



## Letter from the Minister:

Friends,

November sees us move from Harvest to Remembrance to Advent: from celebration to contemplation to anticipation. But, I am troubled, for despite holding services of remembrance each year, for over ninety years we still live in a world where, for many war and the effects of war are all too real, and so one might be forgiven for wondering what point there is in remembering past conflicts when we still can't live at peace with one another? This is not to say we shouldn't keep these special days, but when will we learn from them?

I have a fondness for poetry, and one of my favourite War Poems is Wilfred Owen's 'Futility'; a poem of gentle imagery starkly contrasted with the surrounding brutality of its setting. Here, a century after its creation the words seem to ring out louder than ever:

Move him into the sun—  
Gently its touch awoke him once,  
At home, whispering of fields half-sown.  
Always it woke him, even in France,  
Until this morning and this snow.  
If anything might rouse him now  
The kind old sun will know.  
Think how it wakes the seeds—  
Woke once the clays of a cold star.  
Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides  
Full-nerved, still warm, too hard to stir?  
Was it for this the clay grew tall?  
—O what made fatuous sunbeams toil  
To break earth's sleep at all?

*Continued on page 3*

## FLOWER ROTAS

	<b>CAMERON</b>	<b>ST LEONARD'S</b>
5 Nov	Wilma Steven	Jackie Mackenzie
12 Nov	Marie Robinson	Janice Farquhar
19 Nov	The Guild	Liz Thirkell
26 Nov	Jennifer Ball	Gillian Leiper
3 Dec	Margot Gribbon	Shirley Sunter

### Church Flower Rota in St Leonard's

Further to my appeal in last month's Newsletter, would you be willing to undertake being responsible for the Church flowers for one week in the year? It is not too onerous a job and is greatly appreciated by both the Congregation and any recipients. If you are unable to deliver them as well it can be arranged for somebody else to deliver them. Please get in touch with me if you would like to be included on the Rota.

Also, if any of the present people on the rota wish a change of date do please let me know as I shall soon be drawing up the rota for 2018.

Thanking you in anticipation

*Heather Cormack, Flower Convenor*

### Decorating St Leonard's for Christmas

We shall be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday 15th December at 10am and would as usual be very grateful for donations of Holly and any other greenery. Also offers of help on the day would be most welcome. Thanks

*Heather Cormack, Flower Convenor*

## ST LEONARD'S TEA ROTA

- 5 Nov Elaine & Jim Douglas, Anne Tait  
12 Nov Gordon & Jackie Mackenzie, Alison Robertson  
19 Nov GUILD SUNDAY  
26 Nov COMMUNION  
Moira Ferrier, Margo Christie, Mo Robertson  
3 Dec Isobel & Arthur Griffiths, Dorothy Sneddon

## ST LEONARD'S CRÈCHE ROTA

- 5 Nov Gillian Leiper & Jan Constable  
12 Nov Pauline Borthwick & Marjory Watson  
19 Nov Katie Mitchell & Evelyn Grieve  
26 Nov Linda Orr & Alison Cuthill  
3 Dec Elspeth Wallace & Olwen Robertson

### Sunday Coffee & Tea Rota

Extra helpers required



As it is time for the 2018 Rota to be compiled some extra helpers would be appreciated. It involves serving coffee and tea after the service on Sunday mornings one Sunday every four months. Anyone willing to help please contact  
May Watt. (tel: 01334472525 or e-mail  
maywatt25@btinternet.com).

*Letter from the Minister continued from page 2*

Yet, as the echoes of October's harvest celebrations fade I'm also reminded of a passage in the book of Micah that says: "The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore." (Micah 4:3)

Those words give me hope. I believe they give us all hope, especially when they come true, as they have in places like Mozambique where, after decades of civil war, a treaty was signed and people surrendered their weapons in exchange for tools to be able to work the land and make a living. Some of these weapons have been melted down to make those tools and machinery while others have been used to create sculptures.

It is so important that we remember; that we remember the great cost of war and resolve to learn from it. Today more than ever, our young people look to us to make sense of the crazy world they encounter. What will we tell them? What world will they inherit? As we move towards Advent let us continue to work for a better world, inspired by the God who promised peace and came to us as an innocent child...not a warrior-king but a Prince of Peace whose message of lasting peace and of radical love still challenges us today.

Wishing you grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Watt'.

## DIARY DATES

### St Leonard's

- 4 Nov Gift Day – 11am to 4pm  
12 Nov Service of Remembrance – starting at 10.50am  
19 Nov Guild Sunday  
26 Nov Communion  
5 Dec Kirk Session Meeting

### Cameron

- 5 Nov Communion  
12 Nov Service of Remembrance including Act of Remembrance at the Commonwealth Gravestone  
2 Dec Gift Afternoon

## The Church Family

### St Leonard's



### DEATHS

- Mr Robert S. Murray, The White Lodge, 96 Hepburn Gardens (D22 Sandy Bolland)  
Mr David Ferrier, 24 Allan Robertson Drive, (D45 Iain McIver)

### Cameron

### DEATHS

- Mrs Margaret Hogg on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## GUILD



### St Leonard's

November is a very busy month for us as the following dates will show.

**November 2nd** 7 30pm meeting.

Speaker Iain Craig. Mission International. Project Haiti.

**November 12th-19th** Guild Week

**November 16th 7 30pm** Foundling Hospitals

and the Coram Foundation. Speaker Madeleine Bell.

**November 25th (Sat)** 10-11 30 am

Christmas sale & Coffee morning.

**November 30th 7 30pm.** Christmas Meeting

A celebration in song for St Andrews Day and

Advent. Also, The Lighthouse sales table.

We invite members of the Congregation and friends to any or all our meetings where you will be warmly welcome.

### Cameron

**Thurs 9 November 2017:** Mary Walker will give an Update on Kingdom 2000. Cameron village hall, 2.30 pm; all welcome.

### NOTICES

**Sunday 3 December 2017:** mini stall in the Sunday School after the morning service, in aid of Cameron Guild.

**Christian Aid Group:** meeting in St Leonard's coffee lounge, Tues 28 Nov 2017, 7.30 pm.

**Christian Aid** *continued from page 15*

World Aids Day is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Pray for Eisew and all those living with HIV that CA partner Metta supports in Myanmar.

Give thanks that Aung San Suu Kyi the Burmese leader, who has been criticised for failing to condemn the cruelty towards the muslim Rohingya refugees. has promised that they will be allowed to return to Burma, and will be provided with humanitarian aid and have their Rakhine region developed economically.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th November at 7.30 in the coffee lounge when we will discuss arrangements for our Punch and Mince Pies fundraiser on December 10th after the Nativity Service. All welcome.  
*George Black*

**Pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel**

The Church of Scotland World Mission Council has arranged a pilgrimage from 4 to 14 May 2018, staying in St Andrew's Guesthouse in Jerusalem and the Scots Hotel in Tiberias. The group will visit and hear from Church of Scotland partners and the local Christian communities.

The trip is ideal for someone who would like to find out more about the region and the current situation, as well as visiting major holy sites. It is particularly suitable for those who have not visited at all, or not for a number of years.

The guide price is in the region of £1650 based on sharing a twin room on a half board basis, with some lunches also included. Single rooms are available at a supplement. Bursaries may be available. For more information, please contact Kenny Roger, Middle East Secretary, at kroger@churchofscotland.org.uk

*Submitted by Maureen Jack*

**Finally, some good news** from WM, Oct/Nov 2017, pp 8-9.

'If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.' John 13:35

Ian Cunningham, Convener of the World Mission Council, recently visited China with others from Churches Together in Britain & Ireland. He shares the story of one church they visited - Beishi Christian Church in Shenyang.

'During the "Cultural Revolution", (like almost all places of worship at the time) Beishi Church was closed and used as a factory. In 1979, when the prohibition on "religious activities" ended, the church began to meet again - with about 25 members. But it began to grow. In 1996 a new church building was constructed and is shared with a 7th Day Adventist congregation. Beishi now has around 3,000 members! There are three services of worship held each Sunday.

We attended one of these services and were surprised to hear a Chinese hymn being sung to the Scottish psalm tune Kilmarnock! The welcome was warm and the worship sincere. Later we met with the senior pastor, Rev Ho Huang, whose personal faith journey was truly inspiring, and we asked her why she thought the church had grown so rapidly. Her answer was profoundly simple: "We love God and we love the people. Others come along to find out why."

**Prayer focus:** God who is Love,

thank you for those people who inspire us

by the way in which they make your love real for others.

May our worship always be authentic

and our love always be sincere.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

*Submitted by Marie Robinson*

## **Gift Day at St Leonard's – Saturday 4 November 2017**

As you may have already heard, there is to be a Gift Day at St Leonard's on Saturday 4th November, for people to drop by with a financial gift to help deal with the deficit in the church budget for this year. The focus of the day is to encourage people to come and give money, but there is also an opportunity for you to sit quietly in the Sanctuary or meet up with our new Minister, Rev Graeme Beebee. There will be time to have a tea or coffee and a chat and we will have displays about many of the various organisations associated with the church in the Hall as well. If you see something that interests you or something that you would volunteer to help with or become a member of, this is your opportunity to learn more.

The Gift Day will run from 11am – 4pm and you will be welcome at any time.

Members of St Leonard's will have found a Gift Day envelope inside your Church Newsletter. Please use this for your donation. If you can't get to the Gift Day, please bring your envelope to church and put in the plate alongside your offering, or post it to the church office.

With blessings and thanks,

Jane Smith and Mary Popple



With so many crises worldwide, it's easy for us to lose focus. Here, for us to pray about, are some practical steps that Christian Aid is taking.

- Pray for those seeking refuge in Serbia, especially coming into the cold winter months. Pray for their mental health as they remain stuck in the legal limbo and emotional strain of the refugee camps.
- Pray for Christian Aid partner Philanthropy, who provide hot food for families in Bujanovac refugee camp and run film animation and sewing workshops to give young people and women something to do during the day.

"God of life, We pray for all those who are displaced from their homes. Hold them in the palm of your hand,  
Guide them to a safe place to call home. Amen."

2<sup>nd</sup> November marks the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the letter written by the British Government supporting the creation of a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine.

Pray for Christian Aid partners working for peace and justice in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory especially for the YWCA as they support women to create and sell dolls wearing traditional Palestinian dress.

"God of Peace, encourage those who seek to establish a fair and just peace in the Middle East.

Bless their efforts as they work to end conflict."

November is Will Aid Month when participating solicitors do wills free of charge for a donation to charity. Phone 03000300013 for local solicitors' contact numbers. Your donation is voluntary. (CA recommends £95).

Pray for CA partner Caja Ludica in Guatemala who use arts and carnival activities to promote a culture of peace in communities rocked by violence.

*Continued on page 16*



## **!!! - URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER MINI BUS DRIVERS - !!!**

As many of you know, the Cosmos Mini Bus was hired regularly by St Leonard's to transport our wheelchair members to church until this had to be suspended in June due to a problem with the back hoist on the minibus. After much searching, the Cosmos people have found a repairer and the minibus is back in service and available for hire once again. Therefore, we are now able to reinstate this service which is greatly appreciated by those in need of it and their family carers.

Currently, we have a team of eight volunteers who provide this service on a rota basis. Two people are required on each occasion, one of whom drives the bus and the other assists with getting the wheelchairs on and off. The bus is hired on around 20 Sundays each year, so everyone is involved about 6 times in the year.

Volunteers obviously need to hold a driving licence, be reasonably fit as there is a wee bit of heavy lifting of seats and for insurance purposes, they need to be on the right side of 70!! Currently we have 8 in the team but only 5 meet the age criteria for driving. Arthritis is affecting the remaining 3 who act as assistants and this limits their capability / availability somewhat so the service is under a bit of pressure.

Therefore, given holidays, other commitments and ageing volunteers, **we need to increase the size of our team by at least two.**

Anyone interested in finding out more about this very worthwhile service, should **please contact BRIAN GRAY on 01334 473884** or [brianwgray44@gmail.com](mailto:brianwgray44@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Brian Gray*

## **Treasurer's ramblings**

As you know, we are holding a Gift Day on 4th November at St Leonard's. From the treasurer's point of view, the main object is to fill a predicted £11,000 deficit in the general fund. I can hear many of you thinking, "Why has this happened?" Well, income from givings is falling and at the same time, expenses are rising inevitably with the cost of living. And so, a second objective is to ask you, our loyal and generous friends, to ask yourselves if you can possibly increase what you are giving. If you haven't already done so, you might like to consider making your contributions by standing order, and if you pay income tax, signing a gift aid declaration means you can increase the value of your gift by 25% AT NO COST TO YOURSELF. Standing order and gift aid declaration forms will be available at the Gift Day. Or you can get them from Nina Swan or me.

Of course, the Gift Day is about much more than just money. There will be an opportunity to chat with the members of various teams and explore the activities St Leonard's offers.

A couple of "gentle" reminders. Firstly, some of our members like to show their generosity in a single annual donation and I am taking this opportunity to invite them to check they have made their contribution for 2017. Secondly, for those who make their contributions by Free Will Offering envelopes, it would be great if you could make sure your donations are up to date by the end of the current year.

And having to ask you all for more money makes me feel uncomfortably like a beggar. Overheard in Church Square: beggar to well-dressed but rather plump lady, "I haven't eaten anything in four days." Well-dressed plump lady, "Goodness, I wish I had such will power."

*Hamish Tait*



### Three More Miles

*Simon Baldwin, who has taken on the leadership of the church's FUNd group from Jane Harrison this summer, recently gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Kilrymont St Andrews.*

*His new year's resolution was to walk three miles every day. Originally, his talk was to have been on this challenge - but the date coincided with the 100th anniversary of commemorations for those who lost their lives at the battle of Passchendaele, so he made a step change. This is an edited version ...*

Every day, I walk three miles. I enjoy an ever-changing view to St Andrews from walks around my home in Balmullo. When I gave my talk, it was 211 days into the year. Collectively, I'd walked 633 miles ... and counting!

On the very same day, 100 years before, history was being made. The Rotary Club often recounts tales of 'on this day' - so I was on solid ground. I told the tale of Squadron Leader Edwin Harris who became the very first pilot to land a plane on a moving ship - using his Sopwith Pup biplane to land on HMS Furious in Scapa Flow. He was a hero.

He died a few days later, on his birthday, trying the same manoeuvre to help train other younger pilots.

Passchendaele was in the news - 100 years on. A number of us had seen the recent broadcast of the very moving memorial service at the Menin Gate. I shared photos of the scenes - black and white images of death and destruction; mud and bog ... mile after mile of mud and featureless battlefields. Man and machine - defeated.

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### FAIR TRADE – STIR-UP SUNDAY

With Christmas just around the corner, Stir-up Sunday isn't far away.

The last Sunday before Advent, is known as Stir-up Sunday, a centuries-old annual tradition for families to gather together ahead of the festive season and make the Christmas pudding. This year that day is Sunday 26th November. So, put on your apron gather family and friends in the kitchen that day to mix, stir and to make a wish. With this in mind make sure you are prepared and purchase from the Fair Trade stall each Sunday from a selection of fruit and sugars not only for the Christmas pudding but also the Christmas cake.

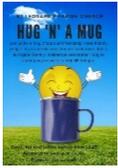
Orders are also being taken for Christmas cards and any other requests.

A few more Stir-up traditions which might interest you – Christmas pudding would traditionally contain 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples. Christmas pudding is traditionally stirred, while making a wish, from East to West in honour of the Three Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus. The customary garnish of holly represented the crown of thorns.

*Submitted by Anne Aitken*

**Cameron Harvest Thanksgiving Collection** was £409.80, which with Gift Aid amounts to £469.80. This money is to be sent to Malawi, to buy ploughs for the farmers of Karonga district.





**The Hug 'n' a Mug** initiative, handing out soup to passers-by at the gate in order to raise our profile, has been running for about 2 months now, and we have succeeded in our aim of drawing attention to ourselves! We have noticed, however, that there are probably more people passing by before the service than after it, so from November we will try engaging people with a Mug full of Jelly Babies... they make people smile! If people would like to join us for a Mug/cup, they will be very welcome to join the congregation at our regular tea & coffee. It is good that so many folk at St Leonard's are alert to any strangers in our midst, and help them feel welcome by going to chat to them. If you would like to hand out Jelly Babies, or have any questions, please contact Jane Smith on 07703 864 832.

**Calling all kids - big and small!** St Leonard's has three groups that work with children: as a rule of thumb, the crèche is for pre-school, JIGSAW (Jesus Is Great Super & Wonderful) is for those in primary up to the age of 9 and, once you break into those all-important double figures, our FUNd Club is for 10+. The older children help to set our agenda and run many of our activities. If you know of children in the parish who you think might like to try us out - just let us know. Better still, drop in. We'd love to see you. Find us on Facebook [StLeonardsChurchSundaySchool](#)

### **Sunday 10th December - St Leonard's Church Nativity**

The children of the three groups at St Leonard's will be spending the coming weeks preparing for this year's Nativity. The prop boxes in the church hall cupboards will be raided so that casting can take place. This year's production promises to be very traditional - but with a few surprises! All are invited to come and enjoy the Nativity - and if anyone has children not in the Sunday school groups who'd like to be involved - in any way - please do get in touch.

### *Three More Miles continued from page 8*

I also shared how every community was touched by the Great War: two former students of the University of St Andrews - Lieutenant Charles Hugh Hope Slater, who graduated with an MA in 1915 - killed in action on the very first day of the battle at Ypres - and Sergeant-Major John Young, a student in Arts who'd returned to Europe from Australia only to die in the Passchendaele mud on the 10th October 1917.

The maps of the front-line show how the battle unfurled - from the 'big push' on the 31st July ... for 130 days. Day by day, week-by-week I was able to show the troops' progress.

And that's when it struck me. My daily view - from Lucklaw Hill to the spires of St Andrews - is 7.4 miles. The distance our troops battled to 'win' Passchendaele in 1917 was the same.

More poignantly, I'd walked 633 miles since I began my challenge: the distance from St Andrews to Passchendaele? 628.

*Simon Baldwin*

#### **Monday 30 October:**

Lecture: 'The Strange Death of Protestant Britain?'

Lecturer: Very Revd Professor Ian Bradley, 5.30 pm, School III, St Salvator's Quad, North Street, followed by a wine reception.

(This is Very Revd Professor Bradley's Inaugural Lecture.)

#### **Tuesday 31 October**

A Service Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Holy Trinity Church, South Street, at 5.30 pm.

Preacher: Dr Rowan Williams, Master, Magdalene College, Cambridge. Followed by a reception in Lower College Hall, St Salvator's Quad, North Street

For any further information, please e-mail the University Chaplain - [dgm21@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:dgm21@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## **The Amazing Ullmann/Haas Reunion Story**

*by Doris Finley*

During my husband George's and my recent visit to the US, we made sure that we stopped in San Francisco to see Gunter Ullmann's widow, Ilse, now 90, who had invited us to be guests in her home during our stay there.

Our story goes back for many years – to the fateful year 1938 in then Nazi Germany to be exact. My Mother, Elfie Haas, nee Hübner, lived in Mannheim in a multi-family building. Most of the other inhabitants were Jewish families. Indeed, right next door was the home of the Ullmanns. Mother was good friends with their two sons, Gunter and Walter, who at the time were young teenagers just like her. They would play together in the large attic, or go bike-riding in the town. The parents, too, had befriended each other, regardless of the fact that the Ullmanns were Jewish and Hübners were Christian.

In 1938 Nazi-Germany circumstances had become very perilous for German Jews. The danger climaxed in the mayhem and destruction of Reichskristallnacht (Crystal-Night - the night of broken glass). In Mannheim, too, fanatical Nazi hordes raided streets and buildings in a frenzied attack on all Jews and violent demolition of their businesses. When the screaming mob arrived at my Mother's building and began to storm up the stairs, my Grandfather boldly stood on top of the landing and shouted at them that they needn't waste their time here, because there were no more Jews in the building. All the while, Mother Ullmann and the boys, along with another Jewish friend, were hiding in their flat. Father Ullmann had been able to flee via elevator, with the key my Grandfather had given him. Thus, he managed to escape through the back entrance. While out, he succeeded in securing tickets to Shanghai – then the only place to accept refugees without visa.

The Ullmann family departed head over heels, but not without promising the Hübners that they would write once they had reached China. As it was, my Grandparents heard from all the other Jewish families in their building, but never from their best friends, the Ullmanns.

My Mother always wondered what had happened to them and whether they had ever even reached China. George knew about her concerns. While we lived in Boston, he learned about the American Red Cross Tracing Service and he filled in the forms in hopes of finding the Ullmanns. There was no answer and our hopes faded... until the miracle happened SEVEN years later! In 2008, we received an email wanting to know, whether we still were interested in the Ullmann family, and if so, they had a lead in San Francisco.

And so, the miraculous story unfolded: On 9 November 2008 – coincidentally, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the horrific Crystal-Night, my Mother placed a telephone call from Germany to San Francisco where she reached Walter, the younger of the two Ullmann brothers. With great joy the two childhood friends chatted, laughed and cried together as they were catching up on each other's happenings, with the firm conclusion that they should meet once again. Unfortunately, Walter died before the meeting could take place. His brother Gunter and his wife Ilse, originally from Vienna, who he had met in Shanghai, decided that they should make the journey from California to Germany, before it may be too late as well. In 2012 then, the two childhood friends fell into each other's arms and the miracle took its course! For ten unforgettable days Ilse and Gunter were able to experience the "new" Germany – a journey which also included some healing that we never had thought possible.

Should you wish to see the story of the actual Reunion (on YouTube, in English), please google: [American Red Cross/Reunion/Ullmann](#)