



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church

Autumn 2025

N E W S L E T T E R



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Hatton of Fintray, Aberdeen, AB21 0JB

Scottish Charity Number: SC003315

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our regular Sunday services commence at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated. Services are led by our Interim Moderator or our very lively Worship Group led by Roddy McInnes.

Refreshments are served after the service to which everyone is most welcome to join in.

NOVEMBER

9 November - Reverend Sheila Craggs (Remembrance)

16 November - Worship Group

23 November - Reverend Sheila Craggs

30 November - Reverend Sheila Craggs

DECEMBER

7 December - Worship Group

14 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs

18 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs (School Service at 11:00 a.m.)

21 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs (Living Nativity)

24 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs (Christingle at 4:00 p.m.)

24 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs (Watchnight at 11:20 p.m.)

28 December - Reverend Sheila Craggs

JANUARY 2026

4 January - Reverend Sheila Craggs (Informal Communion)

INTERIM MODERATOR

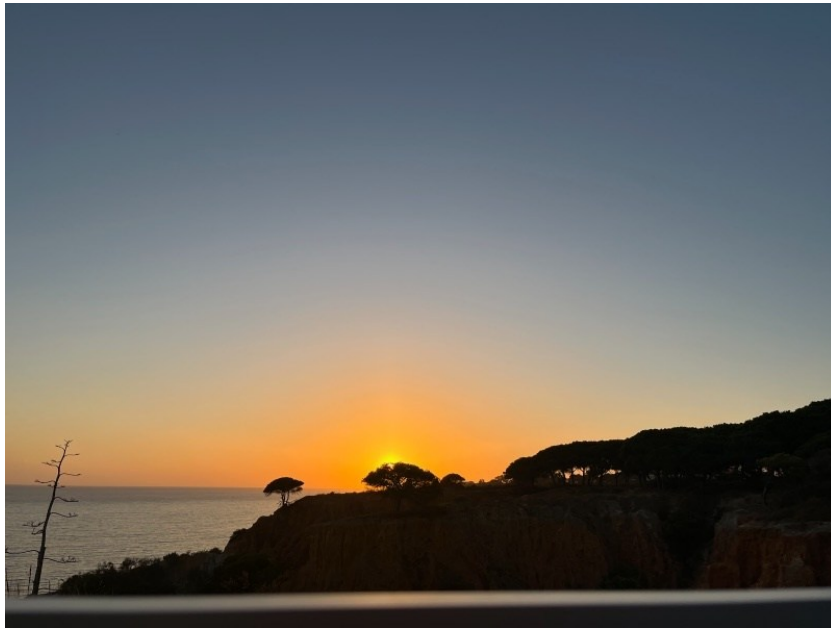
On the 10th of October my husband Tom, and I together with Lorriane returned from a wonderful holiday in Portugal. I feel refreshed, renewed and relaxed after three weeks of sunshine, good food and amazing trips to various places. In the evening, we would go and watch the sun set from the Mirador Bar on the top of the cliff in the complex where we were staying.



My husband and I celebrated our Wedding Anniversary, fifty-six years and we enjoyed a fabulous meal in a lovely seafood restaurant called Pescador where we were treated like royalty, and in fact they referred to me as the Queen and Tom the King.



INTERIM MODERATOR



I am now back and into the swing of things again in Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall Church. We will be holding our Remembrance Day Service on the 9th of November at 10.50am and we will lay the wreath for Keithhall within the church and then after the service go down to the Fintray War Memorial where we will lay the wreath and finally on to Kinellar cemetery where we will lay the final wreath.

Christmas is just around the corner, and we will have another Advent Study for four weeks beginning on Wednesday 19th November at 2pm. This study is open to anyone to come along and hear about the journey we make towards the day we welcome the Christ Child once again.

The church always looks forward to welcoming the Hatton of Fintray School for their end of term service. The children come and sing, listen to the story of Christmas and entertain us with music played by pupils learning the violin, recorder or a brass instrument. It is a lovely morning, and the children are so good.

This year we are going to be holding a Living Nativity Service on Sunday 21st December at 11am. We extend an invitation to all to come along with your children either dressed up as shepherds, kings, angels and take part in the service. Dressing up is not mandatory so do not be put off if you would like to come.

INTERIM MODERATOR

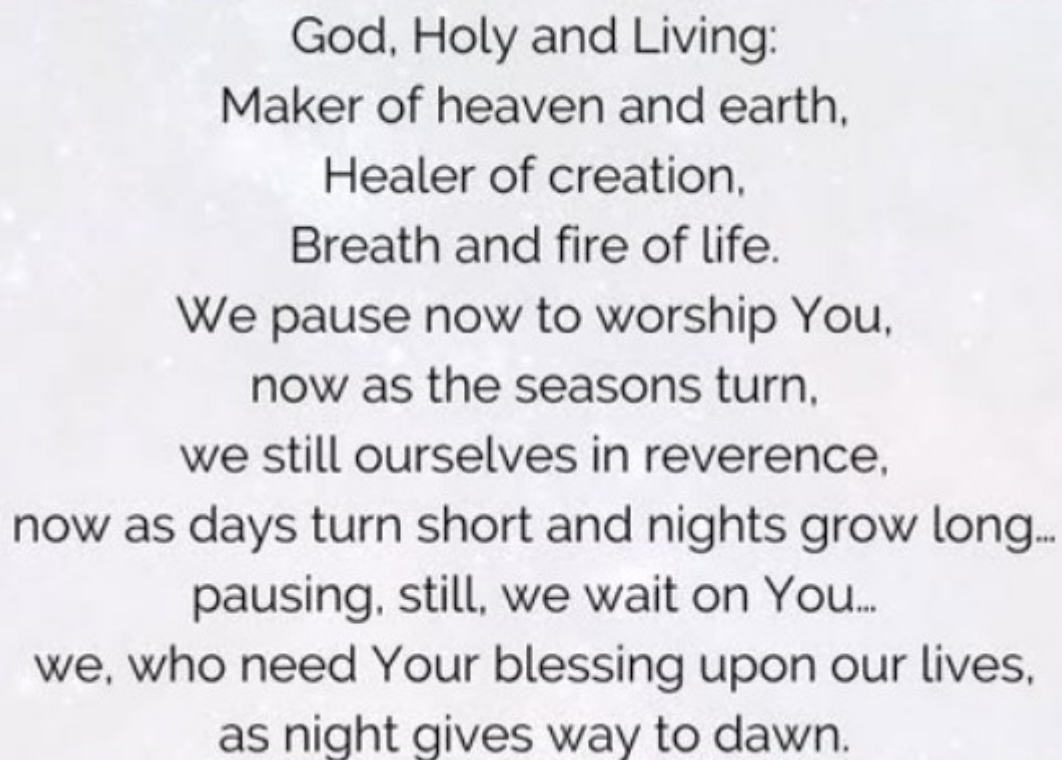
Our Christingle service at 4pm on Christmas Eve was well received last year with eighty plus people coming along. We have decided to hold another one this year at the same time on Christmas Eve and hope many families will join us to help celebrate this wonderful time of year.

This year I will be taking the Watchnight Service and as it is the first time for me at Fin-tray I hope many will come along to celebrate the coming once again of Jesus, the baby in a manger.

Another year seems to have gone by so quickly, but I hope when Christmas comes you will have a wonderful time with family and friends and I wish you health, and happiness for 2026.

Blessings to you all.

Sheila



God, Holy and Living:
Maker of heaven and earth,
Healer of creation,
Breath and fire of life.
We pause now to worship You,
now as the seasons turn,
we still ourselves in reverence,
now as days turn short and nights grow long...
pausing, still, we wait on You...
we, who need Your blessing upon our lives,
as night gives way to dawn.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

On the 19th October Fintray Church took on the very essence of Harvest and we thanked God for his generous bounty.

Sheila Stratton transformed our usual formal Communion table to a table of beauty, reflecting the glories all around us. We are a farming community here and this was represented so well in the foods Sheila brought in from the tatties and carrots to the barley and hops, to the apples and to the bramble jam – a veritable feast for the eyes as well as the tummy!

But the harvest is not just for the farming community to be thankful for, we must also thank the folks out on the raging seas, bringing in the fish on our plates, the oil and gas to heat our homes.

Our church was so beautiful and the tins and packets that the congregation took along to the service, along with the produce donated by Sheila was distributed to the more mature in our Church Family. It was truly a joy to see and a big thank you to Sheila and indeed to all that donated goodies to be distributed.

We indeed have cause to be thankful for our generous Lord and all his flock.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING



MEET AN ELDER



Born in Paisley and moved to Inverurie in 1982. Moved to Kinellar in 1989 and have lived in the same house ever since.

I am married to Robert and have two children Laura and Stuart also blessed with one Grandson, six Granddaughters and one Great Granddaughter.

I became a Church of Scotland elder in 1992 and have had various roles within my church life. My favourite role was Sunday School Superintendent, many a story could I tell.

Sadly times have changed and we no longer have children who attend church regularly although we have a super relationship with the Hatton of Fintray School and we have various special services throughout the year which the school takes part in.

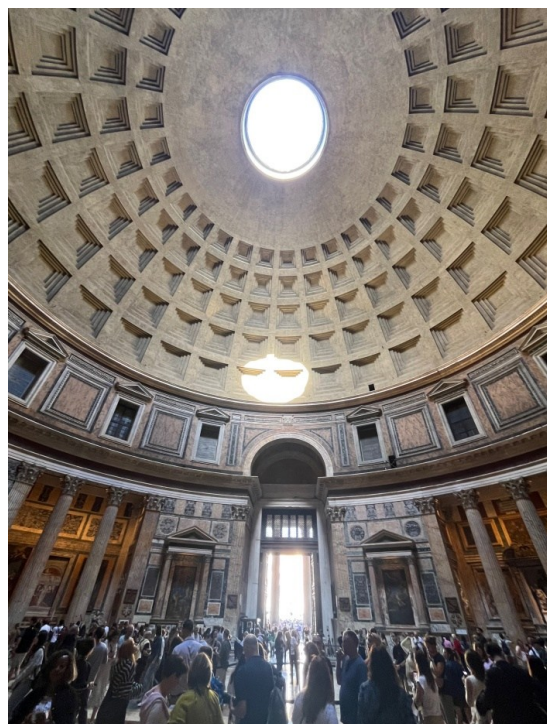
Come along and worship with us, there is always a warm welcome, a cuppa and a blether after the service.

God,
 Creator, Word, and Spirit,
 You call us together in our inadequate diversity
 to reflect Your perfect community in our world.
 Be among us today,
 that we may express the Most Sacred
 in our ordinariness.

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

On 19th October, Nigel and I flew out to Rome, via London to start our wee 30th wedding anniversary present to each other, a cruise around the Mediterranean. We spent our first night in Rome sitting in a lovely streetside restaurant enjoying quintessential cheeses, meats and a chilled glass of wine watching the Italian night life go by. We did take a wee wander and we have to say the Basilica viewed by night is equally as impressive, if not more so, than during the day.

We only had the one full day in Rome so we made the most of it. Our highlights were seeing the Basilica, visiting the Colosseum, getting the obligatory photo with the hundreds of other tourists all jostling for the perfect poise at the Trevi Fountain and taking in the wonders of the Pantheon, especially it's dome. We did not manage to get inside the Colosseum, we should have booked well in advance online, but we will be back.



ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

The next morning we had to head to Civitavecchia port which is 70 km northwest of Rome. This is where we were picking up the boat. Our first day was at sea. We were on the Norwegian Cruise Line ship called The Epic which was carrying 4,100 passengers and a crew of over 1,700. There were many dining options, a variety of entertainment choices including theatre performances, the Cavern Club where a very good Beatles tribute band played, an ice bar (such fun but you needed the cloaks and gloves handed to you before entry!), Casinos, bars and bistros not to mention the upper decks offering clubbing and partying, we were usually in our beds before it all kicked off and were never up on those floors nor in the Casino! We made the most of what the boat had to offer and I even had Nigel playing Bingo and Deal Or No Deal! Amazing what you will do to pass the time when surrounded by sea!

Our first port of call was Santorini. Sailing in seeing the white villages and buildings atop the cliffs was stunning. We were informed that you could walk up the 600 steps to the villages but we were glad of our tour buses. We visited the village of Oia. Pristine white architecture with stark contrasting blue domes took your breath away. We spent time wandering through the narrow streets. There were lots of tourists and cats!



On Tuesday 14th October we were due to dock in Athens. Unfortunately, the tug boats were on strike and so the destination was changed to Mykonos. Mykonos also is a town with whitewashed walls and narrow cobbled streets, similar to Santorini. However, there was some more contrasting colours as Mykonos has a strict colour code that requires doors to be painted blue, green or red. This dates back to tradition where sailors used to paint their doors blue, farmers painted their doors green and everyone else painted theirs red. Highlights included Kato Milli windmills and Little Venice.

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE



We sailed onwards to Kefalonia and the town of Argustoli. We had not booked a tour here nor did we have to book a tender boat to get us onshore. We were able to walk off the boat and spent a very enjoyable day on foot exploring. We walked out to St Theodore Lighthouse and along the Fanari Peninsula and onwards into the charming town and its delightful promenade adjacent to the sea. We walked the full length of the De Bosset Bridge which spans over 2,500 feet across the Koutavas Lagoon and is the longest store bridge over the sea in the world.

Our next port of call was Malta and the capital city of Valetta which offered the most stunning Baroque architecture and you could see why it is a UNESCO world heritage site. We very much enjoyed visiting the Grand Master's Palace and strolling down Republic Street. We also took in the smaller city of Mdina which is a tiny walled city formerly the capital. We feel we merely scratched the surface of Malta so it is definitely on our list of places we want to come back to.



ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

Next for us was Scicily. Here we most definitely had the world's most hilarious tour guide! We boarded the bus to head to Taormina and he had us almost convinced that Madonna was a previous participant of one of his tours and stole the lyrics to "Don't Cry for me Argentina" from him with the true lyrics being "Don't Cry for me Taormina". And after stopping for a wine tasting at the Oro d'Etna Winery at 10am it became an almost believable story! On our way to the winery we stopped off to take in the majesty of Mount Etna. Breathtaking and beautiful. Taormina is a beautiful hilltop town and we thoroughly enjoyed its unique side streets, stopping in one such alley way which housed a fabulous little restaurant. So colourful. (photo 10 and photo 11)



The next day we visited Naples and the gorgeous Sorrento, a beautiful city overlooking the Bay of Naples. We also were able to see impressive Mount Vesuvius.

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE



Our penultimate day saw us in Livorno, Italy where we experienced stunning Florence. I can honestly say I have never witnessed a building as beautiful as Duomo Cathedral. Pante Vecchio bridge was picturesque but Florence was akin to Rome in that every corner you turned you were treated to the most amazing architecture and breathtaking buildings and sculptures. I have to say, though, and you will probably not be surprised at this, my favourite was the “Wine Windows”. Literally little holes in the wall with little bells that you strike and from there you can order your wine which is delivered through the same hole in the wall!

The second half of this tour was Pisa. We headed to Piazza Del Duomo, another UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for four masterpieces of Medieval Christian architecture, the cathedral, the baptistry of John the Baptiste, the cemetery and the campanite (the leaning tower). Wow, just wow! (Photo 14).

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE



Our last day took us to Cannes in France. It was raining, really raining, non stop, heavy rain, it was most definitely a wet, dreicht day! We were on land around 7:45am and Cannes was shut! However, we walked along the promenade with very expensive hotels and shops and I am sure it looks stunning in the sunshine but I kept wondering when we could head back to the boat! However, despite my sodden feet and inappropriate dress wear Nigel persuaded me to waddle up to the Old Town and we were so glad that we visited the Eglise Notre-Dame d'Esperance, a beautiful old church. We were back on board by 1:30pm and had to pack our cases and leave only an overnight bag. The cases were taken into the disembarkment area ready for us to uplift from the terminal the next morning. I am happy to say that the same taxi firm did turn up this time and we were well on time for our flight to Heathrow. However, the same cannot be said of the actual plane and we landed in Heathrow with only 40 minutes to literally sprint through Terminal 5, get through passport control and through security again. Little did we know that the Aberdeen flight was delayed by an hour! Oh, and our shoes were still wet when we unpacked them in Hatton of Fintray!

A truly fabulous anniversary present. And a great way to see places and get a flavour of what each place has to offer. We have a list of places we want to visit when Nigel retires and it has more than a few destinations now added to it.

SUMMER SODOKU ANSWER

9	1	4	8	5	3	6	7	2
6	5	7	1	2	9	4	3	8
2	3	8	4	6	7	9	1	5
7	8	5	3	1	6	2	9	4
4	2	6	7	9	8	3	5	1
3	9	1	5	4	2	8	6	7
8	4	9	6	7	5	1	2	3
5	6	3	2	8	1	7	4	9
1	7	2	9	3	4	5	8	6

AUTUMN PUZZLE

H	A	T	L	A	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	C	H
T	A	B	L	E	S	S	E	V	L	E	H	S	D
C	G	O	T	I	T	T	P	N	M	O	E	M	N
A	A	N	A	B	B	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	S
N	F	P	I	H	C	R	A	E	S	E	R	L	C
R	L	J	R	Y	F	A	A	M	Z	Z	T	H	N
I	S	K	S	E	D	A	U	R	B	B	A	N	O
U	I	F	A	C	T	U	A	L	I	I	L	Y	I
E	S	M	Q	U	I	E	T	C	R	A	W	Y	T
A	U	E	D	R	E	V	I	S	I	O	N	M	C
Q	X	R	D	J	I	I	M	L	R	W	R	D	I
V	S	S	O	A	L	R	R	R	A	A	P	B	F
U	Q	J	O	Q	R	L	O	I	K	S	W	U	D
O	E	J	R	H	S	B	O	O	K	S	E	F	N

ATLAS

BOOKS

BORROW

CHAIRS

DESKS

FACTUAL

FICTION

INTERNET

JOURNALS

LIBRARIAN

LOAN

QUIET

RESEARCH

REVISION

SHELVES

STORIES

STUDYING

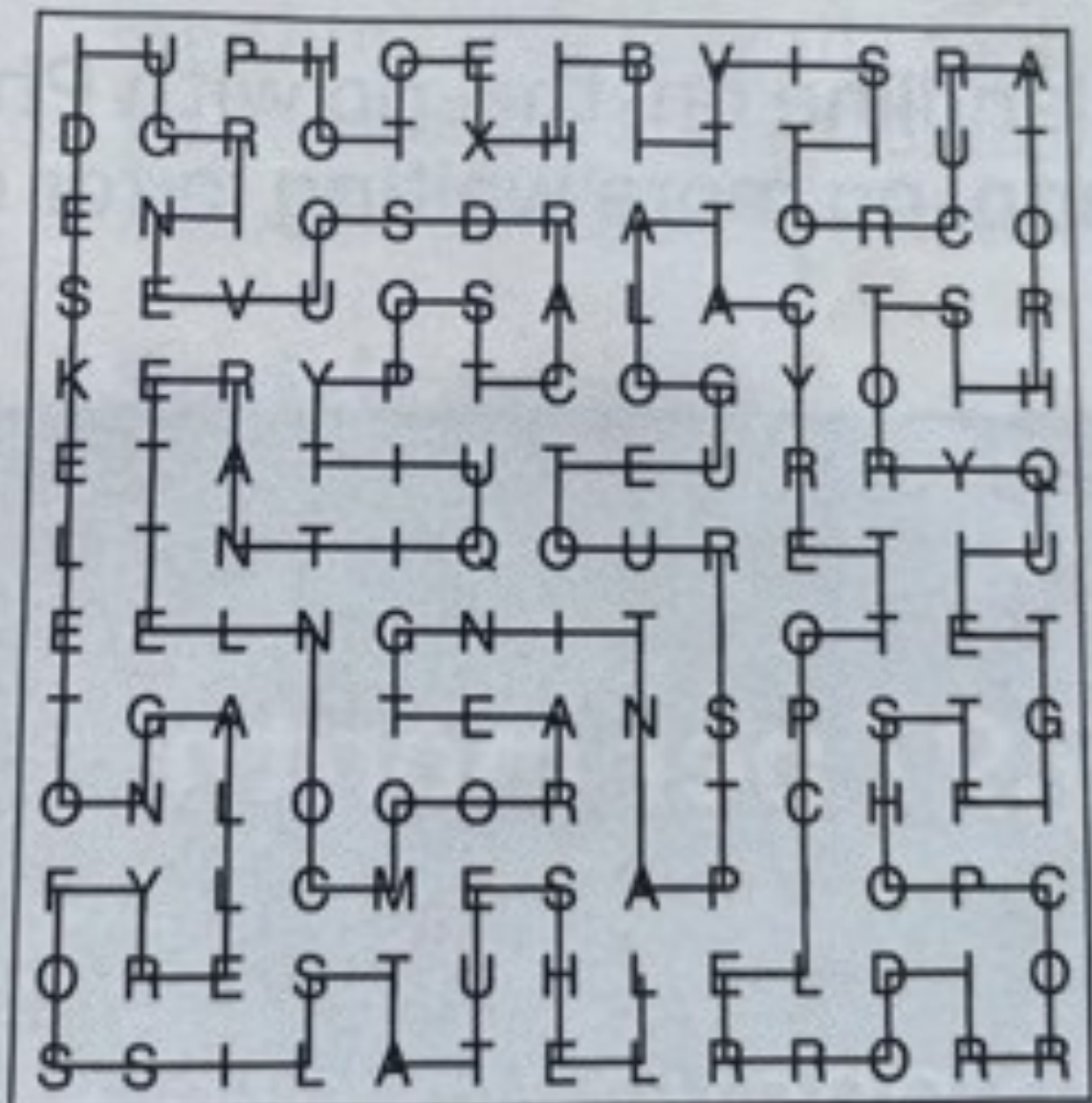
TABLES

8 Smashed or broken pieces (9)

H								

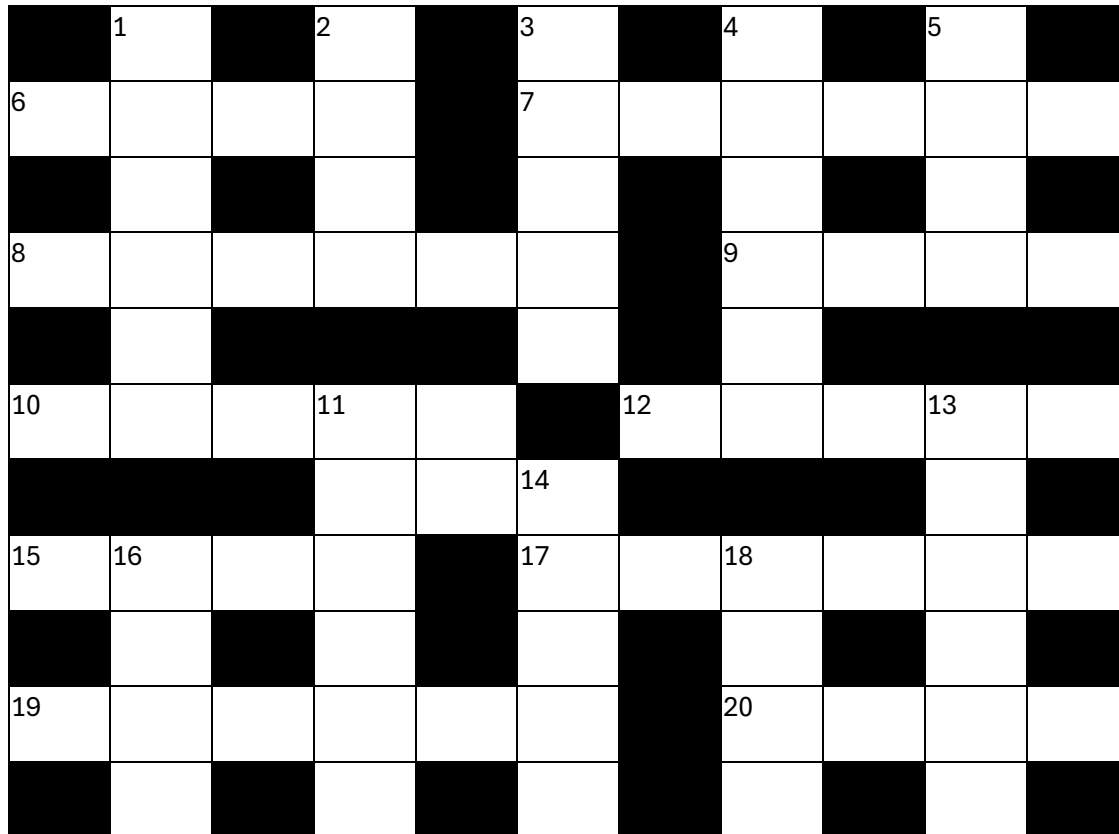
SUMMER PATHFINDER ANSWER

Pathfinder



AUTUMN ANAGRAM CROSSWORD

This is an anagram crossword, unjumble the clue words and fit them in to the corresponding places in the grid. Be careful, some of these might have more than one potential answer.



Across

- 6. Snow
- 7. Canoes
- 8. Search
- 9. Isle
- 10. Petal
- 12. Rated
- 15. Redo
- 17. Bleats
- 19. Pineal
- 20. Soda

Down

- 1. Rosace
- 2. Chin
- 3. Ascot
- 4. Dermal
- 5. Neat
- 11. Picote
- 13. Posted
- 14. Bella
- 16. Lego
- 18. Deal

AUTUMN RECIPE

Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil

2 onions - finely chopped

1kg pumpkin - or squash, peeled, deseeded and chopped into chunks

4 carrots

4 cloves of garlic

- 700ml vegetable stock or chicken stock

150ml double cream

Method

Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large saucepan, then gently cook 2 finely chopped onions and carrots for 5 mins, until soft but not coloured. Add the chopped garlic and cook for a couple of minutes.

Add 1kg pumpkin or squash, cut into chunks, to the pan, then carry on cooking for 8-10 mins, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden.

Pour 700ml vegetable or chicken stock into the pan and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins until the squash is very soft.

Pour 150ml double cream into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra-velvety consistency you can pour the soup through a fine sieve. *The soup can now be frozen for up to 2 months.*

Reheat the soup if needed, taste for seasoning, then serve scattered with croutons and toasted pumpkin seeds and drizzled with more olive oil, if you want.

USEFUL CONTACTS

In case you need to contact us these might be useful.

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Mr. Roddy MacInnes

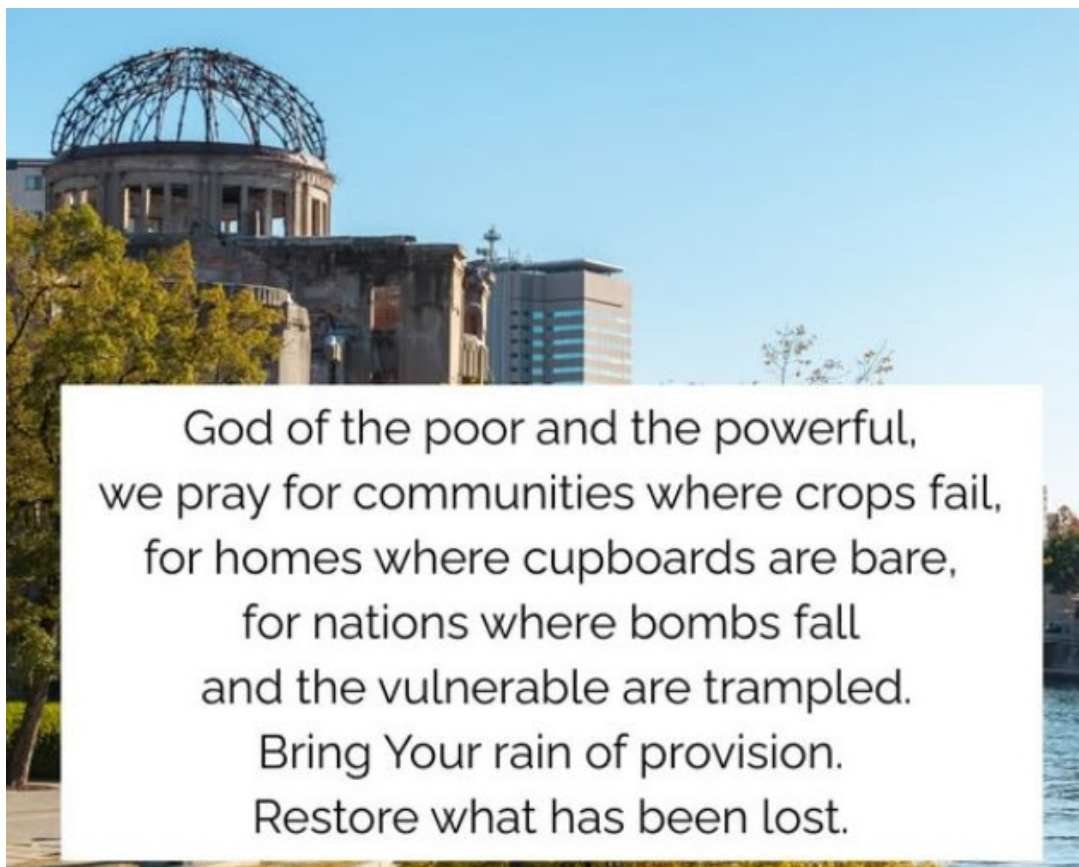
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PRAYERS



God of the poor and the powerful,
we pray for communities where crops fail,
for homes where cupboards are bare,
for nations where bombs fall
and the vulnerable are trampled.
Bring Your rain of provision.
Restore what has been lost.

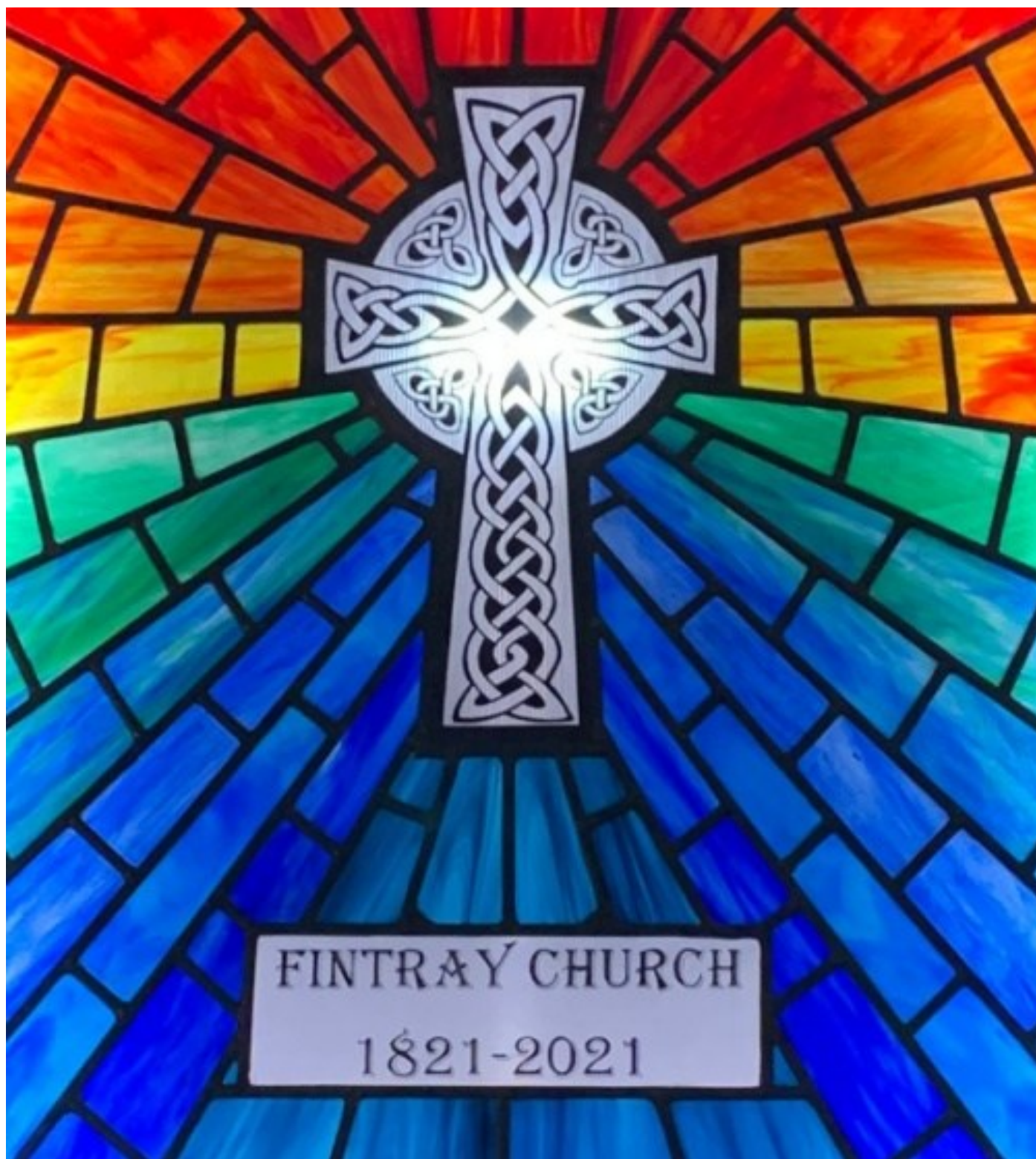


Most gentle God:
we confess that we do not
always feel like praising You.
We lose sight of Your wonder in the ordinary places
and we forget Your goodness when times are hard.
Forgive us when we dishonour You,
and help us when we find ourselves struggling.
Lead us gently onwards
to brighter and to better places,
where we can regain a vision of Your glory.

NOTE PAD



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church



HE IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES