Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church

AUTUMN 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Interim Moderator Direct: 01358 723055

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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.

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

NOVEMBER

Sunday 15th November Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 22nd November Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 29th November Reverend Sheila Craggs

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th December Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 13th December Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 20th December Living Nativity Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 24th December @ 4pm Christingle Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 24th December @11.30pm Watchnight Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 27th December Reverend Sheila Craggs

JANUARY 2027

Sunday 3rd January 2026 Informal Communion Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 10th January Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 17th January Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 24th January Reverend Sheila Craggs
Sunday 31st January Reverend Sheila Craggs

FROM OUR MINISTER



Our Candlelit Supper in September was a great success and enjoyed by all the folks there. We were able to make a donation of £400 to Marie Curie. We have enjoyed another lovely holiday in the sun, but when we returned home, I was immediately back in Fintray Church on the Sunday.

I am now into the full swing of things again in Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall Church. At our Remembrance Day Service, we remember those in the three church communities who served and died in the two wars. It is always a poignant service but great to keep the memory in our hearts of all men and women who served so gallantly.

As Christmas Day is on a Friday the first Sunday of Advent is on Sunday 29th November and we will have another Advent Study for four weeks beginning on Tuesday 17th November at 2:00 pm. 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 Hatton of Fintray School for their end of term service and they are coming into the Church on Friday 18th December. The children come and sing with great gusto, listen to the story of Christmas and sometimes entertain us with music played by some of the pupils. It is a lovely morning, and the children are so good.

After a successful Living Nativity last year, the Kirk Session voted to have another service this year on Sunday 20th December at 11:00 am. We extend an invitation to all to come along and share in a fun filled time. Dressing up is not mandatory so do not be put off if you would like to come.

Our Christingle service at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve will take place again and hope many families will join us to help celebrate this wonderful time of year.

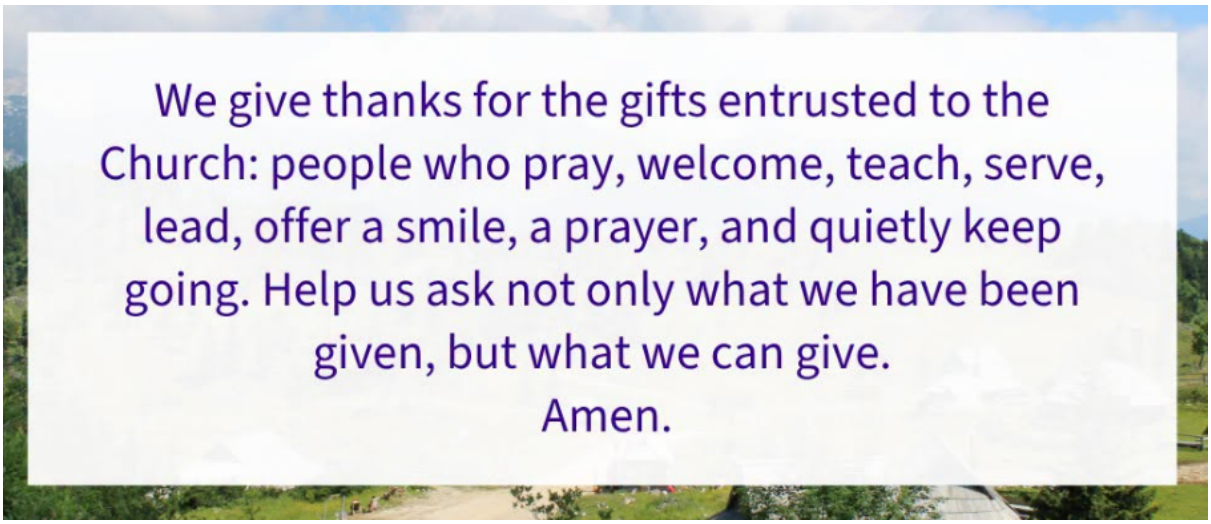
Our Watchnight Service will be at 11:30 in Fintray, and I hope many will come along to sing carols, and celebrate the coming once again of Jesus, the baby in a manger.

On 27 December we will also be holding our much loved Lessons and Carols service.

Every year I seem to say the year has gone by so quickly, but I hope when Christmas comes you will have a wonderful time with family and friends and I wish everyone health, and happiness for 2027.

Thank you, blessings to you all.

Sheila



CANDLELIT SUPPER

On Saturday 12th of September Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church held a Candlelit Supper in Fintray Village Hall. We were lucky enough to attend with some good friends to join in what was a truly lovely evening attended by about 48 diners. We arrived at a beautifully decorated hall with lots of twinkling lights strung from wall to wall, tables set with candles and flowers and an amazing array of kindly donated raffle prizes.

We all enjoyed a delicious three course meal prepared by Sheila's son-in-law Colin Cruickshank and expertly served by Jill and other members of the family. Throughout the evening, we were entertained with some "nail biting" bingo games and a general knowledge/picture quiz (some tables did better than others!!) The many raffle prizes were drawn and there were lots of lucky winners.

All in all, another great success due to the hard work of Sheila, her ever willing team (you all know who you are) and her very supportive family.

Ralph and Jenny Green, Hamish and Mo Vernal, John and Joyce Bruce







We were pleased to see so many from our congregation and the wider community come along and enjoy a splendid evening. The event raised a surplus of over £700 which will be used by our Church to give back to our Church Roll Members at Christmas.






Emergency
Exit





MEET AN ELDER-STANLEY MORRICE



I turn 64 in February, and I've been married to Evelyn for 43 years. We started dating in our very early teens, so I've known her for most of my life!

We were both born and brought up in Fraserburgh, and we moved to Fintray just over 26 years ago.

We have two sons. Craig is a qualified accountant and works as a Finance Director. He is married to Cherie, and they have two daughters, Edie (6) and Clemmie (nearly 2). Bruce is a property developer and project manager. They all live near us which is great!

My working life has been built around food and drink, mainly in retail and wholesale, and I've even built a few shops along the way. I'd describe myself as a food retailer at heart. Most recently I've worked for Wrist, the biggest supplier to ships, platforms and rigs in the world. I've held a number of roles there, and at various points I was chairman of businesses in the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Singapore, the Philippines, Panama and Denmark, sometimes all at the same time. As you can imagine, I have collected a lot of air miles!

I now work one day a week for Wrist, and I plan to retire from the business in 2028, when I turn 65. I also run a consultancy business, which takes up about another day a week.

Over the last ten years I've taken on a number of voluntary roles. I've chaired the business schools at Stirling, Aberdeen and Dundee universities. I spent seven years as Chair of the Opportunity North East Food, Drink and Agriculture Board and four as Deputy Chair of Opportunity North East, and I have recently become Chair of the organisation, following Sir Ian Wood's death. That takes up around two days a week. I also chair the regional economic partnership for Aberdeen City and Shire.



Outside work, I love cycling, my garden, and spending time with my granddaughters. I also follow football, though being a Manchester United and Aberdeen supporter hasn't brought much success over the last ten years or more. My springer spaniel, Pebbles, is nearly 14. You'll understand our relationship when I tell you my granddaughters call me "Granda Pebbles".



Evelyn and I are very fortunate to be part of the church in Fintray. When we first came, this loving group of people made us feel welcome and at home, and they still do.

We are also incredibly lucky to have Sheila as our Minister. Through her devotion, kindness and love, she is an example to us all of how a Christian life should be lived.

NEXT EVENT

Christmas Posting Latest Dates

UK CHRISTMAS LAST POSTING DATES

Friday 18th December	2nd Class / 2nd Class Signed For
Saturday 19th December	Royal Mail Tracked 48®
Monday 21st December	1st Class and Royal Mail Tracked 24®
Wednesday 23rd December	Special Delivery Guaranteed®

20 December Living Nativity

This year we will be repeating our Living Nativity at the Sunday Service on 20 December.

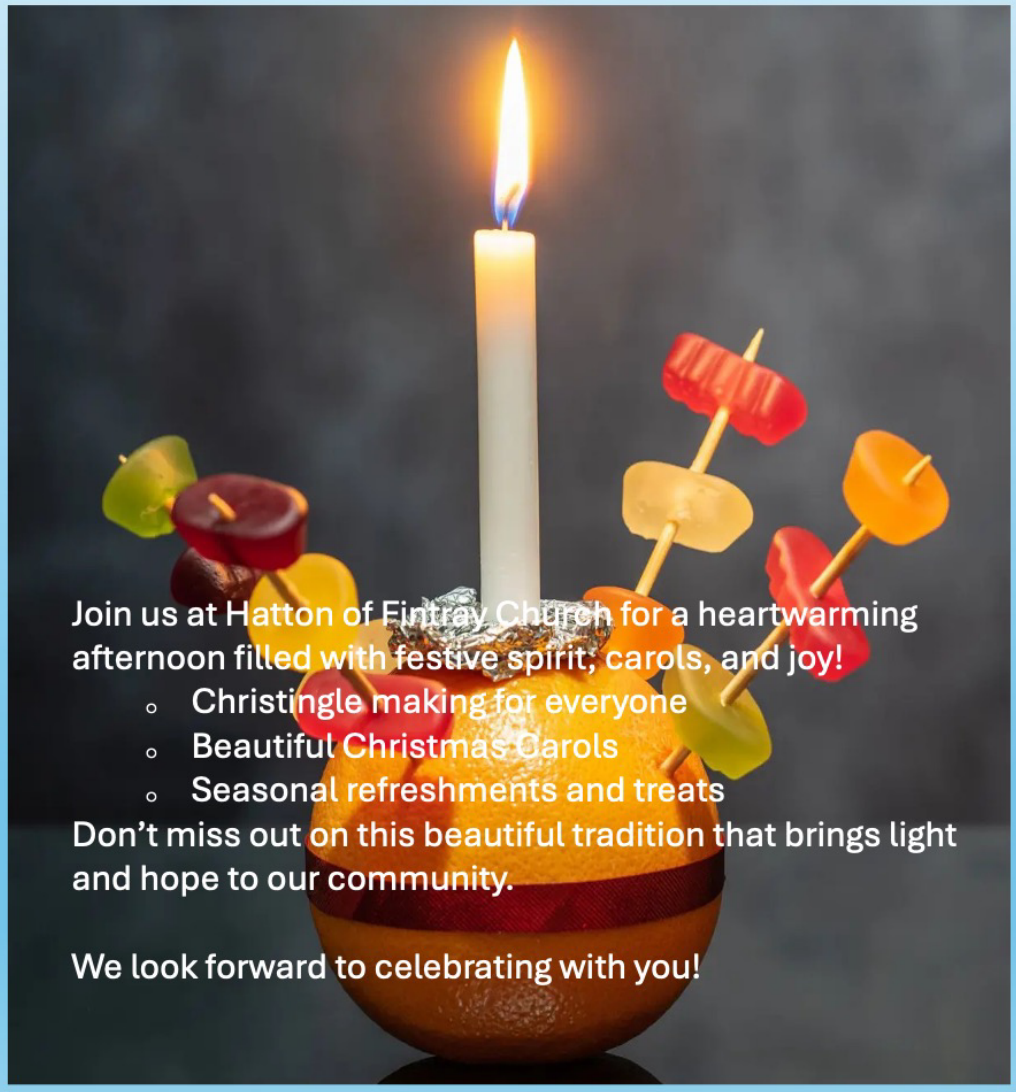


FINTRAY KINELLAR KEITHALL PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION

24 DECEMBER 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

HATTON OF FINTRAY CHURCH



THE REVEREND (AND IRREVEREND) ON HOLIDAY

After a very busy year at Fintray Kinellar Keithhall, we returned to our favourite holiday location in Portugal for two weeks for some rest and recuperation before all the preparations begin for our Advent.



It was an opportunity to visit some new places including Tavira and a visit to its old Castle, very much a shell but beautifully maintained with rich floral displays throughout the grounds. From river level, it's quite a steep path up!!



There are two churches in close proximity, one in regular use (Igreja de Santiago) and one in the process of restoration (Iglesia Principal de Santa Maria do Castelo). Both are worthy of a visit.



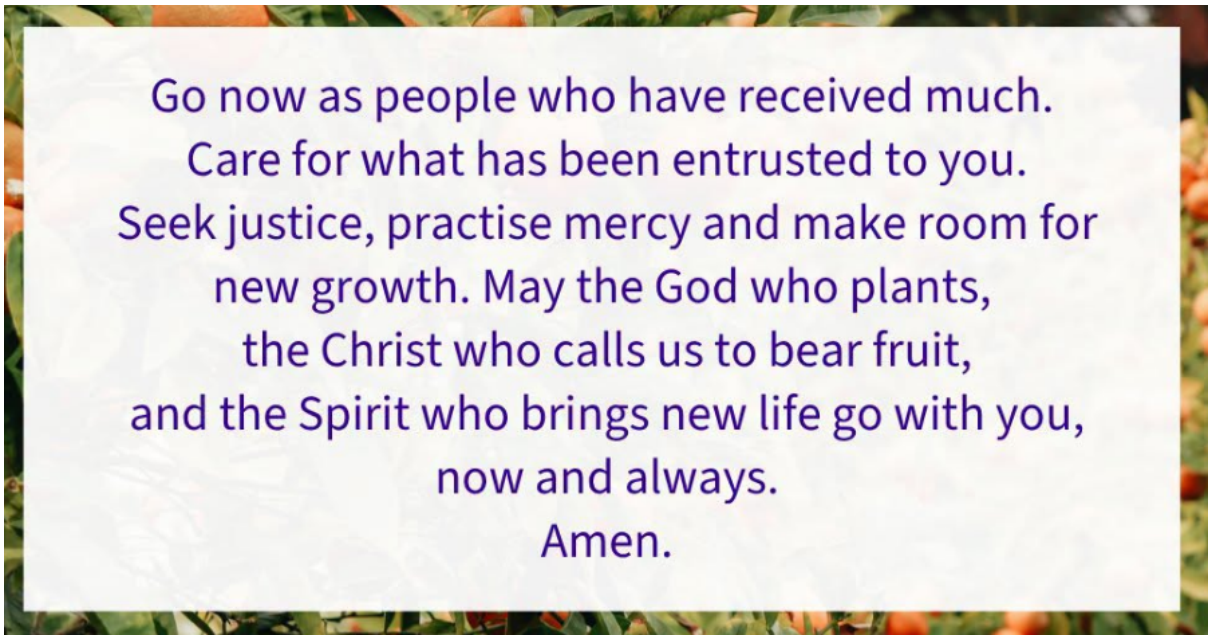








We hope you have all had an enjoyable Summer and able to join with family and friends. Now as we move into Autumn and Winter, stay warm and safe and hope to see you all at our Services.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

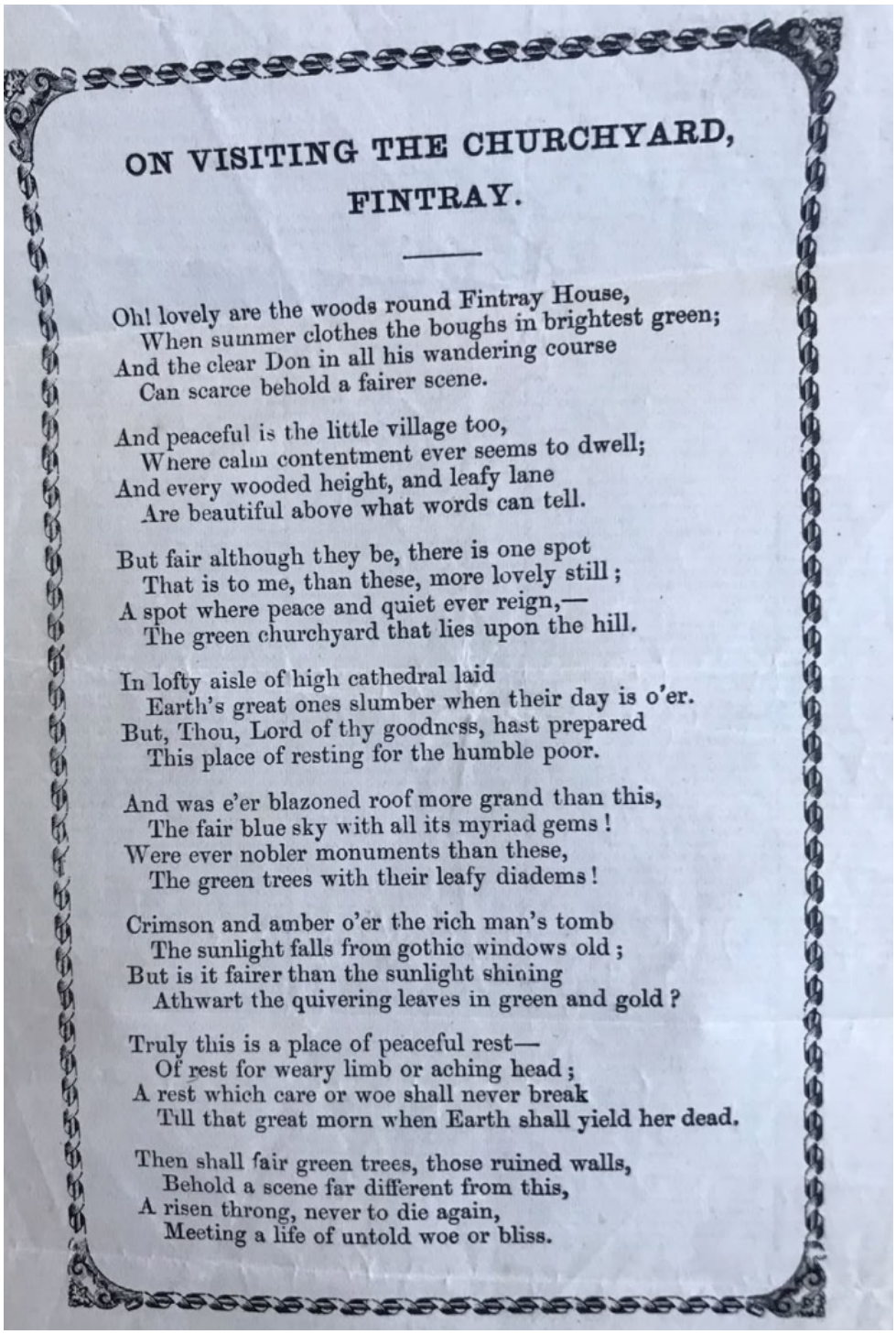
We held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 18 October 2026. Sheila Stratton beautifully decorated the chancel and entrance with fruits of the harvest.



The congregation also gave generously which collectively has enabled our Elders, Reverend Sheila and Lorraine to deliver wee parcels to those who may be in need of some support.


GOD for
HARVEST
Distinctive
Stained Glass

A POEM



ON VISITING THE CHURCHYARD, FINTRAY.

Oh! lovely are the woods round Fintray House,
When summer clothes the boughs in brightest green;
And the clear Don in all his wandering course
Can scarce behold a fairer scene.

And peaceful is the little village too,
Where calm contentment ever seems to dwell;
And every wooded height, and leafy lane
Are beautiful above what words can tell.

But fair although they be, there is one spot
That is to me, than these, more lovely still;
A spot where peace and quiet ever reign,—
The green churchyard that lies upon the hill.

In lofty aisle of high cathedral laid
Earth's great ones slumber when their day is o'er.
But, Thou, Lord of thy goodness, hast prepared
This place of resting for the humble poor.

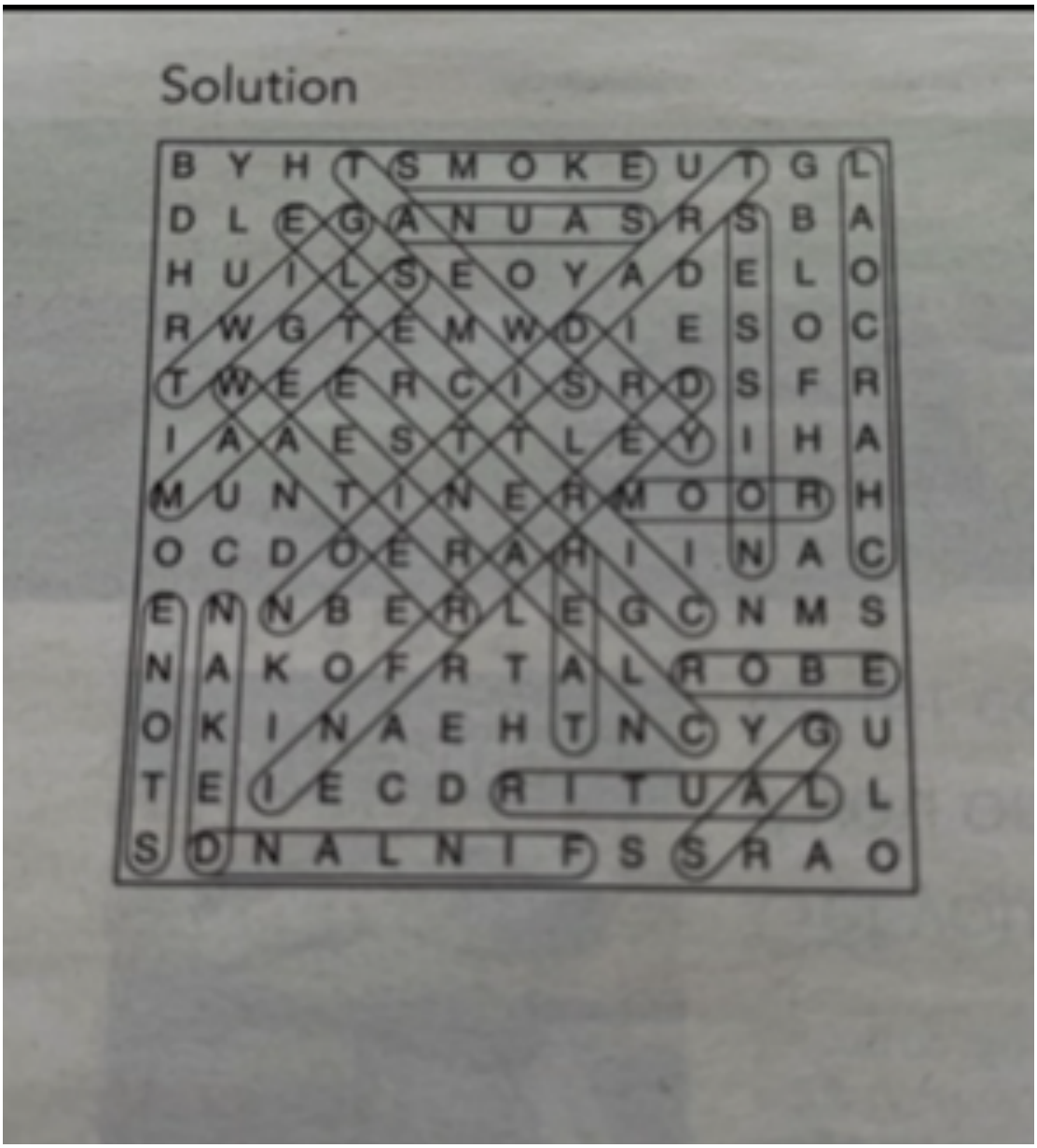
And was e'er blazoned roof more grand than this,
The fair blue sky with all its myriad gems!
Were ever nobler monuments than these,
The green trees with their leafy diadems!

Crimson and amber o'er the rich man's tomb
The sunlight falls from gothic windows old;
But is it fairer than the sunlight shining
Athwart the quivering leaves in green and gold?

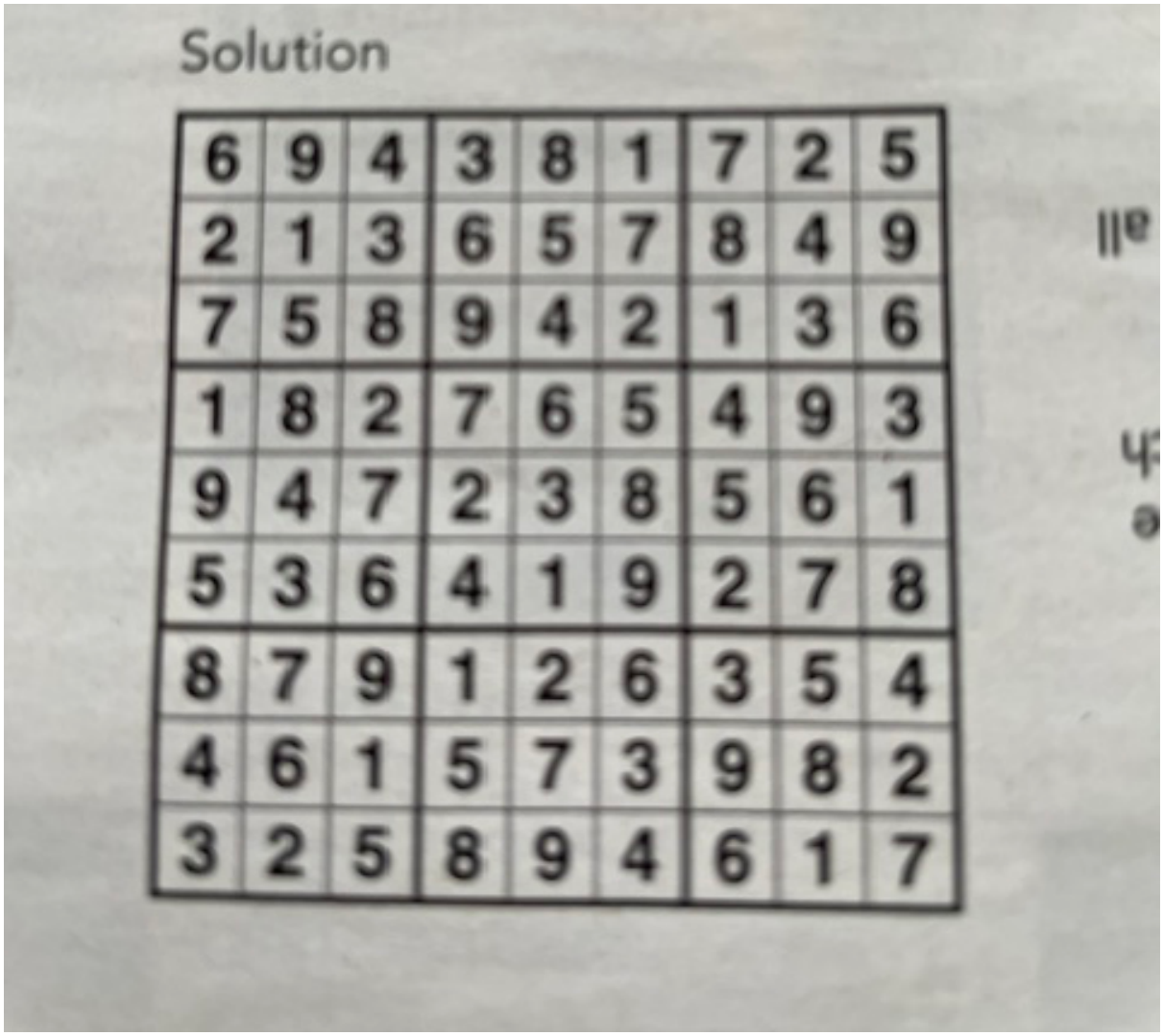
Truly this is a place of peaceful rest—
Of rest for weary limb or aching head;
A rest which care or woe shall never break
Till that great morn when Earth shall yield her dead.

Then shall fair green trees, those ruined walls,
Behold a scene far different from this,
A risen throng, never to die again,
Meeting a life of untold woe or bliss.

SUMMER SAUNA PUZZLE ANSWER



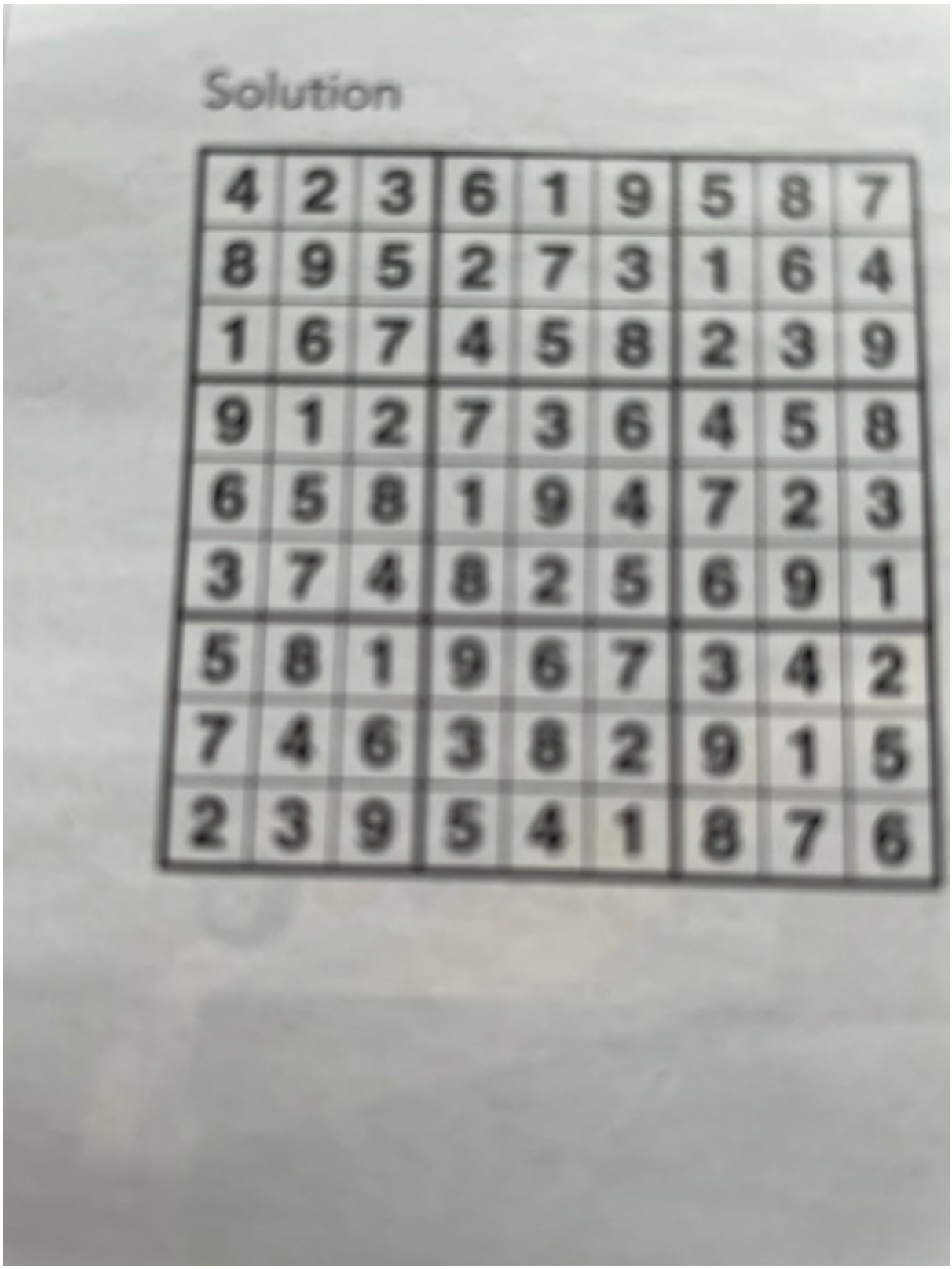
SUMMER SUDOKU PUZZLE ONE ANSWER



Solution

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

SUMMER SUDOKU PUZZLE TWO ANSWER



Solution

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

AUTUMN PUZZLE

There's a HIDDEN PHRASE in Column 1

Did you know that despite its popularity today Moby-Dick (Clue 1) was originally something of a failure and sold fewer than 4,000 copies during its author's lifetime.

		1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*
1	Moby-Dick author Herman							L	
2	Questionable			G					
3	Surgical cut			C					
4	Eleventh month								
5	Three-sided shape								
6	Obvious				A				
7	Created								
8	Rough pad of paper						O		
9	Unlucky number								
10	Luckless, unlikely to succeed			P					
11	Raised, lifted				V				
12	Outgoings, exchanging cash					D			
13	The day after today								
14	Suddenly, without warning					P			
15	Agricultural vehicles								
16	Rain shade								
17	Cutting tool				S	S			
18	Arguments								
19	On the floor above		P						
20	Points of view						O		

AUTUMN RECIPE

Wheat-Free Raisin Muffins (Makes 12)

These are ideal for anyone intolerant to wheat, as they contain only rice flour,

oatmeal and coconut. They are so utterly delicious - light, crumbly, almost

crunchy - that I highly recommend them for everyone.

Warm, just out of the oven, they make the most wonderful breakfast treat.

Place 12 paper bur/muffin cases in a bun tray. Preheat the oven to 190°C.

Combine the first eight ingredients in a bowl.

Mix the next four ingredients in a jug, then pour into the bowl, stirring gently.

Stir very briefly to mix, then, once combined, fill the cases in the bun tray.

Bake for 20 minutes until risen and golden.

1) 150g rice flour (ground rice)
2) 70 g medium oatmeal
3) 1½ tsp baking powder
4) ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
5) 50g desiccated coconut
6) 70g light muscovado sugar
7) 100g raisins
8) grated zest of 1 lemon
9) 2 tbsp lemon juice (approximately juice of 1 lemon)
10) 75ml sunflower oil
11) 100ml milk
12) 1 egg

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Interim Moderator

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NOTEPAD

Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church



HE IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES