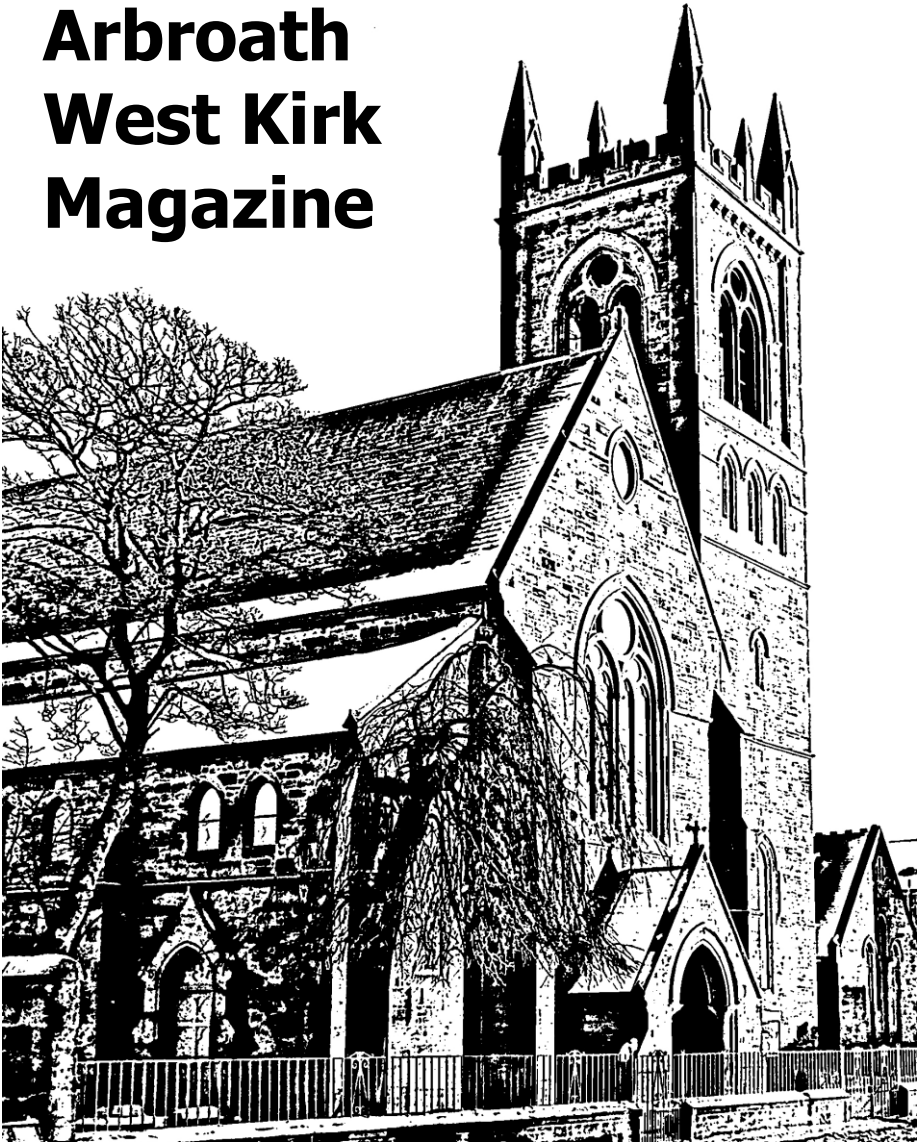

Arbroath West Kirk Magazine



Issue 302: November 2023

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Chris's Chatter

What do you do if you want to find some time for a bit of peace and quiet – a space to think and reflect? Perhaps you go for a walk, and certainly some of the bright days, early mornings and evenings with beautiful sunrise and sunsets recently would



provide that opportunity. Or perhaps you go away somewhere – to a place that provides the time and space you're looking for – a retreat centre such as the Burn at Edzell or the Bield at Perth. Or perhaps you do something completely different like choosing a good book to read or watching a new film or a show – for though these pastimes don't provide the surroundings, they still transport you into another world, open up new possibilities and have the capacity to nourish and inspire in the same way as finding an idyllic spot might.

As we come into November, a month that I always think of as the Season of Remembrance, I wonder if that's what the men (largely men) who wrote the poetry of the First World war did. Their day to day lives in the trenches were such that they couldn't find a quiet spot yet some of their hauntingly beautiful poetry suggests a nourishment of soul and an ability to absorb, understand and accept their role in a wider context. The poem included in this magazine "The Day that War Came" is much more recent and told from a child's perspective but it too, through the experience of one person, offers us a wider perspective. The news in the last couple of weeks means that this phrenetic existence is now the reality in Israel, in the West Bank and in Gaza as well as Ukraine and the many other parts of the world where there is conflict. The more we read about such conflict, I fear, the less we know! The history recent and ancient is so complex but I wonder

where in all of this is there an opportunity for individuals to stop and find nourishment and that wider perspective.

In the second letter to Timothy we read that Paul asks Timothy for three things when he is under attack and at low ebb – a cloak to keep him warm, books to read and parchment on which to write. Those three things will enable him to find peace, nourishment and direction.



As we enter this month, reflecting on wars past and hearing more about present conflict situations around the world and those who suffer, may our prayer be that those enduring such violent situations will have those three things – practical sustenance – warmth and food; spiritual sustenance – a book or the equivalent that will nourish and inspire them; and the means whether by letter, email or message to communicate their situation. Thus, they too may find a semblance of peace in their day to day, nourishment for their body and soul and hope for the future.

Chris xx

Holy Communion

Our November celebration of Holy Communion will take place on **Sunday 5th November at**

11am and at 6pm. As usual there will be the possibility of Home Communions. Please

contact Chris or Myra if you know of someone who would appreciate this. There are no longer restrictions for Communion so seating will be back to normal with the serving of Communion as pre Covid. However, we are aware that there may be some who would like a “safer area” to sit in with a more conservative approach to serving, so the pulpit aisle will allow seating in every second pew to allow this. Please feel free to sit where you will be most comfortable and the Elders on duty will be there to assist you. A warm welcome awaits you all.



Harvest Thanks

Following on from the special harvest celebration on Backboath Farm on Sunday 24th September, Christine and Ruth created a wonderful harvest display for us including a hay bale!



They were then swamped by everyone's generosity in their harvest contributions for the foodbank for which Arthur Pritchard was extremely grateful. He's seen a steady increase in attendance over the last few months and is expecting a difficult winter.



We were also treated to a "right royal" selection of soups for lunch after the service – thanks to the social committee and a further £266 raised for Fun, Food and Friendship – details below. Thank you all for supporting our local community!



Social Committee - November Fayre

As you will have seen in last month's magazine, the Fayre is to be held this month on Saturday 11th November, 10am – 12.30pm in the Church Halls. Same set up as last year, and we need everyone's support to make this a success. We look forward to seeing lots of you at the Fayre, Elders will arrange to uplift donations of goods etc whilst they are delivering their Communion cards alternatively contact the office if you require any further information.

Joan Macgregor, Social Group.



Fun, Food and Friendship

Further to last month's magazine, from November Fun, Food and friendship will operate 2 nights per week in the town from 4.30-7.30pm and on the first Saturday in the month in Friockheim from 11am-2pm

In Arbroath every Tuesday we will be in Community Spirit and every Wednesday in the gathering space at Old & Abbey serving a two-course hot meal. There is no set cost – donation only. In Friockheim, the provision is a lunchtime soup and a sandwich. Of course, it's not just

about the food and the warmth. It's also about the friendships that are being built and sustained.

We are very grateful to our faithful team of volunteers and to those who have given us veg so generously. If you'd like to know more about volunteering or supporting us in other ways, please let Chris know.

Public Use Defibrillator

The August Kirk Session were delighted to accept the proposal from In Harmony (a ladies' choir who rehearse in the west Kirk every Tuesday) that we apply to install a public use defibrillator at the West Kirk and since then we have also very gratefully received £500 from them towards its installation.

Colin Beedie who's a member of St John's Ambulance has agreed to provide training and maintenance on the equipment and an application form has been received and completed to St John's for it.



The cost is just under £1500 in total. We must raise £1000 and St John's Community Fund will contribute the rest. As you can see we are well on the way there with In Harmony's generous donation. If anyone else would like to contribute to this installation which will be available not just for our use but for the wider community around the west Kirk building, then please get in touch or pop a donation in an envelope marked defibrillator and place in the offering plate.

Thank you.

Timmergreen's Tea Room @ the Kirk at 10.30am
Dates for the Diary – Thursday 9th November (Primary 4)
& Thursday 14th December (Primary 3)



In the large hall

Remembrance

Saturday 11th November - Arbroath West Kirk Sanctuary will be open from 10am-12 noon for quiet reflection and there will be a minute's silence at 11am.

Sunday 12th November – Sunday worship will begin at 10.45am with an Act of Remembrance

Royal British legion – Act of Remembrance – Sunday 12th November at 2pm at the War memorial at the High Common.

The Day War Came by Nicola Davies

The day war came there were flowers on the window sill
and my father sang my baby brother back to sleep.
My mother made my breakfast, kissed my nose
and walked with me to school.

That morning I learned about volcanoes, I sang a song about how
tadpoles turn at last to frogs.
I made a picture of myself with wings.
Then, just after lunch, while I watched a cloud shaped like a dolphin,
war came.
At first, just like a spattering of hail
a voice of thunder...
then all smoke and fire and noise, that I didn't understand.

It came across the playground.
It came into my teacher's face.
It brought the roof down.
and turned my town to rubble.

I can't say the words that tell you about the blackened hole that had
been my home.
All I can say is this:
war took everything war took everyone I was ragged, bloody, all alone.

I ran. Rode on the back of trucks, in buses;
walked over fields and roads and mountains, in the cold and mud and
rain;
on a boat that leaked and almost sank and up a beach where babies lay
face down in the sand.

I ran until I couldn't run until I reached a row of huts
and found a corner with a dirty blanket and a door that rattled in the
wind

But war had followed me.

It was underneath my skin, behind my eyes, and in my dreams.
It had taken possession of my heart.

I walked and walked to try and drive war out of myself, to try and find a place it hadn't reached.

But war was in the way that doors shut when I came down the street
It was in the way the people didn't smile, and turned away.

I came to a school.

I looked in through the window.

They were learning all about volcanoes and drawing birds and singing.

I went inside.

My footsteps echoed in the hall

I pushed the door and faces turned towards me but the teacher didn't smile.

She said, there is no room for you, you see, there is no chair for you to sit on, you have to go away.

And then I understood that war had got here too.

I turned around and went back to the hut, the corner and the blanket and crawled inside.

It seemed that war had taken all the world and all the people in it.

The door banged.

I thought it was the wind.

But a child's voice spoke

"I brought you this," she said "so you can come to school."

It was a chair. A chair for me to sit on and learn about volcanoes, frogs and singing and drive the war out of my heart.

She smiled and said "My friends have brought theirs too, so all the children here can come to school"

Out of every hut a child came and we walked together, on a road all lined with chairs.

Pushing back the war with every step.



**Love, Loss and Remembering –
Sunday 3rd December**

Our annual service to mark challenging times in our lives and remember those things and people that we have loved and lost will take place on

Sunday 3rd December at 2pm. This is a short time of readings, music, prayer and reflection at the start of the busy Advent season. A space to stop and acknowledge all that has been and all that is to come. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

This time together is for anyone looking for peace and consolation at this busy time of year, so please share the details to anyone you feel may benefit.

Sunday 19th November

Many of you have blue tins and collect for Leprosy Mission Scotland. Those donations are much appreciated and on Sunday 19th November Stuart McAra will be joining us for worship to give us more details about where those donations go to. Please join us to hear what Stuart has to say.



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Scotland

Remembering those we have lost...

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." As the seasons change and the clocks go back and we enter the season of Remembrance once again, our minds naturally turn to those we've known and loved who are no longer with us. For some that pain and sorrow is fresh and raw and this month we remember...

Peter Charles Ward

Alan Buchan, 24 Warslap Avenue, Arbroath

Kathy Erskine, Clyde Court, Arbroath

Liz Ramsay, Hospitalfield Road, Arbroath

Brian Ingram, Mains of Letham

John Dale, 13 Redfield Crescent, Carnoustie

*Bless those who mourn the death of relative or friend and feel that with this loss
their lives are incomplete.*

*Bless those who mourn, we pray, and fill these empty hearts
with pleasant memories, the sound of laughter, sunshine and happier
days.*

*Bless those who mourn, and, with time, heal their brokenness with the
soothing balm of your gentle touch, that they might know shalom,
wholeness, peace.*

If you know of anyone who has died who has been a part of the church family, please get in touch with Myra or Chris. We might not know. Thank you.

Gift Service – Sunday 10th December

Following the fantastic response last year and the heartfelt thanks of all the care homes in the town, this year we are again hoping to provide small Christmas gifts to the residents.



If you are able to buy something around £5, wrap it up and attach a label indicating in pencil on it whether the gift is for a male or female and details of what it is, then we will distribute and the staff will select for each individual.

Suggested items are:- **Socks, slippers, pjs, toiletries, chocolates, sweets, puzzle books, colouring books, pens, little ornaments, artificial flowers, calendar, blankets.**

The Guild meets fortnightly on Mondays at 2pm in the Large Hall.

6th November - Nicoll Miller and Alan Watson will be telling us all about the Rose Garden in Springfield Park.

20th November - Caroline Siddalls will be coming along to give a talk on Hospitalfield House.

If you are interested in either meeting you are most welcome to come along and join us.

Many thanks to Joan Finlayson for this brain teaser!
Answers in December's magazine.

Around Angus

1. LROARIBT _____
2. NANLU BAY _____
3. NEBIHRC _____
4. IMACUIETHH _____
5. BORATRHA _____
6. ILGSMA _____
7. NMIFIETOH _____
8. RONETSOM _____
9. USRECONATI _____
10. ZEDLLE _____
11. IIIRREUKM _____
12. YABRR _____
13. AFFRRO _____
14. EGLN ESK _____

CHURCH CALENDAR	NOVEMBER 2023
5 th & 19 th 12 th & 26 th 5 th /12 th /19 th /26 th 5 th 5 th /12 th /19 th /26 th 26 th	9.30 am Worship @ Carmyllie 9.30am Worship @ Arbirlot 11am Sunday worship 11am & 6pm Holy Communion 11am DJ Club/Faithfinders Tea & coffee after service
Mondays	
6 th & 20 th	2pm Guild Meet
6 th /13 th /20 th /27 th	7.30-9.30pm Male Voice Choir
Tuesdays	
7 th /14 th /21 st /28 th	7.30-9.30pm In Harmony
14 th & 28 th	7-8.30pm Knit & Knatter
Wednesdays	
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd	9.15am Toddlers@Westkirk
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd /29 th	1.30pm Wednesday Club
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd /29 th	7.30pm Bible study by Zoom
1 st /8 th /15 th /22 nd /29 th	7.30-9.30pm Scottish Country Dancing
Thursdays	
2 nd /9 th /16 th /23 rd /30 th	5-6 pm Quiet Space in Church
2 nd /9 th /16 th /23 rd	6-8.30pm Youth Club
30 th	7.30pm Prayer Group by Zoom
Fridays	
3 rd /10 th /17 th /24 th	10am – 12 noon Coffee Stop
19 th	7pm Arbroath & District Churches Prayer Night at West Kirk
Saturdays	
11 th	10am – 12.30pm West Kirk Fayre
Sundays	
5 th & 19 th	2-3pm Making Music

If you would like to submit a magazine article for the Christmas edition, you can email : westkirkmag@gmail.com or put it in the box in the vestibule area of Church or post it through the letterbox. Deadline for the next issue is end of day, Monday 13th November. All articles are subject to copyright, data protection and editorial discretion, thank you.

Duty Rota	November	
5th	Team 09:	David Langlands
12th	Team 10:	Audrey Shepherd
19th	Team 01:	Moira McIntosh
26th	Team 02:	Barbara Cargill
3rd	Team 03:	David Spink
10th	Team 04:	Janice Tracey
Flower Rota	November	Arranger
5th	Kirk session	Catherine Stockton
12th	Heather Lockhart	Liz Aiken
19th	Ruth Ferguson	Justine McGill
26th	Fiona Dickson	Linda Bird
	December	
3rd	Ruth Ferguson	same
10th	Bill Clark	Barbara Cargill

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Tel: 01241 434721 email : arbroathwestkirk2019@gmail.com

On Facebook at Arbroath West Kirk

YouTube channel at

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3tXCAWSP-YNx5x4Ph7EYfQ>

website: www.westkirkarbroath.org

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Fridays 9am – 1pm

Minister – Rev Chris Hay, The Manse, 1 Charles Ave	554189
Session Clerk – Mrs Audrey Shepherd, 25 Bishoploch Rd Asst. Session Clerk - Mr Bill Clark	870080
Treasurer - Mr David Spink, 45 High St	434721
Fabric Convener - Mr Ross Cargill, 4 Lochlands Pk	876405
Roll keeper - Mr Derek Atkinson, 3 Seaton Pl	872818
DJ Club Leader - Miss Leza Gibson, 62 Warddykes Rd	07518537956
Magazine Distribution - Mrs Kathleen Bruce, 39 Ladyloan	870953
Freewill Offering Convener - Miss Myra Scoular, Church Office	434721
Gift Aid Convener - Miss Myra Scoular, Church Office	434721
Secretary/Church Office – Miss Myra Scoular	434721
Safeguarding - Mrs Liz Aiken/Mrs Audrey Cherry	872429

Change of Address

If you have moved house recently, or are about to move, either within or out-with the town, please fill in the address slip below and return to the Roll keeper, Mr D Atkinson, 3 Seaton Place, DD11 5DS. Thank you.

Name _____

Former
Address _____

New
Address _____