

The Magazine of Inverurie West  
Parish Church

SEPTEMBER 2023



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*Genesis 2:15 "The Lord God took the man and put him  
in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."  
All created things belong to God and we are accountable  
to Him as stewards of the creation.*

Scottish Charity SC0169



## Reflection

The summer is coming to an end. As we turn our thoughts to a different season and all the challenges that life can bring, we ask God to be *with us, beside us, and before us.*

### Changing Seasons

#### **God, our Father**

You are with us in changing seasons,  
through arrivals and departures, endings and beginnings.  
The old is somehow strange, the new strangely familiar -  
nothing rests in a moving world, yet your presence is constant,  
and your faithfulness endures through every change.

#### **Christ, our companion**

You are beside us on every journey,  
through each transition, in each day's work,  
you measure out our steps by love and worth.  
Companions on the road, we share  
The evening rest, bread, song and stories.

#### **Spirit, our guide**

You are before us, in hope and faith -  
a pilgrim faith and resurrection hope -  
restoring the past, while calling out  
justice and compassion for the future kingdom:  
healing earth's wounds, re-making light from dark.

*(First printed in Life and Work)*

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



**“I’ve become very Scottish over the years”.**

This is a phrase I have found myself using from time to time - generally when talking about the weather. Being “*very Scottish*” in this instance means I start complaining about the heat the moment the temperature hits the early 20s. Of course I know many Scots love the heat and will travel thousands of miles to get to it if necessary. But it’s fair to say that our climate predisposes us to be used to cooler and milder temperatures regardless of how we feel about them.

In any case, this particular Canadian Scot or Scottish Canadian or whatever I am these days, breathed in the cool Glasgow air with relief after returning in July from bereavement leave in a very humid and wildfire smoke-plagued Canada. August’s annual leave has been spent in distinctly non-tropical regions like Inverness and Ayrshire.

It’s been an odd summer for me, due to personal circumstances. In many ways I have been fortunate. After the loss of my mum, I have had the chance to kind of ground myself in family and friends - spending a bit of time with my sisters in Canada, a few weeks back at the West, and then time with family here in Scotland and visiting old friends. I even made it last Sunday to worship at my old church at Fullarton in Irvine - where half the congregation is familiar to me and half is brand new!

It’s all reminded me that time doesn’t stand still and that over time our identity can shift and change. Over the summer I’ve revisited, reminisced, or reaffirmed what it has meant to be a daughter, a sister, a traveller, a single mother, a grandmother, a Canadian, a Scot, a ministry student, a friend.

You might be relieved to hear that these wanderings across my personal and geographical timelines have left me still quite sure that I have ended up where I am supposed to be - in Inverurie, and in ministry at and with the West Church. At the same time, it has been good and healthy to step outside my accustomed role for a while, get some rest, and widen my perspective.

Our work and our mission may be for the most part largely local but we are part of much wider ecosystems - in church, in society, in the world. Many of those ecosystems are currently very fragile and need us to find ways of working together to ensure a healthy future for all. The world, like the climate, is changing and we too have to adapt and change so that the love of Christ may still be known and recognised across today's generations.

And so a new autumn season begins once more. I've come home to a new orange bin, a groaning email inbox and a rapidly filling diary. I'll be running to catch up with all that you wonderful people at the West and our various partners have been setting in motion for September. Please do check the inside of the magazine and the diary page for details of what's on.

As the Church of Scotland's ***Season of Creation*** begins, let's dig deep into our own creative resources so that, whatever our individual shifts in identity may be, we can collectively continue to be a centre for love and growth and community and faith - this year and in the years to come.

Every blessing

Rhona



## WEST CHURCH GUILD

A new session beckons with the intriguing title '*New Wine, New Wineskins*'. It begins with the live streaming of the Annual Rally on **Saturday 9 September from 11am to 4 pm.**

If you'd like to come along, you'd be very welcome – for the whole day or whatever part of the day would suit you. The Moderator, **Sally Foster-Fulton**, will address the meeting in the morning, and the afternoon speaker will be **Professor Jason Leitch, CBE**. Music will be provided by the **Govan Songsters**. Tea and coffee will be provided at lunchtime, when you are encouraged to bring your own packed lunch.

Our subsequent meetings for 2023 are listed below and those for 2024 will be published in Encounter next month.

### **Monday 11 September**

'New Wine, New Wineskins': **Rev Rhona Cathcart**

### **Monday 9 October**

Garioch Charity Shop: **Sue Kinsey**

### **Sunday 22 October**

Harvest Bakes Stall after church '**West Fest**'

### **Monday 13 November**

By Ourselves

### **Monday 11 December**

Christmas Celebration: **Cheese & Wine**

Come along, we'd love to have your company.

## SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING TEAM

### Save the Date

An *Italian evening with entertainment* is planned for **Friday 6 October**. Tickets priced £20 can be purchased from the Acorn Centre reception.



## GARDEN PARTY

Sharon and Isla would like to thank everyone who came and supported our afternoon tea. After an unsettled start to the day weatherwise, prayer was answered and the rain lifted for a warm and pleasant afternoon.



Everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and fine piece and we were able to sit outside and have a good chat to friends old and new. It was lovely to see everyone, and many thanks for the donations which totalled **£545.**



Thanks  
Sharon



## Acorn Centre Update

It has been another successful summer at the Acorn Centre, with sales remaining strong throughout and avoiding the usual quieter spell we normally see during the School Holidays. A massive thanks to those that have supported us, either as volunteers or as customers over the summer and helped us through a challenging staffing period.

There has been another bumper crop of produce from the *Community Kitchen Garden* and we have been largely self-sufficient for salad vegetables this year. This is quite an achievement this year given the difficult growing conditions that a dry May and June followed by a soggy July and August afforded us. As we enter harvest season, a reminder that we are more than happy to take any excess produce donations from your own gardens and orchards for us to turn into soups, puddings, jams and chutneys.

Moving into Autumn there is a lot going on at the Centre. **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Staff 'Thank you' Evening** back for the first time post pandemic. There will be a slightly different format to previous years with a full meal and entertainment. It's a great opportunity for our volunteers to get together and to thank them for their hard work, selflessness, and the donations to so many local groups and charities who benefit from the **Small Grants Scheme**, which is funded entirely by gratuities from our grateful customers. **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October sees** a return of our ever popular fundraising **pop-up Bistro**, this time featuring an Italian theme. With a bumper menu and live entertainment, this promises to be a lovely evening. *Tickets on sale at Reception now. £20 per person. BYOB alcohol - soft drinks bar available.*



## UBUNTU NEWS

Good news for Fair Trade producers - new research released in June by **GlobeScan** showed that consumers are staying loyal to Fairtrade. Despite the increased cost of living, 55 percent of shoppers surveyed in 12 countries said they were willing to pay more for a Fairtrade product. **Sandra Uwera**, Global CEO of Fairtrade International, said *'It is encouraging that shoppers are staying committed to sustainability values even during hard times, to support farmers and workers getting a fair income'*.

### What's New in Ubuntu

Joining the hand-carved wooden robins and blackbirds are tawny owls, made in Bali - another in the range of British birds hand carved and painted using sustainable albesia wood. The owl is sitting on a wooden trunk made of waste gamal wood which tolerates being cut back. Gamal wood is used to provide shade for plantation crops such as coffee, and for fencing, fodder, firewood etc.

The ever-popular Tree of Life symbol is now available in carved mango wood letter racks and photo frames, Fair Trade and ethically produced. Mango wood is a fast-growing wood and therefore a sustainable material. It takes approximately 7 to 10 years to grow, which is much less than comparable hard woods.

For cat lovers, do check out the hand-painted ceramic cat salt and pepper pots. Black and white kitties with a retro 60s vibe.



There are new additions to the Suncatcher, Finger Puppet and Jute Bags range –

- **Suncatchers** – Clouds, Rainbow and Sun (a typical Scottish summer day) and Three Rainbow Hearts (with a 3D effect)
- **Finger Puppets** (hand knitted in Peru) - Boa Constrictor, Bat, and Giraffe
- **Jute Bags** – Brightly Coloured Mushrooms, Bees and Sunflower, and Woodland Animals in the Moonlight.

Hand Carved Olive Wood Dove Pendants. Made in Bethlehem by a guaranteed World Fair Trade Organization member whose aim is to preserve the local handicraft traditions, and benefit future generations of Palestinians. They strive to alleviate local poverty and unemployment. Their olive wood carving technique was first developed because of the local availability of olive wood and the demand by pilgrims for religious icons.

And last but not least a quirky hen-shaped storage basket made from recycled wire by Fair Trade artisans in India - what would you store in it?

Much more to be found in the shop – do pop in for a peruse.  
***(Pictures provided in the online version of Encounter)***

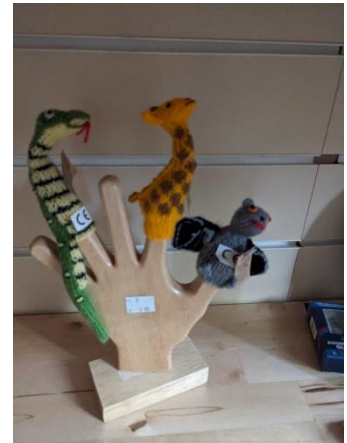
## **Boys' Brigade**

With schools returning, Inverurie Boys' Brigade starts up again too. If you are interested in your child joining us please fill out the joining form (the link is below). We will be starting back on 4th September for Juniors/Anchors aged 5-10 (P1- P6 ) and on 1st September for Company Section 11-18 ( P7-S6 ).



<https://obm.boys-brigade.org.uk/.../5cbd227d.../apply...>





## SEASON OF CREATION

The '*Season of Creation*' is a global and ecumenical movement in Christian churches. It's a chance to celebrate what it means to be Church against the real, urgent, and increasing threat of climate and other environmental crises, and to rediscover the meaning of a distinctive human calling of justice, care, guidance and partnership with – as well as dependence on – fellow creatures with whom we share so much.



There's never been a more compelling reason for prayer; for the Christian claim on hope beyond hope; and the joy and deepening of faith we've seen amongst the most committed congregations in the **Eco-Congregation** Scotland movement, sharing stories and encouraging each other, especially as we gather on Sunday, offering worship and receiving nourishment from our Creator.

This year Church of Scotland members are being invited to step out in support of climate justice and join others in Scotland and around the world on a virtual journey from Glasgow to Egypt. Taking place in the run-up to **United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27, Walk2COP27** is based on the journey from COP26 host city Glasgow to this year's venue Sharm El-Sheikh on the Red Sea.

Over the 45 days of Walk2COP27, a dozen countries between Scotland and Egypt will host hybrid or virtual "**Townhall**" meetings to showcase the impact of climate change and the solutions that are being deployed in each nation, beginning with an event in Glasgow on **Thursday 22 September**.

## A prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Let justice flow freely,  
not drip in desperate, sporadic splats;  
through blocked-up, constricted  
channels  
controlled by the status quo.



Let justice roll down like waters,  
fast and flourishing,  
bringing respite and reparation  
to people and planet.

Climate chaos, driven by an addiction to  
consumption,  
has choked us all, God.

The elite rich suffocate  
under stuff that cannot satisfy,  
while so many more struggle to survive at all.

Wake us up to the world  
- may we hear the song of sustainability  
over the constant rumble  
of 'what we want.'

May peace fall like rain and justice  
spread like morning sun.

AMEN

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton (taken from Season of Creation Time  
material compiled by Eco-Congregation Scotland)

# COME AND SING YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
2023 at 7pm  
West Church Inverurie



Join us for an evening of favourite hymn singing led by the West Church music group.

Donations towards the Centre 15 fund to help replace equipment in the Acorn Centre will be much appreciated.

Tea, coffee and a fine piece will also be served.



*For the beauty of the earth  
Click to hear the hymn*

# MAINLY MUSIC - FOREST SESSION



# CLIMATE CHANGE CAFÉ

*Are you free on the afternoon of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September?*

 Inverurie West Parish Church

**CLIMATE MATTERS CAFE**





## Family Fun Afternoon at Ury Riverside Park

Come and find out about nature on our doorstep and join us for environmental fun activities

Bring your own snacks



**2.00-4.00pm - Sunday 3rd September**

**Entry Free - All Welcome**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Email: [admin@theacorncentre.org](mailto:admin@theacorncentre.org)  
Phone: 01467 670850

Why not pop along to see us at Ury Riverside Park from 2 – 4 pm for our next FREE Climate Cafe Event?

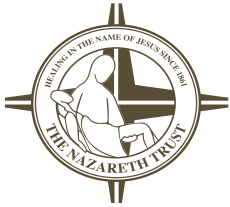
There will be face painting; games and craft activities for youngsters; a guided walk by one of the Rangers at 3 pm; and the chance (all afternoon) to take part in a short 'Quiz Walk' (suitable for all ages) to see how much you know about the flowers and trees in this amazing facility right in the centre of Inverurie.

Look forward to seeing you there and if you are not able to come along ... please spread the word!

Best wishes

Biff Barrow

On behalf of the Inverurie Climate Cafe



# THE NAZARETH TRUST

**Registrations are open to join the Nazareth Trust's Jesus Trail in 2024!**

**Discover the land of the Bible and raise funds for a good cause.** The Jesus Trail is a 5-day pilgrimage route in the Galilee region of Israel that retraces Jesus' footsteps, following many of the significant places from his life. The Nazareth Trust, one of the largest Christian charities in Scotland, has organised fundraising Jesus Trails since 2014, each year for a different cause. Spaces are limited, so book your spot today to avoid disappointment:

- The Spring edition (17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024) will support the Nazareth Hospital's Pastoral Care Development Needs.
- The Autumn edition (3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2024) will fund scholarships for aspiring students at the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing.

Join us on this incredible adventure, where you'll walk from Zippori to Capernaum and meet like-minded Christians from all over the world.

Email [events@nazarethtrust.org](mailto:events@nazarethtrust.org) to sign up!

Visit the Trust's website for more information:

<https://nazarethtrust.org/nazareth-challenge/>





# JESUS TRAIL 2024

**17 - 23 MARCH 2024**  
**3 - 9 NOVEMBER 2024**

**WALK FROM ZIPPORI TO  
CAPERNAUM AND RAISE  
FUNDS FOR A GOOD CAUSE.**

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE!**



# MAINLY MUSIC -PLAY DAY



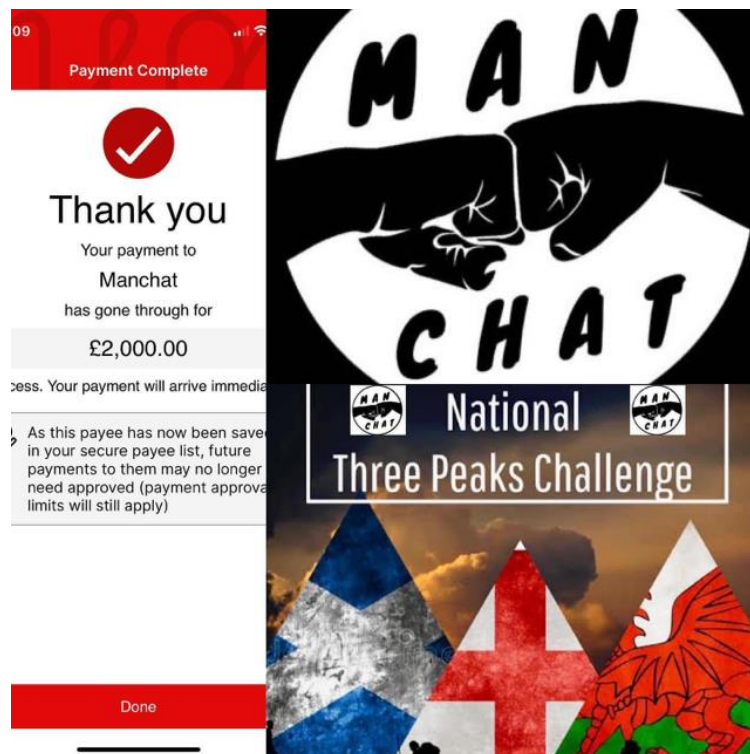


## *'Man Chat' & Duncan's 3 Peaks Challenge'*

**National 3 Peaks smashed 🙌 19 hours 21 minutes.**

There was some absolutely horrendous weather on Scafell Pike but I made it through it!

A HUGE thanks goes to my sister Katherine for doing most of the driving!



Donations all totalled up and a massive £2000 raised in aid of Man Chat! I'm so grateful for each and every donation given; the money raised will be a huge help for the Manchat team to keep doing what they do best, helping the men of the north east like myself who are currently or have been going through some stressful times in their lives and need a safe space to talk. Thank you to everyone again, it made my 3 Peaks challenge all worthwhile.

Duncan Maclellan

## Church Calendar/Ways of Connecting September 2023



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 3 Sep 11 am Morning Worship. Hospitality time after the service.

2-4 pm Ury Riverside Family Fun afternoon organised by the Climate Matters group.

Thu 7 Sep 7.30 pm Kirk session meeting.

Sat 9 Sep 11 am-4 pm Guild Annual Rally (streaming).

Sun 10 Sep 11 am Morning Worship. Hospitality time after the service.

7.00 pm 'Favourite Hymn Evening' led by the Church singing group.  
Tea/coffee and home bakes provided.

Mon 11 Sep 2 pm Guild Talk – '*New Wine New Wineskins*' - Rhona.

Wed 13 Sep 7.30 pm Wednesday evening Online Bible Study begins\*

Sun 17 Sep 11 am Morning Worship. Hospitality time after the service.

Sun 24 Sep 11 am Morning Worship. Informal communion after the service.

Sat 30 Sep 10 am-1pm Presbytery Climate Justice Conference with Christian Aid, Eco-Congregations and the Guild.

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter email [encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:encounter@inveruriewestchurch.org) by Wed 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Children are welcome at all services. A weekly craft activity can be found in our **'Play as you Worship'** box. The Junior Church team are looking at restarting a programme for children who wish to go downstairs partway through the service. Some weeks, if only one junior church team member is available, we will need a parent/carer to accompany any children who prefer to head downstairs.

\* Bible study note: This season's bible study will be looking at how we read the bible, using a book called **"How we eat bread"** by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes. It isn't necessary to buy the book for the study, and you don't need any background or bible expertise to be part of the group, which is informal and has amazing discussions. If you've never tried bible study before, this might be the time! Wednesday bible study evenings are online via zoom (as this works for most of the current group). However should there be enough interest among those who prefer to meet in person during the day, please get in touch with Rhona and she will see if she can arrange a second group.

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@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:help@inveruriwestchurch.org).

## **CONGREGATIONAL ROLL**

### **Funerals:**

Annie Elmslie (District 24)	25 <sup>th</sup> July
Sandy (Alexander) Milne (District 13)	26 <sup>th</sup> July

***Please advise the Roll Keeper of any change of address:  
[rollkeeper@inveruriwestchurch.org](mailto:rollkeeper@inveruriwestchurch.org)***

## 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.o">sessionclerk@inveruriewestchurch.o</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>	Kenneth Gray <a href="mailto:kennethgray@hotmail.co.uk">kennethgray@hotmail.co.uk</a>	620658
<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

## ***FLOWER CALENDAR /SEPTEMBER***



SEPTEMBER CONVENER -

ELEANOR MITCHELL 620582

3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Irene Jamieson & Linda Mathers	622586
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Linda Duncan	620800
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Gordon & Bunty Sieviewright	621150
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Gillian & Mark Paterson	625615

**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).



**eco**  
**congregation Scotland**