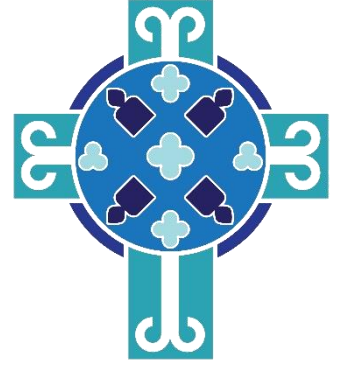


The Magazine of Inverurie West  
Parish Church

APRIL 2024



*Photo – Courtesy of John Hearne*

*‘Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus’. (Luke 24 vv 1-3)*



EASTER 2024 -  
Scottish Charity SC016907

## **REFLECTION**

### ***Easter Has Come***

***Easter has come, and so it begins, God***

***Send your Spirit into our locked places,  
into our hidden rooms,  
into the corners where fear and betrayal,  
where self-doubt and doubt in you  
keep us cowering.***

***Send your spirit there – for it begins there.***

***Call us down into the world you love  
and put us to work.***

***Call us down into the streets you walk  
and have our footsteps keep to yours.***

***Call us down into the places where you are needed  
And make us your body.***

...

***Easter has come, and so it begins, God.***

***It begins – again and again and again.***

***Sally Foster-Fulton in Step Gently into the World. Wild  
Goose Publications: Glasgow, 2015.***



## *From the West Manse*

I've had a little bit of fun on Sundays over Lent, matching my jackets or cardigans with the particular colour I've been highlighting in our '*colours of Easter*' theme.



The association between colour and worship is, of course, a long one. In the Christian church year we have what we call liturgical seasons. Christmas and Easter, for example, are seasons, liturgically speaking, and not just festivals. Each season has an associated colour, with some variations among the different branches of the church. In some churches - including some of our own Church of Scotland congregations, the priest or minister will change some aspect of their attire - like a preaching scarf - to '*match*' the season.

I've never been in the habit of doing this, but I do get how this small change - year in, year out - can help shape the rhythm of worship and embed the pattern of the Christian year within congregations. It's also good to acknowledge that not everything we do in worship has to be led or guided by words. Feeding the senses can also help us to feel connected to God.

For centuries, churches have used their art and architecture to guide others to and through their faith. This was especially important during eras where literacy levels were low, but it still matters and is no doubt one of the reasons we still seek out separate or '*holy*' spaces. We can and do worship anywhere but this doesn't diminish the focusing power of spaces designed to direct us to God and invoke emotions such as peace, awe, wonder, calm, joy, or humility.

For all of these reasons I love the fact that for Easter Sunday we have a woven piece of art at the centre of our worship space. Our 'colours of Easter' work features strips of cloth donated and braided together by many members of our congregation. The whole has been designed and beautifully curated by Sharon Huxtable. Embedded in the woven braids are tiny embroidered words that have arisen throughout our worship over the last seven weeks. Words like 'love' and 'peace' and 'hope'.

As well as the work itself I love what it represents - the many hands who have helped to make it; the many feelings and emotions we have worked through during Lent; the presence of God who weaves golden threads of grace through all our experiences.

As for my wardrobe on Easter Sunday, that's already chosen. My green dress and yellow jacket are not only the most daffodil-like choice I have (and what is Easter without daffodils?), yellow is also the closest I have to gold - the colour of Easter.

As the purple of Lent gives way to the gold of Easter - like the night giving way to the day, or death giving way to life - may you know the dawn of God's multihued grace and mercy this Resurrection Sunday and beyond.

**Every blessing**

**Rhona**

PS: If you haven't been able to make it in person for Easter Sunday, please do feel free to drop by and have a look at our '*Colours of Easter*' piece through the week. The season of Easter continues from now until Pentecost so we will have it around for a while! Hopefully we'll have a picture of the complete work in next month's Encounter.



In March we welcomed Linda and Jeanette from 'The Living Well Café', which was an initiative that began in Newhills Church, Aberdeen. These two ladies' enthusiasm is infectious, and it was obvious how the fellowship and friendship they share with folk living with dementia is so valuable.

Our next meeting on **Monday 8 April** is the last in the current session and will include a very short A.G.M. We will then welcome our speaker, Jean Byrne, who spent time as an Ecumenical Accompanier with E.A.P.P.I. in Israel and Palestine last year. The *Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)* is an international programme coordinated by the World Council of Churches. We very much look forward to hearing what she will say and hope that you will come along.



**Everyone is very welcome.**

## UBUNTU



Further to Anthea's retirement at the end of February, Ubuntu and the task of promoting Fair Trade will continue to be an important focus for the West Church. However, it will now be run by a small group of volunteers and anyone interested in being part of this group should contact the Session Clerks:  
[sessionclerk@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@inveruriwestchurch.org) (Tel: 01467 625675)





## ACORN CENTRE

Spring has sprung and whilst it is often touted as a time for looking forward, sometimes it is good to reflect before we take those next steps.

The 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was our 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we count our blessings each year for the support and encouragement that the Centre has enjoyed since its inception. We are still held up as a great example of a forward thinking congregation and an excellent use of the available space. What is more, it still feels “*new*” and yet like its “*aye been*” at the same time. As the Acorn Centre hits another birthday, you may be wondering what we have spent funds raised for the **Acorn 15 initiative**.

Sadly the “*big stuff*” (a replacement dishwasher) was beyond our budget, so alternative methods of funding are being pursued there. Instead we are concentrating on the “*small stuff*”. This has included new tea pots, saucepans, grill pans, spatulas, salad spinners, chopping boards, knives, chefs’ uniforms, crockery, table numbers and teaspoons. We also purchased an additional freezer so that we can make the most of donated produce, whether from the garden or elsewhere, or take advantage of special offers from our suppliers.



All these things are essential for keeping the centre operating to the same high standards that we have become known for.



## Small Grants Scheme

This year has been a busy year at the Acorn! As always, we send our sincerest thanks to all the staff and volunteers who keep it all going so successfully, and it's thanks to them that we are able to carry on the **Small Grants Scheme**. We are always looking to welcome new volunteers, so if anyone has a morning or afternoon to spare, do get in touch.



We would also like to thank the generosity of the customers who provide the donations that allow us to present these grants. We have a lot of “*regulars*” at the Acorn, and we really look forward to seeing them, and wonder what’s happened to them if they miss their regular time. Also, the innovative menus for the start of this year have seen new people coming to the Acorn, and it’s good to see new faces.

Therefore, 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@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:admin@inveruriewestchurch.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 **31<sup>st</sup> 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**



## Watch out! (Online safety message from Rhona)

Recently I preached on the passage in Mark 13 when Jesus advised his disciples to 'wait and watch'. Unfortunately I've been reminded recently about a different kind of watchfulness - namely watching that we and/or our loved ones aren't the victims of fraudulent activity.



Once again what looks like my church email address has been used by a scammer pretending to be me looking for assistance. This type of scam is called 'cloning' or 'spoofing' when a fraudster creates an almost identical replica (or clone) of a legitimate email, text, social media account, or website. They then send an email from that account to try to trick the recipient into believing it comes from the legitimate email address/sender.

Usually the scam email will say something like '*I need a favour*' or '*Could you help?*' Clever scammers will do their best to try to sound like the sender with something like a friendly '*how are you?*' Or '*haven't seen you in a while*'. But they can often be spotted by their lack of personal detail or by use of a greeting or sign off which doesn't sound like the person they are pretending to be.

Their intention is to try to get a response from you which they will then use to persuade you to give them personal information and/or cash, or buy a gift card or something similar.

The scammers rely on the hope that at least a few people will respond before the person in whose name it has been sent finds

out and/or is able to let everyone in their contact list (which may number in the hundreds) know to ignore it.

If you receive such an email, the only thing you need to do is delete it, although you can also report it as spam to your internet provider.

Unfortunately there is no way to actually prevent this kind of fraud, all we can do is raise awareness.



**So please note (and let anyone who doesn't get the magazine know) I will NEVER send you a generic 'can you help' or 'I need a favour' type email. If you get one, you can safely delete it. It will NOT be from me. Scammers can**

be very clever and convincing, so don't feel bad if you have been tricked before. But please protect yourself and your loved ones either by immediately deleting any such message or, if you feel the need, by checking in personally with me via some other route than email.

Please also be on the alert for similar types of emails from others. The most important thing to remember is NEVER give out personal information, or respond to unsolicited requests for cash, assistance etc. Be wary, also, of clicking on links in unsolicited emails unless you are absolutely certain of the source.

A web site offering support gives the following general advice:

1. Always remember: if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

2. Keep your personal information safe. Never give anyone your bank PIN or National Insurance number. And shred or tear up any letters that include your personal details — don't just throw them in the bin.

3. Keep safe online. Change your passwords regularly and make them as complex as you can remember. Install the latest antivirus protection on all your devices.

4. Be suspicious of 'cold callers' — anyone trying to sell you goods or services on your doorstep or over the phone where you haven't asked them to make contact. If you have any concerns, tell them politely but firmly you're not interested, and close the door or put the telephone down. Never get drawn into extended conversation, as fraudsters will use that ploy to try to persuade you to buy goods, often against your better judgement.

5. If you experience fraud, reporting the incident to Action Fraud may help the police catch the criminals. **Visit the Action Fraud website or call 0300 123 2040 to log your case.**

## QUIZ NIGHT – THANKS

On 1<sup>st</sup> March the social/fundraising team held a very successful quiz night with a full house of 17 teams taking part. Thanks to all who supported the event in any way and in particular thanks to Larry and Liz Young and their quiz expertise. The Quiz Night raised **£615**.



And a date for the diary - the **Bennachie Bike Ride is confirmed for Saturday 31 August**. Please spread the word to any cyclists.

Joyce

## Church Calendar/Ways of connecting - April 2024

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



Please note that **Rhona is on leave from 15-22nd April**. Worship on Sunday 21st will be at St Andrew's at **10 am**.

Sunday 7 April      11 am Morning worship  
Hospitality time after the service

Monday 8 April      2 pm Guild - Short AGM followed by  
speaker: Jean Byrne returned 'EAPPI'  
volunteer

Sunday 14 April      11 am Morning worship  
Hospitality time after the service

Sunday 21 April      **10am Joint Worship at St Andrew's**  
(Rhona on leave)

Sunday 28 April      11am Morning communion service.

3pm All age informal communion.

Encounter      If you have any material for Encounter please  
email [encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org) by  
**Wed 17 April**.

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)

Our contact email address for those looking for help with collection/delivery of supplies or medication is [help@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:help@inveruriewestchurch.org)



## INVERURIE CHRISTIAN AID GROUP



The dates for Christian Aid Week this year are **12th-18th May**, and it is anticipated that the Inverurie Christian Aid Group will be holding their usual Book Sale, opening on **Saturday 11th May**, and running until **18th May inclusive**. We are fortunate in still being able to use the West Church Hall as the venue, and we look forward nearer the time to all your donations of books, jams, and jigsaws to make the sale a success. Set-up is planned for the afternoon of **Friday 10th May**. Anyone who would like to be involved in either setting up or manning the sale, or both, is invited to phone **Margaret Hearne on 01651 882274**. If you have any donations you would like to have picked up, please phone **Hazel Newton on 01467 620414**.





## WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

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

## CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

### Funerals:

Mrs Dorothy Ferguson (District 4)	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
Mrs Margaret Crawford (District 15)	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Mr Donald Robertson (District 2)	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Lines Given:

Ms Kelly Gardner (District 41) to St Fergus

### Lines Received:

Miss Isobel Eddie (District 16)

Please advise the Roll Keeper of any change of address:

[rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:rollkeeper@inveruriewestchurch.org)

## ***FLOWER CALENDAR – APRIL***

CONVENER - Joan Feltham 📞  
620872

April 7<sup>th</sup> -

April 14<sup>th</sup> Linda Walker

April 21<sup>st</sup> Morag Mitchell

April 28<sup>th</sup> Linda Duncan





**Inverurie Community Partnership**

# **Daffodil Tea FUNDRAISER**



**TEA, COFFEE AND JUICE | PANGAKES | SCONES AND JAM  
RAFFLE | TOMBOLA | LUCKY DIP | KIDS GLITTER TATTOOS**

**Saturday 20th April**

**2pm to 4pm**

**No. 3 High Street, Inverurie, AB51 3QA**

**£3.00 per adult | £1.50 per child**



**Inverurie Community Partnership** is a Scottish Charity, SC052759,  
regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

**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).

