

K&F'

Kinloss & Findhorn Church News

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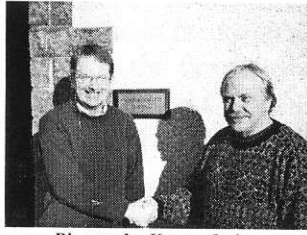
November 2008



From the Manse.....

In 1661 the Bishop of Norwich gave life to the words: "We bless thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life". – Well we certainly have been blessed this year with a beautiful and colourful Autumn, even though the winds have strengthened and covered the manse garden with leaves, which defy my best efforts to control! Now, there they lie on the damp soaked grass, where once above they waved with such glory and life, providing a panoply of colour and welcome shade throughout the Spring and Summer. Words from Psalm 103 come to mind, "the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more." It is a sad irony that November should ever be linked with remembrances, not only of the year that has gone, but also of All Saints Day closely followed and linked to Remembrance Sunday. November 1st, within the Christian church at least, is a day given to all those who, throughout the centuries, died in relative anonymity and with no great Saint's name, yet who contributed to this earthly life. I rather like the idea it suggests, that no soul is left unnoticed by God whether prince or pauper. As we gather around our stones of remembrance, both the leaves, along with the bright red poppies, help to remind us of the sacrifices that have been made. Sacrifices made in order that we may live in relative comfort and peace. I also rather like the following words, also from Psalm 103 which can lift us at this time of remembrance. "But the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to those that remember his commandments to do them" May God bless you, and all whom you remember with love and affection. - Duncan.

Rev. Duncan Shaw - 4 Manse Rd, Kinloss - 01309 690931



Picture by Kenny Laing

Welcome!

The Minister recently welcomed a Church of Scotland Divinity student, Mr Stephen Potts, to the Parish. Stephen is currently studying at the Highland Theological Institute in Dingwall which he attends for 2 days a week. Our Minister has been asked by the Ministries Council to supervise and mentor Stephen on the practicalities of ministry until next Easter. To those (including the minister) who thought they might be getting extra help for our linked charges, then think again! As a student there are set areas of work that he is asked to do as part of his training and which he can undertake with us, however, academic studies limit the amount of time that he can spend with us. On a personal note, Stephen lives in Dallas with his wife Linda and was a joiner to trade before being accepted as a candidate for the ministry. Both Stephen and his wife hail originally from Staffordshire and Yorkshire. They have three sons who live in the north of England.

CREDIT CRUNCH ?

“Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all... But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” I Chronicles 29:11-14

Money Is A Tool – it is not to be hoarded, not to be lusted after, not to be an end, but a means to serving and glorifying God. The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:28, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”

Money Is A Test- for example that of the Laodicean church which existed in the city known as a banking and financial centre of great wealth. The church

is described by Jesus in Revelation 3 as thinking they were rich and in need of nothing; but in essence they were “wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.” Today people can see how well they do on the test by looking at their tax return. Do you take a greater deduction for interest on debt than on your charitable giving? C.S. Lewis said, “Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him.”

Money Is A Testimony – People do not have access to your personal finances, but many can see to some degree how you spend your money. In Acts 4:32-37 we have a testimony of the church in Jerusalem sharing their resources with all who had needs. There was one man in particular singled out by the name of Joseph whom the apostles called Barnabas, which means son of encouragement. Today, most Christians like to refer to that attribute about him, but it is worth revisiting the 37th verse. Barnabas “sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostle’s feet.” Might it not be that Barnabas’ generosity was the central example of his being known as an encourager? His encouragement was not just in word only but in deed. Another example is Dorcas in Acts 9:36-42. “She was full of good works and acts of charity.”

Here is the challenge for all believers today. “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

GET ON THE ATHEIST BUS ?

An **atheist bus** campaign is doing something its backers probably didn't expect – gaining Christian support!

Around 300 London buses will sport the message: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." Starting from January some 5,000 ads are likely to run for a month. This strange idea is being promoted by one of the most prominent atheists in Britain. Professor Richard Dawkins, who threw his weight behind the campaign spearheaded by journalist, Ariane Sherine of The British Humanist Association, raised more than £30,000 on its first day of fundraising.



Except ironically it isn't really an atheist message at all; it's agnostic! The insertion of the word "probably" into the first sentence has left room for a debate about God's existence! How should Christians respond to this ? Well at least we have a destination *and* a ticket to ride – sorry Prof Dawkins....next bus please!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 9th November

All are reminded that the annual Act of Remembrance will take place by Findhorn War Memorial at 9 45am and will be immediately followed by a shortened church service at 10am

Church Roll.

Wedding

4th October – Caroline Riddoch (Kinloss) to Ian McGillivray

Revelation 7:9-17 - A Bible Study

Written during a time when Christians were facing conflict and persecution, this passage from Revelation denies any possibility of a narrow Christianity for 'those like us'. The people who come before God are from everywhere – from those who are 'like us' and those who are very different; from those we understand to those we do not. When being persecuted, it is normal and natural to play safe, to include only those like yourself – only those you know can be trusted. But here, yet again, we see Jesus abandoning all that we believe makes us safe - all the boundaries that we erect for our protection. Isn't this another one of those biblical paradoxes where the Christian way just does not make sense from the logic of the world?

It seems that if we want to preview something of the new heaven and new earth pictured in Revelation 21, then we had better get busy removing the barriers and distinctions that we have built up over the years, as Jesus won't be respecting them. How far backwards we seem to have regressed with divisions and barriers between Christians over so many issues today. In beautiful poetry, the passage points to a common destination and role for people across the whole of humanity, worshipping the Lamb together. So often this is opposite of the worship we experience today which is fragmented by our different preferences and prejudices.