

ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL
CHURCH MUCHALLS

MAGAZINE

November 2016



*"They shall not grow 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 shall remember them"*

Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

Scottish Charity No. 023264

www.stternans.co.uk

Peter Smart writes ...

November – a month of and for remembrance

November is a month of and for remembrance in both the church calendar and in the life of the country. The second of November is celebrated as All Souls' Day, a day on which many churches hold a special service to remember those amongst our families and friends who have left this life and are now, we pray, resting at peace with their Lord. These services include the reading out of the names of loved ones at the request of members of the congregation.

On 11 November the nation remembers the fallen of the two World Wars and of wars in which British forces have fought since then, including Korea, the Falklands, two Gulf wars and the conflict in Afghanistan. This act of remembrance on 11 November itself has taken on a new life over the past decade or so, with shops, airports, railway stations and many other public places asking workers and customers to stop whatever they are doing and reflect in silence for two minutes at 11.00am. This act seems to have been taken to heart by the British public.

The traditional Service of Remembrance takes place on the Sunday nearest 11 November, at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and in churches and at War Memorials around the country, with the central focus being on the two minutes' silence at 11.00am and recital of the emotive fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's powerful poem *To the fallen*, as an exhortation for ceremonies of Remembrance to commemorate fallen servicemen and women.

Did you know that the poem was composed by Laurence Binyon, who was too old to serve in the War, as he sat on a cliff top in Cornwall in mid-September 1914 and published in *The Times* on 21 September 1914, just a few weeks after the outbreak of the First World War? During these weeks the British army had already suffered casualties at the Battle of Mons on 23 August and the first Battle of the Marne between 5 and 9 September 1914, amongst other battles. Could Binyon ever have imagined the scale of the carnage that was to take place in the four years that followed, or during the wars that have followed?

I personally find the stanzas that sit either side of the fourth verse very moving. Here I repeat stanzas three, four and five:

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.

The counter-point between the enthusiasm of the thousands of young men who went off to war, singing, aglow, slaughtered, falling with their faces to the foe, and the thousands of empty chairs at the kitchen tables of thousands of homes, no longer to be occupied by husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, lovers, boyfriends, sums up in words we can all understand the consequences of war.

As we remember the fallen this year, may we also offer a prayer for all those innocent children, women and men caught up in current conflicts, particularly in Aleppo at this time, a city that looks increasingly as though a nuclear bomb has hit it. And let us pray fervently for peace throughout the world, a world which suddenly feels just that bit less secure and peaceful than in recent times, where the enemy may no longer be another nation but a group of barbaric terrorists.

Let us make November a month of and for remembrance. *We will remember them.*



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2016.

With the festive season approaching, we have to remember it is not festive for everyone. Even a small gift can make a huge difference, and the Blythwood Shoe Box appeal can bring - and give – people in the more deprived areas in Eastern Europe a small gift of a shoe box.

They can be given to a child, a teenager a man or a woman, so each box should contain items relevant to the age of the person you may wish to donate it to.

There is **a leaflet that gives advice and ideas which can be obtained from shooboxappeal.org**

Basic items are in short supply such as shampoo, brush and comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and toiletries, as well as items of clothing, socks, hats and gloves. Pens, pencils and stationery could also be included.

If you wish to fill a shoe box, first, cover your empty shoebox with some wrapping paper, and select items for the appropriate age and sex of your chosen 'recipient'.

Any boxes donated should be ready for 5th November so they may be taken to the Blythwood Collection centre. Please contact.....Di Driver/Irene Butler or drop them off at St Ternan's Church, Muchalls.

Thank you.

Di Driver



Nehemiah's Call by Paul Hardingham.

Our news is regularly filled with reports of terrorism, famine and injustice. The danger is that the world's problems no longer impact us. The story of Nehemiah shows us that if we are close to God's heart, we will feel His pain over the state of the world.

The story begins in 445 BC, when Nehemiah was cupbearer to Artaxerxes, the Persian king in Susa. He received disturbing news from home: *'The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire...For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.'* (Nehemiah 1: 2,4).

God called Nehemiah to go beyond simply feeling sorrow over the walls of Jerusalem. While understanding the need, Nehemiah also appreciated that he had to do something about it. His story tells how he led the people to rebuild the broken-down walls in just 52 days. However, this was part of the longer process of rebuilding a broken-down people, to restore their identity and purpose as God's people.

It began with an extended period of prayer lasting 4 months (from December till March: 1:1 & 2:1). Nehemiah prayed for the king's help: *'Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man.'* (1:11). In the needs that confront us, what is God asking us to do? Obviously we can't fix all the problems in our world, but we can be part of God's work of rebuilding and restoring broken lives and families, broken churches and communities.

Nehemiah shows us that a need becomes a call when the issue starts to matter to us, and we commit to pray about it. *'What a man is on his knees before God - that is what he is and no more.'* (Robert Murray M'Cheyne)



Remembrance - 100 years after the Somme by David Winter.

Remembrance Day this year will have a special significance. Almost exactly a century after the Battle of the Somme finally came to its inconclusive end (18th November) we shall once again be remembering all those who have lost their lives in war, or had their lives blighted by its consequences.

The unbelievable slaughter of the Somme - more than a million men were killed or wounded - made it perhaps the bloodiest battle of human history. The incessant bombardment of heavy artillery, the suicidal waves of attack by unprotected soldiers, the introduction, a few months from its close, of the first tanks in battle all contributed to the vast number of casualties, but so did the pointless efforts of both sides to break what was in fact a five month stalemate. This was a battle nobody won but a million men lost.

This year we shall once again make our prayers for peace and our reflective remembrance against a back-drop of a world that is stubbornly inclined to think that problems can be solved by fighting over them. In the Middle East and in parts of Africa there are still too many who believe that guns and bombs can solve things, when all the evidence of history is that they can't.

Today, a hundred years after the Battle of the Somme, historians still can't decide what the Great War was actually about. And the arrival of the Second World War in 1939 tells us that whatever anyone thought it was, five years of sickening killing had not settled it.

'We will remember them', we say. Surely the finest remembrance would be a world without violence. It still seems a long way off.



Nigel Beeton writes: November is the month for Remembrance, and this November is special, for the 16th November marks the centenary of the end of one of the most protracted, most bloody, and least successful military battles of all time. I pity those who have to tend the fields where so very many died.

A November Field

The tractor ploughs a lonely field
Seen through November mist;
Which, to the rising sun doth yield
The earth is gently kissed.

The earth is gently kissed,
And melts remaining frost
But yet a chill does still persist
For thousands here were lost.

For thousands here were lost.
They fought for this same soil
These thousands paid the awful cost
In blood, and pain, and toil.

In blood, and pain, and toil,
'Gainst shell, and gun, and bomb
They fought, these men, courageous, loyal
The Battle of the Somme.

By Nigel Beeton



The other side of 'The Dambusters' - God is our refuge and strength

My wife Pam and I recently watched again the British war film 'The Dambusters' - and all that lay the behind RAF Squadron 617's historic 'bouncing bomb' attack on the dams that resourced Hitler's industrial heartland. At a 'Bible Week' once in Germany, I was driven by my generous hosts to see the initial target of the 1943 raid - the Mohne Dam. Some of the original scars were still visible on the great repaired structure.

But there is always another side to war. For, back in England, a church friend whom Pam and I greatly love is 'Inge' - a sweet German Christian woman. Her family home had been in the valley, just below the Mohne Dam, the night of the fatal 17th May. Somehow Inge survived.

"How could I ever forget it?" she confided. "We heard the planes and explosions; then came the crashing water - sweeping homes, people, whole families to destruction. Almost the worst sound," she went on, "was that of the animals all around us, in their terrified baying and shrieking, as they were swept away."

War.... It occurs as an ever-repeated reminder of our own fallenness and need of redemption through the cross of Christ. And yet - according to the Psalmist - we were originally made only 'a little lower than the angels,' capable - even in our fallenness and at the height of war - of acts of incredible heroism and selfless care.

I decided to write a hymn on Psalm 46, and obtained copyright permission to set it to the film's theme music - 'The Dambusters' March.' Since then, 'God is our Strength and Refuge' has gone all over the world, and is used in many churches on Remembrance Sunday.

A hand-written letter once arrived for me from an RAF veteran who had been rear-gunner in one of the Lancaster bombers flying in the famous 617 Squadron. He had been thrilled "to hear our own squadron's Dambuster's March now set to words of peace!"

There is massive inspiration in The Dambusters' story. Yet Remembrance Sunday, at its heart, reminds us again of the other side. It can even summon us on, beyond the memories, sorrows and hurt of war, to where our friend Inge is today; in the permanence of a secure faith, and in the membership of the eternal Church, against which - as Jesus promised - not even the powers of hell can stand.

God is our strength and Refuge

1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble.
Though swirling waters are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!
2. There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city,
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!

God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

3. Come, see the works of our maker,
of his deeds all-powerful;
will cease across the world
he shatters the spear!
and know your creator,
him in the nations -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!



learn
wars
when
Be still
uplift

From Psalm 46, Richard Bewes; Copyright, Jubilate Songs; Tune Dambusters' March, ("Sing Glory" No 650)

Summary of Vestry Minutes - Monday 5th September 2016

1: Bishop Nigel

Bishop Nigel brought us up to date with matters arising in our area. He has had meetings with Amanda Boyle recently, a Management Consultant who has worked with Businesses and Charities, to 'market' St James and investigate the potential use of their facilities to enhance their income. St. James and the Bishop's office are sharing the funding of her services one day each week until the end of the year. Their Vestry is fully behind the arrangement, and it will be reviewed at the year end.

He also reiterated that David and Ann Geldart are reducing their commitment to services within the church, but because of health reasons, are having to step back even further. Pam and Arma are willing to help with the schedule. Jane's now able to return to her involvement with St James and St Ternans each month and Peter will help when required. Their services are more frequent than ours and they also conduct a service at Catterline for a small local congregation on the second Sunday of the month at 4PM.

They are currently reviewing their rotas re church management and support, and David is delegating, advising and supporting as he slowly reduces his duties. They had 'outreach', with stands at the Harbour Festival and the Fee'in Market as usual this year.

The Stonehaven Rectory is now fully repaired and signed off, and currently rented out.

Bishop Nigel said he is keeping an open mind with regard to recruiting a new minister, and will look for/willing to consider someone part time: semi-retired; house for duty but he is aware of the age related concerns re the current congregation and our lay preachers. He hopes by the Year end there will be more positive with decisions and discussions as to the way ahead.

St. Ternan's has Eucharistic Assistants who are more involved with the services supported by Peter and Jane.

What the Bishop would like is for St Ternans congregation to come together to discuss, review and set out their wishes and ideas for the future, and he will return on October 2nd, for a question and answer session to be held during the service.

He would also like to express his thanks to Peter Smart for all the support and help he has offered and given to St Ternans as the Interim Ministry co-ordinator.

3: Matters arising from Minutes of Vestry Meeting 5th September 2016

- **Property Convenors Report/Disabled Car Park** - The garden is now planted, lawn laid and ground work completed, and sincere thanks were expressed to Di Driver and George Masson for their hard work in completing the garden.
- **World Maps** - John has obtained the maps, and there was a discussion as to where they should be sited. To be put to the congregation.
- Ken has also framed the '**History Picture**', and thanks were expressed to both of them

4. General Synod

A summary of matters arising from General Synod provoked discussion, as it asked for answers:-

- **? Are we able to help Refugees?**

Discussion focused on what would be appropriate help. Money or goods, Colin to research.

- **? Are we offering employees a living wage**

We have no employees

- **? Interchurch relations.**

To be reviewed at next Vestry Meeting

- **? Eco friendly environment**

We do have a biomass boiler.

5. Treasurer's Report

As there was no meeting in August, this report covers both July and August.

July 2016

Income £2,548.30. Expenditure £5,393.61 Deficit: £3,845.31 Total value of funds £25,888.95

August 2016

Income £1,604.98. Expenditure £1,858.52 Deficit: £253.54 Total value of funds £25,635.41

Although there is a deficit for the year of £11,821.49 the main expenditures have been:

Disabled Car Park - £11,562.94 less £2000 contribution from Diocese

Architects fees for Quinquennial Inspection - £1,530.00

Electrical Repairs - £2,521.97

In spite of the additional expenditure, we still have a net gain of £2000 on last year.

A letter has been received from Christine Lewis's son to say that she will continue to pay an annual contribution to cover the cost of her magazine. An acknowledgement has been sent.

6: Property Convenors Report

Rectory-Some joinery work to some internal doors still outstanding.

Church and Extension- Church Porch light repaired IRD Light at back of Church needs replacing

Grounds- Hedges have been trimmed. North side of Church and Rectory partially trimmed by (thanks to Ken) - Requires more attention. Moss on path being treated.

Disabled Car Park- Community Services personnel worked really hard clearing and levelling the area and laying chukkie. Laid path down to rear of Rectory.

Lawn edging and Turf laid. Planters in place and planted with autumnal flowering plants. Cherry tree gifted by Colin and Janplanted.

Two ornamental plant containers with bushes gifted by Mike and Fran Howard, friends of George and Carol, were set in octagonal paving flags, donated by Heather McCabe.

Grateful thanks expressed to Di and George for their hard work in transforming the garden into a quiet peaceful area as you approach the church.

Outstanding- Install outside water pipe to facilitate watering garden area

Clean and repaint metal seat to put in Contemplation Area. Utilise surplus chukkiees around the grounds.

7: Garden Fete Feedback

2 people responded to the request for feedback. It was suggested that there should be a social committee to oversee the 3-4 events a year that need to be organised and coordinated.

Rhona Vassilikos

20 years since Scotland got back her Stone of Scone

Twenty years ago, on 30th November 1996 - St Andrew's Day - the Stone of Destiny returned to Scotland for the first time in 700 years.

In a service at St Giles Cathedral the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. John MacIndoe, formally accepted the return of the Stone - also known as the Stone of Scone or Lia Fail (the speaking stone).

The Stone is a symbol of Scottish independence, and was used as part of the crowning ceremonies of the Scots kings. It arrived in Scone, Perthshire, in 840AD, having originally been located in the west of Scotland.

Long before that, legend had it that it was the same stone that Jacob used for a pillow at Bethel and that became the pedestal of the Ark in the Temple.

The Stone remained at Scone until it was snatched by the English King Edward I in 1296, and taken to Westminster Abbey. The current Coronation Chair was made to house the stone in 1301, and it has been used in the crowning of every subsequent English monarch.

There is doubt, however, surrounding the authenticity of the Stone now in Edinburgh Cathedral. It is a simple oblong block of red sandstone geologically similar to the stone found around Scone, lending credence to the story that the monks of Scone hurriedly removed the Stone of Destiny and hid it as Edward I approached, replacing it with another stone of similar size and shape.



Be a Barnabas - encourage One Another *Paul Hardingham*

'You'll never amount to much' said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen – and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. St Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to '*encourage one another.*' (1 Thess 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one '*called alongside to help.*' When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry like that of the Spirit to each another. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means '*Son of Encouragement.*' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave *encouragement to a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought together Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Don't forget, '*In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.*' (Albert Einstein).



Christmas Cards

At St Ternan's we have had the tradition of sending each other in the congregation individual Christmas Cards. This year it has been suggested that instead of continuing this practise that perhaps we could sent one card to the congregation which would be pinned onto a board at the back of church and donate the money which we would have spent on buying cards to either St Ternan's or to another charity of your choice.

Several members of the congregation have accepted this suggestion but of course it is entirely up to you what you decide.

It was also proposed at Vestry that as last year we would purchase cards to go round our communities advertising our Christmas Services and to pass on Christmas Greetings from St Ternan's. This year it is proposed that we purchase cards from The Chest Heart and Stroke Association Scotland. If you would like to make a donation to help us buy these cards please speak to either Di Driver or myself for further details.

Irene Butler



Signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

Thursday at 10am there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become Little Mothers please see our new minister in the vicarage....



Good old Advent! Canon David Winter

On the last Sunday in November the Church celebrates Advent. In popular thought this is seen as the start of the Christmas season. Advent Calendars are on sale in the supermarkets.

Christmas, our annual festival of excess, is just a few weeks away. Good old Advent! I yield to no one in my enjoyment of Christmas, with all the trimmings, but where Advent is concerned I have to be a bit of a party-pooper. It's not the start of the 'run-up to Christmas', whatever the shops think. In any case, they've been 'running up' since September. Advent is a solemn but exciting reminder that Christmas is not the end of the Christian story, *but the beginning.*


The end, with which Advent is concerned, is the ultimate triumph of love and goodness over evil and cruelty. The final loving purpose of God will be achieved. The kingdom of heaven will lie

before us, its gates permanently open. 'Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more'. God says, 'I am making everything new'.

'Advent' simply means 'Coming'. The first Advent was Christmas, the second Advent will be when all that the coming of Jesus promised will be fulfilled. Yes, it's a bit more complicated than a cattle shed and a manger, but it's a wonderful prospect. Good old Advent!



ROTA ---- NOVEMBER 2016

Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address/Chalice	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sidesperson	Cleaning/ Teas
06/11/16 PENTECOST 25	REV JANE NELSON <i>Sheila Usher</i> Audrey Smith	Carol Masson John Usher Ken Tonge <i>Sheila Usher</i>	JOB 19: 23-27A 2 THESS 2: 1-5, 13-17 LUKE 20: 27-38	Bob Mathewson	Sue Manson/ Di Driver Audrey Smith
13/11/16 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 	PETER SMART <i>Irene Butler</i>	Katie Gill Di Driver Jan Horn <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	JOB 19: 21-27 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-57 JOHN 6: 37-40	Carl Nelson	Sheila Usher <i>Carol Masson</i>
20/11/16 SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	GEORGE MASSON <i>Irene Butler</i>	Sue Manson Carl Nelson Ken Tonge <i>Sue Selway</i>	JEREMIAH 23: 1-6 COLOSSIANS 1: 11-20 LUKE 23; 33-43	Jan Horn	Kathleen Northcroft <i>No Flowers</i> Peggy Tonge
27/11/16 A.G.M. 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	PETER SMART <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Audrey Smith Eric Hargreaves John Usher <i>Ken Tonge</i>	ISAIAH 2: 1-5 ROMANS 13: 11-14 MATTHEW 24: 36-44	Bob Mathewson	Sue Selway <i>No Flowers</i> Rhoda Nelson
04/12/16 2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	PETER SMART <i>Irene Butler</i>	Di Driver Carol Masson George Masson <i>Sheila Usher</i>	ISAIAH 11: 1-10 ROMANS 15: 4-13 MATTHEW 3: 1-12	Carl Nelson	Sue Manson/ Di Driver <i>No Flowers</i> Audrey Smith

