



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church

Summer 2025

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Scottish Charity Number: SC003315

THE INTERIM MODERATOR



I cannot believe that I will have been with you for five years this October. The time has just flown by, but we have achieved a lot over the years, and we have kept a steady congregation attending on a Sunday.

We could not have kept going without the support of the members of the Session, the Session Clerk, Lorraine, your Treasurer, Pat and Roddy who has conducted services to allow me a Sunday off as well as a time to sit in the pew and enjoy worshipping with you all. Thanks also to Jarod Meenan who has stepped in when the Worship Group have not been available.

In September the Candlelit Supper was a sell out and it was lovely to see the transformation of the Village Hall into a Fairyland. The meal was excellent, and my two granddaughters entertained us with their beautiful dancing. The meal, prepared by my son-in-law, Colin was beautiful and enjoyed by all who were there, and my daughter Jill and her excellent team of helpers served us well. The raffle was well supported, and a great night was enjoyed by all. The Church gave the Ellon Meadows 2010's Boys Football Team £2000 towards their fund-raising effort to take the boys to Barcelona which was organised by Colin and Jill. The team ran many fundraisers and managed to raise £27,000 and I can tell you the boys had a wonderful trip in April this year and they thanked the Church for helping them achieve their visit.

We had a lovely Remembrance Sunday and many laid small crosses in remembrance at all the War memorials. Thank you to the Men's Shed for making the crosses. In November we had another very meaningful study group which prepared us for welcoming Christ into the world once again. The school had their end of term service in the Church and received a selection box at the end. It was lovely to share time with the children who come along and join in with music and singing.

Our Christmas services took place on Christmas Eve with a new venture of holding a Christingle Service at 4pm in the afternoon. We had no idea how many would come along but it was amazing to see so many coming with their families, the Church was very full. We did not have enough oranges for everyone as we had not anticipated the number of children, but we manage to give each family one.

THE INTERIM MODERATOR

The evening was enjoyed by them all and we had many wonderful comments on the cross which was lit up outside preparing the way for Christmas and the Nativity Scene which was housed in our new cabinet and many of the figures were given a once over by Brian Innes to make them all look lovely.

The Watchnight Service was once again conducted by Roddy, Thank you! and enjoyed by all who came.

As a Session we meet regularly for discussion regarding the ongoing work of this Church. Last year we discussed some things that we should endeavour to do. We started the Newsletter which has been well received and thank you to all those who have written something for it. The next edition is being prepared now. In March we held a soup and sweet after morning worship in the Village Hall raising £400 for Marie Curie. It was lovely to see not only Church members but lots of people from the village and surrounding area.

Another Lent Study Group was a success and then we held three Services during Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday. We had one service on Maundy Thursday where at the end of the service we left in silence and gathered at the cross outside to remember the sacrifice Jesus was making the next day. Good Friday was also very meaningful and then we had our Easter Service which was very well attended. As the school holidays did not coincide with Easter I went to the school with Pat and Lorraine on Maundy Thursday and held a short service with the children and staff. The children all received an Easter Egg.

In May we had our afternoon tea in the Church meeting room and again we had good support from near and far and with kind donations received and a top up from the Church we gave £600 to Christian Aid.

I have just come back from a lovely visit to Vienna and look forward to continuing to serve you all. I would just like to say thank you to you all for coming to the Church Sunday by Sunday where the numbers have been steady, it is a great privilege to be your Interim Moderator, and I love being with you all and enjoy the banter that takes place and the many laughs we have.

I love you all and thank you for making my time here with you so enjoyable and worthwhile.

Thank you, blessings to you all.

Sheila

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.

JULY

Sunday 6 July-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 13 July-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 20 July-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 27 July-Reverend Sheila Craggs

AUGUST

Sunday 3 August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 10 August-Worship Group

Sunday 17 August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 24 August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 31 August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7 September-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 14 September-Worship Group

Sunday 21 September-Worship Group

Sunday 28 September-Jarod Meenan

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY



The Church meeting room looked amazing having been decorated with 80th anniversary VE day banners and flags

The helpers had been getting everything ready from 10:00 am, and it was a great atmosphere, lots of laughter and togetherness.



War time songs were being played through the Church sound system from one of the helpers mobile phones.

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

The food looked sensational – The sausage rolls and cakes were supplied by Coastal Cakes and Bakes, the sandwiches were supplied by Annie's Tearoom.



12 noon arrived and the people started coming in for their food and tea/coffee. It was a steady flow right through till 2pm.



Then the clearing up started but again we all worked well and were finished by 3pm.

An amazing amount of £595 was raised in the two hours! with the church rounding up the amount to £650 which was raised for Christian Aid.



Many thanks to all the helpers. It was an amazing but tiring time. Roll on the next one !!

But most of all many, many thanks to everyone who came along and supported a very worthwhile cause.

MEET AN ELDER

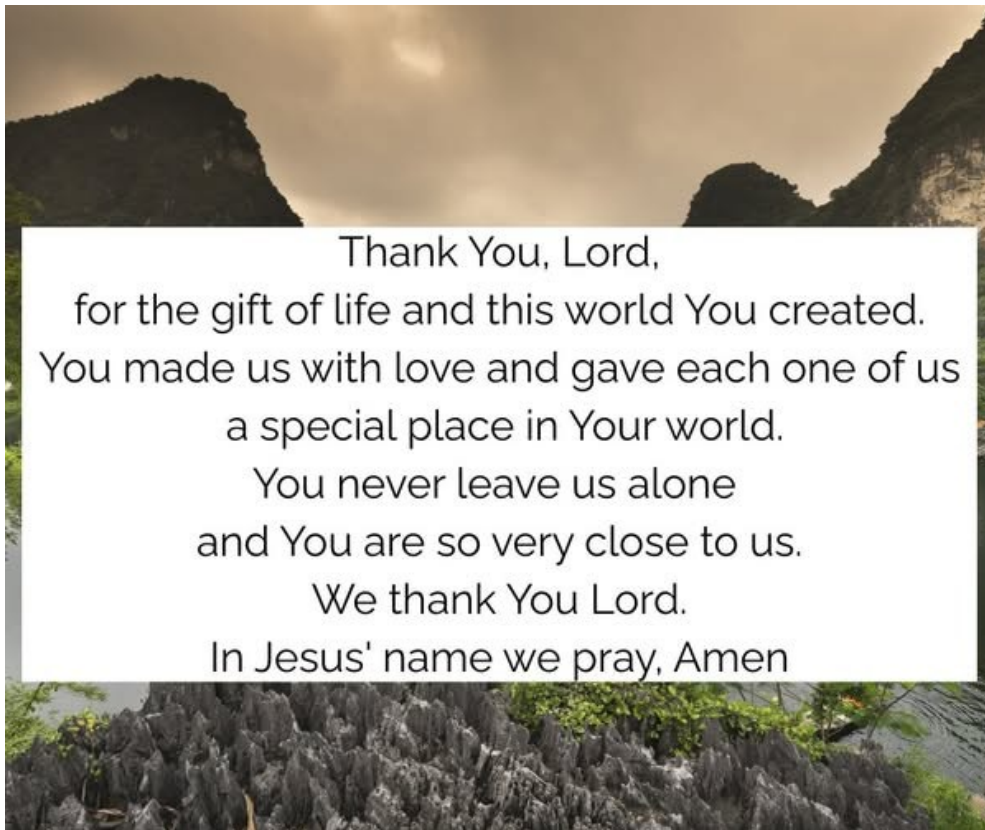


In this Newsletter we introduce our Elder and Trustee Kenny Buchan who became an Elder in January 1975, fifty years (50) years of devoted service.

After living in Keithhall and going to Keithhall school and Inverurie Academy, I left school to work on the farm. At first I farmed along with my parents and later my brother Eric.

When I first became an Elder at Keithhall, we had our own Kirk Session with meetings being held in the vestry. At that time we had a missionary in place instead of a Minister. Over the years we first became a linkage with Fintray Kinellar then a Union as we are today.

I have found it so interesting meeting so many different Ministers and readers during my time as an Elder and look forward to helping steer and support Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church as the future of our Church unfolds.



PROPERTY CONVENER

We had some truly meaningful services in Fintray Church over Holy Week with both Maundy and Good Friday evening services and of course on Easter Sunday morning. An intimate sharing of Communion at the Maundy service was very special as was the opportunity to gather below the Kinellar Cross, outside the Church, in quiet meditation on Good Friday.



But the darkness and despair of Good Friday gave way to the hope and triumph of Easter Sunday when collectively we were able to proclaim “Christ Is Risen”.



He is risen indeed!

A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

We set out to have an adventure and an adventure we certainly had!

My dearest wish was to visit my penpal Bev of more than 55 years in New Zealand. She and her family had been over here three times to visit me and my family, the first time being in 1974 so we go way back. If it hadn't been for my dear friend Jayne this wish would have remained in the "I wish I could have" regrets file – but no not a bit of it Jayne said "come on let's do it" – so we did!

Leaving a very snowy Aberdeen on January 5th at a very chilly -9 degrees we arrived in Singapore at a very hot +31 degrees! That was my first WOW moment, the place was stunning, the people friendly and we felt very safe, we spent three days in Singapore before continuing on our journey.

I couldn't believe that I was actually living my dream, seeing all the amazing sights – we of course had to do the Raffles experience while we were there – for every 25 glasses of the Singapore Sling a native tree is planted so I feel we did help a little!

On we travelled, landing in Queenstown (at the bottom of the South Island) where we picked up our hire car. I had never driven an automatic car before so that was interesting (I'm sure Jayne must have swallowed a couple of Valium before she got in the car for the first time with me driving)!

The views over Lake Wakatipu were stunning, looking over to The Remarkables (the mountain range) and they are called that because they are true North to South ranges – the only other mountains to do that are The Rockies.

One of the trips we did there was to Milford Sound – if you can imagine Temperate Rainforest, Glaciers and Fjords meeting then you get the picture – the most amazing place. They told us that the rainfall is measured in meters not in centimeters and last year they had between 7-11 meters of rainfall.

A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

We drove to Mount Cook which has such a stunning presence from the snow-covered peaks down to the striking blue of Lake Pukaki.



Next stop Christchurch where we visited the Cathedral devastated by the 2011 earthquake. It was heartbreaking to see but they do plan to rebuild it although the cost will be staggering. At Christchurch we boarded the TranzAlpine Train to take us to Greymouth. The train journey was truly spectacular. The whole five hours were spent eating and drinking and of course enjoying the scenery – lots of WOW moments experienced on the train.

Franz Josef was our next destination where we had a helicopter flight to land on the Franz Josef Glacier, flying over Mount Cook, Mount Tasman, Mount Sefton as well as flying over the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.

A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

Still travelling in the South Island but making our way to Picton to catch the ferry to Wellington – The ferry takes about three hours and it was nice and calm, it can be a bit rough and the ferry will not cross but we were lucky.

Every day is a school day! I thought Chicago was the windiest city in the world – but I now know that Wellington holds that title.

Next stop Napier – what a beautiful city it is, full of Art Deco buildings, but again Napier suffered badly when an earthquake hit in 1931, they have rebuilt and it is a lovely city. There are earthquakes every day in New Zealand, most are small but the thermal parks and springs are testament that New Zealanders are living over a very temperamental country and it could all change in a very short space of time, but it is part and parcel of their lives.



A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

Rotorua is surrounded by active volcanoes and we passed Mount Tongariro and Mount Noauruhoe in the National Park of Tongariro – you can clearly see the steam and smell the sulphur from the vents, it was all very impressive but slightly worrying. At Rotorua we experienced a traditional Hangi Feast and a Māori experience with song and dance showing us their customs and traditions. We walked through the Te Puia Thermal Reserve where the Pohutu Geyser put on a show for us in grand style.



Last stop before Auckland was Whitianga, a boat trip took us to the Cathedral Cove, we saw where Captain Cook moored his ship The Endeavor. Spectacular.

Where the dream started was now a reality, we set off to meet Bev in Auckland. Our New Zealand trip was to end with us spending a week with Bev and I worried that I wouldn't recognize her and she wouldn't recognize me (Grey haired old dear that I am!) but after 44 years she opened the door and it was just like yesterday – we picked up where we left off. Bev showed us around – she gave us a Tiki tour (sightseeing tour) and our week disappeared in a flash - Jayne and I said our farewells to New Zealand and to our good friend Bev for she enveloped Jayne in her love and friendship that I have had all these years.

New Zealand was all and more that I ever hoped and dreamed of. It is like Scotland in many ways but perhaps more peaceful, more serene and not such a hectic way of life. I suppose it has fewer people, the roads are quieter (apart from driving in Auckland which I will confess I did not do!!) but my oh my it is truly one of God's great gifts – the scenery is breathtaking, awesome and all the words you can think of and I am blessed to have been able to visit it, see it, live it and I am eternally grateful to have spent it with my dears friends who made it possible.

SPRING QUIZ ANSWERS

| | First Clue Answer | Second Clue Answer | Place Name |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| EXAMPLE | NEW | CASTLE | NEWCASTLE |
| 1 | STONE | HAVEN | STONEHAVEN |
| 2 | DRUM | CHAPEL | DRUMCHAPEL |
| 3 | BRIGHT | ON | BRIGHTON |
| 4 | BELL | FAST | BELFAST |
| 5 | BAR | ROW | BARROW |
| 6 | LIVER | POOL | LIVERPOOL |
| 7 | WIG | TON | WIGTON |
| 8 | FISH | GUARD | FISHGUARD |
| 9 | COLD | STREAM | COLDSTREAM |
| 10 | CANTER | BURY | CANTERBURY |
| 11 | COVEN | TRY | COVENTRY |
| 12 | MINE | HEAD | MINEHEAD |
| 13 | EX | MOOR | EXMOOR |
| 14 | HERE | FORD | HEREFORD |
| 15 | DUMB | FRITES | DUMFRIES |
| 16 | SWAN | SEA | SWANSEA |
| 17 | BALL | LATER | BALLLATER |
| 18 | FELIX | TOW | FELIXSTOW |
| 19 | CORE | BY | CORBY |
| 20 | GRANT | HAM | GRANTHAM |

SUMMER SUDOKU

Place each of the digits 1 to 9 in each row, column and 3x3 box. There is only one solution.

An A4 size copy can be collected from the church or downloaded from the website.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

You may not have been able to follow the Assembly online however there were a couple of things of particular interest to Fintray Kinellar Keithhall.

Report of the General Trustees-General Assembly 2025

“the levy charged on the net proceeds of the sale of buildings that are no longer required by local congregations will be increased from 10% to 15% from 1 June 2025. If approved, the change would apply to all proceeds from disposals received on or after 1 June 2025.”

In respect of the Manse then we will receive only 85% of the purchase price which funds will be available to Fintray Kinellar Keithhall.

Report of the Presbytery Review Committee

During 2026/2027 Presbyteries to be reviewed are Presbytery of Lothian and Borders and Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles.

The Main Observations and Recommendations from each review are available in the full report available from the 2025/2026 Presbytery Reviews of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery and Perth Presbytery at

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/133433/3.-Presbytery-Review-Committee.pdf.

The video of the report presentation is available at https://youtu.be/j8aTc_YPvvQ.

Mr David Inglis, Monifieth South Angus Elder (Presbytery of Fife) about 7 minutes in to the video makes interesting observations noting the “weariness and exhaustion of volunteers with continual overload of demands” and a plea for 121 to “think about what they are asking people to do”

In Fintray Kinellar Keithhall we enjoy a very dedicated congregation and team of enthusiastic volunteers and we do resonate with David Inglis observations as more demands are made of our Interim Moderator, Session Clerk, Treasurer, Property Convener and Presbytery Elder in particular.

Let us pray that 121 and Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles take heed of the messages.

SUMMER PATHFINDER

Trace a continuous path horizontally and vertically (but NOT diagonally) starting from the highlighted “P” to find all the museum related words in the grid below.

An A4 size copy can be collected from the church or downloaded from the website.

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

ANTIQUITY

GIFT SHOP

QUIET

CATALOGUE

GUIDE

RELIC

COIN

HISTORY

SHELL

CORRIDOR

LETTER

SKELETON

CURATOR

PAINTING

SOUVENIR

EXHIBIT

PHOTO

STATUE

FOSSIL

POSTCARD

TEA ROOM

GALLERY

POTTERY

TOURIST

VISITOR

SUMMER RECIPE

Who doesn't like good home cooking? Below is a recipe worth trying kindly provided by Pat Lawie.

This is a meal my family and friends love me to make for them (just ask the Session Clerk) Most of it can be prepared the evening before with just the sauce to be made before your meal is due.

Chicken Cabbana

Ingredients

1 Large chicken
1 onion
6-8ozs mushrooms
6-8ozs green seedless grapes
4-6 small tomatoes
1 large tin evaporated milk made up to 1 pint with cold water

Method

Evening before meal

Cook chicken in large saucepan, cover chicken with water and salt to taste if required. When cooked and stock is cool, take chicken out of stock (leave stock as its required for the sauce) remove all skin and shred chicken into smallish pieces. Once cold cover and put in fridge.

Chop onion and slice mushrooms – saute, place in bowl and once cold put in fridge.

Slice grapes lengthways and chop tomatoes, place in bowl, cover put in fridge.

SUMMER RECIPE

Next day

Just the sauce to make !!

Ingredients

4ozs butter

4ozs plain flour

1 pint evaporated milk

1 pint cold chicken stock (left over from boiling chicken)

Method

Melt butter, add flour

slowly mix in evaporated milk

add pint cold chicken stock

Once sauce is made add all ingredients prepared the previous evening.

Add more chicken stock if required . Season if required.

Reheat sauce stirring all the time till hot.

Serve with boiled rice.

Enjoy !!

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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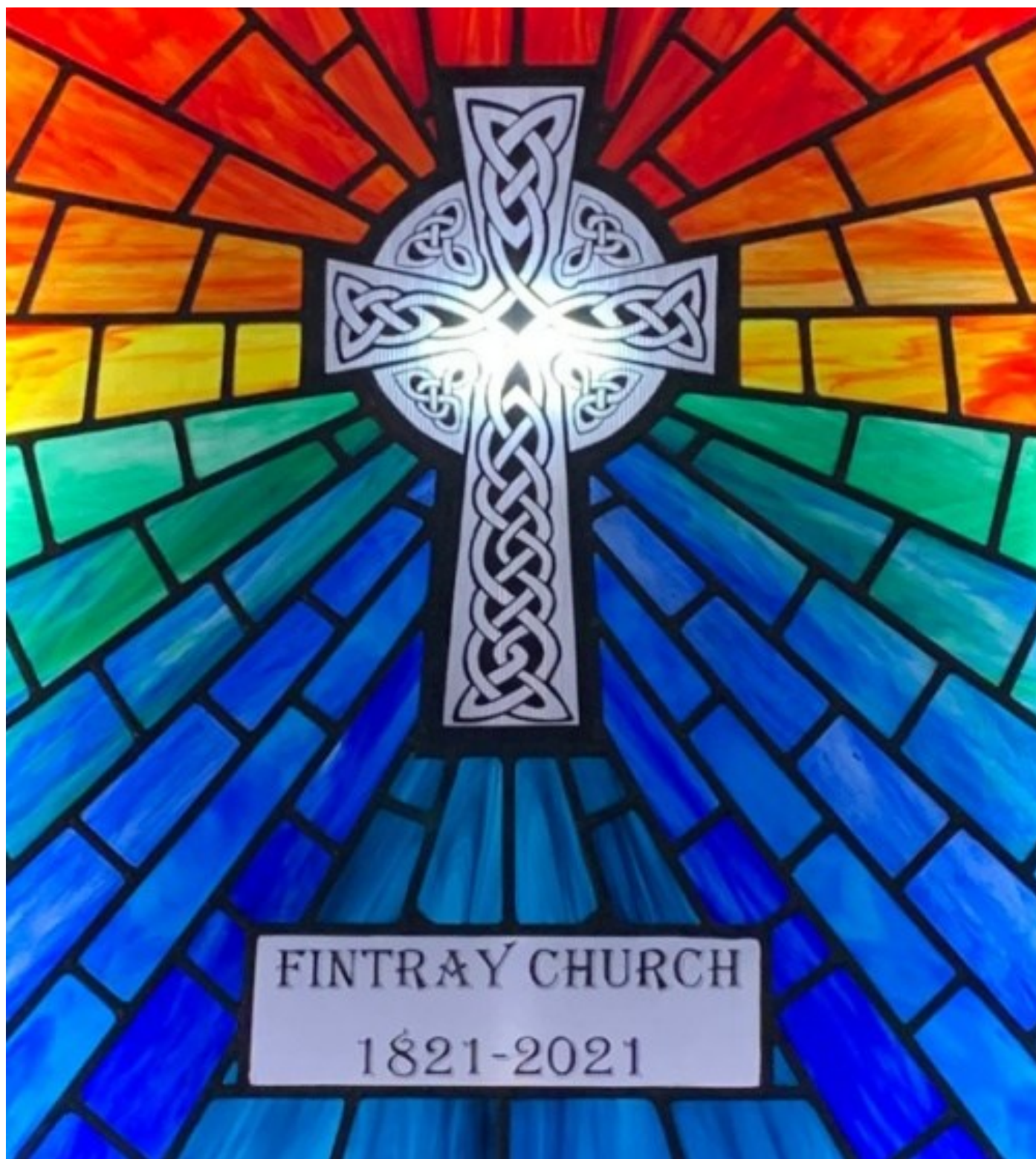
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Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church



HE IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES