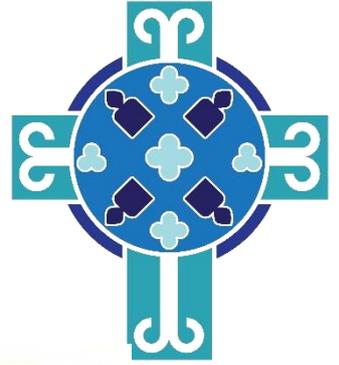


ENCOUNTER

The Magazine of Inverurie West  
Parish Church

JUNE 2022



Pentecost  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

[www.inveruriwestchurch.org](http://www.inveruriwestchurch.org)  
Scottish Charity SC016907

## REFLECTION

### ‘LET ALL THE WORLD’

*George Herbert was a Welsh poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. He is widely recognised as an important poet and lyricist and this joyful anthem is one of his most well-known compositions.*



[Click on image to listen](#)

*The musical setting of the poem which is included here is by Ralph Vaughan Williams (the Antiphon from his Five Mystical Songs) and is sung by King's College Choir, Cambridge.*

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,

"My God and King!"

The heav'ns are not too high,

God's praise may thither fly;

the earth is not too low,

God's praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,

"My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,

"My God and King!"

The church with psalms must shout:

no door can keep them out.

But, more than all, the heart

must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,

"My God and King!"

**George Herbert (1593-1633)**

## ***From the West Manse***

*Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. (Leviticus 25:10)*



It's here at last - the Queen's platinum jubilee weekend. Personality, politics, health (and weather) may all play a part in how much each one of us chooses or is able to participate. You might join in the street party, attend a memorial service, or be part of the local evening of praise in the Town Hall. Or you might be content to watch various events or programmes on TV.

Most of us at the West probably have some memories of the Queen's golden jubilee, with many remembering the silver one, and even a fair few remembering her coronation! However long your personal memories go back, few would grudge Her Majesty a celebration to mark 75 years of steadfast public service.

The word Jubilee has become associated in the public mind as meaning a special anniversary event, especially of a reign.

However, in the bible Jubilee means so much more. Jubilee in the bible is not a celebration, it is a law. It first appears in Leviticus 25 where Jubilee is part of the law given by God to the Israelites. It commands that every seventh year should be a Sabbath year, allowing the land, and the people to rest. After seven of these seven year cycles, the 50th year would be a Jubilee when all those in slavery would be set free to return to their communities, their debts cancelled.

It is not known whether the Israelites ever actually practised this law. But as C.B. Samuel has said that doesn't mean it isn't

important. The law itself tells us God's intentions, reveals his heart of grace, and unveils his vision for restoration. The pattern and the law of Jubilee is intended to encourage us to reset our communities on a regular basis. Jubilee is about social relationships and the wellbeing of the community. It is about liberation, identity and challenging injustice.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all made a commitment to *that* kind of Jubilee this summer?

We're going to be exploring some of the biblical Jubilee themes in June during our morning services. Jubilee can be practised on all levels from the personal to the political.

Perhaps a small thing we can all do this month is try to adopt a Jubilee mindset. We can ask ourselves if there are any relationships in our lives or in our communities that need to be reset; any debts that need to be forgiven; any people or group of people who need to be set free. We can try to make this mindset a regular part of our thinking, understanding that we follow a God of freedom and justice.

And with that mindset firmly in place, in our thinking and in our actions, let's go forward and celebrate!

Every blessing

Rhona



## CHRISTIAN AID

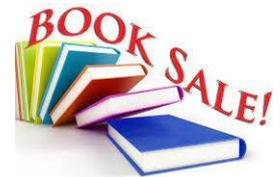
### Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

Many thanks to all who helped in any way during Christian Aid week.

It started off on a lovely sunny day at the Farmers' Market on the Saturday which raised **£191** from our jams and jigsaws stall.



Throughout the week the book sale raised **£1100.87** – as always aiming for over the magic thousand!



Donation Envelopes are not finalised but currently stand at **£227** at time of print. An additional **£200** has been raised through e-envelope donations.

It's still not too late if you wish to donate!

Prior to Christian Aid week we also raised **£175** for the Ukraine appeal. Once again many thanks to all who contributed during these hard times.

*Sheila Rennie*

P.S. Following the success of the Daviot Eco Trails, it is proposed to set up a **Jubilee Tree Trail**, a nature trail on Daviot Estate with twelve or so stopping places, at each of which there would be three quiz questions relating to the Queen. The trail would be “live” throughout June, and a proportion of the proceeds would be donated to Christian Aid. Details have still to be finalised, but any queries can be directed to [MCranfield@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MCranfield@churchofscotland.org.uk), or, once the Trail is up and running, to the Shop at Daviot.

# FAITH

## Queen Elizabeth II and her Faith



Six months before her coronation, Queen Elizabeth asked that the people of the UK and the Commonwealth should *“Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him, and you, all the days of my life”*.

Throughout her long reign, the Queen has acknowledged her reliance on her faith in God in her daily life. In 2002, she declared:

*“I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God ... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel”*.

The Queen returns often to the Christian themes of forgiveness and love in her annual Christmas address, and, along with the Gospel accounts of the Nativity, has frequently cited the Parable of the Good Samaritan as a passage which is particularly important to her for the message it conveys.

It is reported that, while in residence at Sandringham, Queen Elizabeth would often arrive unannounced to join the congregation of Sandringham Church for the Sunday service. There would be no chauffeur, and no fuss. She would drive herself to the church and slip in the side door, sitting not in the special seat that she alone has the right to occupy, but in one of the *“ordinary”* pews at the front, not in order to be seen, but simply because it was important to her to be able to share in the weekly service as a private individual.

It is clear that throughout the vicissitudes of her life, the Queen has found her Christian faith to be an inspiration and an anchor.

# HOPE

## *PENTECOST*

On 5<sup>th</sup> June the Christian Church celebrates Pentecost, also called Whitsunday. The word Pentecost comes from the Greek meaning 50<sup>th</sup> day and falls on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter. In the dramatic account of Pentecost described in Acts, the event coincided with the Jewish celebration of *Shavuot* (which may explain why the Apostles were gathered together at that time).

It is interesting that in the Jewish tradition the festival of Shavuot commemorates God giving the Law to Moses (including the law concerning Jubilee). As Rhona mentions, this law was related to forgiveness of debts and freedom from slavery. It was proclaimed by the sounding of a ram's horn (yobhel or jubilee) and individuals would bring the first fruits of harvest (*Bikkurim*) to the temple in Jerusalem.



In Christian tradition Pentecost is of particular importance as it commemorates the anniversary of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples of Jesus following Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a dove.



In many ways it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

The church's transformation of the Jewish feast to a Christian festival was thus related to the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus was the first fruits of a new dispensation and, with this, hope for eternal life for all Christians because of Christ's atonement for sins.

# LOVE

## A YEAR OF BIBLE STORIES – from Alison Blair

In her sermon at the beginning of May, Rhona spoke about the transformation in Paul when he encountered Jesus on the Damascus Road. He hadn't always been a follower of Jesus but it was God's love and grace that enabled Paul to change and go on to write such inspiring letters to the early church. Paul then went on to write almost half of the books in the New Testament including this passage from 1 Corinthians 13, NIV.

*13 If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Most of us will have heard this passage read at a wedding (maybe even our own) but it has to be more than the love between a husband and wife. We should also see it as the way we treat other people and the love that we can each give to parents, children,

siblings, neighbours, work colleagues and friends as well as our partner.

We, as a church, want to show love to those in our community and beyond. This love should show patience, kindness, humility and forgiveness to everyone we meet. We should also remember that love never ends. Whatever we are experiencing at the moment will pass, but love, and God's love, will last forever.

In another sermon in May, Rhona asked us to consider writing our statement of faith and what or why we believe. I'm including it here today as it continues the theme of love.

The minister at my first church really only had one sermon which was centred around John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* I believe that Jesus died on the cross so that every time I make a mistake, I can be forgiven and God still loves me. Throughout my life I have been aware of God's presence in my life, guiding me, helping me through difficult times and giving me so many things to be thankful for too. I like to come to church each week to be renewed, not only by prayer and the sermon, but also through the singing of each hymn – every one giving me reassurance of God's love for me.

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## **Soup and Sweet Lunch**



There will be a '**Soup and Sweet**' Fundraising Event in the Hall after Church on **Sunday 12th June**. Proceeds will go towards creating access to the **garden** for those with a disability.

Tickets from the Acorn Centre Reception Desk. **£7.50 for adult/£4 per child**. Tours of the garden are possible if requested!!!!

**(Biff Barrow)**

## **“LESSONS FROM A SHOEMAKER’S STOOL” by JOHN KERR**

**Submitted by Anne Greig**

My sister Jane discovered this small book written about our 4 times great grandfather, James Beattie, which is now in the West Church Library.

James was born in 1783 and died in Gordonstown, Auchterless in 1867. He was one of 12 children and when his father died he took over the shoemaking business to support his mother and younger siblings. He lived before the time that education was available to all and, realising that there was a need for children in his ‘fairm toun’ area to be able to read and write, he opened his shoemaker’s premises to young pupils.



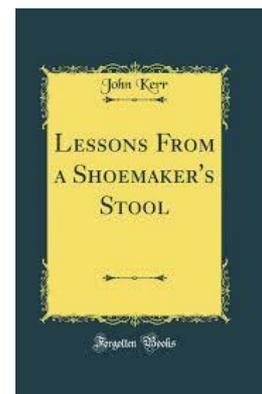
James himself had only received 11 weeks of education but began the school with about a dozen children. The number quickly grew to 60. To fit them into the small, thatched building he had to make stools for them all and the overspill went to the neighbour’s cottage across the road. He worked with the children for 60 years, teaching them reading and writing and basic arithmetic, using ‘penny bookies’ and the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. At the same time he was making shoes.

At the age of 84 he was given a presentation by the local dignitaries, families, and pupils past and present, some travelling from as far as Canada to thank their teacher for the education they received. Jane and I are very pleased to have found out about our ancestor, James Beattie, and his life is an example of what can be achieved with very few resources but with a willing heart.

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## Book Review - *“Lessons from a Shoemaker's Stool”*

Are you interested in the education of children? Do you have fond memories of a teacher who saw the potential in you and found ways to make learning a positive experience? Maybe you enjoy reading about days gone by and discovering how life was 'in the good old days'. Then this wee book is for you. Add to this the fact it is written about one James Beattie, of Gordonstown in the parish of Auchterless, and that he was 4 times great-grand-father to Anne Greig and sister Jane of our church membership, and this will increase the fascination in the story, which first appeared in *“Good Words”*, published by Alexander Strahan, 148 Strand, London in 1865.



The account of James Beattie is told by John Kerr, H. M. Inspector of Schools, who says, *“None are better worthy of a recognition in Good Words than the systematic unobtrusive doer of good deeds, and probably few will grudge James Beattie the honour.”* James Beattie is 82 years of age when the inspector first visits him, and for sixty years he has been carrying out his labour of love, educating children of the village in his workshop. The account of the two men meeting, and the observations and conversations which follow, make compulsive reading.

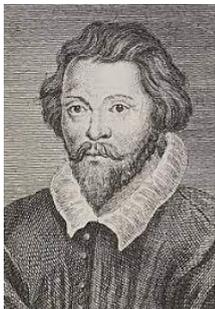
James Beattie's Christian character shines through and is demonstrated in James's own words on the second occasion the two men met, when John Kerr tells James that he has some intention of sending a short sketch of his labours to *Good Words* and asks if he has any objections. *“Weel, sir,”* replies James Beattie, *“I'm real gratefu' for your kindness in coming twice to see me, and takin' notice o' me the way ye've done. It's far mair than I deserve. I dinna think the readers o' Good Words will care muckle*

*about the like o' me, and I've never been fond o' makin a show; but if ye think an article wi' my name in't wud encourage ithers in my humble way to do a' they can for the upbringing' o' puir creatures that hae nae ither way o' getting' education, I'll no forbid ye to do just as ye like."* John Kerr replies, "Well then, I'll do it." You will be glad he did.

Anne has done some research on James and his wonderful legacy. James Beattie was honoured by the congregation of St. George's, Folla Rule, where he was an elder, and he is buried in the kirkyard there. If you would relish half a day in inspiring company, you could do no better than borrow this gem from the West Church Library.

## Hilary Sylvester-Evans

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### **O Lord Make Thy Servant Elizabeth**

**William Byrd** was an English composer of the Renaissance and hugely influential. His six-voice anthem ***O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth*** was most likely composed as part of an effort to secure an appointment with the Royal chapel in London (around 1570).



[Click on image to hear the Anthem](#)

The text is drawn from Psalm 21, suitably adapted to refer to Queen Elizabeth rather than King David:

*O Lord, make thy servant, Elizabeth our Queen, to rejoice in thy strength; give her her heart's desire, and deny not the request of her lips; but prevent her with thine everlasting blessing, and give her a long life, ev'n for ever and ever. Amen.*

It seems a very fitting sentiment and musical work with which to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

## Ways of connecting June 2022

Worship continues on Sundays both in-person and online at 11 o'clock.

If you are worshipping from home, you can connect as usual via the West church website and YouTube channels or access the service by phone on 01467 343790 (calls are charged at local rates).



Sun 5 Jun      11 am Morning worship  
Hospitality time after the service  
3.00 pm Junior church via Zoom.

6.30 pm Evening of Jubilee Praise.  
Joint celebration with Inverurie  
Churches Together in the Town  
Hall.



Thu 9 Jun      7.30 pm Kirk session.

Sun 12 Jun      11 am Morning worship.  
Garden project fundraising Soup and Sweet  
after the service.

Sun 19 Jun      11 am Morning worship/  
Hospitality time after the service.

Sun 26 Jun      11 am Morning worship. Followed by Monthly  
Communion.

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter please email [encounter@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:encounter@inveruriwestchurch.org) by Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June. (Please note – the July/August edition of Encounter will not be produced and distributed until **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**).

Wednesdays 7.30 pm Bible study via Zoom - all welcome  
Contact Rhona for the link.

Every Friday 11 am Friday Fly (Zoom link from Rhona)  
Drop in for a blether any time between.  
11 and 12.



**Save the date - plans are being made for a Joint Church Family Fun afternoon in the park on the first Sunday in July after the morning service. Bring your own picnic lunch! All ages welcome.**

The prayer group continues to meet regularly on a Thursday morning. Prayer requests can be sent to [olive.duncan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:olive.duncan@hotmail.co.uk) or [duncan.linda1@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.linda1@btinternet.com)

**CHURCH CONTACT ADDRESS** - Our contact email address for those looking for help with *collection/delivery of supplies or medication* is [help@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:help@inveruriwestchurch.org).



The Session Clerks would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for Sunday duties in church. In particular, they are looking for volunteers to help with *hospitality after the service and flower delivery*. If interested please contact Gillian or Mark Paterson on [sessionclerk@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@inveruriwestchurch.org) or phone 01467 625675.

## WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

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<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinators</b>	Valerie Napier Gail Buchan	623279 622145
<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Linda Mathers	622586
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<b>Junior Church Team</b>	Biff Barrow <a href="mailto:biff.barrow@tiscali.co.uk">biff.barrow@tiscali.co.uk</a>	623096
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<b>Social/Fundraising Team</b>	Joyce Petrie <a href="mailto:joycepetrie21@hotmail.com">joycepetrie21@hotmail.com</a>	620932

## **CONGREGATIONAL ROLL**

### **Deaths:**

George Mitchell (Dist.3)

Died 13 March 2022

### **Funerals:**

Ian Aiken

26 April 2022

Vera Rorie

28 April 2022

### **Change of Address:**

Nicol Littlejohn

From Dist.34 to Dist.20

Joseph Sutherland

From Dist.26 to

POSTAL

## ***FLOWER CALENDAR JUNE (Convenor – Linda Duncan)***

**Jun 5<sup>th</sup>**           Bunty Sievwright

**Jun 12<sup>th</sup>**           Sheila Reid

**Jun 19<sup>th</sup>**           Irene Jamieson / Linda Mathers

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**           Eileen and Robbie Eunson



**Thanks to all who donate, arrange, or deliver flowers.**

**ENCOUNTER ONLINE** – Currently we are producing and distributing Encounter online and in print. If you have not already provided details of your e-mail and would like to ensure you receive the online version please contact the Session Clerk (01467 625675)



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