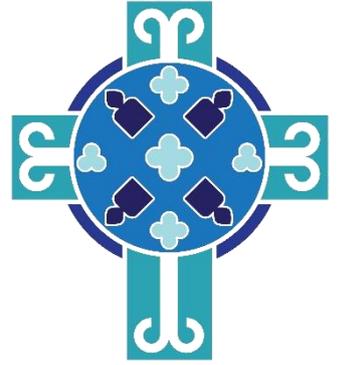


The Magazine of Inverurie West
Parish Church

OCTOBER 2023



EMCOUNTER



Scottish Charity SC016907



Reflection

At this time of October Harvest we become very conscious of the passing of the seasons.

Here Kenneth Steven reflects on the joys that each season can bring, and our thankfulness to God.



The Bread of Life

Father, you put good things in our mouths
and open sky on our shoulders. You grew the grass
between our unshod feet and blew a haystack fire of sun
to wake the summer. You gave us barns for childhood;
rainbows we could run and never catch,
and otters in their flowing laughter through the streams.

You gave us goose-soft snow outside the window
and deep Decembers for the rush of sledges,
till green days sang the trees again, and birdsong dripped
another year upon the pages of our eyes.

And when I see the stained glass window of the sky,
I thank you, Father, for the bread of life you broke.

***Kenneth Steven, from "Iona: New and Selected Poems".
Paraclete Press, 2021***

From the West Manse



I've been thinking about hay recently. Unsurprising really, as at this time of year straw bales pop up all over the place. Together they create a classic Aberdeenshire image which has inspired a thousand photos, paintings and postcards and which struck me when I first came up here for an informal visit. I remember thinking I had left the green and grey of the west to arrive in a landscape of gold and blue.

It's quite a restful picture, but one which belies the hard work those bales represent. I recently saw a post on Facebook which said something along the lines of "If you use the term 'Hay Day' to describe a time of relaxation and rest, you've clearly never baled hay."

This chimed with me as the one and only time in my life when I spent a day helping friends with a smallholding to bale hay was also probably the hardest and most exhausting physical day's work I have ever done.

When you think about it, of course, Harvest wouldn't be Harvest without the hard work. We speak of it as a festival of thanksgiving, and it is of course, but in a way it is also a festival of partnership. It's not exactly an equal partnership - the bounty of the harvest does ultimately depend on God, from whom all things come. However, individual harvests also depend on our own hard work, our willingness to get involved, and our resilience when things are difficult.

These days in our society we delegate that hard work to our farmers and other agricultural workers, whose labour we celebrate and are thankful for throughout the year, but especially just now when the bales are dotting the fields and

the produce filling our supermarkets, storerooms, and cupboards.

It's right to celebrate what they do, but I also think it is good to remember that we can all be producers and harvesters. Whether you do this in our church kitchen garden, your own garden or in some other field of work entirely which has nothing to do with food, we can all participate in some ways in the great 'gathering in' of resources which help nurture one another.

These days, in church as well as in many other organisations, it can sometimes feel like we are trying to do more and more with fewer resources - especially human resources. Yet it's not a new struggle. Jesus himself recognised that there was always more kingdom work to be done than there were workers to do it "*the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*" (Matthew 9:37). Jesus didn't stop there though, or suggest that this meant his disciples had to work harder. Instead he added "*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*"

As September ends, and we have had our annual Acorn Centre volunteers thank you evening, I remain deeply grateful for all the willing workers at the West Church - including those whose main work is prayer. But maybe there are more folks out there who would like to be part of what we do.

And so, as you pass one, or twenty, or a hundred straw bales this autumn please take a moment to appreciate the work it represents. And while you're at it, why not ask God if there is someone you could invite to be part of our community, working with or alongside us towards a harvest where all are nurtured and fed.

Every blessing, Rhona



WEST CHURCH GUILD

Our new session ‘**New Wine, New Wineskins**’ began with the Annual Rally live stream, at the West, from Edinburgh. The Moderator, Sally Foster-Fulton spoke to the theme while the afternoon speaker, Professor Jason Leitch, CBE, spoke of hope during the time of Covid. Only two days later Rhona opened our own session and again we were blessed by her thoughts on the theme – and a challenge ... for as well as new skins she challenged us to learn a new skill. (*Who knew that rolling towels is space saving as well as neat and pleasing to the eye!*)

Monday 9 October

Garioch Charity Shop

Sue Kinsey

Sunday 22 October

‘West Fest’ Harvest Bakes Stall

Monday 13 November

By Ourselves

Monday 11 December

Christmas Celebration

Cheese & Wine

Monday 8 January 2024

Quiz

Larry Young

(Bring & Buy Sales Table)

Monday 12 February

‘Rural Sustainability’

John Macdonald

Monday 11 March

Living Well Café

Jeanette Abel

Saturday 23 March

Spring Afternoon Tea

Monday 8 April

AGM, with entertainment?

See something that takes your fancy? Come along, we’d love to have you with us.



Acorn Centre Update

Celebration, Cuisine, Conversation, Cake and Crooning!

Last month we celebrated our 15th year of operations with our *'Thank You' Evening* for staff and volunteers. After a hiatus during Covid, it was great to have everyone together to share in our accomplishments. We enjoyed a slightly different format, with a meal served by the management team, music from the *Great American Song Book* by local crooner Dan Greavey, and a fantastic cake made by Liz Young which was decorated with a significant event from each year we have been open.

Harvest Time

A reminder that we always welcome home grown produce at this time of year for making jams, chutneys and soups. All donations welcome!

Mambo Italiano!

Next month sees the return of our West Church Fundraiser *Pop-up Bistro* with an Italian Twist. There will be music, three course meal and coffee and you can bring your own wine/beers, although a soft drinks bar will be available on the night. You'll need to be quick though as tickets are selling FAST!! *Pay cash at reception for your place.*

New Recruits Make Their Mark

We are delighted to welcome Angus, Dini and Odin who have joined us as part of the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Remember that we are always looking for new volunteers, 14 - 114! Just ask at reception.

Mike



FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023 ITALIAN EVENING

Live the vita bella!

Join us for an evening of fine food, great hospitality, music and song at the Acorn Centre. Doors open 7pm

Bring Your Own Alcohol - Soft Drinks Bar Available

£20 per person. Tickets from the reception desk.



An Inverurie West Church fundraiser. SC016907

Bolognese

Carbonara

Arabiatta

Pesto

Linguine

Penne

Gnocchi

Salads, Breads and
Vegetables

Tiramisu and Limoncello
Desserts

Live Entertainment

The acorn centre

Inverurie West Church,
West High Street, Inverurie,
AB51 3SA

01467 670850

Web Address

Dates and Times



UBUNTU NEWS

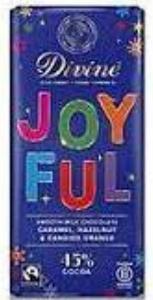
Save The Date

***UBUNTU Christmas Open Evening
MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 6.30 – 8.00 pm***

As I sit here on a beautiful sunny day at the end of September, it seems early to be talking about Christmas so I will just give a brief taster of what will be in Ubuntu this festive season.

This year's cards are from *Transform Trade* (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), who work alongside communities experiencing injustice to fight for trade that values people over profit. By choosing these charity cards you will be helping farmers and artisans to have better pay, better working conditions and a brighter future for their families and communities.

For the chocolate lovers there is a new Christmas Divine chocolate called *Joyful* - caramel, hazelnut and candied orange. What better way to give joy to someone - it's a big bar too!



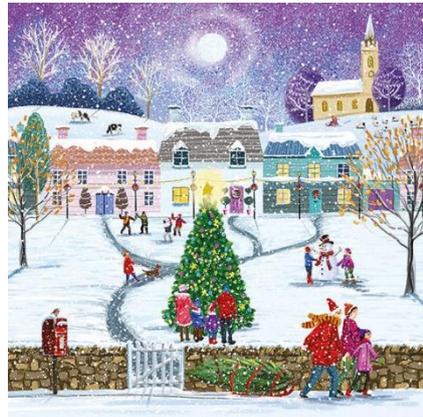
More on Christmas gifts and goodies in the November issue.

The popular *Eswatini Kitchen and Meru jams and spreads* have been out of stock for some time now due to the fact that it is being re-branded - according to *True Origins* (formerly JTS) 'it will still have the same great taste but in new packaging'. The jams and spreads should be available in the shop in the next few weeks.

Good news for coffee aficionados - *Café Direct Kilimanjaro* ground coffee is back in stock.



Anthea





COME AND SING YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

Many Thanks for a successful 'Come And Sing Your Favourite Hymns'. We raised an amazing **£342** for the Acorn15 Centre Appeal. The singing was exceptional and it was lovely to hear so many voices filling the Kirk. A few folk have asked for a list of the hymns which were suggested by people so they are listed below for your interest:

CH4 167 - Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

CH4 153 - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

CH4 154 - How Great Thou Art

CH4 194 - This Is The Day

CH4 181 - For The Beauty Of The Earth

CH4 212 - Morning Has Broken

MP 1008 - The Lord's My Shepherd) *Modern version with refrain 'And I will trust in you'*

Beauty For Brokenness – 'Story Behind The Song' - Graham Kendrick video

<https://youtu.be/nuCNzWvmycE?si=UA6LdLWOTtPBtgb>

MP 1072 - In Christ Alone

CH4 547 - What A Friend We Have In Jesus

MP 936 - Teach Me To Dance

CH4 528 - Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

CH4 694 - Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

CH4 448 – Shine Jesus, Shine

CH4 798 - The Peace Of The Lord Be With You

Many Thanks

From The Music Group

MEDIA TEAM OFFER

The Media Team would like to offer help to those of us who suffer from hearing loss with the aim of assisting folk in finding the best seating area for enjoying our Church Services.

I recently spent a couple of successful hours in the Sanctuary on a Monday morning with two different members of our congregation. On both occasions I am happy to say we found the experience really useful. We listened to the spoken word via an audio book, some music and a church service.

Please get in touch with me if you would like to take up our offer of help. Monday mornings work well as the Centre is closed and the Sanctuary free. **Alan (07740720102)**



CHRISTIAN AID HARVEST FESTIVAL

Generous God, at this Harvest time we give you thanks for the bounties of the world you created: for food and all those who grow, harvest and transport it.



Open our hearts as we consider how to live out our faith and share the generosity we have received with others, that our values might live on and we may leave a legacy that transforms the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

KERRY'S SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

On Sunday 10th September at Aberdeen Sports Village I took part in the Aberdeen Amateur Athletic Club Championship. I was entered in 3 events for the masters, 100 and 800 metres in frame running bike, and the shot putt which I tried for the first time! I received a gold medal



for this event.



On Wednesday 13th September I was on my travels again heading down to Grangemouth to take part in the Scottish Disability Sport Senior Track and Field Championships. Three other athletes from the Aberdeen club entered as well.

I competed in the 200, 400 and 1,500 metres in frame running. I achieved 2 silver and a bronze medal.

Thankfully we had a dry day for the competition!

Kerry



COMBINED HARVEST APPEAL



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS HARVEST

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

UHT Milk & Powdered
Fruit Juice (long life)
Tinned Fruit
Sponge Puddings
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Meat/Spaghetti
Cereals
Biscuits (well dated)
Instant Mash
Toiletries

*Don't forget...
You can help transform
more lives with a financial
donation too.*



inverurie@aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Donations to: 4St James Place, Inverurie.
Phone no: 07967364600

Registered Charity in Scotland (SC045884)

Church Calendar/Ways of Connecting October 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).

Sunday 1st Oct

11 am Harvest Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.



Friday 6th Oct

7 pm Italian Evening at Acorn Centre - food, hospitality and song. Tickets available at Acorn Centre.

Sunday 8th Oct

11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.

Sunday 15th Oct

11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.

Sunday 22nd Oct

11 am Morning Worship.
Hospitality time after the service.

Sunday 29th Oct

11 am Communion service (no Junior Church).

3 pm Family communion (Informal service, all ages welcome).

Online Bible Study **Every Wednesday evening in October at 7.30 pm via Zoom.** Contact Rhona for the link.

Encounter If you have any material for Encounter please email encounter@inveruriwestchurch.org by **October 18th**.

Children are welcome at all services. A weekly craft activity can be found in our **'Play as you worship'** box. Most weeks we also offer

Junior Church team members to accompany 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.

The **Prayer Group** continues to meet regularly on a Thursday morning. Prayer requests can be sent to olive.duncan@hotmail.co.uk or duncan.linda1@btinternet.com

Our contact email address for those looking for help with collection/delivery of supplies or medication is help@inveruriewestchurch.org

HISTORIC FASHION – ISLA MAITLAND

I have recently been sorting out all the things my mum, Aileen Maitland, left in my care. I decided that I wanted to bring the dresses and shoes to life by getting my daughter Christina and niece Louise to model them for some photographs. The oldest dress, from around 1850, belonged to my great, great grandmother (Jane Leask) and was kindly loaned by my cousin, Anne Henderson. My grandmother's wedding dress dates from 1908 and my mother's (pictured here) is from 1954. The rest of my mother and her sister Irene's dresses are from the 40's and 50's. There are also shoes which belonged to my mother which date from the 40's and 50's, including her favourite red platform shoes which she spoke about at the Guild. ***All the photographs are reproduced in the online version of Encounter.***



Isla's mum's wedding dress. Dated 1954.



Great Great Grandmother's Dress (1850s)



Grandmother's Wedding Dress 1908



Mother's Wedding Dress (1954)



Bridesmaid's Dress



Evening Dress (1950s)



Blue Party Dress 1940s



Black Dance Shoes



Formal Shoes



Red Platform Shoes

WHO'S WHO AT THE WEST

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

FLOWER CALENDAR /SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER CONVENER - Linda Duncan

1ST Laura and Kenneth Gray

8th Carol and Fred Barbour

15th Janet Duncan

22nd Fran Nice

29th Morag Mitchell



Thanks to all who donate, arrange, or deliver flowers.

Conversational English - Can you help?

You may have seen the Beattie family at church most weeks, Sally and Richard and their two wee ones, Thomas and Michelle. who are usually very willing to help Rhona in the young persons' address. Sally is from China. She has a niece whose written English is very good but who lacks confidence in *speaking the language*. Sally is hoping that someone (or two) would be willing to do some simple English conversation online.

If anyone can help, or would like more details, please get in touch with Margaret Hearne (01651 882273), Encounter, or Jane Fraser.

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).

