

April 2011

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Easter



Inside this month ..

What Does Easter Mean To Me? – A Musical
Resurrection – Easter Thoughts.
Plus all the usual congregational news.

Unusual Powers

A dandelion can break through tarmac,
Display its glorious suns.

A bee can bumble backwards
From warm pollen
In wallflower cups

And on frail wings

Raise its bulky body to the wind,

(Engineers will tell you this can't happen
Aerodynamics being as they are).

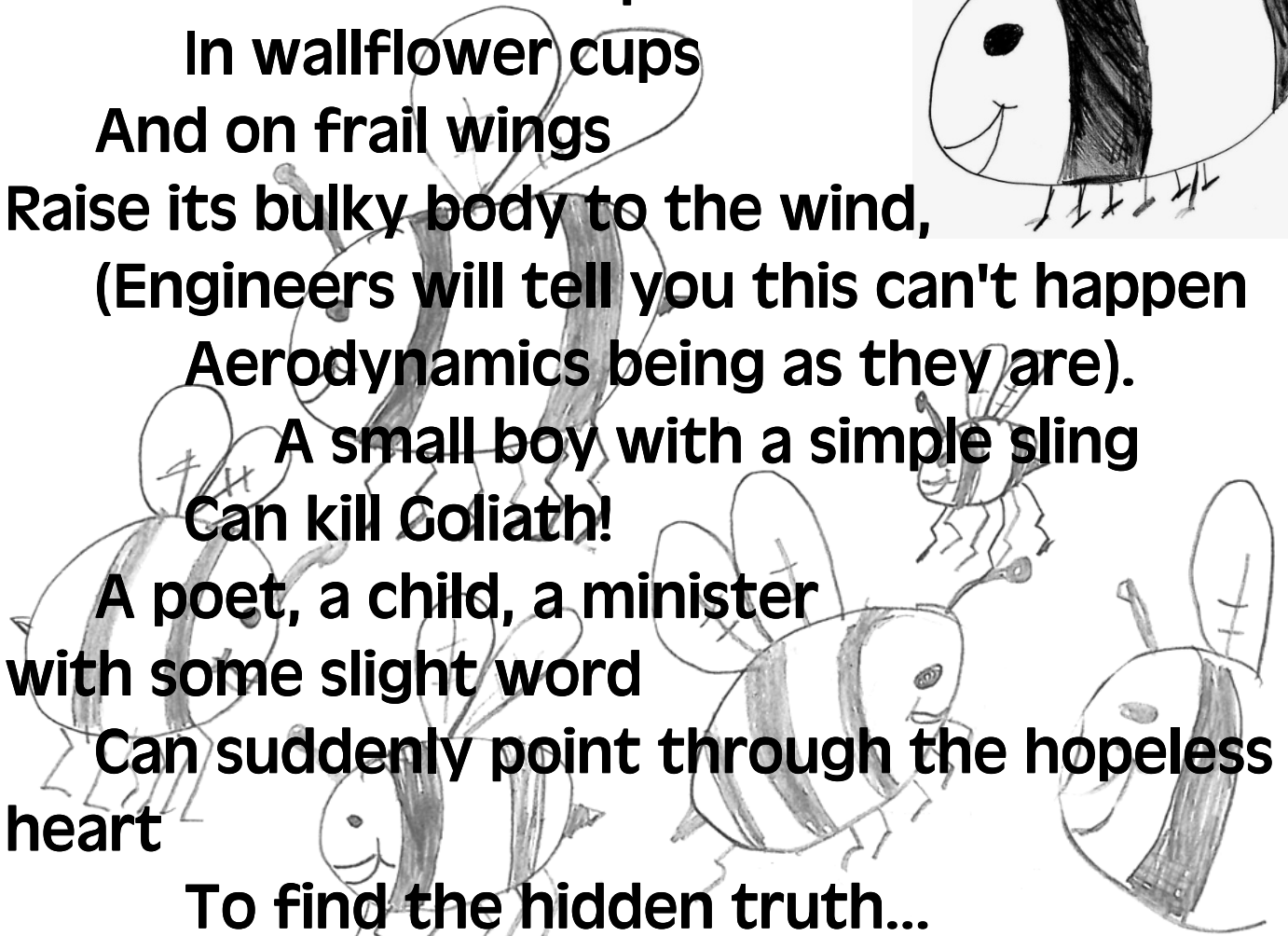
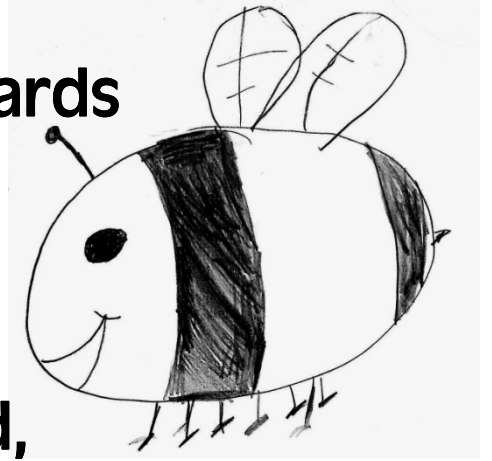
A small boy with a simple sling
Can kill Goliath!

A poet, a child, a minister
with some slight word

Can suddenly point through the hopeless
heart

To find the hidden truth...

So who can say who rolled the stone away?



Margaret Gillies Brown

"Far From The Rowan Tree", Argyll Publishing

www.argyllpublishing.co.uk

Bees by Katy Downie

Dear Friends

Moving through Lent is like a journey of discovery – or is it re-discovery. Many of the passages which will shape our worship in these weeks up to Easter are very familiar – particularly in the final week.

But it is as we hear them again in our context this year that they may hold a different meaning for us from this time last year. So a rediscovery.

A rediscovery of a love which is about our reality. A love which speaks of rainbows through the rain and promises which are not in vain.

A rediscovery of a love which offers us a light in the deepest darkness and a hope in the slough of despair.

Breaking out of Lent and bursting into Easter is like snapping out of the nightmare and discovering you are safe and sound in your own bed.

From dry river bed to gushing fountain

From winter to spring

From fear to joy

From sickness to health

From pain to peace

From reflection to action

From Lent to Easter!

May you rediscover the joy and peace and hope which comes from the love of God with you in the risen Christ.

Happy Easter.

Jan B. Groves



The March meeting was led by Bob and Christine Sime.

Bob introduced Dr Burnett from Pitmedden who is a member of “Habitat for Humanity”, a charity providing brick, hand built houses to replace the dreadful shacks in South Africa near Table Mountain in Cape Town. Various groups from all over the world go out for one week each year.

The concrete base is already in place and the work schedule is ready awaiting the volunteers. There is no machinery or mechanical aids for the work, everything has to be collected, moved, mixed and put in place by hand, a very hard and arduous task.

The volunteer groups have to fundraise all the year round to take part in the project. The average is £20,000 per group. This includes their flights, accommodation and food, so they fundraise.

Dr Burnett showed video clips of the locals and volunteers and the work in progress. It was very pleasurable to see the family receiving the front door key and inviting the work party in. It was so humbling to see the terrible conditions these families were living in and the huge difference the new house makes to their quality of life.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given by Bob Sime.

The A.G.M. followed with Lorna Murray standing down from the committee and Margaret Sangster joining the working committee.

The next meeting takes place on April 12th and will be a talk by the “Street Pastors”. St Andrews guild will be our guests.

Margaret Harrow.

Encounter - A New Team

Over the past few years Encounter has been drawn together by Mark Armstrong and Alan Sharp. With a change of job and working away from home that became more difficult for Mark. Understandably Alan too feels at the moment that he needs to free up time, so we welcome Margaret Hearne and Anne Groves who will work along with Ian Groves to edit the magazine each month.

Guild Summer Social

Come and join your Guild friends for high tea at the Acorn Centre on Tuesday 28th June. The cost of £7.95 includes a tasty main course, tea or coffee and home bakes. Bookings/payment can be made at our next meeting on 12th April or by contacting Ann-Marie Coleman or Margaret Harrow.

Congregational AGM

Thanks to the challenging quiz set by Geoff Gill our AGM family night began with a fair bit of head scratching. You think you know where you live, then along comes the Gill quiz!

Joyce Petrie was nominated and agreed to served on the Board and Mandy Aitken, Linda Duncan, Margaret Gill, Thora Yule, Biff Barrow, Margaret Crawford, Alistair mackay and Linda Mackay all stood for re-election.

Egg For Easter Anyone?

It's hard to believe that, out of the whopping 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is.

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

Today the majority of chocolate comes from millions of small farms in Africa.

The farmers are poor because they get very little money for their chocolate.

Fairtrade chocolate is different because it gives farmers a guaranteed minimum price for their chocolate beans.

They also get more than £200 per ton of chocolate beans grown, to invest in their community, buying everything from chickens to securing fresh water supplies.

So if you must have a chocolate Easter Egg at least make sure it has the Fairtrade mark on it!



**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.**

**The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:**

**The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.**

**The Church with Psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;**

**But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.**

George Herbert

A MUSICAL RESURRECTION -

from Glasgow to Iraq, via Aberdeen and Orkney!

Zuhal Sultan is a lively 19 year old Iraqi girl currently living in Scotland and studying for A levels to attend Glasgow University. And what does she do in her spare time? Despite being 3,000 miles from her homeland she organises the *National Youth Orchestra of Iraq*.

Zuhal grew up in Baghdad but lost both her parents in her teens. When war broke out music became her salvation.

Many music teachers had fled the country and public concerts were cancelled. Yet the National Symphony Orchestra, of which Zuhal was a member, carried on defiantly despite constant fear of reprisals from fundamentalists. The



orchestra members were united in their passion for music and its ability to heal and inspire. This passion ignited a spark in Zuhal to form a youth orchestra to give talented young people a focus in their disrupted lives and provide an outlet for their artistic abilities.

But how to effect this? First she sent out an online press release - *Iraqi teenager seeks musicians*. This was spotted by an Aberdeen born conductor, Paul MacAlindin, who

was impressed by Zuhail's vision, and is now the orchestra's conductor. The next online message was posted in three languages - English, Kurdish and Arabic, and received 50 applications from ages 14 to 24. Each was auditioned online, then Zuhail arranged for the 33 successful young people to receive tuition from music teachers overseas, again online. Start-up funding was given by the British Council, and by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq whom she accessed one night on *Twitter* - he donated \$50,000!

The first concert was in 2009 and was a success despite numerous difficulties including erratic supplies of electricity. But a success it must have been for 2010 saw an orchestra of 40 giving three concerts which included one for Iraqi children - sitting cross legged on the floor it was their first magical experience of hearing classical music.

Now in 2011 a third summer camp, with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (*Master of the Queen's Music*) acting as resident composer, from his home in Orkney! Then the orchestra comes to Scotland, funded by a donation of £100,000: money confiscated from the Glasgow based Weir Group for paying bribes to secure contracts in Iraq.

This is an inspiring story of how one young girl's vision and determination can change the lives of so many. For the young self taught musicians who have endured war and instability this project offers artistic rewards and social interaction as well as witnessing democracy in action.

Margaret.Hearne

Congratulations to a Golden Girl!

One time Focus member, Emmeline Gray, now studying Oceanography with French at Southampton University, recently received her Duke of Edinburgh International Gold Award at a ceremony held in St James Palace, London.



Emmeline and Mum, Christine, at the award ceremony in London.

“So long as you are determined it is possible to achieve it.”

Having moved over to Cairo with her family, Emmeline did much of the work towards the award there by working in a charity shop, learning the guitar and taking up Tai Quan Do.

Her expedition was a three week outward bound course in Wales which included an 80km trek!! However, Emmeline had good preparation with her Egyptian friends by joining them on their silver expedition up Mount Kenya – all 4,985 metres of it.

“It has been a great experience and I would certainly recommend the scheme to anyone between 14 and 25. So long as you are determined, it is possible to achieve it.”

Further information on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is available at www.dofe.org

Easter is

With the increased attempts to commercialise Easter – one store marketing Easter crackers last year – we thought we might see what it meant to some folk in the congregation.

"Easter is a very personal time for me. The decay of winter is behind us, Lent has moved on to Holy Week and the Good Friday gloom is over taken by the Resurrection; Renewal in all it's glory. Easter; the stone has rolled away. To God be the glory."

Sandra

"A time to spend with family who now live away from Inverurie."

Larry

"Easter is special, it never stops amazing me that God could love this world and me personally, so much, that he planned so far ahead that we could all be saved. And that meant his Son had to die in my place. To me that is quite incredible.

Brenda

"A time to reflect on the journey to the cross and the events during Holy Week which lead us to it.

Taking part in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday as it is a great opportunity for people to walk together, chat and reflect on the Easter message.

The challenge to do something for Lent, rather than give something up.

Making sure the boys don't start eating their chocolate eggs until Easter Day!"

Gillian

*FLOWER CALENDAR*April 2011

Convenor : Kenneth Gray (620658)

Date	Donor
3 rd	Joy Doorghen
10 th	Thelma Greig
17 th	Doreen Tough
24 th	Jim and Agnes Petrie

Many thanks to all who donate flowers and deliver.
 Deliverers please note that the flowers can be uplifted from
 the hall kitchen after morning service.

The deadline for the May 2011 edition of Encounter is on
 Wednesday 13th April 2011
encounter@inveruriwestchurch.org

Happy Birthday

Jaia Burns, Fraser Yule



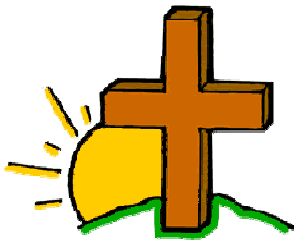
Calendar For April

- Sun 3th **11.00 a.m.** Worshipping Together on Fourth Sunday of Lent. Crèche available.
6.30 p.m. Focus + Supper in the Acorn Centre
- Mon 4th **7.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Management Committee meets in the Chapel
- Wed 6th **7.30 p.m.** Joint meeting with St Andrew's Elders in St Andrew's
- Sun 10th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship on Fifth Sunday of Lent with Junior Church and Crèche.
2.00 p.m. Hospital Worship in Allan Ward
- Mon 11th **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session meets in the Church
- Tues 12th **7.30 p.m.** West Church Guild meets in the Acorn Centre. "Street Pastors". Joint meeting with St Andrew's Guild in West Church
- Sun 17th **11.00 a.m.** Celebration Of The Lord's Supper. Crèche available
2.30 p.m. Family Celebration of the Lord's Supper. Crèche available.
- Mon 18th **7.30 p.m.** IDCT Holy Week Services in St Mary's
- Fri 22nd Church.
- Tues 19th **7.30 p.m.** Junior Church leaders meet in the Centre
- Sun 24th **Celebration For Easter Day** – see details on back cover

Prayer Group meets at 7.30 p.m. each Thursday in the Centre

Inverurie and District Churches Together

Holy Week Services
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd April
7.30 p.m.
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Place
Inverurie
Guest Preacher - Rolfe King



Easter Day @ The West

Sunday 24th April 2011

- 8.00 a.m.** **"See The Dawn"**
Sunrise Service on the Bass
- 8.30 a.m.** **"Every Time You eat the Bread"**
Easter Breakfast in the Acorn Centre
- 10.00 a.m.** **"I Am The Lord Of The Dance"**
Family Worship in the West Church.
Crèche available

Please feel welcome to join us