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The Magazine of Inverurie West
Parish Church

MAY 2024



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th – 18th May

Scottish Charity SC016907

REFLECTION

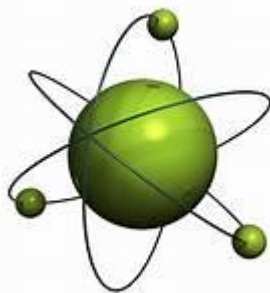
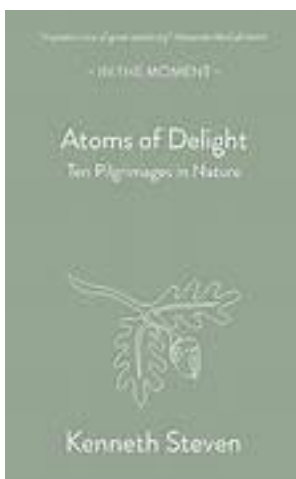
With so much trouble and conflict in the world at present, sometimes it is good to pause, and to take a moment to appreciate the true worth of life's ordinary, little things, "whose worth can never be measured".

Of Price and Worth

**Let the ordinary be your friend;
hold it open and imagine a bird landing,
offering all it possesses in trust
to come to you.**

**Learn to look for the little things
that weigh nothing at all,
but fill the heart with such light
they can never be measured.**

From "Atoms of Delight - Ten Pilgrimages in Nature" by Kenneth Steven, published by Saraband, 2024



From the West Manse



One of the things I enjoy about learning other languages is discovering words or phrases which have no direct equivalent in English but which describe a situation or feeling or experience which I recognise. Some of these words seem so perfect that they acquire a life outside their original language.

Take *'Hygge'*, for example. This Danish word for the pleasant, intimate feeling associated with sitting around a fire in the winter with close friends has become very popular in recent years in non-Danish speaking blogs, books, and lifestyle guides.

Others are less familiar. I discovered a new Scots one the other day for example, which I certainly need: *'tartle'*. This apparently describes the *'panicky hesitation just before you have to introduce someone whose name you can't quite remember.'*

Some other useful ones I discovered are: *'Grenng-jai'* (Thai) which is the feeling you get when you don't want someone to do something for you because it would be a pain for them. Or *'Boketto'* (Japanese) - which is defined as *'gazing vacantly into the distance without thinking'*.

Then there's *'Mamihlapinatapai'* (which fortunately I don't have to try to pronounce out loud). This word, in the Yaghan language of Tierra del Fuego, describes *'that special look shared between two people, when both are wishing that the other would do something that they both want, but neither want to do.'*

How much more evocative is that than *'shy'*?

I can't help but wonder if finding the right words to describe the experience of Pentecost was a challenge for Luke, the purported author of both the gospel of Luke and Acts. Luke stated that his whole reason for writing was to report events as accurately as possible. So I picture him badgering the Pentecost eye-witnesses about what exactly it was like to be present in that moment when the spirit disrupted everything. What did they see? What did they hear?

In the end all he could accurately say was that there was a sound '*like* the blowing of a violent wind' or what '*seemed* like tongues of fire'. Along with these special effects, there was a sudden eruption of language. This wasn't a babble, but the opposite - an eruption of understanding which enabled listeners to hear their own languages spoken.

This is the essential mystery of Pentecost - that something indescribable and yet ultimately comprehensible happened to Jesus' followers.

This month we celebrate Pentecost, the third great festival in the Christian year, but one which we often don't make much fuss about in our tradition. Perhaps we have put less emphasis on it because it defies our Presbyterian attempts to analyse and explain things.

There probably aren't words, in any language, to fully describe the presence of the spirit, but this year we have a useful opportunity to experience Pentecost in a slightly different way, through a joint IDCT service at the Town Hall on **Sunday May 19**. This will replace the regular Sunday services for a number of the town churches, including ourselves. It's an opportunity to live out the '**unity in diversity**' which the Holy Spirit brought to the early church.

Sadly, I will have to miss it myself as I will be sharing in a different kind of unity that Sunday as part of General Assembly this year. But I look forward to the descriptions you will no doubt share with me afterwards!

The spirit isn't confined to Pentecost of course, nor is it always accompanied by special effects. It infuses all we do including our practical efforts for **Christian Aid Week from 12 to 18 May.**

Whatever this month brings you, and wherever it takes you, may the spirit's blessing travel with you, and may you feel, even for just a moment or two, something indescribable.

Every blessing

Rhona



Our final meeting of the session, in April, welcomed Jean Byrne who spent time as an Ecumenical Accompanier with E.A.P.P.I. in Israel/Palestine last year. While many of us at the West are well aware of the situation that exists in Israel/Palestine it was sobering to hear her first-hand account. A special collection was taken and has been forwarded to further the valuable work that the E.A.P.P.I. (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) teams undertake.

We will meet again in September to begin our new session which is entitled 'Sure Foundations' and remember – you are welcome.



NEW AT UBUNTU

Back in stock, a selection of recycled glasses and bowls from Bolivia. These eco glasses are handmade by a family-run business called Crisil, in Cochabamba, central Bolivia, which supports over 500 families. The recycled glass is broken up, washed, and melted down before being mouth-blown and shaped into glassware.

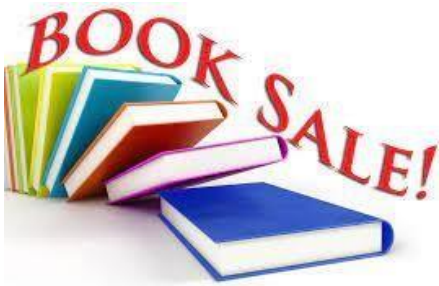


Karma cola is made with Fairtrade organic cane sugar and real cola nuts grown by the Mende and Temne people of Sierra Leone.





INVERURIE CHRISTIAN AID GROUP



***Christian Aid Book Sale: Saturday 11th -
Saturday 18th May***

Once again we will be hosting the Book Sale here in the West Church Hall during Christian Aid week.

Can you help us?



Visit us and pick up book bargains. Paperbacks - two for only £1. Perfect for summer reading! Huge choice and variety of books.



Donate books, in good condition. (No sets of magazines, please!) Especially welcome are ***paperback fiction*** and ***children's books***.

Donations can be handed in via the Acorn Centre, where you can access the hall and leave them there. If you have any donations you would like to have picked up, please phone **Hazel Newton on 01467 620414**.



Volunteer for the rota to sell the books, either ***10 - 1***, or ***1 - 4 pm***. This is a very pleasant task!! Tea & Coffee provided!



If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact **Margaret Hearne - 01651 882274**

The Book Sale raises more than £1,000 every year - so it truly is worth it. Please join us!!



Jams and Jigsaws! These are being sold on Saturday 11 from 10 am – 1 pm outside the hall. Very popular!!! Donations very welcome via the Acorn Centre or at the stall on the day.



Donation envelopes will be available in church on **Sunday 12 May**. They can be returned that day or on the following Sunday (**19 May**) or to the Acorn Centre during the week. You can also use the link below to our Christian Aid e-envelope to make a donation.

Click on the image to make a donation



Poverty pushes people to the brink of survival. A little support from you can help people push back harder.



Mediterranean Hope



The Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles organised a presentation on Tuesday 27th February at St Andrew's Church about Mediterranean Hope as part of a roadshow covering many areas in Scotland. The presentation was given by Fiona Kendall of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI).

Mediterranean Hope is a migration project of the FCEI established in 2013 in the aftermath of a boat disaster in Lampedusa, where

over a hundred people lost their lives. A Migration Observatory was set up there and the rest, as they say, is history.



Mediterranean Hope is involved in other areas:

- In Bihać in Bosnia it supports a community centre
- In Sicily it supports an art therapy project, promoting a "Hear my Voice" exhibition.
- In Calabria it supports orange harvesters living in atrocious conditions, through a social hostel and a local co-op for producers.
- In Lebanon, one of the most important aspects of their work has been opening Humanitarian Corridors in 2016 to identify people from the Lebanon, who are supported to get an EU Humanitarian Visa. 1,000 people are supported to get Safe Passage visas every 2 years, and support continues for 12-18 months, after which they have to look after themselves. This has been extended beyond Lebanon to Afghanistan, Libya and now Gaza.

The talk was really interesting. Fiona emphasised that part of the success of the projects has been the communication and integration with local communities where they are set up. There are estimated to be 149 million displaced people in the world. 157 thousand arrived in Italy in 2023, compared to 29 thousand in the UK, a country of comparable size. So it is a growing problem, and Mediterranean Hope are trying to provide permanent solutions for a few of these people.

For more information go to:

<https://www.mediterraneanhope.com/en/english/>

Morag Mitchell

Small Grants Scheme



A reminder that this year we are once again able to disburse small



grants to local groups. Applications must be

from the local area and can request amounts up to £1,000.

Application forms can be obtained by e-mailing

admin@inveruriwestchurch.org or from the reception desk at the Acorn Centre or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to – The Acorn Centre, West High Street, Inverurie, AB51 3SA. These will be available from **the middle of April and throughout May**

and the closing date for applications is **31st May 2024**. All applicants will be notified shortly thereafter, whether successful or not. We thank you all for your continued support which makes this possible.

Morag Mitchell

Bind us together with love

The Easter Colour project started with a chat with my friend Sally in the back of a safari truck in Kenya in October and ended with a rug that we all created, and shared on Easter morning.



I knew that I wanted to use recycled materials and do something that the whole congregation could participate in. So when I asked Rhona what her themes were for Lent and she came up with colours I knew we could do something. And when I asked the congregation to supply fabrics you came up with lots of lovely items that



you were happy to be reused. A crack team of volunteers met a couple of times to cut up and embroider and the idea became reality.

As ever, the West Church congregation were happy to muck in and pleat a different colour each week, with enthusiasm and commitment! By Holy Week all the pieces were complete and I could sew them together with Joyce's lovely blue curtains making a brilliant border. The final touches were to add the words of faith that you had given me each week. The words of the song **'Bind us together with love'** seemed an appropriate description of the whole endeavour.



Thank you everyone for giving it a go! Sharon



**RIGHT
HERE
PRODUCTIONS**

RHP IN CONCERT

**a cabaret evening of top class entertainment from
Right Here Productions' talented performers!**

**Saturday 22nd June
Acorn Centre, Inverurie
7.30pm • £12 • Raffle**

**Tickets available via the Acorn Centre, or online
righthereproductions.com/shop/rhp-in-concert**

Joint fundraiser for Inverurie West Parish Church and 'Celtic Roots'

Church Calendar/Ways of connecting - May 2024



If you are worshipping from home, you can connect as usual via the West church website

<http://www.inveruriwestchurch.org/westcast.html> and/or the Inverurie West Church YouTube channel.

**Please note that on Sunday 19 May there will be no service at the West. Instead we will be taking part in a joint church Pentecost service at the Town Hall.*

Sunday 5 May	11 am Morning worship with baptism. Hospitality time after the service.
Sunday 12 May	11 am Morning worship. Hospitality time after the service.
11 May - 18 May	10 am - 4 pm Christian Aid Book Sale in the hall (12 noon – 4 pm on the Sunday) 'Jams and Jigsaws' outside the hall from 10 am on Sat 11 th .
Tuesday 14 May	7.30 pm Kirk Session.
Sunday 19 May	11 am joint Pentecost worship service in the Town Hall*
Sunday 26 May	11 am Morning worship followed by a brief AGM. 12.30 pm Community Garden 'Soup and Sweet' in the Acorn Centre.

Bible study 7.30 pm Every Wednesday evening from
1 May to 19 June
(except 22 May when Rhona is at General
Assembly)

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter please
email encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org by
Wed 22 May

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

Our contact email address for those looking for help with
collection/delivery of supplies or medication is
help@inveruriewestchurch.org



Save the date - Sunday 26th May

Soup and Sweet after church in aid of
the *Inverurie West Church Community
Garden*. More details to follow.



WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

Minister	Rev Rhona Cathcart r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org	620285
Session Clerks	Mark and Gillian Paterson sessionclerk@inveruriewestchurch.org	625675
Church and Acorn Centre Administration	Judith Will admin@inveruriewestchurch.org	670850
Church Officer	A team approach will be implemented.	
Rollkeeper	Chris Gardner rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.org	07791 630495
Life & Work	Irene Jamieson irenejamieson@live.co.uk	
Safeguarding Co-ordinators	Valerie Napier Gail Buchan	623279 622145
Transport Co-ordinator	Linda Mathers	622586
Acorn Centre Management Team	Laura Gray lauragray25@btinternet.com	620658
Environmental Matters Team	Joy Doorghen doorghens@hotmail.com	620823
Fabric Team	Jim Lyle jimlyle@hotmail.co.uk	624159
Finance Team	Alan Sharp sharp3@btinternet.com	
Treasurer	Alison Blair treasurer@inveruriewestchurch.org	620677
Committed Giving Envelopes	Cindy Farquhar Cindyfarquhar25@yahoo.com	
Gift Aid	Mandy Aitken mandyaitken@sky.com	07532 487788
Junior Church Team	Biff Barrow biff.barrow@tiscali.co.uk	623096
Pastoral Care Team	Rev Rhona Cathcart r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org	620285
Social/Fundraising Team	Joyce Petrie joycepetrie21@hotmail.com	620932

CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

Lines Received:

Mrs Lynwen Greavey (District 15)

Change of Address:

Mr David & Mrs Alison Gordon & Family
from District 35 to District 27

Please advise the Roll Keeper of any change of address:
rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.org

FLOWER CALENDAR – MAY

CONVENER - Eleanor Mitchell ☎ 620852

May 5th Morag Mitchell

May 12th Carol and Fred Barber

May 19th Bunty Gordon

May 26th -



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).

