

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

November 2018

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

from the Manse -

*“Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.”* John McCrae

Dear friends

When I attended the consultant in September, six weeks after surgery, I hoped that I might not only return to work at that point, but also be allowed to go with Airdrie Academy to the War Graves and associated sites in France and Belgium. Alas, it was not to be but, if I am being honest, I wasn't at all surprised.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to go the last few years and I certainly look forward to a return trip next year. This is a trip that I have done with folk here from the New Wellwynd as well. Every group is different in their reaction to the trip. My experience is different as I will never fail to be affected by what I see, hear, remember and be affected by. Year in, year out I lead the service on Remembrance Sunday and fall silent with you here in this place. Again, I will never fail to be affected by that service and recognise that the very freedom I have, that we have, to worship and do so much more, is down to those who paid the ultimate price.

Remembrance is not just thinking about the past, but it is bringing the past into contact with the present in a way that will inform the future. A year past in January, when I proposed the Immortal Memory at Airdrie Burns Club, I quoted from Burns' poem "To a Louse" -

*“Still thou are blest, compared wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But Och! I backward cast my e'e,
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I cannot see,
I guess an' fear!”*

There is more than a suggestion here that we fail to learn from the past, but surely that is what Remembrance is about? It is a time to remember the faithfulness of God. It is a time to remember the faithful saints of God who have gone before us. It is a time to take stock, to see what we can learn from the past to secure a peaceful future for ourselves and those who will follow us. Moina Michael's poem

“We Shall Keep the Faith” is a fitting response to John McCrae's -

*“Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.”*

As we keep the faith on the 11th November at 11 a.m., may we keep the faith beyond that time as the peace of Christ, which is beyond all of our understanding, flows from our hearts and reaches the lives of many in our community and beyond to bring about a unity of all of God's people and the whole of creation.

Your friend and minister.



SERVICES

November

11 10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship -
Remembrance Sunday
Lest we forget

Dedication of Memorial Bench marking 100 years since the first Armistice Day.

(Additional Offering uplifted for Poppy Scotland.)

*It would be helpful if everyone could be seated at 10:40 a.m., five minutes prior to the service beginning.

18 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
*Power to the people: the gifts are shared.
Celebrating the people: the fights are recognised.*

25 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
*Staffs and Serpents:
the truth about ourselves.*

December

2 11 a.m. - Morning Worship -
*A Season of Hope: Unpacking Advent.
Advent 1: Hope in God's Promises.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion.
3 p.m. - Holy Communion.*

STREAMING OF SERVICES

As the Congregation is aware, as part of the Sanctuary upgrade the Kirk Session and Board installed new Audio / Visual equipment. This included cameras which will allow us to stream the morning services and other events to members of the congregation and others who are unable to join us at public worship.

The official “Go Live” date for the Streaming of the Services will be the First Sunday of Advent – Sunday 2nd December which is the start of the new church year.

Further information will be made available in the intimation sheet in the coming weeks.

DRIVERS / FLOWER DELIVERY

November

- 11 Dianne Stein.
18 John Jarvie.
25 Beatrice Holden.

December

- 2 Margo Elliott.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Weddings : Mary Thomson to Morton Brown.

Funerals : Margaret Taylor; Sadie McGibbon.

Change of Address/District :

Shona Miles-Campbell from D.43 to D.64.

FLOWER CALENDAR

November

- 11 George and Ann Wallace; Jean Campbell.
18 May Young; Sheila Mitchell.
25 Jack & Jennifer Milne;
George and Janette Clark.

December

- 2 Janet Russell; Angela Gibb.

WELCOME TEAMS

November

- 11 **Team Leader** : Irene Yates
Avril Cockburn, Alan Cox, Julie Fleming,
George Lowdon,
18 **Team Leader**: David Gillespie
Christine Cassells, Christine Gibb,
Anne Grainge, Jim Neilson, Jim Nimmo,
Margaret Reid.
25 **Team Leader** : Elizabeth Roberton
Mima Dalziel, Isabell Gibson, Allan Gibson,
George Grant, George Lawson, Morag

Stewart.

December

- 1 **Team Leader**: Barbara Watt
George Murchison, Elaine Myers,
Janette McGuigan, David Patterson,
Andrew Paul, William Watson (Sen.).

BIBLE READINGS

October

- 7 Psalm 34 : 1 - 10; Mark 4 : 26 - 29.
14 Genesis 37 : 2b - 36; Psalm 30 : 1 - 3.
21 Genesis 41 : 37 - 57; Psalm 34 : 1 - 10.
28 Genesis : 43, 1 - 5; 45, 1 - 11;
Mark 12 : 30 - 31.

THANKS

Morag Stewart wishes to extend her thanks to the congregation for the beautiful flowers received following her stay in hospital. Also for all the kind thoughts and prayers offered on her behalf. Everything is very much appreciated.

Mrs. Kate Hamilton would like to pass on her thanks for the beautiful flowers she recently received. They were very much appreciated.

George Thomson would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers received at Harvest.

Irene Docherty would like to thank Maxine and the congregation for the lovely Harvest Flowers received which were very much appreciated. Thanks also to Maureen for her visits and bringing the CDs of the service which she enjoys listening to each week.

Ann Gillespie would like to thank Maxine and the congregation for their prayers, cards, and the beautiful flowers received after her recent stay in hospital.

IN STITCHES CRAFT GROUP

Our craft group will meet on Tuesday 6 and 20 November in the Session Room from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. We're going to have a break leading up to Christmas and New Year. Our dates for the first part of 2019 will be announced in the next newsletter. Over the last few weeks most of us in the group, along with other ladies in the congregation, have been knitting and crocheting poppies and if you're at church on Remembrance Sunday you might catch a glimpse of our hard work. It's been Alison Gray, Beatrice Holden, the ladies in the congregation use their talents to help to produce so many poppies. Members of the group over the last few months have been knitting baby/toddler clothes which are sold at a stall in Monklands Hospital to raise funds for St. Andrew's Hospice Capital Appeal. We've also started to knit Trauma Teddies which will be handed in to our local Police Station. As you can see we're a busy wee group so if you would like to get involved, come along for a couple of hours of crafting, lots of chat and some "me time". *ANNE LEARMONTH*

EXPLORING FAITH

Exploring Faith is a course exploring the Christian Faith published by the Church of Scotland. It is designed for those who want a refresher or for those exploring for the first time perhaps with a view to becoming full members. If you are interested in coming along, or know someone who is, interested in membership please let me know.

I hope to start a new course in the near future so, please do get in touch.

Contact the minister, Robbie on 763022 or email him - rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

LIFE & WORK

Life & Work orders for 2018 have to be with Edinburgh by 18th November. If you do not already take this magazine and wish to subscribe, a sheet will be on the information table next to the organ on Sundays 4th & 11th November.

The cost for 12 editions is £30.00. Cheques should be made payable to New Wellwynd Parish Church.

CAMEO

In early October we had an unexpected, but immensely enjoyable, evening with the 'duo of speakers'. This was followed by Jess McCracken telling us of her travels with husband Gordon as he "helped" churches throughout Scotland. We also have Laura Digan visiting on the last Tuesday of the month. On the 13th November our speaker is George Randall, one of "oor ain" as I'm sure George would describe himself. Then on the 27th a return visit from Glasgow Street Pastors, allowing a full evening for their visit. Looking forward to a great turn out on all evenings and all will be made welcome.

WILMA DAVIDSON

TRAIDCRAFT

The Christmas Catalogues, with the Christmas Card selection, and other goodies are now available. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply this year, therefore, if you take a catalogue, please sign for it and return it to the stall whether you decide to order from it or not.

The Christmas Cards available this year are on display beside the Traidcraft Stall.

There are still a few Sundays to go before the order closing date – so if you've still to order, please do so by 25th November to avoid disappointment.

The Traidcraft Stall continues to be available at the close of the morning service where stocks of all your favourites – biscuits, chocolate, teas and coffees are available, as well as other goodies, that might make little gifts for Christmas.

I had expected to inform the Congregation that Traidcraft had notified their Fair Traders in September that they would stop trading after 31st December 2018. This, however, is not the case. The Management of Traidcraft is currently looking into plans for a "downsizing" of the organisation and a different sales "model". Therefore, at this time, it's a "watch this space".

DAVID WALKER

SENIORS

Our session continues on the 6th November when we will be entertained by the Jean Smith Harmony Trio. On the 20th November we welcome John Walker who will be talking about the Titanic. On the 4th December we are having a musical afternoon with Allan and Anne. All will be made welcome.

ISABELL GIBSON

Thanks from Edinburgh Direct Aid

Major Davis Reeks, International Deliveries Manager, has requested that I thank the New Wellwynd Knitters on his behalf for the fantastic donation of a large quantity of specially knitted baby and toddler clothing and blankets which were delivered to the charity early last month. These items will shortly be transported to the Lebanon where many thousands of Syrian refugees live in makeshift tents in camps over 5,000 feet above sea level. The winters there are bitterly cold, with temperatures reaching -10 degrees Celsius. Special

thanks on this occasion are offered to Jan Allison, Eileen Stewart, Una Sutcliffe, Betty Tweedie and Maggie Weir for the lovely woollens which were gratefully received by E.D.A.

E.D.A. is also looking for donations of hand gardening tools (new or used) as well as the ongoing appeal for more woollens. Thanks again to all those who have assisted.

RONNIE WRIGHT

Thanks from Christian Aid

I am very happy to confirm receipt and convey our thanks for the donation totalling £6,300.00, raised by Airdrie CA Committee, and associated churches. Christian Aid is not only a charity, but - at its heart - a justice movement. Together we expose the root causes of poverty and through campaign and advocacy, sustainable international development and immediate humanitarian aid, we respond in practical, tangible and transformational ways. This year's theme, 'Together, we are stronger than the storms', focused on the issue of internally displaced people and is a live example of the transformation possible through our partnership here in Scotland and across our planet home. Your donation will help someone like Vilia. Vilia lost her home and her mother when the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010. Bereaved, she had nowhere safe to stay with her seven children. Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire her situation was and reached out building her a new home. On the terrifying night when Hurricane Mathew hit, her neighbours fled to her house. Her new home was the only one in the community strong enough to survive the storm. She welcomed her neighbours in, sharing food and shelter as the storm raged. Fifty-four people found shelter with Vilia that night. Because of your generosity many more people will be sheltered from the storm of poverty. Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities around the world. Together we are stronger.

COLIN DOWSE (Regional Support Officer)

A Brief Visit to Iraq

Back in the day our family always looked forward to the October school holiday with a visit up north to granny and grandads in Dufftown. Those days are long gone, but many happy memories were made that will last forever. This October school holiday, we were on our family travels once again, but this time it was to Iraq to visit Fiona! We left Airdrie on the Saturday around 7:30am and got to Fiona's in Erbil at 4:00am the following morning. Only 7 hours flying time but a long layover in Istanbul had to be endured. After a few hours sleep brunch was being served and our Iraqi adventure was about to begin! Fiona lives and works in an area known as the 'English Village' which is a gated community manned 24/7 by armed guards from the Peshmerga, the Kurdistan army. It takes about 15 minutes to drive into the heart of the city and believe me that was an experience! The driving was absolutely

crazy. I was happy to sit in the back as Fiona wove a path through the busy streets en route to our first port of call – The Citadel. Also known as the Hawler Castle it is a UNESCO designated world heritage site. It dates back thousands of years, to the first settlers of Erbil. Over the millennia it has taken shape, each generation building new structures on top of those of the previous generation. The resulting shape is a large, oval hill or mound rising 100 feet from ground level. During its long history it has been home to mosques, churches, synagogues, schools and homes. Today it is undergoing restoration after many years of neglect. At the foot of the ancient citadel is the Qaysari Bazaar with its myriad of alleyways and countless shops selling just about everything. I loved the sights, the sounds and most of all the smells, especially the spices. We rounded off our afternoon with a visit to a local tea house for chi! After an early night to catch up on some sleep we were up bright and early next morning for a visit to the Ninewa area to the north west of Erbil. Heading out on the road towards Mosul we were reminded of both past and present conflicts as we passed through numerous army checkpoints and saw two very large UN refugee camps. Our destination was a town called Alqosh to visit the Sant Hormizd Monastery which is built into a mountainside and the tomb of the Prophet Nahum. The monastery was very interesting with lots of caves and secret tunnels to explore. Unfortunately, it had been deserted by the monks who lived there. They fled in fear of their lives as ISIS made advances within the area. Thankfully they were halted 2km short of the town held back by the Peshmerga. The views from the monastery were stunning. After a picnic lunch we headed into the town itself to see the tomb of the Prophet Nahum which is located in an old synagogue. In the Old Testament Nahum wrote about the end of the Assyrian Empire and its capital city Nineveh which changed the face of Asia. Who would have thought that in the year 2016 it almost happened again! On our way back to Erbil we detoured to the small mountain valley village of Lalish which is the spiritual home of the Yazidi people and contains the holiest temple in the Yazidi faith. The whole village is considered to be built on holy ground and before entering you must remove your shoes. Walking about in your bare feet on stony ground takes a bit of getting used to! The people of the village were very welcoming and we were invited in by one family for chi! Very little was said but the hand of friendship was extended to each one of us. For me it was the highlight of our time in Iraq. As Fiona was under curfew we had to be back in Erbil by 4pm so it was shoes back on and head back to base. A truly amazing day! After another good night's sleep, well not really, temperatures in the thirties and noisy air conditioning, we were up and away early once again. This time we headed into the mountains to the north east of Erbil to a place called Rawandz for a spot of gorge walking. The scenery was incredible, the

temperature very warm, the walk tiring and in places really scary but it was brilliant. We probably saw a part of Iraq that very few westerners will ever see. Another fantastic day! All good things as you know come to an end but, before leaving Kurdistan to travel to Istanbul for a few days, we visited the large central Mosque in Erbil. It looked impressive from the outside and once inside, it was wow! I have never seen anything like it before. The size, the colours, the lighting, the windows were all mesmerizing. It was a nice way to conclude our brief visit to Iraq. God willing peace will prevail and the country will rebuild itself allowing its people to once again, live normal lives.

GEORGE RANDALL

Poppyscotland Appeal 2018

Did you know?

- The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was started by the American humanitarian Moina Michael, who was inspired by Lt Colonel John McCrae's poem In Flanders Fields, describing small red plants growing in northern France and Belgium during World War One. She began the poppy wearing and others soon followed.
- After the first Poppy Appeal in 1921, demand for the simple symbol could not be fulfilled north of the border. So, Lady Haig, wife of Field Marshal Earl Haig, decided to open a poppy-making factory in Edinburgh which would be staffed by a team of disabled war veterans.
- Today, poppies sold in Scotland are made at Lady Haig's poppy factory in Edinburgh by some 40 veterans - the majority with disabilities.
- It is all-year round work for Poppyscotland, the result being....
 - * four million green stem poppies
 - * one million stick-on poppies
 - * 10,000 wreaths
 - * maintenance and distribution of 25,000 collection tins.
- Fundraisers also produce all kinds of poppy-related merchandise, from wreaths, rings, brooches, umbrellas, diaries and T-shirts.
- In June 2011 Poppyscotland merged with its sister charity, The Royal British Legion, which operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, it remains a distinct organisation and the money raised in Scotland is spent in Scotland.
- Poppyscotland provides and funds a variety of services the aim of which is to help as many people in the Armed Forces community as possible. They support people of all ages, whether difficulties have arisen during time in the Armed Forces or many years later. They also help the families of ex-Servicemen and women, including partners, widows, widowers and children.

If you can, please give generously to this year's appeal.

The Editor

Church Chuckles

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery Store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new vicar in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle. "Awww, come on... You don't even know the way to the Post Office!" IM Jolly

A Remembrance Day Story

He was very old now, but could still hold himself stiffly at attention before the monument. His war, the one to end all wars, now just a fading part of history. Very few could remember, first-hand, the savageness of the ordeal that had sent millions of young men to their deaths. Cannon fodder, they'd called them, sent before the guns to be mown down - - blown apart by chunks of metal which had decimated their frail bodies. The cream of a generation, almost wiped out. He was haunted by the faces of the boys he'd had to order into battle, the ones who'd never come back. Yet one nameless ghost was able to bring a measure of comfort to his tormented mind. At the sound of the gun signalling the eleventh hour he was mentally transported back to the fields of Flanders.

The battle had raged for over two hours, with neither side gaining any advantage. Wave after wave of soldiers had been dispatched from the muddy trenches and sent over the top. So many had died already that day that he decided he could not afford to lose any more men before reinforcements arrived. Perhaps they'd give the remnants a few more days of life. There came a slight lull in the battle due to the sheer exhaustion of the men on both sides. During this interval, a young soldier came up to him requesting that he be allowed to go over the top. He looked at the boy who couldn't have been more than nineteen. Was this extreme bravery in the face of the enemy or was the soldier so scared he just needed to get it over with? "Why would you want to throw your life away soldier? It's almost certain death to go out there." "My best friend went out over an hour ago, captain, and he hasn't come back. I know my friend must be hurt and calling for me. I must go to him, sir, I must." There were tears in the boy's eyes. It was as if this were the most important thing in the world to him. "Soldier, I'm sorry, but your friend is probably dead. What purpose would it serve to let you sacrifice your life too?" "At least I'd know I'd tried, sir, he'd do the same thing in my shoes. I know he would." He was about to order the boy back to the ranks, but the impact of his words softened his heart. He remembered the awful pain he'd felt himself when his brother had died. He'd never had the chance to say goodbye. "All right soldier, you can go." Despite the horror all around them, he saw a radiant smile on the boy's face, as if a

great weight had been lifted from his shoulders. "God bless you, sir," said the soldier.

It was a long time before the guns fell silent for the last time and each side was allowed to gather their dead and wounded. The captain remembered the young soldier. He looked through the many piles of bodies, so many young men, so many as to give an unreal quality to the scene before him. When he came to the makeshift hospital, he looked carefully through the casualties. He soon found himself before the prone body of the soldier, alive, but severely wounded. He knelt down beside the young man and gently laid a hand on his shoulder. "I'm so sorry, son. I knew I was wrong to let you go." "Oh no sir, I'm glad you did and I'm glad you're here now so I can thank you. You see sir, I found my friend. He was badly wounded, but I was able to comfort him at the end. As I held him dying in my arms, he looked me in the eyes and said: "I knew you'd come." The young soldier faded between consciousness and oblivion for some time before he finally slipped away. The captain stayed by his side until the end, tears streaming quietly down his cheeks. Only in war could the happy endings be so terribly sad. As the bugle sounded "Taps", the old captain envisioned once again the young soldier's face. Looking up, he could almost hear the stone monument calling out to him: "I knew you'd come."

Anon

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the work of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board as the ministry and ministries of the New Wellwynd are encouraged and developed.
- Pray for Poppy Scotland and all such organisations and charities that support ex-servicemen and women and their families.
- Pray for all who are serving their country at home and abroad in the armed forces.
- Pray for their families, anxiously waiting at home, many frightened to watch the news.
- Pray also for the Chaplains who support them in some difficult times.
- Pray for all Christians who try to follow Christ each and every day of their lives.
- Pray for yourself that you might find ways to encourage others in the faith and be encouraged in your own faith.

Useful Contacts

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