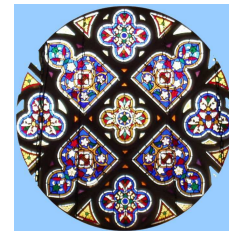


The Magazine of Inverurie West Parish Church



June 2011

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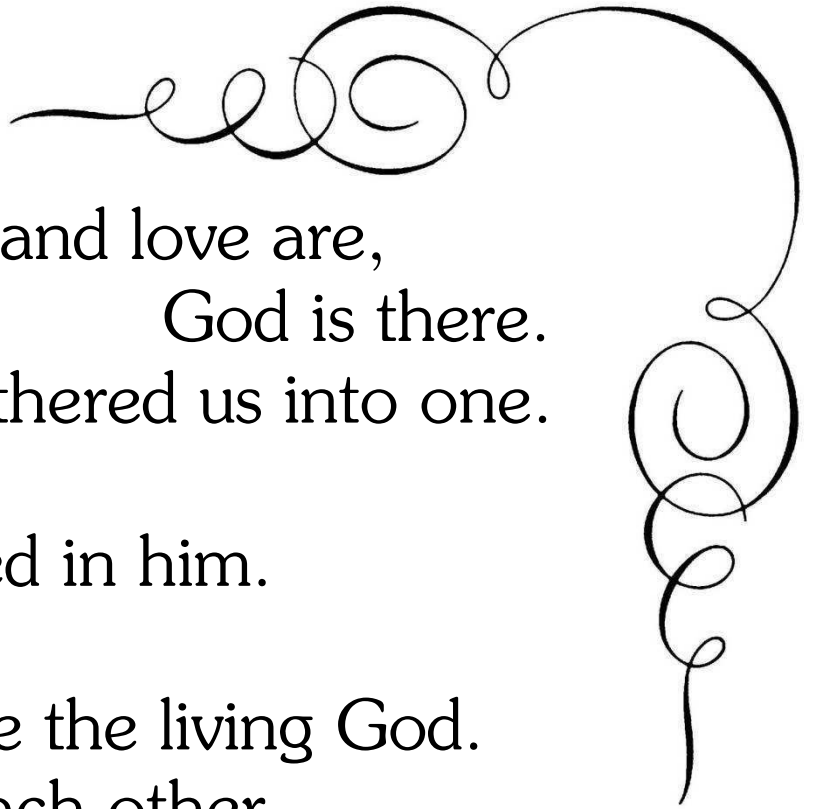
**Inside this month ..**  
**The People's Bible – General Assembly News –**  
**Experiencing Hindu Worship**  
Plus all the usual congregational news.



[www.inveruriwestchurch.org](http://www.inveruriwestchurch.org)

Scottish Charity SC016907

## *Ubi Caritas Et Amor*



**W**herever charity and love are,  
God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice  
and be pleased in him.  
Let us fear  
and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other  
with a sincere heart.

Amen.

If you watched the Royal Wedding you may have noticed an Aberdeen connection. **Paul Meador**, a lecturer in music at Aberdeen University, is the composer of one of the two anthems sung by the choir of Westminster Abbey during the service.

Welshman Paul is a popular lecturer and an accomplished composer with a growing international reputation. Last autumn his choral piece "*Now Sleeps The Crimson Petal*" with words by Tennyson, was performed by the choir of St Andrew's University.

Perhaps because of their association with St Andrew's, the young couple heard the piece and requested it be sung at their wedding. However, Paul considered the Tennyson words to be not entirely suitable for the occasion so he reset the piece using the words above which are based on 1 John 4.

Dear Friends

As I write this, I am live at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Not that I am actually in Edinburgh, but with modern technology I am able listen and watch via a webcast on the internet.

Technology, the way in which we use tools, has, of course, been part of our humanity from way back, but it seems to have taken on a new significance in the age of the internet.

I recently asked a class of ten year olds what they believed in. One young man said, “I believe in technology – that is what will save our world”, to which a girl responded, “Technology is what gives us weapons, how is that going to save our world!”

There is good and bad in everything! The internet can be a rich tool and resource, but it can also be a weapon which causes harm. The ability of the web and take us to everything from General Assemblies to the homes of our families across the world is good, but when that same technology becomes a weapon which damages people’s lives then it is something we should do without.

With so called social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook, communication technology has leapt forward, but unless it leads us towards real communication with others, then it will always be limited in its use.

In early July we will be given the opportunity to share in a technology project which will recreate the King James Bible as a hand written copy (see page 7). But again, unless it leads us on to engage with the biblical texts then it is no more than just an interesting exercise.

As with a whole raft of things that will be part of our lives, the gospels give us no hints on how we are to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, so once again we have to interpret the way of Jesus. In other words, we have to seek the way of real relationship, real communication from which can grow a real understanding of one another.

Best wishes.

*Jan B Groves*

## Mount Olivet Boys' Home

**The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** and the Government of Jamaica have joined forces through the **Mount Olivet Boys' Home** to provide a place of hope for young boys who have been abused or neglected.



Located in rural Jamaica, Mount Olivet is home for around 30 boys with an average age of 12 from urban and socially deprived areas of



Jamaica. Mount Olivet offers love and support which will enable these boys to lead meaningful and productive lives. Through the Home they have access to spiritual nurture, medical care, emotional support, vocational training and recreation. The Home has a lab with 11 computers and the boys also engage in

farming and livestock rearing. Mount Olivet is self-sufficient in egg and chicken meat production. Despite these achievements and local help, it has become increasingly difficult to meet not only routine costs, but to undertake developmental work.

**You can help** by simply collecting your used stamps which are sold to raise money. Bring your stamps to Church on Sunday – you'll find the box at reception.

The stamps are then trimmed by our centenarian Bess Florence before being taken to Glasgow for delivery. Bess has been diligently carrying out this task for many years and a huge 'thank you' goes to her for her dedication.



## Experiencing Hindu Worship

Lorna Murray

I was recently invited to attend *puja* (worship) with the Aberdeen Hindu congregation that meets together twice each month in Queen's Cross Church hall.

When I arrived a lady and her young son took me inside and explained that most people sit on the rugs laid out on the floor. There were a few chairs and it was suggested that I might be more comfortable sitting on one of them! However, I chose to join a group of women and children sitting together on one of the rugs, and a young woman came to sit beside me. Once the *puja* began, she whispered to me from time to time, explaining what was happening.

While words were recited, music played and a bell rung, the statue of the God was washed, clothed and fed symbolising the welcome we should give to God into our life and worship. Just as we offer these signs of welcome to guests who enter our homes, so should we welcome God into our midst.

In the next part we sang several *bhajans*. These short worship songs are sung line by line; a small group sings each phrase, which is then repeated by the whole congregation. I was able to join in singing these *bhajans*, being familiar with this style of music from Christian worship in India. Many churches sing both hymns and *bhajans* during Sunday worship.

Towards the end of the *puja*, we were invited to come forward to the priest to receive God's blessing for ourselves and our families. Food that had been brought was also blessed, while two or three people sang and music was played. Worship then continued informally in the adjacent hall as we talked and shared in eating the *prasad* (blessed food) together.

The whole afternoon was a wonderful experience. But what I will remember most is the wonderful welcome I was given.

**The life of the Church of Scotland** operates under a Presbyterian style of government which has three courts.

Each congregation has its Kirk Session. Congregations are gathered together in Presbyteries and the highest court is the General Assembly which meets annually to receive reports and make decisions which affect the life of the Church.

The 2011 Assembly met from 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May and as always some things received more prominence than others.

**The debate regarding same sex relationships** and the ministry was always going to arouse strong feelings. Following a long debate, Assembly decided to set up a Theological Commission which will report to the 2013 Assembly. In the meantime, the moratorium was lifted which prevented ministers and deacons currently in same sex relationships from being inducted to another charge.

Speaking after the debate the Moderator, Rt. Rev. David Arnott said, *“This direction is one that explores inclusion, but the new Theological Commission will report in two years time on that matter and no decisions have yet been made.”*

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During the Social Care Council report, former Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland, the Very Rev. Andrew McLellan, supported an increase in Prison Visitor Centres.

*“There can hardly be one more stunning statistic in criminal justice in that prisoners who are*

*able to maintain family support during their imprisonment are six times less likely to reoffend than those who have no engagement with their family and no family support.”*

The Church of Scotland’s social care arm, CrossReach, runs the visitor centre at HMP Perth.



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# A s s e m b l y

**Following a lengthy debate** on Wednesday on the report from the Panel of Review and Reform there was disappointment for the Convenor and the members of the panel. Assembly largely declined to accept their suggestions to reform the life of the Church through the creation of larger Presbyteries, whilst at the same time increasing, as they saw it, local influence through Local Area Groupings, Presbytery Assemblies and Presbytery Councils.

Assembly, however, did not agree and a counter motion was moved and accepted which encouraged Presbyteries to find ways to work more closely together.

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**In a lively presentation**, Convenor of the World Mission Council, the Very Rev. Andrew McLellan, focussed on a call for us all to invest in peace in Israel/Palestine.

Congregations will receive in due course, an investment portfolio which will invite members to perhaps send a donation to Al Shurooq School or buy goods from a Palestine Crafts supplier such as Hadeel.

Similarly, the investment may be in the form of spending time in prayer each Thursday and know that we are connected to others doing likewise throughout the world. Some may even decide to give three months of their life to go and live and work in the area.

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As this Encounter goes to print General Assembly has still to deal with a number of reports including interesting items on Ordained Local Ministries and a report which speaks excitingly of a Reformed, Reforming, Emerging and Experimenting Church.

*Rise and shine.....Eat, drink and be merry.....The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.....*

Did you know that each of these phrases first appeared in the Bible? This was explained in the first of a series of six lectures hosted by Aberdeen University on the creation of the King James Bible of 1611.

The England that James VI and I inherited was fraught with tensions between the Anglicans and the Puritans. James's way of pacifying them was to commission a new version of the Bible that could be read aloud and understood by all.

This new translation would prove that the English language could hold its own in representing ideas, concepts and scholarship and still be accessible to every worshipper.

Fifty men, from many backgrounds were entrusted with the task of translation over seven years. Individual

## THE KING JAMES BIBLE

translators worked on passages before presenting them to a final committee where the text was read aloud to the other scholars. Any passage deemed unclear was rejected. *Accuracy, clarity, and sonority* were the goals.

They must have succeeded because it is the rhetorical power of this version that makes the King James Bible such an important piece of world literature.

However, when it first appeared in 1611 it was not a success; very few churches took it up, partly because of its huge size! It was not until the restoration of King Charles II some twenty years later that this Bible began to be accepted.

In 1741 the composer Handel used it as the text for his great oratorio, *The Messiah*. This signified acceptance of the King James Bible not only for its spiritual values but also for the might and majesty of its text. *Hallelujah!*



***The People's Bible* is a national tour which will produce a unique, hand-written edition of the Bible.**

At venues across the country, people will be able to write a pair of verses to join the occasion and make their mark in history.

In the year of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the aim is to reconnect the British public with the Bible.

**Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**The People's Bible will be at  
Inverurie West Parish Church.**

**10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Drop in any time during the day and using the special digital pen and pad, write the two verses that will be specifically allocated to you.

Become a part of the history of the King James Bible

## Christian Aid Week 2011



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Christian Aid Week – as helpers, as collectors, as contributors, as customers of Books n' Bakes.

The cash is still being counted from the door to door collection, but at the moment the running total stands at around £5,500. The Book Sale realised £1075 and the Bakes a further £817.

Thanks to all.

As the final tally is drawn together for Christian Aid Week 2011, one of the leading figures in both the Inverurie and Garioch groups was preparing to add up his final column of figures.

George Taylor has acted as Treasurer for the groups over the past 42 years and has been a willing and able support to all. At every event George was present making sure that every penny was accounted for and that the task of Christian Aid, to bring an end to the poverty endured by millions in our world, could be pursued.



George hands over the reins to new Treasurer, Sheila

A huge thank you from us all, George and we are grateful to Sheila Rennie for taking on the task of Treasurer and we look forward to working with her in the years ahead. (2011 + 42 = 2053!!)

## **Hospital Visits**

### **The Way It Was**

Over the years it has been the practice for patients in hospital to be visited by their ministers. Previously, the fact that someone was in hospital was communicated to the minister through the Chaplain's Office in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Due to data protection legislation and patient confidentiality issues this was brought to an end some years ago and unless patients specifically asked for their details to be passed on the minister was not notified.

### **The Way It Is**

In the past few months NHS Grampian have introduced a new Patient Management System and the hope was that from information gathered the Chaplain's Office would again be part of the system. Sadly this is not working as hoped.

### **The Way You Can Help**

If you are heading for hospital as a planned visit please ensure that you state on the admission forms that you wish your minister to be informed and give the details.

If you are being admitted at a ward please ask the nurse to record your wish that your minister be informed. They may not ask you the question, but there is a space on the admission form and you should ensure that it is completed.

Obviously if you are admitted as an emergency all of the above is irrelevant, but the final way you can help is by letting the Minister know if any of your family has been admitted.

We are still hopeful that the difficulties can be sorted within the Patient Management System but meantime – just let me know!

# Happy Birthday

Harris Downie, Daniel Fish, Erin Gray,  
Cameron McCreath



R R R R R

## Looking for something to give comfort on our not so warm summer nights?

Alan Harrow is offering a patio heater to a  
deserving home with a suggested donation of  
approximately £25 to Christian Aid.

Full details from Alan.



R R R R R

## *WORD SQUARE QUIZ*

My latest quiz proved to be quite popular with entries coming from Orkney to Scunthorpe and many places in between. There were about 170 returns, 147 all correct with another 4 without identification on them.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to get it in print and in the selling of it. I handed in £204 towards fund raising for the West Church. I'm delighted with the result.

The winners were: Mrs G Findlay, Inverurie and Mrs Milne from the Borders area.

Thank you all.

Agnes Donald

## **Calendar For June**

- Sun 5<sup>th</sup>     **11.00 a.m.** Worshipping Together. Crèche available.
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup>     **6.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Volunteer and Staff Supper  
Evening meets in the Centre.
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup>     **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session Ministry Sub Group meets in  
the Library.
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup>     **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Sacrament of  
Baptism. Junior Church and Crèche.  
**2.00 p.m.** Hospital Worship in Ashcroft Ward
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup>     **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session meets in the Church
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>     Deadline for July/August edition of Encounter
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup>     **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship followed by Monthly  
Communion. Junior Church and Crèche.
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup>     **7.30 p.m.** Inverurie and District Churches Together .
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup>     **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship. Junior Church and  
Crèche.  
**2.00 p.m.** Summer Family Barbecue in Inverurie  
Academy Playing Field. Full details to follow.
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup>     **7.30 p.m.** Christian Aid Garioch and Inverurie Groups  
meet in the Acorn Centre.
- Tues 28<sup>th</sup>     **6.30 p.m.** West Church Guild Summer Social in the  
Acorn Centre

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

*R R R R R*

*Front Cover – Inverbervie by Lorna Watson*

**Inverurie West Parish Church  
Summer Family Barbecue  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
2.00 - 4.30 p.m.  
Inverurie Academy Playing Field.  
Fun - Food - Flying - Fit ever else the  
weather will allow!  
Tickets £6**

*Come and cycle with us on the*

BENNACHIE.

BIKE RIDE

**Saturday 30 July 2011**

Starting from Chapel Of Garioch Hall @ 1 p.m.

(25 miles in the shadow of Bennachie along quiet country roads and forest track. 18 mile short cut too!)

*This sponsored event will raise funds for  
Nazareth Hospital and Al-Shurooq School*

Registration and further information:

Ann-Marie Coleman 01467 620378

a.m.coleman49@googlemail.com

[www.bennachiebikeride.blogspot.com](http://www.bennachiebikeride.blogspot.com)