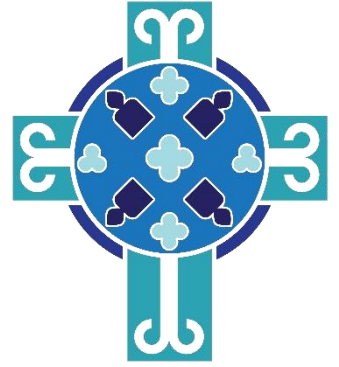


The Magazine of Inverurie West
Parish Church

JULY/AUGUST 2024



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REFLECTION

Summer shows nature at its most fulsome, in sounds and sights. Here poet Kenneth Steven singles out the lark as a ‘*spinner*’ of nature’s songs.

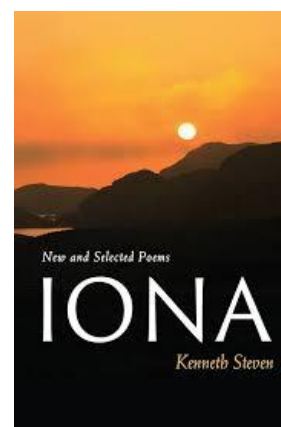


A Lark

A handful of lark
buoyant on the strings of a summer morning
twirling and spinning songs
overtures and symphonies
though it has learned no music
in the schools of London or Paris
but is sight-reading instead
the kettledrums of the Atlantic
the white bells of the orchids
the violins of the wind.



*by Kenneth Steven from ‘Iona: New and Selected Poems
Paraclete Poetry’: St Andrew’s Press, 2021.*



From the West Manse



As I write, it is still the most changeable and contradictory June I can remember, weather-wise.

Thinking about contrast and contradiction led me to the well-known opening to Charles Dickens' novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Dickens' words feels particularly apt these days in a world with such extremes of climate, such a contrast between the 'haves' and 'have nots', such a pendulum swing between ever widening political poles.

This year has thrown up another upcoming contrast: 'It was a summer of sport, it was a summer of politics'. For some people one will be a consolation for the other - although currently Euro 2024 isn't looking too consoling for us Scots! However, Scotland has some real Olympic and Paralympic medal hopefuls in athletics, cycling, swimming, rowing, triathlon and shooting.

More significant than national pride, however, is the chance to admire the skill, talent, dedication and spirit of the competitors. We are often moved by individual stories of achievement against the odds or of those who demonstrate particular resilience, courage or moral fibre.

One such story takes us back 100 years, also to Paris, when Scottish sprinter **Eric Liddell** famously refused to take part in Olympic heats for his event as they were to be held on a Sunday. As a devout Christian of his era, he felt strongly that Sunday was a day for worship, not competition. Instead, he trained for a couple of months for the 400 metre, ran it, and won.

His story, along with fellow competitor **Harold Abrahams**, was dramatised in the 1981 film *'Chariots of Fire'*.

Liddell gave up athletics shortly thereafter and followed his parents' path as a missionary, dying years later in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in China, likely from an undiagnosed brain tumour, his death hastened by overwork and malnourishment. Even in those circumstances, however, he showed exemplary resilience, courage and commitment to others. One of his fellow internees, Norman Cliff, described him thus, *"Often in an evening I would see him bent over a chessboard or a model boat, or directing some sort of square dance – absorbed, weary and interested, pouring all of himself into this effort to capture the imagination of these penned-up youths. He was overflowing with good humour and love for life, and with enthusiasm and charm"*.

In the worst of circumstances, Liddell shared the best of himself. And he did so because of his profound faith.

The Olympic Games have always aimed to avoid politics, wherever possible; but perhaps politics could learn something from sport. Election polling suggests we may soon have a new government in Westminster. New or old, they will be facing a huge roster of challenges. They will need wisdom, belief, light and hope. At the very least, they should be clear, as Liddell was, about who and what they are 'running' for.

Perhaps too, if all seems to be falling on the opposite side of Dickens' scale into foolishness, incredulity, darkness and despair, they might, as I do, take heart from Liddell's words:

"Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love".

God is not helpless among the ruins. His love is still working. That is a contradiction which brings me hope this summer

Every blessing

Rhona



'SURE FOUNDATIONS'



An intriguing focus for our new session I think you'll agree!

Rhona will introduce us to the theme at our first meeting on Monday 9 September at 2 pm in the Acorn Centre when we look forward to meeting friends old and new.

Remember - everyone is welcome.

Ann-Marie Coleman

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



After the success of last year's Garden Party, we are doing it again!

This time the three organisers - Sharon, Isla and Alison - are organising the Garden Party to raise funds for the upkeep of the organ. Just like last year we will enjoy teas and coffees and plenty of savoury and sweet goodies, with good company, in the lovely surroundings of Isla's garden. And hopefully just like last year we will be able to enjoy some sunshine.

If you would like to come, it would be helpful for us to know so please give Isla a call on **07745075665**, speak to any of us, or put your name on a sign up sheet that is at the Acorn Centre.

Isla's house is at the top of the hill past the Harlaw Monument and is the house right next to the big one with turrets with the house name '*Hillhead of Harlaw*' on the fence (postcode AB51 5DR).

Looking forward to seeing you there!



ACORN CENTRE NEWS

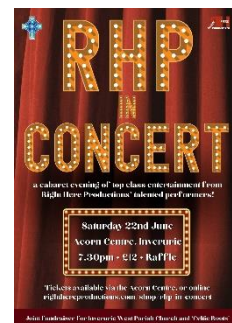
VOLUNTEERING - A regular reminder that we are always seeking new volunteers and the summer is a great time to start. We have already welcomed two new volunteers as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, but it is a great way for people of any age to meet new people, learn some new skills and enjoy being part of a team – (not forgetting the fact that we feed you too!).



Contact Mike for details.

RIGHT HERE PRODUCTIONS

The West Church and the Acorn Centre generously hosted '**RHP in Concert**' on Saturday night **22nd June** – a cabaret style concert, showcasing the various entertainment services Right Here Productions has to offer.



The event was run as a joint fundraiser for the church and '**Celtic Roots**', a brand new show that Right Here Productions and Kevin Littlejohn are taking to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

The evening was a huge success, raising **£1,377** for Celtic Roots. Alison and Kevin would like to extend a huge thank you to Mike and the team for their assistance on the night, and also to the Acorn Centre Small Grants Scheme for the generous grant that was recently awarded to Celtic Roots.

Alison Telfer

SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING TEAM UPDATES



Bennachie Bike Ride – 31st August

The Bennachie Bike Ride is on **Saturday 31st August** and, as last year, will leave from and return to Fetternear Hall. The full route is roughly 23 miles but there are short cuts to reduce the distance. There is no entry fee, we just ask for a donation towards church funds please. Please highlight this to your cycling contacts and encourage lots of folk to join us.

Help is needed with registration, marshalling and hospitality on the day. We need approximately 12 helpers - please contact Joyce Petrie if you are free! We'd also appreciate help with the organisation of the bike ride. *If this is something you'd like to be involved with, please let Joyce know.*

Save the date – 27th September



A pop-up Bistro evening is planned for **Friday 27th September in the Acorn Centre**. Food will have a Mediterranean theme and we hope to have some entertainment between courses. Tea/coffee will be provided and soft drinks will be on sale. Please bring your own alcoholic drinks. Tickets cost £25 per person and will be available from the centre nearer the time.

Fundraising/Stewardship

Registering with the 'EasyFundraising' website is an easy way to use your online shopping to raise a little money for the Church. The site is partnered with over 4000 retailers including big names like Amazon, Tesco and Argos. You can begin by following this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/Inverurie-west-parish-church> or click here





NEW AT UBUNTU

The gift (wrap) that keeps on giving!

Looking for an attractive, sustainable, and fairly traded way of presenting a gift? Why not choose one of the new re-usable cotton **gift wrap squares** now available in Ubuntu. Each square is approximately 49 x 49 cm in size and is made in India from 100% organic, fair trade cotton.



If you choose to wrap your gift in one of the re-usable cotton wraps, you'll be giving a gift within a gift. Not only does it look beautiful, but the fabric also carries an important message: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. This message will be passed on again and again, each time the wrap is re-gifted.



Small Grants 2024

This year we have received more applications than ever before and have given out our largest ever sum of over **£6,000**. Thanks to the generosity of our customers and our volunteers who make it happen, we have been able to help the following local groups:



Garioch Heritage Society
Girlguiding Garioch
Grampian Opportunities
Inverurie Community Partnership
Garioch Carriage Riding for the Disabled
Strathburn School
Marie Curie - Inverurie Fundraising Group
Cycling Without Age Inverurie
Peer Support Group Inverurie
Port Elphinstone Pensioners' Lunch Club
Foos Yer Doos
Inspire by Inverurie
Inverurie Music
GSC Out of Schools Club
Right Here Productions
1st Daviot Oldmeldrum Scout Group
Inverurie Macular Support Group
Gordon Group - Riding for the Disabled
Let's All Talk North East Mums

This is fantastic funding for our community!

TREASURE HUNT

Back in 2020, when we were all restricted in who we could meet up with and where we could go, Larry and Liz Young put together a couple of **walking treasure hunts** through the streets of Inverurie where you solve clues from what you can see around you as you have a stroll.



As part of our ongoing fundraising efforts they've put together another one to complete over the summer (*if summer ever arrives!!*)

For a **donation of £5** (or more if you're feeling generous) you'll be able to pick up a clue sheet from the **Acorn Centre from Tuesday 2nd July**. You'll then have until the end of August to complete the treasure hunt.



So why not pick up a clue sheet, help raise some money, enjoy a stroll, get the brain cells working, and perhaps win a prize.

Larry Young



MAINLY MUSIC

We have had a year of lots of fun learning, playing and singing together at mainly music, every Tuesday, while the mums, dads, grandparents and carers are getting to know one another over a cup of tea and one of Irene's fine pieces. The pictures say it all!

Jane Fraser.





DON'T GIVE UP

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out.
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.
It's when things seem worst
You must not quit

Patience Strong (submitted by Margaret Sangster)



Church Calendar/Ways of connecting – July/August 2024

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



**Please note that our shared summer services start at 10 am!
During July they will be in the West Church building and in
August they will be in St Andrew's.**

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday 7 July | 10 am joint worship at the West
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 14 July | 10 am joint worship at the West
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 21 July | 10 am joint worship at the West
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 21 July | 2-4 pm garden party at Hillhead of Harlaw |
| Sunday 28 July | 10 am joint communion worship at the West
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 4 August | 10 am joint worship at St Andrew's
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 18 August | 10 am joint worship at St Andrew's
Hospitality time after the service |
| Sunday 25 August | 10 am joint worship at St Andrew's
Hospitality time after the service |
| Saturday 31 August | Bennachie Bike Ride |

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter, email:
encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org by 21st August.

There is no junior church running during July and August, but children are welcome at all services. At the West Church, please feel free to use the craft/activity box in the corner of the sanctuary and/or stretch your legs downstairs as needed.

Rhona will be on annual leave for the first fortnight in July and the last week of August. *Rev Carl Irvine will provide pastoral cover during these weeks.*

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



GARIOCH CHRISTIAN AID GROUP
Final Total Christian Aid Week.

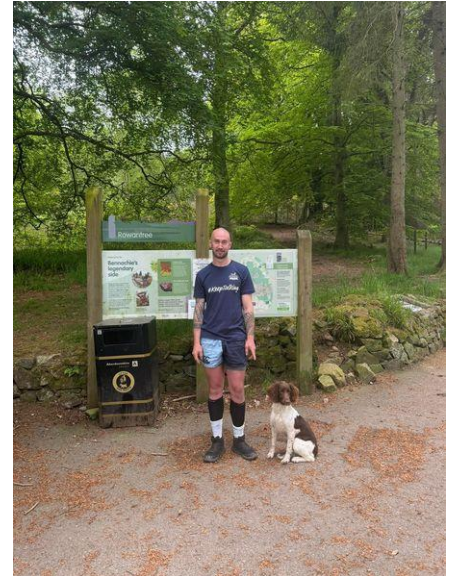
The amount raised from the Garioch district during Christian Aid week is **£4818.95**. A further **£383.75** was donated through our online e envelope. Many thanks once again to all who helped and supported Christian Aid this year.

Sheila

Duncan Maclellan Charity Challenges for the RSABI.




In last month's Encounter we had an article about Duncan Mclellan's challenges to raise money for the RSABI (*Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution*), His first challenge was climbing Bennachie 17 times in 24 hours, and to date this has raised £1768.



His second challenge is in the first week of July and he is walking coast to coast (**Aberdeen to Morar**), on his own and wearing wellies!! It is anticipated that this will take about 7 days. He's hoping it's a dry week!!



Any further donations towards this very worthwhile cause would be appreciated. You can use the link below:

Click on the link to donate 



Thank you, **Isla**

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

Funerals:

Mrs Sylvia Scott (District 35)

21st June 2024

Lines Given:

Mrs Patricia Findlay (District 18)

Change of Address:

Mr & Mrs MacKenzie (District 44) to (District 24)

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

FLOWER CALENDAR – JULY

CONVENER - Margaret Sangster

July 7th Sheila Reid

July 14th -

July 21st Eleanor Mitchell

July 28th Joan Feltham



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).

