

The Magazine of Inverurie West
Parish Church

NOVEMBER 2023



EMCOUNTER



Inverurie War Memorial

Scottish Charity SC016907



Reflection

This bookmark was provided by Ann Marie Coleman.

Extracted from Christian Aid and Embrace the Middle East Resources for a Prayerful Vigil.

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



*Pray not for Arab
or Jew*

*for Palestinian
or Israeli*

***but pray rather
for ourselves***

*that we might not
divide them in our
prayers but keep
them both together
in our hearts.*

**Based on a prayer of a
Palestinian Christian**

From the West Manse



*“They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.*

*Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.” (Isaiah 2: 4)*

These words have always had resonance in the season of Remembrance, as we remember all those who served and lost lives in past and present wars. Every year too we remember how after the second world war in particular, so many promises were made, and so many safeguards put in place to try to reduce the chances of such a dreadful war engulfing the world again. Every year we hope and pray that one day - as the paraphrase of Isaiah from the old African American spiritual *Down by the Riverside* says – *“we ain’t gonna’ study war no more”*.

Sadly it sometimes seems as a species that we are getting better and better at ‘studying war’. Arguably some of this study has been to the good. We have, for example, widely recognised global rules to reduce harm to civilians. We have systems in place that are designed to hold individuals, militaries and nations accountable for their behaviour. We’ve also developed technology which, in theory, can help reduce risk to life.

Yet these ‘advances’ don’t seem to have brought us any closer to sustainable global peace. Maybe this is due to a flaw in human nature. Or maybe conflict is inevitable in an unequal world where there is an ever increasing pressure on resources. Or maybe the problem is that ‘studying war’ doesn’t bring peace. Whatever the reason, conflicts continue to rage - in Ukraine, in Israel/Palestine, and in places we hear less about because they do not have such a feared impact on us.

Our swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, just reshaped as missiles; and our spears, as drones.

Unsurprisingly, I don't know how to make Isaiah's dream a reality. But I do believe we are called as Christians to continue to hold onto hope. And by that I mean, not just wishful thinking, but active engagement with the work of peace. This applies both to how we treat our family and neighbours as well as to the social, political and military positions we support or challenge.

The alternative to studying war is to study peace. I'm a relatively practical pacifist. I know that evil and violence are realities and we need the ability to defend ourselves. A friend of mine who was in the British Navy tells me that most of her combat training was about how to *avoid* killing people. That's a good start.

But what if we put more of our shared resources, including finances, into studying when, where and how peace has been reliably sustained and try to apply those lessons? What if we all committed to learn as much as we can about peace - not just for ourselves, but for our world? We'd need to recognise that there is sacrifice involved in doing so. Real peace means listening to the grievances and causes of others and trying to at least understand their perspective. At the same time it isn't wishy-washy. Judgement and discernment are required, as well as a willingness to sometimes give up our own advantages to ensure justice is done.

We could do worse than to begin by firmly rooting ourselves in the one for whom sacrifice and justice went hand in hand.

In the old spiritual, the singer says he's gonna study war no more. Instead he's "gonna talk with that Prince of Peace".

As we are bombarded with news of war, and as we remember those lost in wars past and present, let's continue to talk with Jesus, the Prince of Peace. And let's allow what we learn from him to inhabit our very bones, that we might in some way radiate and reflect the peace that passes understanding to a world in need.

Every blessing,

Rhona

CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

Funerals:

Rosemary Maitland (Postal Dist) 17th October

Lines Received:

Marilyn Pirie Dist 17

Change of Address:

Mr Donald Cook	From Dist 5 to Dist 23
Mr Robert & Mrs Eileen Eunson	From Dist 20 to Dist 26
Sylvia Fraser	From Dist 16 to Dist 29

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



WEST CHURCH GUILD

At our October meeting we were privileged to have Sue Kinsey from the Garioch Charity Shop who gave us a very detailed history of the shop.

It started off as a one-day event and 25 years later, after raising over £650,000 for local charities, it is still going strong. Its three main charities are: *The Friends of Inverurie Hospital; The Gordon Gaitherin' and Homestart*, which are all local to Inverurie.

Recycling and Reusing is the name of the game, especially in these difficult times. The shop is run by the trustees and a large number of volunteers, who do it all for free.

NB Sue's outfit that day, which was admired by all, had been sourced completely from the shop!

Monday 13 November

By Ourselves

Monday 11 December

Christmas Celebration:

Cheese & Wine

Monday 8 January 2024

Quiz:

Larry Young

(Bring & Buy Sales Table)

Monday 12 February

'Rural Sustainability':

John Macdonald

Monday 11 March

Living Well Café:

Jeanette Abel

Saturday 23 March

Spring Afternoon Tea

Monday 8 April

AGM, with entertainment?



UBUNTU NEWS

Remember, remember the 6th of November – Ubuntu Christmas Open Evening 6-8.30 pm. Do

come along and enjoy complimentary Fair Trade coffee, tea, wine and home bakes as you browse the wide range of Christmas cards, chocolates and gifts available. Any purchase will not only be enjoyed by the recipient (or yourself) but will help support the Fair Trade producers and the eco-friendly goods will help the environment.

CHOCOLATES

New to Ubuntu this year are *Whitakers Fair Trade chocolates – Mint Collection, Coffee Collection, Cherry Creams, Orange Wafers and Smokey Caramel Squares.* More varieties arriving in the coming weeks.

There are only a limited number of *Divine Advent Calendars* so do grab one while you can.

A SELECTION OF NEW GIFT IDEAS THIS SEASON.

Candles Flower tealights in coconut shells (another good use of discarded coconut shells) Frangipani scented tealights (frangipani is often given as a good luck gift). The Christmas themed dinner candles are hand-painted, giving each its own unique character.

The mini-bee inspired tealight lanterns are a perfect table decoration with the yellow glass giving a comforting warm glow.

Robins, robins, more robins and a Penguin - Jute bags, Bamboo socks, Suncatchers, Finger puppets and of course *Christmas cards.*

Check out the adorable brightly coloured handcrafted *Penguins sporting Santa hats*, made with the fast-growing albesia wood.

These would make a lovely gift or add to your own festive display.

Bags and Purses and Scarves *Silver brocade washbags* and multi-coloured purses created with the off cuts from a fabric factory.

Made in India, *Kashmiri embroidered bags* with small mirror effects, and looped and fringed scarves generously sized so they could be worn as a shawl.

Boxes and Photo Frames. *Heart shaped soapstone Tree of Life trinket boxes* handcrafted by artisans at Asha Handicrafts. Asha in Sanskrit means 'hope'. *Carved elephant boxes and photo frames* made from mango wood after the tree is no longer suitable for growing fruit.

Recycled Bright and colourful *recycled sari coasters* with a bag to store them in, handmade in Bangladesh. For the dog lovers cute *recycled model dogs* are made with recycled nuts and bolts (the popular tractors made with recycled bike parts are back in the shop). Beautiful colourful *rag wreaths* which are made from sari offcuts. A sustainable way to decorate your home and welcome the festive season.

MORE...

For the cheese lover, handmade stone cheese-shaped serving boards and mouse-shaped cheese cutters. Smokey quartz earrings, hedgehog necklaces, Christmas decorations, sparkly boxes and pens ...

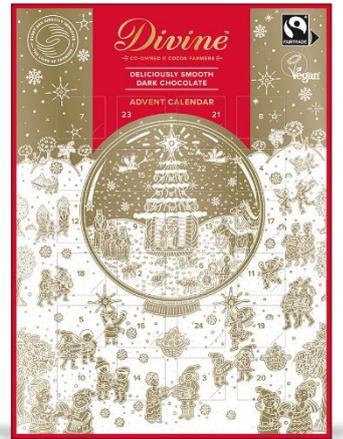
I hope to see you at the open evening but if not do pop into Ubuntu and see the full selection of items available. (Photos of stock are included in the online version of Encounter).

Anthea

On the Church of Scotland website Sally Foster-Fulton writes –

"The Zulu phrase, Ubuntu, is the theme for my year as Moderator and its challenging truth resonates powerfully today. 'I am because you are'. We are one global family. When we look into the face of another human being, God looks out from the windows of their souls. Today, love God by loving each other."

Extract from 'A message from Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on the Israel Gaza conflict' (<https://churchofscotland.org.uk>)







PRAYER FOR PEACE (Sally Foster-Fulton)

'In days to come ... they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.'

God, it is said that you are the peace that passes all understanding. We sit now, staggered at how quickly the fragile half-peace we had pieced together has unravelled.

The lessons we have so desperately needed to learn have been laid aside as the instruments of war begin their horrible, haunting reprise. Call us back to our senses.

For the angry, abused and frightened among us, who strike out in a distorted quest for victory, help us find ways to convince that there is no victory to be found in violence.

Peace-making is a daunting path to tread, especially when fear follows so closely behind, so breathe your loving spirit into our hearts and help us walk your way.

We pray ceaselessly for our family in Israel and Palestine, for we are all family and when one part suffers, we are all depleted. Peace in pieces is a collective, shared shame.

God, you are the peace that passes all understanding, so help us understand how to find you.

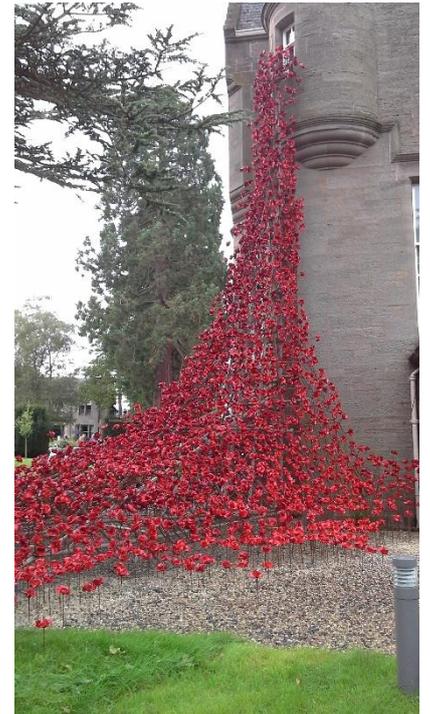
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The POPPY

The red poppy is the most famous symbol used to commemorate those who sacrificed

their lives in World War One and conflicts that followed. The inspiration for choosing the poppy as a symbol for remembrance and hope came from the sight of fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles had been fought. The symbol belongs to the Royal British Legion - a charity created by veterans of World War One. There are, however, other colours of poppy with their own distinctive meaning.



The purple poppy is worn to remember animal victims of war. Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and people who wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as important - in particular that of the many horses that were

killed or injured in World War One. Donations to the Animal Purple Poppy Fund go to charities including World Horse Welfare and the Household Cavalry Foundation.



The Black PoppyRose commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians. The charitable organisation was launched in 2010 and aims to highlight "largely untold historical legacies" from the 16th century onwards.



Finally, there is the white poppy. This is to remember people who died in conflict with a focus on an end to war. To an extent it was a reaction by some people who felt that the red poppy glorifies war and conflict while white focussed on peace. The white poppy 'belongs to' Peace Pledge Union, which not only commemorates people who died in conflict, but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.



INVERURIE CHRISTIAN AID GROUP

Our Christmas Card Delivery service for local Inverurie cards will run again this year. Boxes will appear in Tesco, Morrison's, J.G. Ross's at Highclere, Strachan's, and at both St Andrew's Church and the Acorn Centre in time for the weekend of 9th/10th December. The last date for posting will be Sunday **17th December**. The price per card this year will be 50p. A batch of cards for each district will be delivered to volunteer distributors as soon as is possible after the final sort on Monday **18th December**. All previous volunteers will be approached directly, but anyone who would like to get involved either in distributing the cards in an area local to them, or in sorting the cards into districts, please contact **Linda Young on 01467 621635 or Sheila Rennie on 01467 623156**. *We would be particularly grateful to hear from anyone who would be willing to deliver in the ever-expanding Osprey Village.*



INVERURIE BEST GARDEN COMPETITION

On Saturday 16th September gardeners gathered at the Garioch Heritage Centre in Inverurie for the presentation of the *Inverurie Environmental Improvement (IEI) Group's Best Garden competition 2023 awards*.

A dozen entrants of all ages and from all walks of life were welcomed by IEI chair John Glover and congratulated on their efforts. The aim of the Inverurie Best Garden Competition is to draw attention to the contribution that Inverurie gardeners make to the visual quality of the town, and to encourage others to do the same.

Kenneth and Gordon went along to pick up awards for both the '*Best Place of Worship*' and '*Best Fruit and Vegetable Garden*'.

We felt very honoured to be chosen as winners.



Gordon and Ian Mitchell, Vice Chair of the IEI group

Mr Glover pointed out that gardening is its own reward - a relaxing hobby that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, adding that it is excellent for our health and wellbeing, and helps the environment by providing habitat for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

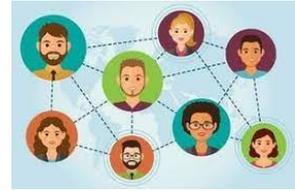
If anyone is interested in joining the garden group who meet on Wednesday mornings please get in touch with Biff Barrow.

Biff (01467 623096)



Kenneth

Church Calendar/Ways of Connecting November 2023



If you are worshipping from home, you can connect as usual via the West church website and YouTube channels or access the service by phone on 01467 343790 (calls are charged at local rates).

Please note a few changes to regular services at the beginning of the month due to annual leave/Remembrance Sunday

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 5 th Nov | 10 am Joint Worship at St Andrew's.
(Rhona on Annual Leave – 1 week only) |
| Monday 6 th Nov | 6.30 pm–8.00 pm UBUNTU Christmas
Open Evening. |
| Sunday 12 th Nov | 10 am Remembrance Sunday service
followed by Act of Remembrance in the
Town Square at 10.45 am. |
| Tuesday 14 th Nov | 7.30 pm Kirk Session meeting. |
| Sunday 19 th Nov | 11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service. |
| Sunday 26 th Nov* | 11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.

2-4 pm ' <i>Climate Friendly Christmas</i> ' -
stalls and activities with baking and
handmade jewellery from our local Syrian
ladies' group. |

***Please note Sunday Nov 26th is 'Lights-on Sunday' in the town. Part of the West High Street will be closed to vehicle traffic this year. Please check your route before heading out.**

Advent Bible Study begins Wednesday Nov 29th at 7.30 pm via Zoom and runs for four weeks. Contact Rhona for the link

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter please email encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org by 22nd November

Children are welcome at all services. A weekly craft activity can be found in our '**Play as you worship**' box. Most weeks we also offer Junior Church team members to accompany children who wish to go downstairs partway through the service. Some weeks, if only one junior church team member is available, we will need a parent/carer to accompany any children who prefer to head downstairs.

The **Prayer Group** continues to meet regularly on a Thursday morning. Prayer requests can be sent to olive.duncan@hotmail.co.uk or 17uncan.linda1@btinternet.com

Our contact email address for those looking for help with collection/delivery of supplies or medication is help@inveruriewestchurch.org

KENNETH GRAY

Kenneth is retiring at the end of December after 23 years service as Church Officer and Acorn Centre Co-Ordinator. It is planned to recognise his dedicated service at the end of the year, and if you would like to make a contribution towards a gift for Kenneth, please leave it in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate at the Church door or at the Acorn Centre by Sunday, 10 December. Thank you.

WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

Minister	Rev Rhona Cathcart r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org	620285
Session Clerks	Mark and Gillian Paterson sessionclerk@inveruriewestchurch.o	625675
Church and Acorn Centre Administration	Judith Will admin@inveruriewestchurch.org	670850
Church Officer	Kenneth Gray kennethgray@hotmail.co.uk	620658
Rollkeeper	Chris Gardner rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.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@inveruriewestchurch.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@inveruriewestchurch.org	620285
Social/Fundraising Team	Joyce Petrie joycepetrie21@hotmail.com	620932

FLOWER CALENDAR NOVEMBER

CONVENER – Margaret Sangster

5th Margaret Sangster

12th Alan and Alison Sharp

19th Ian and Liz Nelson

26th Ian and Liz Nelson



Thanks to all who donate, arrange, or deliver flowers.

Conversational English - Can you help?

You may have seen the Beattie family at church most weeks, Sally and Richard and their two wee ones, Thomas and Michelle. who are usually very willing to help Rhona in the young persons' address. Sally is from China. She has a niece whose written English is very good but who lacks confidence in *speaking the language*. Sally is hoping that someone (or two) would be willing to do some simple English conversation online.

If anyone can help, or would like more details, please get in touch with Margaret Hearne (01651 882274), Encounter, or Jane Fraser.

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).

