

Remembrance Sunday at Laggan 13th November 2022

Church Notices:-

Kingussie Parish Church

Babies and Toddlers Wednesday 16 November 2022 from 9:00 am.
All welcome.

We continue with the open days each Thursday. Everyone is welcome to call in from 10:00 until 13:00, the Craft Group now meets at this same time.
If you are at a loose end or feel you would like to try your hand at a craft, pop along between 10:00 and 13:00. We would love to welcome new faces and of course there is always tea, coffee, cake and biscuits on offer too. 😊

Prayer meeting will be held on 18th November 2022 11 am until 12 noon

Newtonmore and Laggan:-

Prayer meeting will be held on 16th December 2022 at Laggan,
11 am -12 noon

All welcome. If you wish to join any of the prayer meetings being held and the day/time is not suitable, please let Rev Mary Ellen Thomson know.

Call to worship

We are met this day to glorify God whose power sustains the world, to remember with thanksgiving those who lived and died in the service of our country; and to ask for God's help and blessing, that we may be worthy of their sacrifice each day of our life.

Let us worship God

God is our refuge and our stronghold, a timely help in trouble.
Those who look to the Lord will win new strength, they will soar as on eagles' wings ;
they will run and not feel weary.

1st Hymn 81

I to the hills will lift mine eyes

Let us Pray

Eternal God, you are the Shepherd of our souls, the giver of life everlasting.
On this day when we commemorate and commend to you those who lived and died in the service to others, we are glad to remember that your purposes for us are good, that you gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world, and that you lead us by the Holy Spirit into the paths of righteousness and peace.

Merciful and faithful God, your purpose is to fold both earth and heaven in a single peace.

With sorrow we confess that in our hearts we keep alive the passions and pride that lead to hatred and war. We are not worth of your love, nor of the sacrifice made by others on our behalf.

Almighty God, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all our goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
God of unbounded grace, you declared your reconciling love and power in the death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Teach us only who live only in your forgiveness, to forgive one another. Heal our divisions, cast out our fears, renew our faith in your unchanging purpose of goodwill and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Amen

Call to Remembrance

Will the congregation please stand,

Let us remember the kindness of God, and his favour to us in our time of need.
Let us remember the courage, devotion to duty, and the self-sacrifice of the men and women in our armed forces: the toil, endurance, and suffering of those who were not in uniform ; the support of those who sent us help from afar, or came and stood by our side.

Let us remember those who were wounded in the fight;
those who perished in air-raids at home;
those who fell in battle, and are buried at sea or in some corner of a foreign field; and especially
those whom we have known and loved, whose place is for ever in our hearts.
Let us remember those who came back;
those whose lives still bear the scars of war;
those who lost faith in God and hope for humanity.

Let us remember the continuing grace of God, whose love holds all souls in life, and to whom none is dead but all are alive for ever.

THE TRYST

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 all 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.’

We will remember them.

Silence for two minutes.

Prayer

In memory of those who died, may we be better men and women; and in gratitude to God, may we live as those who are not their own but who are bought with a price.

Amen

Our first reading is Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
Make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
With trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,

let the mountains sing together for joy;
Let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

2nd Hymn

715

Behold the mountain of the Lord

Our 2nd Reading is from **Luke 21: 5-19**

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

"Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

We gather today to give thanks, through this Act of Remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday is a time for us all as a nation to acknowledge corporately the sacrifice of those who have gone before us this year to God's hands, whether national figures, such as,

The Queen,

or our loved ones;

people who were important figures in our civic, military and private lives.

This time allows us to focus on those whom we will miss most, while at the same time saluting those who gave their lives serving our country in the cause of the freedom we enjoy.

A Military chaplain's reflection (not named)

In my 27 years serving as a military chaplain with the Royal Marines and Royal Navy I have tried and tested many different liturgies from around the world. The liturgy I have gone back to is found in the Church of Scotland Book of Common Order and is appropriate to use either at a War memorial or in a church.

A couple of years ago I was given the privilege of preaching at Winchester Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday. It was a beautiful morning and the cathedral was packed to the rafters. After many years working in military Chaplaincy I was very used to preaching in the outdoors or to small community gatherings.

This was always done in short order, with a Padre's Dit (a Naval term for a short address) rather than a Sermon.

Thus, to be asked to preach the sermon in this great cathedral was something of a challenge to me if I was to chose a more orthodox style of delivery. It was then that it occurred to me that the cathedral would be filled that Sunday with people who do not normally go to church – rather it would be a mixture of people from the military, emergency services and youth organisations in uniform, many who perhaps would not want to be there. Indeed, many might not see the point of it all, expecting the customary talk about the two World Wars.

Then I also realised that some of the people in the congregation would belong to my own military family of the Royal Marines and Royal Navy, some might even have been on operations with me, in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans or Northern Ireland.

Some would be bereaved family members who I might know and not have seen for a while and others who I would meet for the first time. Others would make up the local congregation or those from the area who came to the cathedral on special Sundays. This all turned out to be true on the day. What should one say to all those people for ten minutes?

If I shed tears for the fallen comrades and their families, it tends to be when I am alone in the car and listening to some music that brings these memories. The band, Maroon 5 recorded a song called 'Memories', which captures thoughts and reactions to loss and survival.

On that Sunday morning in Winchester Cathedral I decided I would sing the opening phrases of the song, with a glass in my hand.

"Here's to the ones that we got, cheers to the wish you were here but you're not, cause the drinks bring back all the memories of everything we've been through. Toast to the ones here today, toast to the ones we lost on the way, 'cause the drinks bring back all the memories and the memories bring back you.....

Everybody hurts sometimes,
Everybody hurts someday,
But everything'll be alright,
Go and raise a glass and say

Jesus was a young man, only 33 years old, when He died in a brutal killing. As far as we know, many of those who followed Him were young women and men. They were His friends and, just before His arrest and execution, He commanded them to love one another as he loved them. I suspect that these words meant something very deep to Jesus and His friends.

Over time they would find deeper meaning in this call to follow Jesus' commands on how to live – many of them too would be executed.

Many tears will have been shed by those young women and men, despite their firm belief that "everything'll" be alright, so they too could raise a glass or their hands in praise to their leader and friends who paid the ultimate price in serving their country.

Remembrance is a time when we give thanks to those who have gone before us and set an example to us all in how to live well. They inspire us to live well ourselves. Jesus is our ultimate example and friend in this journey of life which, as we sing in the hymn of that name,

" may be easy, may be hard, there will be danger on the way. But with Christ at my side I'll do battle as I ride 'against the foe that will lead me astray."

Today we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the freedoms under which we in the United Kingdom are privileged to live.

We pray for those who carry loss in their hearts and those who still bear the scars of conflicting body, mind and spirit. We think of all those who have recently lost loved ones and those who walk a path of suffering with those in pain from illness. We pray for the healing touch of the risen Christ to fall upon them and ask that they may know the reassurance of faith, that in and through Christ Jesus all things will be made new.

3rd Hymn 260

Eternal Father, strong to save (Known as the Naval Hymn)

Prayers of Intercession

When we remember..... lives etched as Shadows on broken walls, following nuclear fission and the fractured bonded of a common humanity:
Tell us of Your new heavens and new earth.

When we see..... oil-fields burning in the desert, clouding any hope of ordinary living, turning days of opportunity to nights of fear:
Tell us of Your new heavens and new earth.

When we hear of..... young lives lost by the thousand, and forests turned to wasteland to capture a dozen yards of land:
Tell us of Your new heavens and new earth.

When our instinct tells us..... to reject rather than welcome diversity because we have too well learned lessons of terror:
Tell us of Your new heavens and new earth.

When we watch.... athletes compete with strength and skill in ways which conquer war-caused injury:
Tell us of Your new heaven and new earth.

When we despair..... and think that nothing changes and no hope is real, or that peace is too elusive and too fragile to survive:
Tell us of Your new heavens and new earth and of Your Son:
Victim of violence, sentenced to die, risen from death the first fruits of Your new heaven and new earth.

You call us, Lord – to sing Your song, to demonstrate Your justice, to embody Your peace, to praise Your Name. That we may see in all people Your image, that we may follow Christ's way of serving, that in Your security we may risk much for peace.

From everlasting You are God, to endless years the same:
Enable us to discern Your way to peaceful living, to strive against violence to people and to planet, to struggle for justice for all this earth, and to combat all that works against your purposes of peace.

Lord be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home:
Keep us from seeing in violence the answer to deeper ills.
Embed within us a vision of earth more like heaven and give us confidence that Your kingdom shall prevail through Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

4th Hymn 159

Lord for the years

BENEDICTION

May the God of love fill your heart with peace
And send you into the world to live it .
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
Be with you and those you love,
This day and always.

Amen

Hymn 703 God save the King