



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church

Spring 2026

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Email: fintraykkchurch@outlook.com
Telephones:
Interim Moderator Direct: 01358 723055
Church: 01224 460056 (Answer Phone only)
Website: : fintraykinellarkeithhall.com

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.

MARCH

- 1 March - Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 8 March - Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 15 March - Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 22 March - Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 29 March - Reverend Sheila Craggs

APRIL

- 2 April-Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 3 April-Good Friday 7:00 PM Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 5 April- Easter Sunday Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 12 April-Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 19 April-Reverend Sheila Craggs
- 26 April-Reverend Sheila Craggs

OUR MINISTER



On Thursday 18th December the children from Hatton of Fintray School came to the church for their Christmas Service for the end of term. It was a joy having the children singing beautifully and they certainly engaged in the story which I told them. They were given a selection box as a gift from the Church and as a thank you for coming to share their time with us.

We had wonderful Christmas Services leading up to Christmas Day.

On Sunday 21st December the service was a Living Nativity with members of the Session and congregation taking part. We had three lovely Shepherds sporting beards and carrying crooks as well as being dressed up. The Three Wise Men or Kings wore cloaks and had crowns on their heads, and they came with their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Francesca and Stuart two children from our congregation took on the roles of Mary and Joseph and when the baby Jesus was born, he was dropped into the manger rather than laid but it caused a laugh from the congregation and added to the joy of the nativity. We had a good congregation sharing in that special day which was lovely.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm we had our Christingle Service, and the church was filled with about a hundred and fifty people made up from Mums and dads, with their children, grandparents and friends. We had a great time constructing the Christingles and the glow from the candles when the lights were switched off was magical.

The Watchnight service was the first one I had taken in Fintray Church, and it was well attended and a lovely welcome to Jesus at Midnight with lots of well-known carols to add to the occasion.

Christmas Day for me was celebrating with my family and it was a special day and a happy and fun filled day.

New year came in and before we knew what was happening, we were all snowed in and trying to get out of our streets was impossible. We had to cancel the first two Sundays of January for the safety of the members of the congregation. However, we are back to normal and set for many more services together.

OUR MINISTER

A Lent Study with several congregation members coming along is taking us on our journey towards Easter where we will celebrate communion on Maundy Thursday followed by a service on Good Friday and then we will celebrate Easter Sunday remembering Christ rising victorious for us all.

Thank you, blessings to you all.

Sheila



Transfiguring God,
before Your Son suffered on the cross
You revealed His true glory on the holy mountain.
May we be strengthened to bear the cross,
that we may reflect
His glory to the world around.

WE ARE OPEN

Many of our congregation and friends throughout the community will be aware that our Church at Hatton of Fintray was earmarked for closure in 2027 as a result of a Church of Scotland/Presbytery assessment in 2022.

Our congregation and community involvement and support has grown through the dedication of the Kirk Session since 2022 with new members, new Elders, increase in school chaplaincy, increased congregational attendance, community events, etc which has been recognised and acknowledged within Presbytery and the wider church family.

As a result of positive and supportive discussions with Presbytery, we are happy to let everyone know that our Hatton of Fintray Church will remain open for the foreseeable future (beyond 2027) as we continue to grow.

We thank you all for your continued support and look forward to seeing you all at our Services and community events.

You can follow us on Facebook and/or our website and keep up to date with Services and community events which will be held by the Kirk Session.



CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLE EAST

On 23rd December my husband, Sandy, and I flew off for Abu Dhabi to spend Christmas with our Son John as he lives and works there.

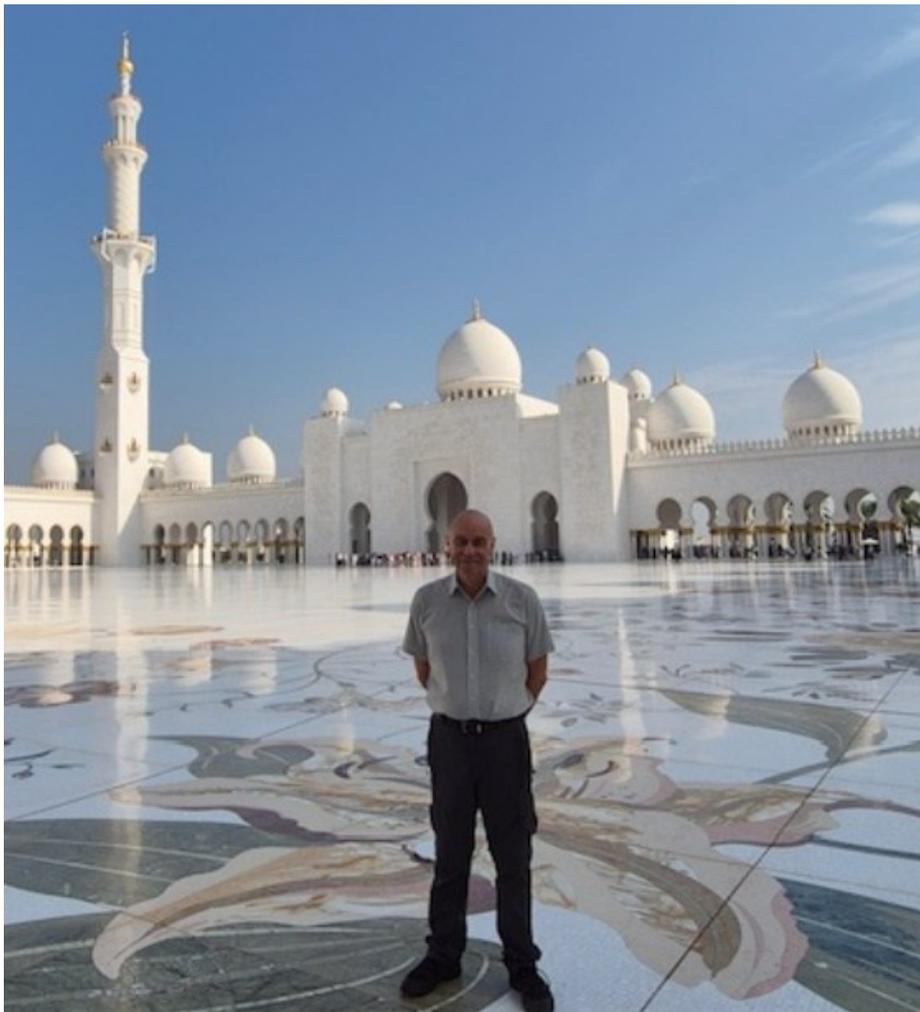
It was a very different experience celebrating Christmas wearing Summer clothes! Christmas morning we drove to a mountain resort in Dubai where we met John 's girlfriend for the first time. Our Christmas meal was an outdoor buffet. Amongst the many options was Octopus which I'm afraid none of us was brave enough to sample. We were entertained with Christmas Carols and Santa made a surprise visit on his way home.

Next day we challenged each other at archery which was great fun and very competitive. All I'm going to say is Sandy has decided he'll stick to driving tractors! Before heading back to Abu Dhabi we visited a Honey Bee Garden, another first for us also a Dam with spectacular views.



CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLE EAST

On Saturday we headed off to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque which is the most amazing building. Adorning ourselves with the appropriate dress code (arms and legs must be covered and ladies has to cover their heads) we joined the many sightseers. The first thing that hits you is the vast size of the courtyards and stunning chandeliers. Though it was very busy with visitors there was a sense of calm, peace and unity. If you ever get the chance to visit Abu Dhabi the Grand Mosque is a MUST and it's free entry.



Our last day came around all too quickly and how better to finish off our holiday with a Sunday Roast in a restaurant overlooking the Marina with the Mosque in the distance.

After a busy time leading up to Christmas it was lovely to spend a relaxing week with John and getting to know his girlfriend. Going for coffee and lunch, sitting outside (average temp 23 degrees) chatting and simply watching many different nationalities going about their daily business. Abu Dhabi is a very clean, friendly Emirate and apparently one of the safest places to be.

It was a shock to the system only a few days after arriving back I went from shorts and T-shirts to Winter woolies and sledging.

MEET AN ELDER-INGRID BAKER



I joined Hatton of Fintray church in 2021 and became an Elder not long after in 2022 and haven't looked back since! We are a happy team; more like a family. I am proud to say I play a small part in the family team.

I am an Orkney girl through and through though I left there when I was 21 and that was a loooooong time ago. I still have my accent! I am married to Nigel, an Englishman, and we have two daughters, Samantha (30 in June) and Kayleigh (28 in April). We

moved to Beijing in 2002 and to say this was a culture shock is an understatement. I thought moving from Orkney to Aberdeen was a stretch but Aberdeen to Beijing was indescribable. However, expat life came to be our norm for many years. Nigel works for BP and his work took us to Beijing in China, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Jakarta, Indonesia and finally Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago. After almost 18 years of international travel, I returned to our home in Hatton of Fintray whilst Nigel rotated in and out of Algiers in Algeria. He is now based in Dyce, still with BP all these 37 years later. Samantha flew the nest when we were still in Trinidad. She went to the University of St Andrews and she now lives in London where she works as a Senior Governance Officer with the British Council, a job she loves. Kayleigh had to finish her schooling in St Leonards Boarding School in St Andrews and subsequently went on to study at the University of Bath. She now lives in Bristol. We miss both our girls but talk every day, thank goodness for Facetime!

During our travels we adopted 2 rescue dogs who have made it all the way back to Fintray. Chloe is now almost 17 and she originally came from a shelter in Jakarta. Clicquot hails from the Caribbean and is 14 years old. Though from separate continents, both our dogs look very similar! Anyone who has seen our dogs cannot believe they are not sisters!

After so many years of travel and trying to negotiate reverse culture shock alongside becoming an empty nester whilst my husband still worked away from home, I suffered a nervous breakdown/mental health crisis not long after we repatriated and God's hand was truly upon me. He led me to FKK church as my strength returned and the Session and the congregation have been key in both my recovery and my sustained health. FKK is truly a wonderful church family which I am blessed to be a part of.

LIVING NATIVITY

On Sunday 21st December we held a Living Nativity service in Hatton of Fintray Church. It was a glorious service where all the elders donned their costumes and acted out the Nativity story, narrated by our minister Reverend Sheila Craggs. Francesca and Stuart played their roles of Mary and Joseph.

Although we laughed about the props (mainly the itchy beards!! and how regal the Kings thought they were) when the service began it truly came to life.

The Innkeeper, ably acted by Sandy Montgomery was amusing but also it told the story in a real way.

Mary needs a wee bit of post-natal instruction, as baby Jesus had a rocky placement into the manger, but no babies were injured in the story.



It was heart warming to see how many were in the congregation to witness our interpretation of the birth of Jesus and the hope yet to come.

Yes, we had fun taking part, but it also shows how strong our Church family is together and how we will continue for as long as we are able. So yes, HOPE is growing and thriving in Fintray and yes, we will continue to do the best we can to follow Jesus's message. It will not be easy, it will not be straightforward but if we work together, we will go forward in faith as a Living Church .

LIVING NATIVITY



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

At our popular Christingle Service, the church was filled with about a hundred and fifty people made up from Mums and dads, with their children, grandparents and friends. A few photographs which record the magical event. We look forward to seeing you at our 2026 Christingle and indeed any of our regular Sunday Services and special services as we approach Easter.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

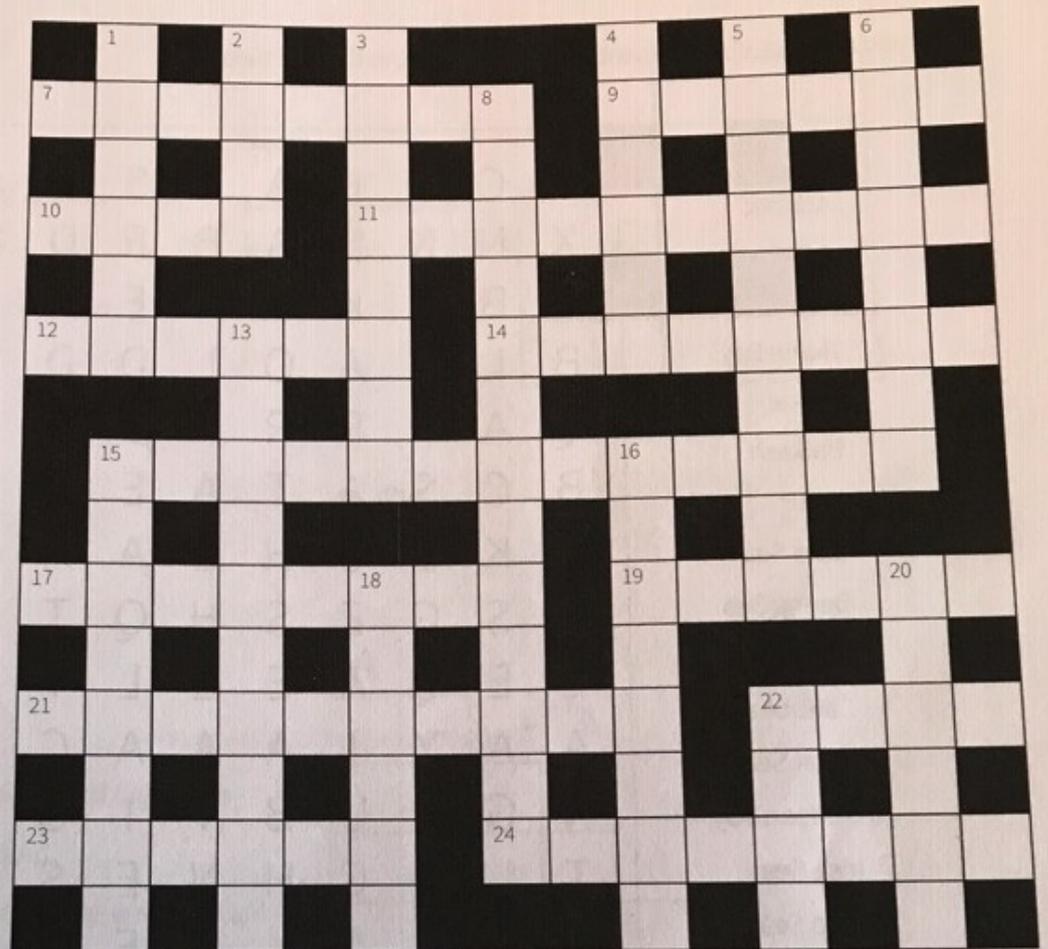


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

9

Across

7. Melt away (8)
 9. Seats (6)
 10. Notion (4)
 11. Unmoving (10)
 12. Area (6)
 14. Set free (8)
 15. Music for a singer (13)
 17. Menace, intimidate (8)
 19. Refuses to allow (6)
 21. Printed journals (10)
 22. Finishes (4)
 23. Send a message (6)
 24. As a baby starting to bite (8)



Down

1. Violin (6)
 2. Largest continent (4)
 3. Metal used to make kitchen foil (8)
 4. Educational establishment (6)
 5. A national political body (10)
 6. Search for gold (8)
 8. Amusement (13)
 13. Growing, enlarging (10)
 15. Sporty (8)
 16. Put money into a business (8)
 18. Paths (6)
 20. Conclusion to a film or story (6)
 22. Reverberating noise (4)

OCEANS PUZZLE

10

See if you can find all these lakes, seas, and oceans in the grid below.

Adriatic

Aral Sea

Atlantic

Baffin Bay

Baikal

Balkash

Baltic

Bass Sea

Bering Sea

Black Sea

Caribbean

Coral Sea

Hudson Bay

Irish Sea

Kara Sea

Lake Chad

Lake Ladoga

Loch Ness

North Sea

Pacific

Red Sea

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

SPRING RECIPE

LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE

175 gms C. Sugar

175 gms Marg

175 gms S.R. Flour

3 eggs

Zest of 1 large or 2 small lemons

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspn Baking powder

Put everything into mixing bowl and beat together well. Spoon into a 2lb loaf tin and bake in 160 degree fan assisted oven for 45 minutes.

TOPPING

2 tablespns Gran. Sugar

Juice of 1 lemon

While cake is still warm prick all over with skewer and spoon topping evenly.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Interim Moderator

Reverend Sheila Craggs

Email: sacraggs@outlook.com

Telephone: 01358 723055

Or

Mobile:- 07884 264724

Session Clerk

Mrs. Lorraine Forbes

Email: claiikers@gmail.com

Telephone:- 01358 511624

Or

Mobile: 07944 248580

Finance

Mrs Linda Watson

Email: fintraykkchurch@outlook.com

Mobile: 07402 404090

Property

Mr. Stanley Morrice

Email: Stanley.morrice@btopenworld.com

Mobile: 07730 925480

PRAYERS



Lord God, for all the times we fail to listen
to Your voice and Your call,
for the faith we lack and the blessings
we ignore or refuse,
and for all the pain we cause to
others by disowning our vulnerability,
we are sorry Lord.
We celebrate Your forgiveness today.
Amen.



Loving God, You have always led Your people
to places where they can hear Your voice,
speak Lord, and help us to listen.
You ask nothing of us, but faith and
openness to You,
help us to follow You in trust.
Amen.

PRAYERS



Loving God, may we discern what will help and what will harm, empowered to nurture and not neglect. Help us to live as Your people, choosing to turn toward love each and every day. Amen.

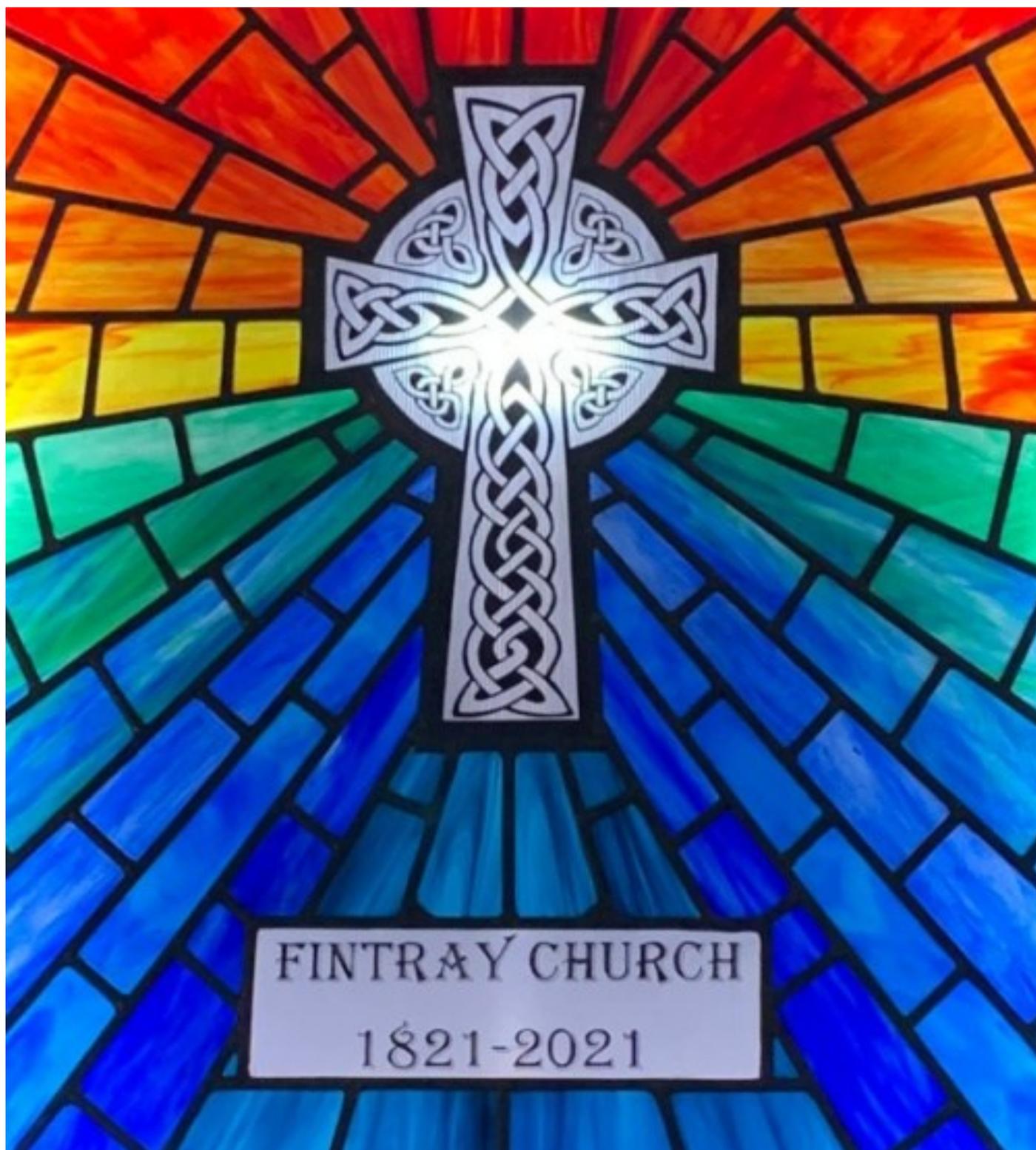


Tender God, Your love is unconditional. Wider, deeper and truer than we can ever fully know. For those of us who find it hard to accept ourselves, hear our prayer. Amen.

NOTE PAD



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church



HE IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES