



September 2011

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Inside this month .. “Junior Church - What’s It All About?” – Swedish Adventures – Volunteering – Silver Medals

Plus all the usual congregational news.





The Lord tae me has aye been kin'.
A richt guid herd, I trow;
My wan'erin' feet has guided aft
By many a heigh and howe.

Doon by some bonnie burnie side
A bield for me He'd mak'.
If wav'rin' whiles, gied me His han'
Lest I gaed aff the track.

When I gang roun the hin'most bend
Trauchled and unco lame,
His crook I'll see held oot tae me
Wi' it He'll lead me hame.



On guid plain fare
He fed me weel,
My coggie ne'er was toom;
The wolf aye keepit frae my door,
Watched owre me late and sune.

Wi' a' things guid He wasna' scrimp
If keepin' by His side;
And in that bucht ayont the clouds
Wi' Him I fain wad bide.

PSALM 23
transcribed intae Scots by David Ramsay

Dear Friends,

This month's Encounter is bursting out with young people - adventures, activities, commitments, Junior Church information.

September also marks the 10th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers in New York and we have a moving piece about the little Church which stood in the shadow of the Towers.

Take these two aspects of our magazine and bring into focus the unrest on the streets of some of the major cities in the country this summer and we can't but be faced with the question – what kind of world are our young people inheriting? What kind of world do the older ones of the community want them to inherit?

Young people today face many challenges and, yes, are often challenging in their behaviour. However, I doubt if it was ever any different and no more challenging than the behaviour of the not so young!

Two things, however, have changed. One is the availability of technology which has revolutionised the way we communicate with one another. The other is the readily available products which are supposed to enhance the entertainment experience.

As we saw in the summer, those means of communication can be used to encourage violence and there can be little doubt that the ready availability of alcohol and, it has to be said illegal drugs have affected many lives in a negative way.

Perhaps what we need is a renewed understanding of that line of Jesus – “I have come that you might have life in all its fullness”, so that we don't just seek after what we want or even think we need, but rather seek for the wellbeing of us all – young and not so young alike.

Best wishes.

Jan B Groves

Gotcha Boccia!

We set off on our long journey to Wishaw on Friday and stayed overnight in the Holiday Inn Express travelling with others taking part in Scotland's top multi sports competition for disabled sportsmen and women.

After breakfast we headed for Wishaw Sports Centre to join some of the other 300 people taking part in a variety of sports over two days. I was there for the Boccia Competition held on the Saturday. (It's pronounced Botcha and is a bit like boules or bowls but it's played with balls which are a bit like big juggling balls made of soft leather material).

Mum and I arrived at 9.15 to register and receive all the details of times I was playing throughout the day. It can be a long day waiting for your name to be called!

I played 3 games altogether and felt I had tried my best . Once everyone was finished playing it was time for the medal ceremony. We all gathered around and I was happy when my name was called out that I had won a silver medal. It was such a good feeling after a very long day. I have been competing at Boccia for more than 15 years and its good to have another medal to add to my growing collection.



Kerry Mathers

Explorer Smorgasbord

Having obtained a grant from the Acorn Centre Small Grants Scheme some Inverurie Scouts set off on a trip to Sweden to achieve their Explorers' Belt. This is their story.



The Explorer Belt is one of the hardest awards to achieve in Scouting. To complete the award you have to walk 100 miles in a foreign country, complete 10 or more challenges out of 15 and do a project related to the country and the route you are walking along.

Our team, later named the Tartan Trekkers, decided to head for Sweden and walk around half of Lake Vanern, the largest lake in the EU. Our project related to the different uses for the lake.

After over a year of planning the 18th July 2011 finally came and 20 scouts and four extremely brave leaders headed for Jonkoping. The following day we were handed our budget of £15 per day, our 15 challenges and we set off for Karlstad.

Ten days later with lots of blisters, horsefly bites, one case of sunstroke, one moose hunt and one encounter with the Swedish fire brigade we had finished our trek in Vanesborg and completed 12 of the challenges – everything from photographing a moose to taking a sauna (we managed three!); from raising a Scottish flag (cue fire brigade) to finding out what “fika” means; from getting an article into the Swedish media to learning Swedish songs. Then it was time to head back to Jonkoping to share our stories with the other groups and visit the World Scout Jamboree for the day.

We would like to thank our leaders Caroline Campbell, Phil Campbell, Keith Hewitt and Keith Miller, who gave up their time to provide us with such an amazing experience and also the Acorn Centre for their financial support.

Judith Anderson, Helen Dalgarno, Lorna Gooday

P.S. Fika is Swedish for “fly-cup”!

Thank You and Good-bye from Casper.

Last August, when we received our 9 week old bundle called Casper, little did Fred and I realise the impact this small puppy, heading for guide dog training, would have on so many lives.

We had already spoken to Ian about Casper's socialising programme and asked if we could bring him along to church. I must admit we were all very nervous about his behaviour and although rather unsettled at first he was soon comfortable and seemed to settle well.

As the weeks passed and Casper grew, the top step became his resting place and as soon as Ian came down to say "good morning" this was the signal he understood and the rest is history, as they say. Fred and I have really had so much learning ourselves during these last few months as we went through our daily routines - into shops, then onwards to the "Dairy" for our fly. Buses were Casper's favourite mode of travel after the car.

Time has flown past very quickly and now Casper has reached the stage of going forward to his main training at Forfar which lasts for over 8 months. During this time we can phone and have reports on the training programme.

We would like to say **thank you** to everyone at the West Church for giving us this opportunity to bring Casper along and join us all in our Sunday worship.



Thank you all again and look out for Zimba who joined us at the beginning of August.

Carol & Fred Barber.

I

Explorers

3 - 7**W**

Explorers meet in the Chapel and our aim is to have a fun session whilst learning about the theme for the week. We start with news, which gives everyone a chance to share, no matter how young then we gather in the offering and pray.

C

There is always a story – some just for listening to but others for joining in - which everyone seems to enjoy.

We usually have a craft session when the things that are made can often be taken home. Sometimes we keep the items and use them as part of the feedback session in Church on the last Sunday of each month. Recently we made a friendship ring of hands and “paper chain of belonging”.

J

In response to a request from the Explorers themselves we plan to introduce more music and drama this coming Session.

C

Fancy learning more about leadership within Junior Church? Please speak to our Youth Co-ordinator Mike Hearnden

Quest
7-11

Crafts
- Kirsty

I

What we like

More crafts
- less talking!
- Katie

W

Sharing
news - Neil

C

Games - oh and
Maltesers, popcorn
and DVDs!
Jack

Games - Liam

J

And we all like the
Mystery Box

C

Focus

11 +

In Focus we like to explore things in a bit more depth. We follow the Roots programme which focuses (pardon the expression) on a particular part of the Bible each week. But then we like to dig deeper. What is this all about? What does it mean when it says ...?

We have lots of discussions and it is good to listen to one another. Sometimes the questions we raise are hard to answer – but that's ok because at least we are asking them.

We have fun too and sometimes that is on an outing during the week when we might go bowling or even up Bennachie.

It is always good to catch up with our friends and we are always happy to see new faces

Each year IWCJC has a project running. At the moment it is Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. Keep a look out for our fundraisers, but also the opportunities to learn what life is like for others in a completely different part of the world.

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In October 2008 I began volunteer work at the Acorn Centre for my Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Having enjoyed my time there so much, I stayed on after completing the required six month period.

Two and a half years later, at a school assembly, I heard about the **Millennium Volunteer Awards**, an award for people aged 16-25 who have completed voluntary work as a group or as individuals. Any voluntary work completed between these ages counts, even if you have volunteered with multiple groups, or if it has been used to count towards something else, like Duke of Edinburgh awards. The hours can also be backdated to when you turned 16.

The awards are given for 50 hours (Bronze), 100 hours (Silver) or 200 hours (Gold) of service, with the First Minister of Scotland signing the Gold award.

I would thoroughly recommend this to anyone as it looks great on the C.V. and working at the Acorn Centre is always good fun! For more information you can visit www.vcaberdeenshire.org.uk

Jenny Sumner

Roll Up! Roll Up!

Come and join the 1st Inverurie Boys' Brigade!

We meet weekly for activities, fun, sports and challenges at St Andrew's Church Hall and are now enrolling boys aged P2 onwards for the new session in September.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section resume on Monday 5th September and the Company Section on Friday 9th September.

Please contact Kirstie Ross for more details or to join the waiting list.- 07906338446 or kirstie.a.ross@gmail.com

CHURCHES

ABROAD

In May of this year Joan Feltham and I, along with our husbands, were on holiday in the USA and visited a variety of churches.

However, the one which made most impression on us all was a small church in the shadow of Ground Zero, New York. St Paul's Chapel (1794) is the oldest church in Manhattan. It is an Episcopal church built of rough Manhattan brownstone, quite small with 18th century headstones crumbling in the adjoining cemetery.

This was the church which stood unscathed as the twin towers of the World Trade Centre were sent crashing to the ground on the 11th September 2001 and became the relief centre for the weary rescuers who tried to save lives.



Citizens of NY provided cots for them to rest, food to give them strength, therapists to massage their aching muscles and podiatrists to ease their tired feet.

All around the walls there were photographs of the rescuers and letters of thanks from around the world. Photographs too, of those missing and letters praying for those searching for them.

There was a great sadness reading these heartfelt letters; there was great wonder at the togetherness of citizens who rallied around, but most moving and poignant of all, was the small crib still standing in a corner with a battered fireman's helmet on it and a tattered and dirty fireman's jacket hanging at the end of a pew as if the fireman would be back for it when he had had a rest.

It was an extremely moving experience, many visitors were shedding a tear and we were no exception.

Eleanor Mitchell

This September sees the 10th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers.



Happy Birthday in September

Ben McLaughlin, Reece Dawson,
Jack Buchan, Ellie Huxtable.

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06-03-2011

SEVENTY TWO LONG HOURS LATER AND STILL
THE STANDOFF CONTINUED ...

HAVE YOU REVIEWED
YOUR STANDING ORDER
FOR THE CHURCH
RECENTLY?

Called To Walk Humbly With God



The West Church Guild usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. to join us for the evening. The syllabus is below and we offer a warm welcome to all to come and join us and hear our variety of speakers, share a short time of worship and enjoy the cuppie and fine piece.

Our January meeting will be on a Monday afternoon to make it easier for folk to get together during the worst of the winter.

Ann-Marie Coleman

Sunday 11th September (11 a.m.) - Dedication Service.

Tuesday 13th September (7.30 p.m.) - Mission Aviation Fellowship: Kathleen Wilkie. (Visiting Guilds and Special Offering).

Tuesday 11th October (7.30 p.m.) - Buses & Trams Around Aberdeenshire: Garry Ward (Joint meeting with Kintore Guild).

Tuesday 8th November (7.30 p.m.) - Sugar Craft & Cake Decoration: Kirsty Pickford.

Saturday 19th November (10.00 a.m. – 12 noon) - Guild Week Coffee Morning with usual stalls.

20th – 27th November - Guild Week.

Tuesday 13th December (7.30 p.m.) - Christmas Party

Monday 9th January (NB 2 p.m.) - 'Let's talk about . . . thanking God for his Creation'. (Bring and Buy Sales table)

Tuesday 14th February (7.30 p.m.) - Rotary Shelter Boxes.

Friday 2nd March - World Day of Prayer in St Mary's Church.

Tuesday 13th March (7.30 p.m.) A.G.M. 'Steps Ashore in Baltic Lands': Mary Murray.

Wednesday 4th April (NB 2.30 p.m. in St Andrew's Church Hall) - Joint meeting with St. Andrew's Guild. F.R.O.M. with David Thomson.

Calendar For September

- Sun 4th **11.00 a.m.** Worshipping Together. Crèche available.
- Mon 5th **7.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Management Committee meets in the Chapel.
- Sun 11th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Dedication of the Guild. Junior Church and Crèche.
- Mon 12th **7.30 p.m.** Congregational Board meets in the Church.
- Wed 14th **Deadline for October Encounter.**
- Sun 18th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship. Junior Church and Crèche.
2.00 p.m. Hospital Worship – Ashcroft Ward.
- Mon 19th **7.30 p.m.** Inverurie and District Churches Together.
- Tues 20th **7.30 p.m.** Junior Church Leaders meet in the Acorn Centre.
- Sun 25th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship followed by Monthly Communion. Junior Church and Crèche.
- Sun 31st **11.00 a.m.** Summer Worship For All The Family. Crèche available.

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

JUMBLE SALE
West Church Hall
Saturday 17 September
11 a.m.

Celebrating 150 years of
Nazareth Hospital



Raising sponsorship for riders from Inverurie

Volunteering opportunities
are always available at the
Acorn Centre
Inverurie West Church

Sharpen your skills, add to your CV,
increase your confidence,
share in the community.

Opportunities in table service, counter
service, fair trade retail and dishwash.

Please contact Mike Pickford
01467 670850