Centre
- Mon 8th **7.30 p.m.** Congregational Board meets in the Church
- Tues 9th **7.30 p.m.** West Church Guild meets in the Acorn Centre. “Interfaith Guild Project” with Clarence Musgrave.
- Sun 14th **10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship for Remembrance Sunday with Junior Church and Crèche.
11.00 a.m. Act Of Remembrance in The Square.
- Sat 20th **10.00 a.m. – 12 noon** West Church Guild Coffee Morning in the Hall.
- Sun 21st **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Junior Church and Crèche.
- Fri 26th **7.30 p.m.** Christian Aid “Quiz Aid” in Daviot Hall.
- Sun 31st **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship followed by short celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Junior Church and Creche.
12.30 p.m. “Towards 2020” Elders Lunch and Workshop.
- Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the Centre

Dear Friends

By the end of this month we will be looking firmly towards the end of the next! The last Sunday of November is the First Sunday in Advent so we will begin the preparation to celebrate again the Nativity.

But that looking forward is contrasted by this month of remembering – or is it?

During this month the poppies will flourish, the silences will be kept, the special services and the acts of remembrance will be held. All in their own way remembering and honouring those who have given their lives on the battlefields in the belief that they were offering a future to the rest of us.

So this remembering is not just about looking back and indeed because of the present conflicts our armed forces are involved in, it is very much about the present. But it is also about looking forward. What kind of world do we want to share in the future? What kind of world do we want to enjoy in our lifetime and what kind of world do we want to hand on to the next generation?

In John's Gospel Jesus is quoted a saying, "The greatest love a person can have for their friends is to give their life for them." I think we can be fairly certain that Jesus was not talking about Ypres or Verdun or Helmand Province, but we can recognise the thrust when this passage is read around this time of year.

However, more to the point for all of us who will never serve in the armed forces, Jesus was calling on us to live a life of service right where we are. Giving our life may not be about our physical death, but rather about how we use the life we have – the skill, the gift, the concern and in so doing demonstrate the words uttered by Jesus just before the ones we quoted earlier – "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Best wishes.

Jan B. Groves

The Fallen by Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.



West Church Guild News

GUILD NEWS

Our speaker at the October meeting of the Guild was Mr John Mack whose subject was 'The Poetry of Faith'. The evening proved to be not only entertaining, but uplifting with examples of poetry from many different sources. Some were touching, poignant, while others brought different tears to the eye – of laughter. All were expertly delivered - we were truly blessed.

Notes for your diary

9th November: The speaker for the November meeting will be the Rev Clarence Musgrave (minister at St Andrew's Scots Kirk, Jerusalem 2000 – 2006) who will speak about the current Guild 'Interfaith' project in Israel/Palestine. We will have visitors with us on that occasion and an invitation goes out to anyone in the congregation who would like to come along to hear Clarence. A special collection will be taken.

Saturday 20th November: Guild Coffee Morning for Guild Week in the church hall 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of baking and produce will be most welcome and can be handed in to the hall on Friday 19th between 6 and 7 p.m. or by 10 a.m. on the day.

What's My Line?

goes in search of the people behind the people.

This month, as we focus on Remembrance, we catch up with Chris Gray one of our younger Church family who is currently studying at Edinburgh University, but with a very definite future mind.



Chris you moved to Edinburgh after leaving Robert Gordon's College. What are you doing now?

I am studying history at Edinburgh University. I have just started my second year and am really enjoying it.

You have been a member of the Cadet Force for some time is that correct?

I joined the cadet force in my second year at RGC. I am now a member of the City of Edinburgh University Officer Training Corps and am about to transfer to C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse) Squadron, Queen's Own Yeomanry.

What opportunities have you had with the Cadets?

Being a cadet has allowed me to expand my personal leadership skills and engage in a fantastic array of activities. I have been on camps throughout Scotland, been on exercise with a company of Gurkhas, built a bridge on Balmoral Estate and greeted Her Majesty the Queen at Aberdeen Airport.

What are your plans for the future?

Fortunately, before I left school I managed to secure a scholarship from the army through university. Once I've graduated I will be attending Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to gain a commission in the regular armed forces.

What made you decide on the Armed Forces for a career?

6

I love being outside and being active and the idea of working nine to five in an office doesn't really appeal to me. The army seemed like a great way of working in an interesting and varied field and really challenging myself.

What does Remembrance Sunday mean to you?

Remembrance Sunday is a great opportunity for all of us to pay respect to those of the Armed Forces who have given so much to protect our way of life. The two minutes silence is a poignant reminder of just what it means to so many families and individuals across the world who have lost a loved one in war.

What will you be doing on Remembrance Sunday this year?

I will be parading with CEUOTC in Edinburgh.

You have found a Church to be part of in Edinburgh. Tell us about that?

I am now a member of a church called C7 church, with branches in Edinburgh and Glasgow. C7 have services on Friday evenings and various other meetings through the week. C7 was a huge help when I was settling into university life at first and I always have a fantastic time when I'm at a service or just meeting some of the other members for coffee.

Do you see any conflict between being a Christian and the need to maintain a robust defence force?

Personally, I don't see any conflict between my faith and my chosen career. I believe that if the Armed Forces are used for their intended purpose then they can make a real difference in some terrible situations and can have a very positive impact on people's lives.

What do you do to relax and enjoy yourself?

I do quite a lot of climbing and hillwalking which I find relaxes me. Alternatively just being around good friends helps me stay sane.

Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

Hopefully I'll be commissioned into a cavalry regiment but beyond that I don't really know. Providing I'm not still living off of Mum and Dad I'll be content!



Nkhoma CCAP Hospital

October 17, 2010



Dear Mr Groves

Thank you so much for the generous gift of £1,239.08 for the purchase of supplies for Nkhoma Hospital.

I had just received correspondence from Helen Anderson that Inverurie West Church had designated Nkhoma Hospital to be the recipient of the church's harvest thanksgiving offering. Please express our thanks and appreciation on behalf of our staff and patients to all who had a part in this gift.

It is humbling for Rebecca and me to be the vehicles of your generosity to the people of Malawi and to be partners with you in serving this rural African community through Nkhoma Hospital.

We will use this gift for the purchase of medications for the month of November. Our usual monthly purchase for drugs and medical supplies is over £10,000 as we treat an average of about 4,000 outpatients and 1,300 inpatients per month. Your gift will enable us to continue providing medical care for rural Malawi.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as there are many challenges. It can be easy for us to feel like we have to find all the resources, but your gift is another timely reminder that our Lord will supply our needs and use his faithful people to do it.

Thank you again very much,

David and Rebecca Morton

Your World Mission Partners at Nkhoma Hospital

**WEST CHURCH
GUILD**



Coffee Morning

Tea/Coffee/Juice

Tasty Treats

Crafts

What's In A Name?

West Church Hall

Saturday 20 November

10-12 noon

£2 (adult)

£1 (child under 12)



“Quiz Aid”

Friday 26th November

7.30 p.m.

Daviot Village Hall

£10 per table

Raffle

**Refreshments available
during the evening**



“SOUPER SUNDAY”

Sunday 7th November

**Come and enjoy a soup and bread
lunch after morning worship.**

**Donations for
The Church Of Scotland
HIV Aids Project**

www.soupersunday.info



CROSSREACH REVIEW 2009

providing a caring future

Cross Reach work is divided into 8 service areas covering the whole spectrum of care services across the country – something that makes Cross Reach truly unique in Scotland. As a result over 3000 people every day are offered support in every way possible to improve their quality of life. Anyone who needs the help of Cross Reach will receive it unconditionally, regardless of age, belief, race or sexual orientation.

- Children's Services
- Counselling and Support
- Criminal Justice
- Homeless People
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Older People
- Substance Misuse

Achievements in 2009

Over 67% of Cross Reach staff are now appropriately qualified and 171 staff gained qualifications over the last year. 94% of services were graded good to excellent for Quality of Care and Support.

Special Anniversaries in 2009

Ballikinrain School Balfron (Children's Services): 20th June - 40 years

South Beach House, Ardrossan (Older People): 30th June - 50 years

Gaberston House, Alloa (Mental Health): 13th October - 20 years

This is only a very brief summary of the Cross Reach Review 2009. If you would like to read it in full, it is available in the Acorn Centre.

Doreen Tough



Tribute To Jessie Shearer

Jessie Shearer was a very familiar face around our congregation. She was in her 95th year but unless she was unwell, she was in her seat. Before the redevelopment that was always the front seat of the gallery and after the redevelopment she occupied the same seat - albeit it at floor level.

In the life of the congregation she was ordained as a Elder in 1967 one of the first, if not in fact the first, female elders to be ordained in Inverurie West. She was a faithful Elder, serving her district well and sharing in many aspects of the life of the congregation – not least the Guild.

Jessie's career was in nursing and although a strict disciplinarian of the old school, she would none the less have been very fair and always ready to offer help and advice to those who sought it. She retired as Matron of Inverurie Hospital in 1976 and such was her presence in that post that there were many who still referred to her as Matron or Sister Shearer. However Jessie being Jessie, she never exploited her status and indeed on two occasions declined to be nominated for a Queen's Birthday Award.

Jessie's husband Bill served in the RAF and was killed in an aircraft accident after only five years of marriage. They had one son Billy who moved to Australia in 1980, but Jessie always kept in touch through visits and the weekly letter.

Perhaps what helped Jessie most was her straightforward and down to earth faith. She didn't really have time for froth and so the love of God which she felt for herself, had to be shared in the most down to earth ways she could think of and so there are many who have known her kindly help over the years. Mind you, if she saw that help as requiring straightforward talking, then she could be very direct.

Recently things have not been so easy for Jessie, but that determined nature and the support of her Inverurie family and friends have enabled her to be part of the life of this congregation until just a handful of days before her death. So we thank God for Jessie's life and all that it has held and we hold in our thoughts and prayers Billy and Laura and all of Jessie's family.

ICELANDIC ADVENTURES

On Monday 11th October our bus left Inverurie swimming pool car park at 7:30 in the morning marking the beginning of our Icelandic adventure. From Inverurie it was a four hour drive to Glasgow, followed by a two hour flight to Keflavik Airport, Iceland.



Our party of 27 pupils and 3 teachers then headed straight to the Blue Lagoon, a geothermally heated pool artificially created from sea water used to cool the power plant. The lagoon is around 35-40 degrees compared to the temperature of 5 degrees outside and we had great fun swimming in the warm waters, soaking underneath the waterfalls and covering ourselves in the silica mud found in bucket loads around the lagoon.

The next day we spent around the capital Reykjavik soaking up the sights of the Old Town, as well as catching views of the Icelandic Parliament, the Hallgrímskirkja (Scandinavia's tallest and largest cathedral) and picking up ridiculously priced souvenirs (£10 for a fridge magnet).



For the next three days of our holiday we headed to the remote and desolate Icelandic interior which was still covered in ash from the recent eruption at Eyjafjallajökull. We travelled to Pingvellir National Park to see the large gorge where the Eurasian and North American plates are pulling apart, got soaked by the famous Strokkur Geyser, and saw the huge waterfalls at Gullfoss and Skogafoss.

We also got to walk on the huge glaciers at Skaftafell and sailed on the iceberg filled lagoon at Jokulsarlon which were all amazing experiences.



Even after 6 days of late nights and early mornings I don't think that anyone in the group felt ready to come home quite yet! I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my stay in Iceland and would recommend it for anyone wanting to experience a holiday that little bit different.

David Angus



Acorn Centre Small Grants Scheme

For the third time since the opening of the Acorn Centre there has been a distribution of small grants to a number of local clubs and organisations.

- Garioch Carriage Driving For The Disabled
 - Gordon Dementia Services
- Kemnay DIY Club
 - MS Society, Inverurie Branch
- Kemnay Tuesday Centre For The Over 50's
 - Inverurie Angling Association
- Inverurie Practical Christian Outreach Group
 - 1st Inverurie Guides
- Gordon Scout Network
 - 1st Inverurie Boys Brigade
- 4th Inverurie Rainbows

The grants are funded from 75% of the gratuities left in the Centre by satisfied customers. The other 25% is used for an annual "thank-you" event for volunteers and staff.



Acorn Centre Website goes live

www.theacorncentre.org