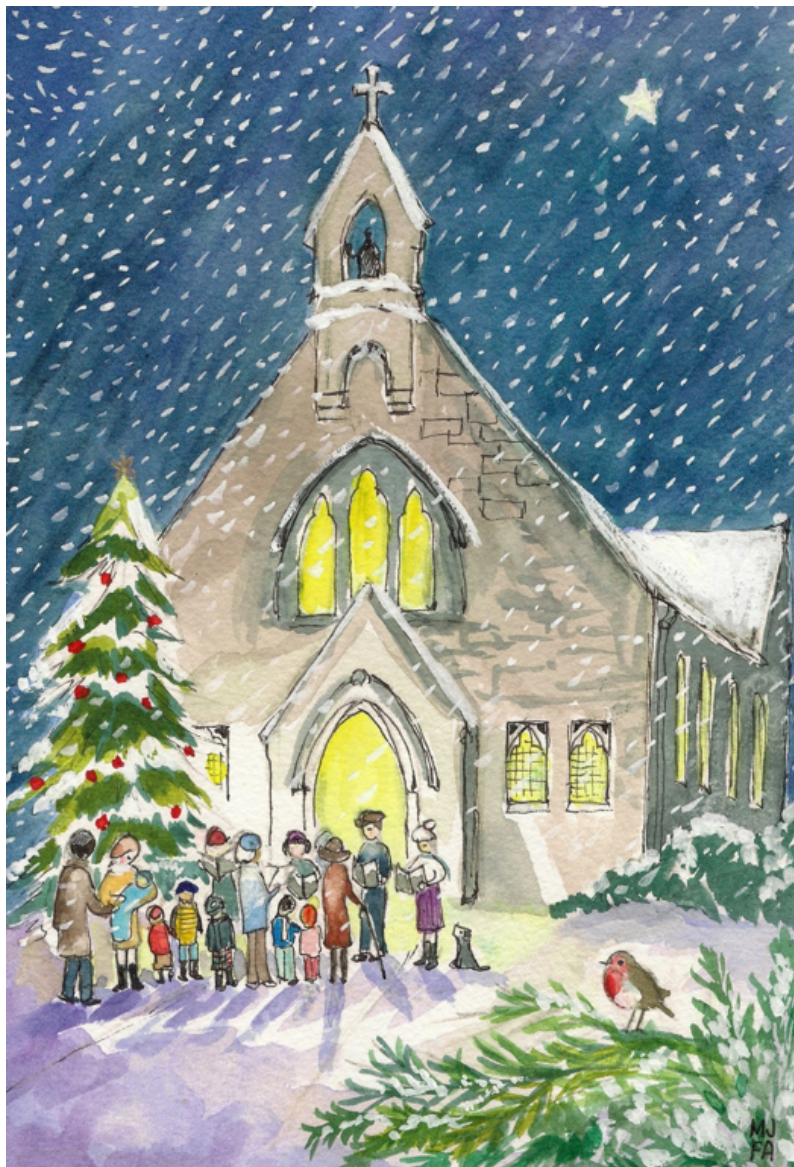


FERINTOSH FOCUS

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CONON BRIDGE & MARYBURGH



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

From Ferintosh Parish Church



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). This is one of my favourite Advent texts. I would like to extract four features of the incarnation that are embedded in these concise yet comprehensive words of the Apostle John.

First of all, we see the mystery of the incarnation. A mystery is something that is difficult to understand or explain. In the first five verses of John 1, the Apostle makes it clear that "the Word" is a divine and eternal person. Contrast the exalted attributes of the eternal God with what you know about the limitations of human flesh (even before the fall), and you'll see why the incarnation is a mystery. We celebrate those who start low and ascend to great heights and we pity those who are exalted and descend to a lower status. In the incarnation, the eternal Word (Jesus) became flesh.

Second, there is a beauty to the incarnation. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ was like us in every way except sin (2:17). Mankind is the apex of God's creation, and even in mankind's state of corruption after the fall, the human capacity to reason, build, and interact with fellow humans is a reflection of the Creator's intention. So, in spite of our greatest accomplishments, the stain of sin render us incapable of the glory for which we were created. But the Word incarnated in love and harmony both vertically and horizontally is a beautiful display of the image of God in human flesh.

Third, this verse points us to the necessity of the incarnation. In Hebrews 10:5 we read, "When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me.'" In our fallenness, we were unable to do the will of the Father and unable to pay the debt of our sin.

Therefore, the Word became flesh, and in that flesh, He did the will of the Father in our place and with His flesh He bore the punishment for our sins.

Fourth, John's words here remind us of the hope of the incarnation.

Even apart from sin, human flesh is limited. But because of sin we inherit flesh that is failing and fading. In 2 Corinthians 4:16, Paul says that the outward man is perishing every day. So, the fact that the Word was made flesh and in that flesh perfectly kept the law and bore the penalty of the law and bodily rose from the dead is the assurance that we who look to Him and cling to Him by faith will indeed put off mortality and put on immortality. We will put off the corruptible and put on the incorruptible (1 Cor. 15:53-54). As John says elsewhere, "What we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). And that is the hope of the incarnation. May we all come to know the fullness of this hope and joy over this Advent season and even as we look forward to a New Year.

Kind Regards from your Minister and friend,
Stephen



Please join us this Christmas – A warm welcome awaits

Sunday 18th December – 11.00am: Nativity Service
6.30pm: Lessons and Carols (Zoom Service)

Saturday 24th December – 11.30pm: Watchnight Service
Sunday 25th December – 11.00am: Christmas Morning Service

6.30pm: No Evening (Zoom) Service

Sunday 1st January 2023 – 11.00am: Morning Service
6.30pm: No Evening (Zoom) Service

Sunday 8th January 2023 – 11.00am: Morning Service
6.30pm: Communion Service (in Church Hall)

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas and for 2023

A VILLAGES VOW

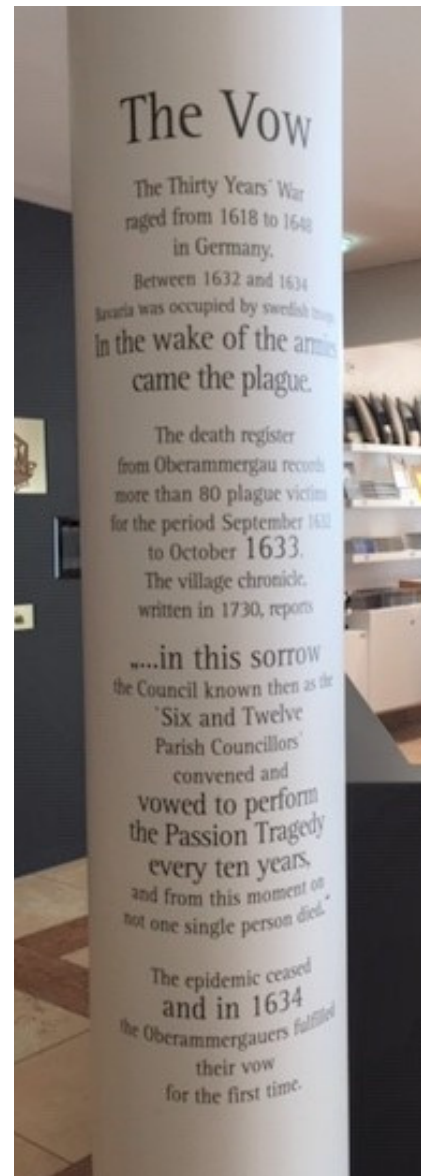
A visit to the Passion Play in Oberammergau

In 1633 the village of Oberammergau in Bavaria (in the south-east of present day Germany) was in dire straits. A young man from the village who worked elsewhere, on returning home, had brought with him the plague, and now villagers were dying by the score. The remaining villagers, meeting at the local Church, made a vow to God that, if their village was spared further deaths, they would put on a drama depicting our Lord's passion and death every 10th year in future. From that day no further plague deaths were recorded in the village.

The people of Oberammergau have kept their vow until today, producing a Passion Play during the first year of every decade with very few exceptions, mainly during times of war - and in 2020 due to another plague: Covid 19. That was the year my school friend Brenda and I decided to take up the opportunity offered to Guild members of a week's holiday in Austria, with a one night stay in Oberammergau and a visit to the Passion Play. This year in September we were finally able to go.

Oberammergau is quite a small place, nestling on the floor of the valley of the River Ammer, surrounded by mountains. The old village at its centre clusters round the catholic Church, a more recent building constructed on the site of the Church where the original vow was taken.

A feature of the village, and indeed the region, is beautiful painted decorations on the outer wall of houses, some Biblical scenes, others from folklore. As the fame of the Passion Play grew and ever more visitors came from further and further afield to experience the event, it was no longer possible to stage it in the grounds of the Church, and today there is a purpose built theatre seating almost 4,500. The audience is protected from the elements by a roof, and there is even a retractable stage roof to protect the players when necessary, though the natural mountain backdrop is still visible. The Play is presented on 5 days every week from May until September.



Original Vow of the Villagers



Present day Catholic Church in Oberammergau



Present day Passion Play theatre

Thousands of villagers of all ages from babes in arms upwards are involved in the production, which takes at least a year to prepare. To take part, you must have been born in Oberammergau, or have lived there at least 20 years. As well as the actors – two for every main part and many, many “extras” – there is a huge choir, a full orchestra, and all the backstage work and preparation by carpenters, artists, dressmakers and so many more. Those not involved in the production, and many who are, are often engaged in looking after the needs of the thousands of visitors who flock to the village, in the many hotels, guest houses, hostels, restaurants, cafes and shops. Brenda and I stayed in the hotel owned by one of the Pontus Pilates, and were waited on at dinner by his son, one of the Johns (disciple). Next day we bought souvenirs and postcards from a young woman who had been part of the crowd.

The Passion Play itself is stunningly impressive. It opens with Palm Sunday, when Jesus enters on a real donkey (one of a number of live animals, including a camel, in the production) to be greeted by what looks and sounds like the whole village. The scene where Jesus turns the merchants and money lenders out of the Temple is equally impressive, ending in wonderful confusion, with sheep running wild and doves escaping from an overturned basket and flying off through gaps between the roofs to freedom. The Last Supper I found particularly moving, from the gentle washing of the feet of each disciple to the solemn breaking of bread and sharing of the cup of wine, and Jesus’ request to “do this in remembrance of me”.

In the latter part of the Play the two court scenes, when Jesus is confronted by the Sanhedrin and later when he stands before Pilate, are quite long and wordy, and therefore difficult to follow in the English translation of the script we were given, there being no simultaneous translation facilities. This I think is partly because in the years since World War II there has been much criticism that the Play is anti-Semitic, particularly in its portrayal of the High Priest and of Judas Iscariot. For the same reason much is made of Judas’ actions after he has betrayed Jesus, inferring that he did not expect his actions to result in Jesus’ death. Also, in the scene where the crowd shouts for Barrabas to be freed and not Jesus, there is a significant and vocal group demanding Jesus’ release.

Roman soldiers, their officer mounted on a magnificent black horse, are much in evidence from this point on. The drama builds in intensity through the scourging of Jesus, the mockery by the soldiers and the crown of thorns, reaching its climax in the crucifixion, which is very graphically portrayed. How the three actors are enabled to stay in position on the high crosses for what seems like an interminable length of time is a mystery to the audience, and must be very cleverly contrived. When they are eventually taken down, I was amused to see the two thieves unceremoniously thrown over the shoulders of a couple of burly men who I imagine were members of the village fire brigade, and carried down ladders lent against the crosses. Jesus, on the other hand, secured by a long length of cloth passed under his arms and the ends held by men on the ground, was lovingly lowered by John, a much slighter figure. I assume this is why in older Churches and paintings the Cross is often portrayed with a length of cloth passed round it.

The resurrection scene I am afraid I found much less impressive, which was disappointing, but the emphasis on the Crucifixion, and indeed on the reaction of Mary, mother of Jesus, was probably the result of the theological position of those who wrote the original script.

Between the scenes of the Passion were a series of “living tableaux”, where actors portrayed relevant scenes from the Old Testament such as Abraham’s sacrifice of his son Isaac or Job hearing the “advice” of his friends, in complete stillness. At these points the huge choir and the orchestra came into their own, performing mainly music written specially for the Play many years ago.

The whole production lasted about five hours, but there was a three hour break in the middle, when dinner was served in all the hotels and restaurants. I am not sure what I expected, but it was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, impressive and at times overwhelming, leading me to consider again, at times with new insight, what happened in that week. The events portrayed in the Passion Play changed the history of mankind, and continue to influence the lives of all who believe what God has done by sending his son to die for their sins, thus opening the way to reconciliation with him.

Janet Winchester



One of the painted houses in Oberammergua

SEAFORTH HOUSE

Services there have continued for a while when rules meant that only one person was allowed to be admitted to lead the worship. Now any can attend without restrictions of testing or masking up and the manager and staff are more than happy for others to come and join in the worship.



The residents love the social interaction with others and miss the team that came along from Ferintosh pre-Covid. Service times will be intimated at morning worship. So if any of you would be free to support and participate in the services there please come along.

Irene Munro



Scout Christmas Post

**Have your Christmas Cards delivered by the 1st
Conon Bridge & Maryburgh Scout Group
for the very reasonable price of 15p per card.**

**They will be delivering them within the 30mph
signs in the villages of
Conon Bridge and Maryburgh.**

Christmas Cards can be dropped off at

**THE CHURCH HALL IN CONON
Or
MARYBURGH AMENITIES HALL**

**Guess the weight of the cake £1 per guess
Between 10am and 12noon
on
Saturday 3rd December.
No post accepted after this date**

**Tea/Coffee with Mince Pies and Shortbread
available throughout the morning**

Same day delivery not guaranteed.
For more information contact Lauren 863794



COOK UP A CURRY



The Leprosy Mission Scotland is asking supporters to host a curry evening, or lunch (or indeed some other kind of meal if curry is not your "thing") and invite their guests to make a donation to the work of the Mission.

The Leprosy Mission Scotland supports work, mainly in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar (formerly Burma) to:

1. Prevent the spread of leprosy
2. Identify and treat those currently suffering symptoms
3. Provide medical treatment and training to help people overcome the disabilities resulting from leprosy and support themselves and their families
4. Through education and counselling overcome the stigma attached to having or having in the past had leprosy.

The political situation in Myanmar makes it particularly difficult to carry on this work there, where at present Mawlamyine Hospital is "the only leprosy hospital in the whole country and the only functioning hospital of any kind in its region". Recent floods in Pakistan have added to the difficulties there. For more details go to TLM Scotland's Website (leprosymission.scot) or ask Janet Winchester for a copy of the Mission's magazine Dochas.

King Prawn Masala

Ingredients

- 2 small red onions, roughly chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- 30g ginger, chopped
- 2 green chillis, split and seeds taken out
- 30g washed coriander
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 500g raw peeled king prawns
- 1 lemon juiced
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp Garam Masala
- ½ tsp turmeric



Celebrity Indian chef Tony Singh has written encouraging you to take up the challenge to "Cook up a Curry", and offers three recipes to try. Packs are available from TLM Scotland via leprosymission.scot/curry or by phoning 01786 449266. They contain Mr Singh's letter, his recipes, invitations, explanatory leaflets, traditionally decorated napkin rings and a form and envelope to send in any money raised. As a "taster", here is one of his recipes:

Of course, you do not have to cook - you could simply order a take-away from your favourite restaurant.

It would be good if you could "cook up your curry" before the end of the year. You can send any money raised directly to TLM Scotland, as described in the pack, or give it to Janet Winchester to send in. In any case it would be useful to let Janet know how much you have raised, so that we have a total for the congregation.

If you do not wish to host a meal, or have one within your household, you can simply make a donation to TLM Scotland, either directly or via Janet.

TLM Scotland is also asking for our prayers. A prayer diary for the whole year is available. There will also be a day of prayer on St Andrew's day, 30th November, when you can either pray on your own for the topics requested, or join the TLM Scotland team on line for an hour during the day. For details go to: leprosymission.scot/pray. If you would like more information but have no access to the internet, or if you would like a prayer diary, phone Janet on 01349 865308.

King Prawn Masala

Method

In a small food processor or blender, blend the onion, garlic, ginger, chilli and coriander to a paste. If you need to, add a small amount of water to help make the paste.

In a heavy based pan, heat the oil and fry the paste until fragrant.

Add the dry spices. Fry for another minute.

Add the tomatoes and bring to a simmer, Cook for 10 minutes until thickened.

Stir the prawns into the curry and cook for 7 minutes.

Season with lemon juice and serve.

AN INDIAN ADVENTURE

Since January 2005 myself and Pamela have been involved in various projects relating to Street Children in the City of Kolkata in India. We have been unable to travel to Kolkata since 2019 due to the Pandemic but we have maintained our links and hope to return in 2023. This article gives a background to how we became involved. Future articles will go into more specific details of our experiences.

Moved by her observation of extreme poverty which we came across on various walking holidays throughout the world Pamela was moved to commit herself to a short mission project with World Exchange then based in Edinburgh. In mid summer 2004 Pamela was accepted and answered a call to "sort out some Nuns in Kolkata". In fact the project was to help some Catholic Nuns establish a girls home for street children under the guidance of Sister Lizzy.

Pamela spent 12 weeks in the most basic of conditions firstly in a Convent and then in the first version of the children's home which was a borrowed room from one of the congregation of the local chapel. She also travelled to facilities run by the Nuns in Pandua and Bihar.

She was based in a poor Muslim area of Kolkata and during her first venture to the City of Joy experienced many sights that your normal tourist would never see. Also as a companion of the Nuns she moved in circles usually provided only for Nuns.

She had many experiences and adventures on this first visit (maybe the subject of further articles) but she returned home with a passion in her heart to help where she could the young children of Kolkata.

Pamela convinced me we should plan to return to India and we used our remaining annual leave for that year to return in September 2005. On this occasion we both stayed in the Convent and continued to be involved with the Nuns and their project.

We have returned every year since then. From small beginnings the girls home grew from a single room housing 9 girls to a three storey building housing around 30 girls.

We were never in any doubt that God was with us in our journey but it was a challenge for us dealing with the challenges of living within a fairly strict Catholic environment.

Towards the end of an early trip we made contact with Pastor Patrick Joseph of the Assembly of God Pentecostal Church and since 2007 Pastor Patrick has been our guide and mentor and he in turn opened many doors for us to visit a vast array of projects in relation to children and the poor of the city. Future stays would see us reside in the Baptist Mission Guest House where we met many Christian folk from all over the world.

Around the same time we came across Paul Walsh a former English Diplomat who had a passion for Rugby Union and at that time was working for an NGO Future Hope. Future Hope was founded in early 1990's by another Englishman, Tim Grandage a former Manager of the Kolkata branch of HSBC. Both men's work has been recognised with the awarding of MBE for work with children. Paul later left Future Hope to create Jungle Crows Foundation based on rugby but developing into an Educational and Development programme for children from 5 years of age to early 20's. Neither Future Hope or Jungle Crows were Christian organisations as they formed links with all forms of religion whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian. However there were Christian links with both either through staff they employed or other organisations they partnered with.

Space limits me from including many success stories that we have come across about children abandoned and who have either, within one of the NGO's or establishments run by the church, gone on to acquire not only an education but further education and employment ranging from menial tasks to Professional jobs such as Nurses, Doctors and Teachers.

On one of our last visits we had the great privilege of meeting Dr Huldah Buntain one of the founders of the AG Church in Park Street with her late husband Dr Mark Buntain. The Buntain's had travelled to Kolkata in 1954 and Mrs Buntain was now in her mid 90's and still full of God's spirit and sharp as a pin. She was interested in talking to us as her mother's family originated from Aberdeenshire. Mrs Buntain died in July 2021 having given almost 80 years service to the Lord.

We pray regularly for the nation and children of India and Kolkata in particular and for the work that takes place in improving the lot of the poorest of the population. We pray for the AG Church and the mission work they undertake and for the safety of their workers throughout the city.

Pamela has given a brief talk on the projects to the Guild but if you wish further information please contact us on 01463 353103 or talk to us in church.

Allan and Pamela Lemon, Bogallan

GUILD

The Guild started off the 2022/23 Session with a talk from Rev Macdonald on trees in the Bible – and it is amazing how many of them there are, not just Zacchaeus' sycamore tree and the cedars of

Lebanon. Their role too ranges from building Noah's ark to lifting Jesus up on the cross.

In October Pamela Lemon spoke most movingly of her love of India and Indian people, kindled on a volunteer programme many years ago, fanned by many visits over the years by herself, husband Allan and other family members, and now burning strong through the Kids of Kolkota Dochas Trust, which supports disadvantaged children, many without family or home, in that city.

November's meeting focussed on family trees, with input from "the two Irenes" (Struth and Munro) on their own experiences while researching their respective family trees. How the process has changed from the days of being led down to the basement of Register House with nothing but a piece of paper and a pencil – absolutely no ink allowed – to today's DNA tests and internet searches! Many of those present had brought along photos or artefacts relating to their own family history, and there was much reminiscing and a lot of laughter, but the biggest surprise had to be when Janette Steele unwrapped and wielded a very long sword, property of her husband's covenanting ancestor, a dragoon's sword, either won in battle or picked up afterwards.

It had been discovered hidden in the thatch of a building on the family farm in Ayrshire.



To date this year 19 people have signed up to the Guild, but we have room for many more, either as members or as occasional visitors for meetings whose topic interests them. Do come along and give it a go: enjoy fun and fellowship; grow spiritually through the study of God's Word and worship; learn more about the Church and the world; participate in service by action and fundraising. All ages and stages, men and women are most welcome!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The group continues to meet in the Church Hall each Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm for approximately an hour.

We have studied books of the Bible in different ways with or without the benefit of DVDs and, at the moment we are using Cover to Cover Bible studies for small group and personal use.

The topic of the studies this time is The Sermon on the Mount and looking at Life within the New Covenant. It is written in the form of Renewal--- Deal, People, Morality, Justice, God-conversations, Priorities and Foundations. Whilst there are seven studies in the booklet, it is never long enough to complete a whole study in one session. There is usually so much to highlight and discuss and listen to others take on things too. Everyone has a chance to contribute even if it is just by listening. Numbers remain quite steady and it would be really good if we had some new members. You don't have to commit to being there every week. Please give it prayerful thought. The members have been staying for a short time of prayer for the many concerns in this world, internationally, nationally, locally and personally. This is open to all to join not just ladies.

SUNDAY TEAS

It is good to hear the chatter once again as teas are served and enjoyed following Morning Worship. We restarted this on a monthly basis and as more volunteers come forward, it is hoped that the frequency can be increased. If you feel you could take a turn with helping to serve the tea, on an occasional basis, please add your name to the list on the hall notice board or speak with Janet Murray. Thank you to all who already support this venture.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE

The intimation from Rev. Ronnie Gall, minister of Contin and Strathpeffer Parish Churches read "Contin Church welcome you to an Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, meet Knockfarrel Car Park 7am, Service at the hill top followed by breakfast in Contin Village Hall".

However, on waking at 5am on Easter Sunday morning so as to get ready, have breakfast and head for Knockfarrel, the wisdom of the decision to go was to some extent questioned. But on arrival at the car park on the Cat's Back, Sheena and I agreed it was good to be there.

After a short climb up to the hill fort we joined the folk who were awaiting the service. Most were from Contin Parish Church but there were also some people from Strathpeffer Parish Church. The view from the hill fort towards the Cromarty Firth was superb with the sun having just risen.



Just after 7am, Rev Ronnie Gall started the service which was lovely and included three hymns, one of which was accompanied by a lady playing a cornet, and we made a good sound. In total, there were around 30 to 35 people present including a number of children.

After the service we started to head down to the car park and some of the youngsters rolled the eggs they had brought with them. They certainly rolled a long way.



Once back at the cars, we headed to Contin Village Hall for breakfast, which was most welcome. The bacon roll went down a treat!



It was a lovely way to start Easter Sunday and the weather could not have been better. Our thanks to the congregation at Contin for arranging and organising everything.

Martin McLauchlan



Highland Hospice Inverness are urgently seeking volunteers. These volunteers are needed to visit people who attend the Hospice but who still live in their own home. Please ring the Hospice on 01463 243132 if you can help.

For further first hand information please contact Tom Thomas on 01349 861942.

BIBLE STUDY

One of our Christmas traditions as a family is to watch *It's a Wonderful Life*. Even though I have almost all the lines memorised, I still love to watch it. The movie opens a window to one man's life—a rather ordinary one, a life that often fell short of what George Bailey dreamed of doing. Decisions and disappointments set the course of George's life, and in a time of great despair, he attempts to end his life.

But through the intervention of an unlikely angel, George Bailey gets to see what his world would be like if he had never been born. It would be a darker, angrier, more hostile place. Friends are strangers. An overgrown cemetery covers the place where George had once built homes and helped families. In the end, he sees that life is worth living. He has made a difference despite life's disappointments. He has a wonderful life.

It's a Wonderful Life isn't a Christmas story as such, but the idea behind it is instructive to consider this Christmas season: Imagine if Christ had not been born. Imagine the unbroken night, despair, and lostness.

In Ephesians 2, Paul describes that hopeless, Christless condition in no uncertain terms: "You were dead in the trespasses and sins . . . following the prince of the power of the air . . . sons of disobedience . . . children of wrath" (vv. 1-3). Yet, praise God, Christ did come and accomplished all His saving purposes. That is how after this catalogue of misery there is a hinge of grace that opens to a cascade of mercy:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Jesus was born and placed in a manger in Bethlehem so that one day He would die on a wooden cross in Jerusalem. The soft, tiny hands that clung to the Virgin Mary would one day be pierced through by sharp iron spikes.

The infant brow tenderly caressed by Joseph would years later be brutally punctured by a crown of thorns. New-born tears would in the future give way to soul-wrenching cries of anguish at Gethsemane and Calvary. Here's the point: Christmas cannot be truly understood apart from the cross. Our meditations on the cradle must always find their way to the cross.

God sent His eternal Son into the world to be more than just a good example or a wise teacher. God sent Him to perfectly fulfil the requirements of the law, and then, as a righteous substitute, satisfy God's justice on Calvary. Christ bore God's wrath on the cursed tree, not for His own guilt but for yours and mine. "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities . . . and with his wounds we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). This is why Jesus came—to rescue us from what our sins deserve.

Therefore, as you consider Jesus' birth this Advent season, don't forget about the cross. Jesus was born to die. May this truth of this *Wonderful Life* stir up new measures of love, wonder, and praise this special time of year.

Now all those who love and fear Him
Saved by grace through faith alone
Kneel in humble adoration
At His manger, at His throne.

SOUP LUNCH

There is to be a Soup Lunch in the Church Hall following Morning Worship on Sunday 4th December 2022. After the soup, we plan to have tea and home baking so we can enjoy a chat together. If you are able to help on the day and/or provide a pan of soup, a loaf of bread or some home baking etc, then please add your name to the lists at the back of the church so that we can include as many people as possible from the congregation. We look forward to seeing you there.



The use of foodbanks is still very much in evidence and shows no sign of diminishing, in fact the need ever grows!

At Ferintosh Parish Church, people have been very generous throughout the years in providing non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, cleaning materials and at special times of the year, little extras to make life a bit more bearable for those who are down on their luck. (There but for the grace of God, go !!) On the news recently it was reckoned many, many people have less than £100 saved. That doesn't go far, does it?

The list for Nov/Dec is as follows: tins of corned beef, long life fruit juice, sponge puddings, tins of ham, small packets of biscuits, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste and bags for life (new or used).

People using the foodbank are given enough to get them and their family through three days - not much, is it?---

Please pray for the users and helpers as they seek to alleviate the plight of fellow citizens.

Please place any item for donation in the large container in the vestibule of the Church. Leave the carrier bag too if you can since they are used to get the food home.

CROSSREACH

The current edition of CrossReach News is subtitled "Living Life to the full". This is the aim of CrossReach, to enable its service users to do this whether they are young or old or in between.

CrossReach works with Children and Families, Criminal Justice with family support at prison, Homelessness, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Older People and Substance Use, both drugs and alcohol. They also offer counselling and support.

The staff and volunteers strive to bring love, care, dignity and respect to folk who are sometimes marginalised by society. They work tirelessly to understand the needs of the people who turn to them for help and with them they have been a pioneering service which has literally changed thousands of lives for ever. Remember CrossReach in prayer and in your generosity when you can.

SUNDAY CLUB IS BACK

After a slow start earlier in the year under Covid restrictions, Sunday Club really got going after the summer holidays. We now have 17 children on the books, between the ages of 2 and 11. We also have five adults prepared to help lead on a regular or occasional basis, and two young leaders.

We meet every Sunday in term time from 10.50 until around 12 noon. The first part of the hour is spent in Church with the rest of the congregation, when Rev Macdonald spends some time speaking directly to us about what God and Jesus can mean in our lives, usually ending with a rousing song. After that we go into the Church hall for games, crafts and of course a snack. Sometimes, if the weather is fine, we play outside. The activities usually relate to what Mr Macdonald has talked about, or to special times or events, such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday or the death and funeral of our late Queen. Any children of Nursery or Primary School age are welcome to join us, whether as regular members or occasional visitors.



In recent months we joined in the celebration of the baptisms of our two youngest members, Kassie and Tommy. Kassie's celebration was not quite as planned because of Covid. On the day of Tommy's we were delighted to have so many children from his wider family and circle of friends join us in Sunday Club.

In September we had a wonderful outing to Dalmore Farm, where we enjoyed seeing all the animals. There were cocks, hens and chickens of all sizes, ducks, inquisitive turkeys which wanted to know what was in our pockets, rabbits, a mother guinea pig with her babies, playful goats which liked to climb up the steps and come back down the slide, some pigs, horses, and a baby alpaca which had a little coat to keep it warm. We also had great fun in the play park.



If you have not already seen them, please come into the Church hall before or after Church to see more photos of that day, or look on the Ferintosh Parish Church website.



We were hoping to go on to see the new lifeboat at the RNLI lifeboat station in Invergordon, but for various reasons that had to be postponed, and we hope to go next year. We are grateful to a member of the congregation who raised money through her own handiwork which enabled us to enjoy this outing.

We are now looking forward to Christmas, but that will be a story for the next Ferintosh Focus.



CHURCH CONTACTS

MINISTER

Rev'd Stephen Macdonald
The Manse, Leanaig Road, Conon Bridge,
IV7 8BE Tel. 01349 864273

SESSION CLARK: Martin McLauchlan
Culcairn Mill, Evanton IV16 9XS

Tel. 01349 830303

TREASURER: Martin McLauchlan
Culcairn Mill, Evanton IV16 9XS

Tel. 01349 830303

PROPERTY CONVENER, ROLL KEEPER, ORDER OF SERVICE & WEBSITE:

John Smith, The Finches, Strathdrynie, Dingwall IV15 9UJ

Tel. 01349 865915

NEWSLETTER TEAM: Emma Wotherspoon, John Smith, Jannette Steele, Hugh Steele

PASTORAL CARE TEAM: Pamela Lemon

Tel. 07979344117

GUILD CONTACT: Janet Winchester
3 Burnside Lane, Conon Bridge, IV7 8EX

Tel. 01349 865308

SUNDAY CLUB: Isobel, Lorna, Pauline, Janet

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS: Rev'd Stephen Macdonald
The Manse, Leanaig Road, Conon Bridge, IV7 8BE

Tel. 01349 864273

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS: Elizabeth Blackburn

Tel. 01349 861593

SOCIAL CONVENER: Janet Murray
The Cottages, Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge, IV7 8HY

Tel. 01349 864024

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

As always, we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions about the newsletter. Submissions are now invited for the next edition of the Focus - these can be made to members of the editorial team, or sent by email to strathdrynie@gmail.com

A full-colour copy of this newsletter is available on our website.



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