November 2026

Dear Friends, how the year marches on. Somehow we are staring Halloween in the face and preparations for Remembrance services have been pretty much finalised across the entire linkage - from the far reaches of Springfield to Kingsbarns.

Yesterday, Sunday 25th October despite the awful weather we gathered in Ceres Church for morning service and the Fife presbytery clerk Rev Alec Shuttleworth presented six elders with long service certificates extending to beyond 30 years. Here is a lovely photo - Alec is the one you probably won't recognise!

The last few months have been very different. I was off work from 7th March to 1st July recovering from a bang on the head at the end of last October. Our wonderful OLM (Ordained Local Minister) Rev Michael Allardice and our temporary Interim Moderator Rev Dr David Coulter held the fort while our Session Clerk David Hughes Hallett kept everyone in view and organised. I'm deeply grateful to all these dear colleagues and to several other dear colleagues whom I have known for many years who led worship and kept Sundays the important gathering day they are for people of faith.

This morning one of the news stories was about the increasing number of farmers growing pumpkins - a reminder again of the year turning. Remembrance is around the corner and poppies are being sold. There will be services in Ceres (10.45a.m.) with the 70th Ceres Scouts and at the public war memorials at Kemback (10.50a.m. outside the former church) and Springfield (10.50a.m. Main Street) on Sunday, 8th Nov.

There is much war talk at present around the world and at home. A friend recently recommended a book entitled 'The Nightingale' by Kristen Hannah - a story of torn relationships and awful events against the backdrop of the 2nd WW. In the disturbing times we live in today, can I urge you to focus on the title given to Jesus by the gospel writers - **Prince of Peace.** This was a deliberate poke at Emperor Augustus who'd also been given this title because he'd brought peace to the Roman Empire after 20 years of civil war against Anthony & Cleopatra . But his peace was wrought through violence and military might. **Christ's peace** is non violent and this is where many politicians and diplomats are trying to vest their efforts. Not everyone wants war.

For our part, prayer may feel twee against the military might of war mongers but Christ always urges us to do so. We can of course also lobby personally and through the Church, join protests and make our voices heard in a variety of peaceful ways:
Here is a prayer sent to me by Margaret one of our Prayer Group convenors. She noticed its timely language and sentiments, and with her permission I'm passing it on to you for your contemplation and plea.

Blessings and peace in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Your minister, Jane

It was your custom,
to go to the temple, the noisome temple,
sometime to the scandalised temple,
listening to the mumbo-jumbo,
but it was your custom to go.

Give us grace in our changing day,
to stand by the temple that is the present church,
the noisome temple,
the sometime scandalised temple that is the present church,
listening sometime to what still may seem mumbo-jumbo.

Make it our custom, still to go,
till the new outline of your Body for our day
becomes visible in our midst,
(Rev George MacLeod)