

Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Interim Moderator Direct: 01358 723055

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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.

JULY

26 July - Reverend Sheila Craggs

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 9th August-Songs of Praise Worship Group

Sunday 16th August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 23rd August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 30th August-Reverend Sheila Craggs

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th September-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 13th September-Reverend Sheila Craggs

Sunday 20th September-Rev J Meenan

Sunday 27th September-Worship Group

FROM OUR MINISTER



The year is slipping by and many of you will be going off on holiday or have been away and enjoyed your holiday. I have just returned from Portugal where I had a lovely time with my husband, daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters. It was very hot but gave me chance to relax and rest after a busy first half of the year.

In February we had a visit from Tony Stephen a convenor from NENI Presbytery and after a lot of good discussion he gave the go ahead for the church in Fintray to remain open.

Two new elders Mrs. Sheila Stratton and Mr. Stanley Morrice have joined the Session and they are both a great asset and serve the congregation well. We had a Lent study which was enjoyed by those who came along. Easter services were on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I felt it was a very meaningful time, and it was lovely to share it with many of the congregation.

In May we held an afternoon tea for Christian Aid and everyone who came enjoyed the food and the chatter with those around them. A good day and a good sum of money given to Christian Aid. The meeting room was decorated for the occasion and looked very welcoming.

I was invited along to Hatton of Fintray School end of term service, and it was a fantastic time with lots of children showing their wonderful talents. Thank you for my invitation and for asking me to give out the books to those moving on to Secondary Education.

The Sunday I was away the church had a Songs of Praise which was well attended. Thanks go to Lorraine, the Session Clerk who led the service and was ably supported by Linda and Jayne. I think everyone enjoyed singing the hymns that had been chosen.

In September on Saturday 12th, we are holding a Candlelit Supper in the village hall. Tickets will be £30 per head for a three-course meal. Tea, coffee and shortbread. Tickets are on sale and we will be asking you to

state what you would like to eat when we have the menu in place. I hope you will support this venture which was thoroughly enjoyed the last time. This event is open to anyone who would like a lovely evening. You can contact myself or the Session Clerk, Lorraine.

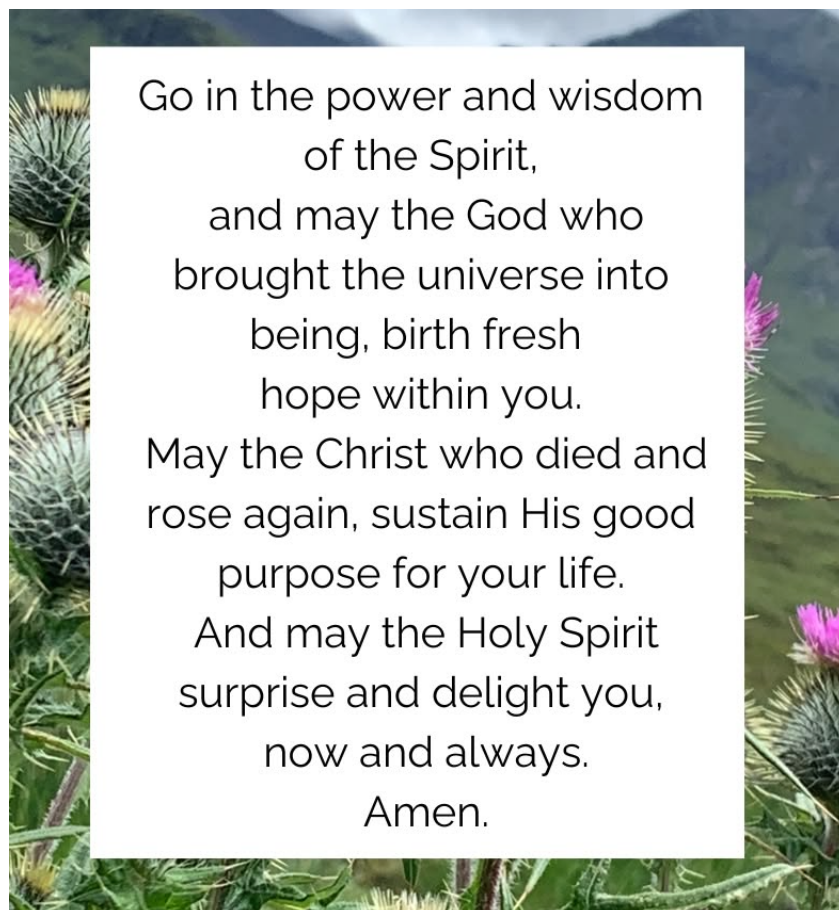
It is wonderful to see the Church growing and people looking to join this congregation. It is a joy for me to come Sunday by Sunday and be so well supported. I love coming and love seeing the well kent faces as well as new ones.

I hope I can continue for many years to come and serve God as best as I can with all of you with me. Thank you. I love you all.

I thank the Session for their support and look forward to many more session meetings in the future. Keep up the good work in God's name.

Thank you, blessings to you all.

Sheila



A VISIT TO FINGAL

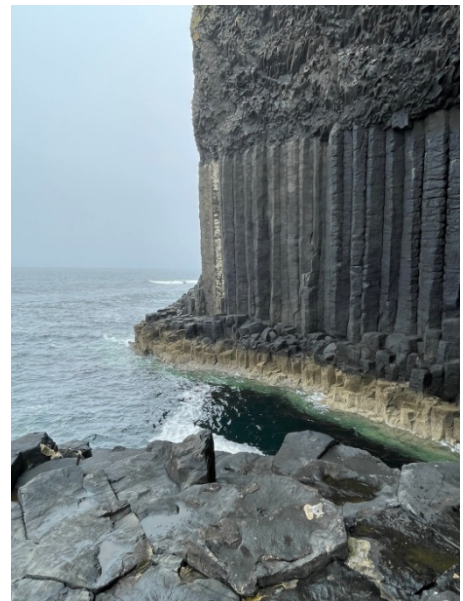
In June Jayne and I spent a few days in Oban and Mull, seeing as much of the sights as we could see. The weather on the whole was kind to us when we were there.

One of the highlights was a trip to Staffa Island to visit Fingal's Cave. Legend has it that the giant Finn built a causeway from Northern Ireland to Scotland, but academics tell us that Staffa was a volcanic island and 60 million years ago it was formed by volcanic action cooling the lava into hexagonal Basalt stacks – you will see similar rock formations at the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. When the Vikings came a calling beside Staffa they called them stacks or staves (Stafr in Old Norse) hence the name Staffa.

We drove to Fionnphort, which was about 38 miles from our hotel which doesn't sound a lot but when I explain it was mostly single-track roads with passing places for when you met double-decker buses and big lorries, round blind bends and over blind summits you will understand that Jayne deserved a medal!! Once safely at Fionnphort we boarded a wee boat that took us to Staffa.



The first sighting of Staffa is a dramatic cliff face where you see folk walking on a narrow ledge – I



was thinking to myself that's looks a bit hairy! But it wasn't long after landing on the little jetty that I was doing exactly the same thing! Some bits were wide, some bits were narrow, but all bits were very uneven, and I would have to say a little bit dangerous (especially if it had been raining which fortunately it was

not). Some bits had handrails, some bits had not, and if you met someone coming back in the opposite direction you had to breathe in and cling to the rock like a limpet!

Was it worth it I hear you ask – very much so. It was amazing, the cave itself is 150 feet long, 46 feet wide and 72 feet high, the acoustics are something to behold and has inspired many musicians and authors to produced wonderful work.



Felix Mendelssohn visited the cave in 1829, and it is said that he was inspired by the weird echoes to write “The Hebrides” also known as “Fingal’s Cave Overture”.

The author Jules Verne visited Fingal’s Cave and mentions it in his novels “Journey to the center of the Earth” and “The mysterious Island”.

The Alistair Maclean novel-

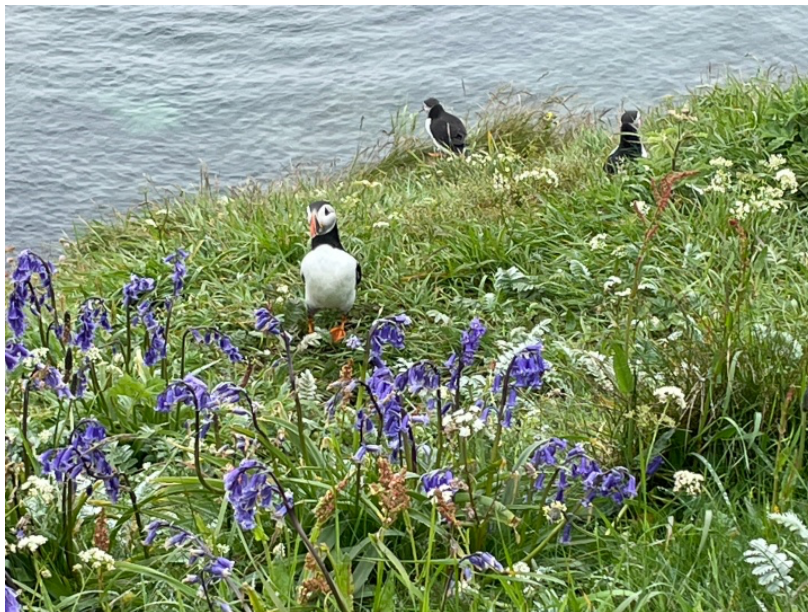
based film “When Eight Bells Toll” starring Anthony Hopkins was filmed on Staffa.

Staffa may be an uninhabited island, it may be small, but it is awesome. In Gaelic it is called An Uamh Binn or The Cave of Music, I think that is a fitting name for this small and perfectly formed phenomenon.

To finish off that wonderful trip we took a walk up to the top of the island and saw the puffins – they were fantastic. I loved them, they are like little old men with their waistcoats on. We were told the puffins like the visitors as the visitors protect the wee puffins from the horrible vicious Skuas! We aim to please Mr. Puffin – it was.



Indeed, our pleasure. What a fantastic day we had, and I know I have said it before but I’ll say it again – Isn’t nature wonderful, we are so very lucky.



MEET AN ELDER-SHEILA STRATTON



Hi, my name is Sheila Stratton. I am from a farming background, spending my first 4 years on a croft at Mintlaw then moving to a farm at Midmar for 17 years. On leaving school I went into office work in a Dairy Equipment firm then moved onto the Civil Service.

At 17, along with my cousin, we joined the Aberdeen Young

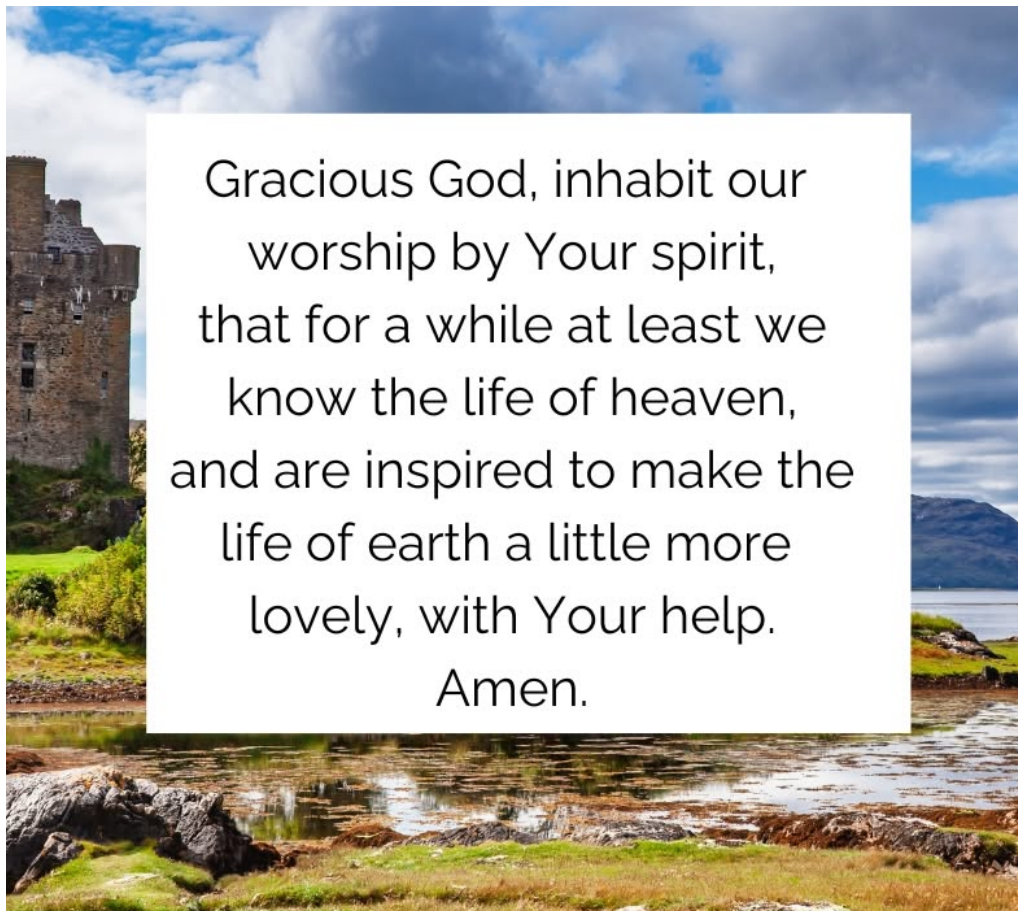
Farmers Club. It was great fun. We had so many opportunities to try something new and make new friends. Summer time was the best as there were barn dances and show marquees galore. A highlight every year was the Young Farmers Rally where you competed against other clubs with various sports, baking, sewing etc. Lots of 'friendly' rivalry and of course finishing off with a dance.

I married Sandy and lived on a farm near Dyce directly across the River Don from where we are now. We lived there for 35 years and in 2019 we moved across the River to Logie Farm, Cothal. Always keen to lend a hand outside with Sandy I enjoy working with the cattle, though I have to admit I'm always first over the gate at the first sign of trouble! Nineteen years ago I joined Girlguiding and have thoroughly enjoyed being a Rainbow Leader ever since.

We have 3 of a family. Our Daughter and oldest Son are both in farming and our youngest Son lives and works in Abu Dhabi. Our 4 Grandchildren are always a delight and great fun to be around.

Sandy's family goes back over 200 years in the Parish of Fintray. Four generations have farmed at Logie dating back to 1928. Before that, previous generations have lived and worked at Cowstones, Gardenshillock, Cairnie and Bogriefie. The family tree can be traced back to a baptism in Fintray Parish Church in 25.09.1824. I remember 40 years ago coming to Fintray kirk with my Mother-in-Law (Elsie Stratton) and sitting upstairs in the family pew. Sandy and I both have ancestors buried in the old Fintray graveyard.

Hope you've enjoyed my brief history.



CHRISTIAN AID AFTERNOON TEA

Our Church continued its long-standing support for Christian Aid, holding its Afternoon Tea on 16 May, raising a magnificent sum in excess of £460 in donations.

Our thanks to all our friends within the Church and wider community and our willing helpers who organised and ran the event.
Very much appreciated.





NEXT EVENT

We will be having our immensely popular Candlelit Supper made possible by the ever supportive Jill and Colin Cruickshank and family.

Tickets are on sale and can be bought after our regular Sunday Church service or by contacting Reverend Sheila (01358 723055/07884 264724) or Lorraine (01358 511624/07944 248580).

Tickets go fast so highly recommend early purchase.

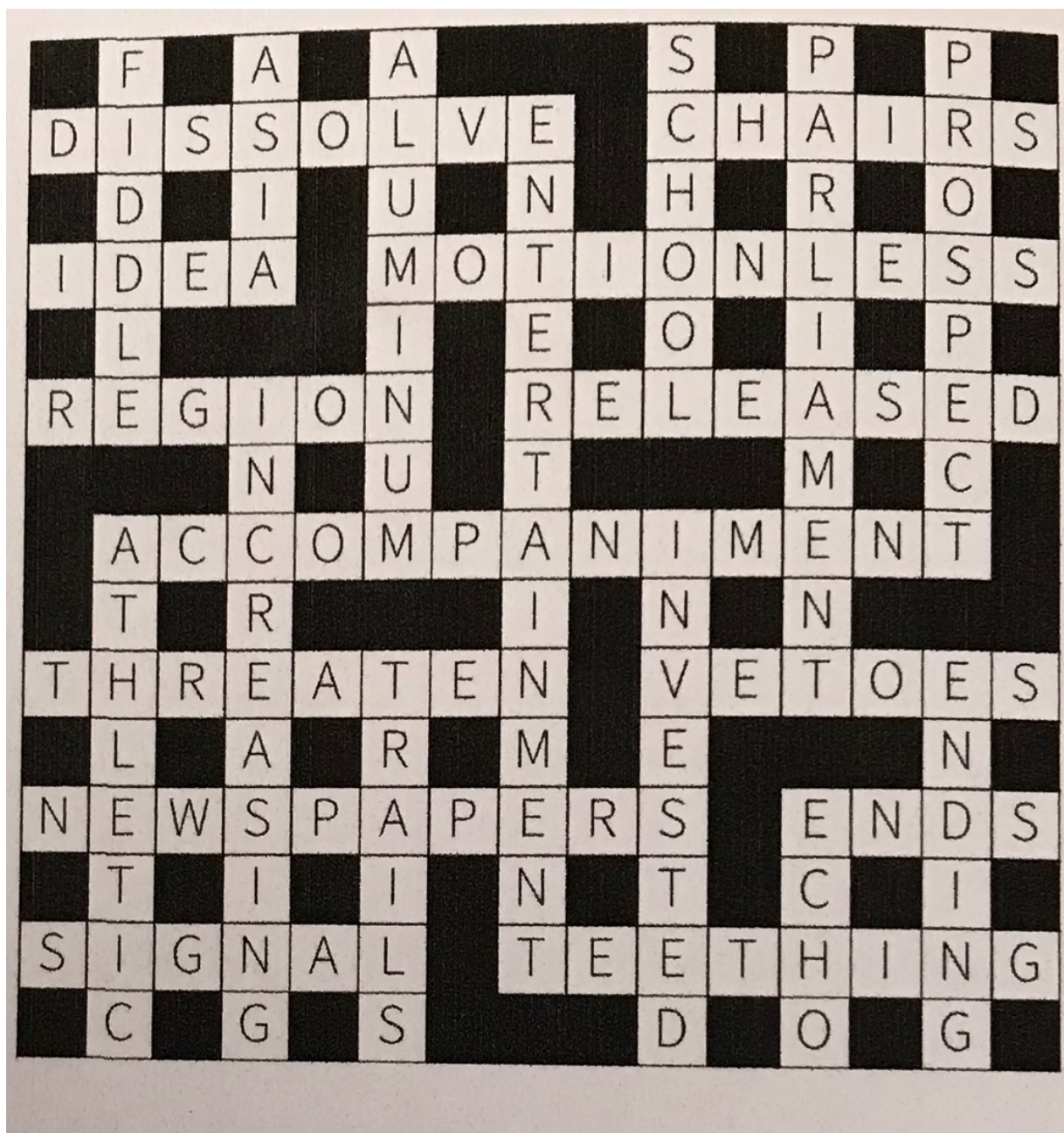


FINTRAY KINELLAR KEITHHALL PARISH
CHURCH
HATTON OF FINTRAY VILLAGE HALL

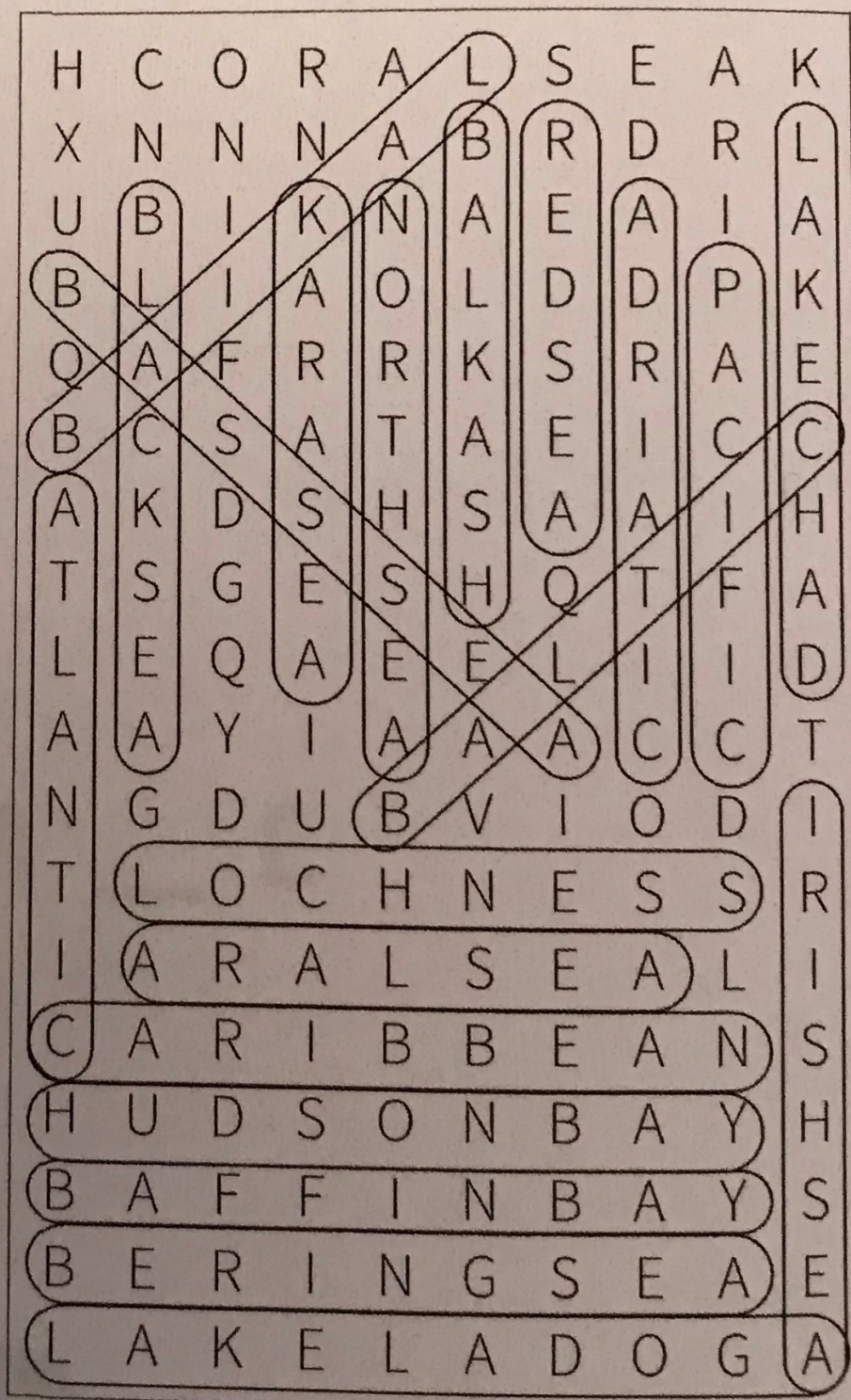
Candlelit Supper

Saturday 12 September 2026
6:30 for 7.00 pm
BYOB

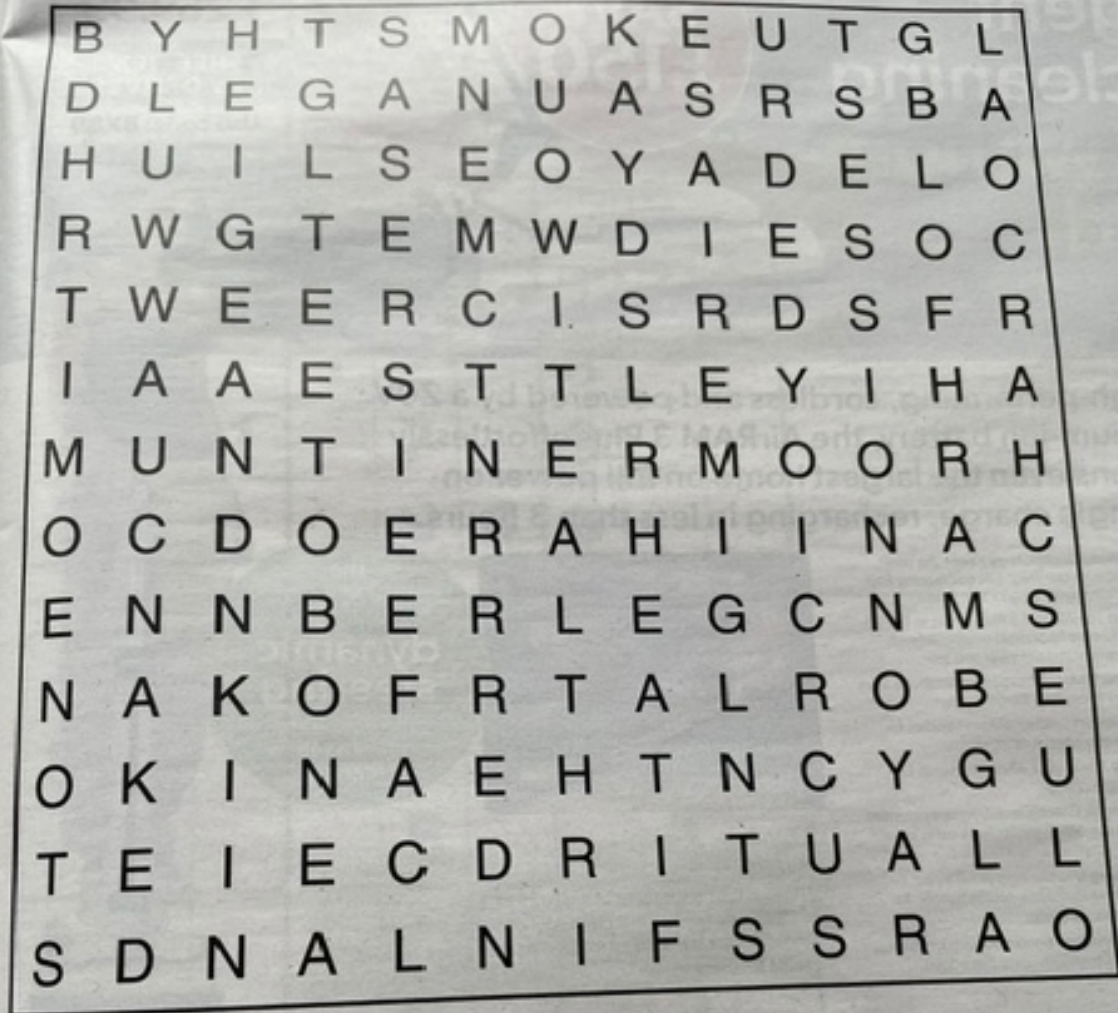
SPRING CROSSWORD ANSWER



SPRING WORD SEARCH ANSWER



SUMMER SAUNA PUZZLE



WORDS: SAUNAS

CHARCOAL

CLEANSE

DRY

ELECTRIC

FINLAND

GAS

HEAT

INFRARED

NAKED

RITUAL

ROBE

ROOM

SAUNA

SESSION

SMOKE

STEAM

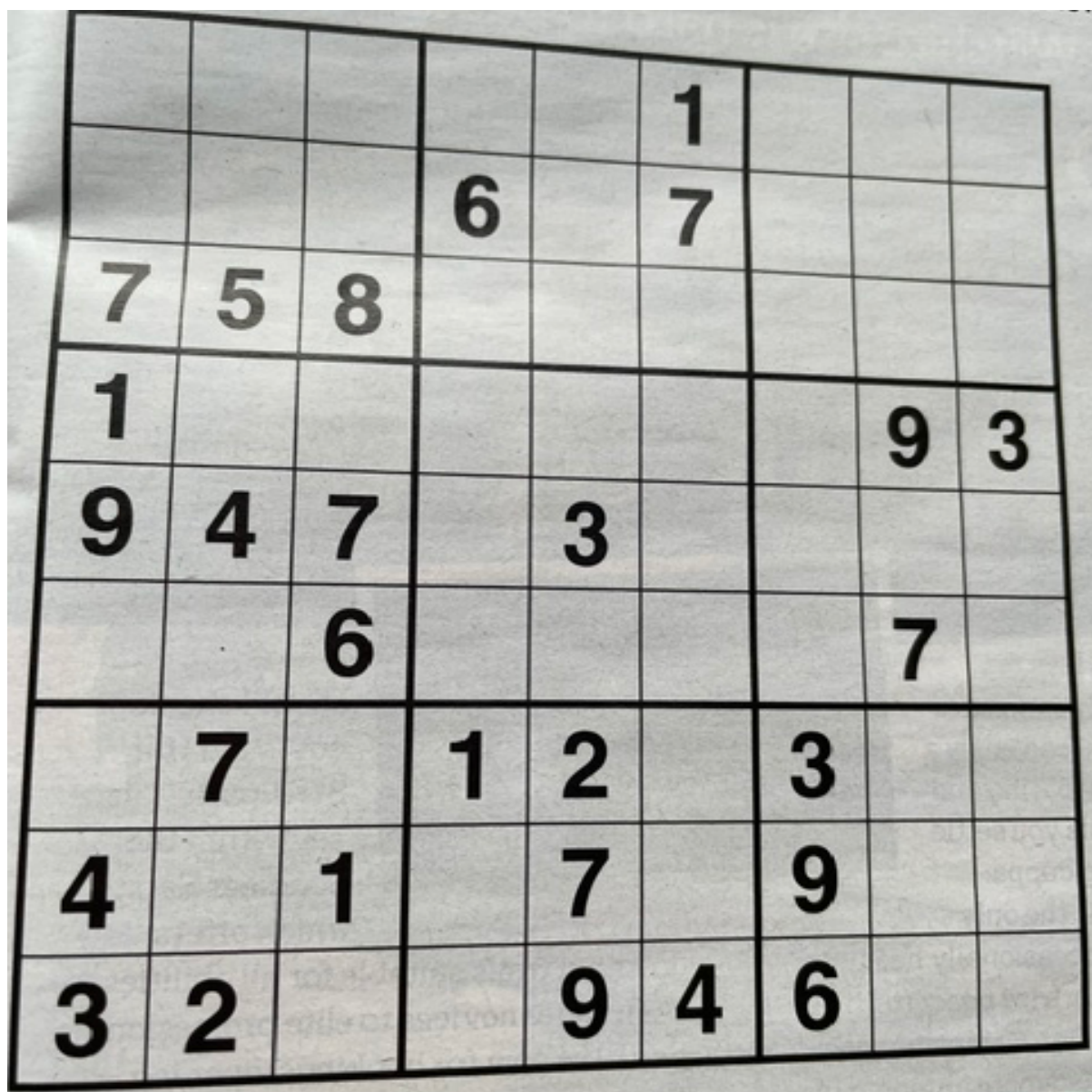
STONE

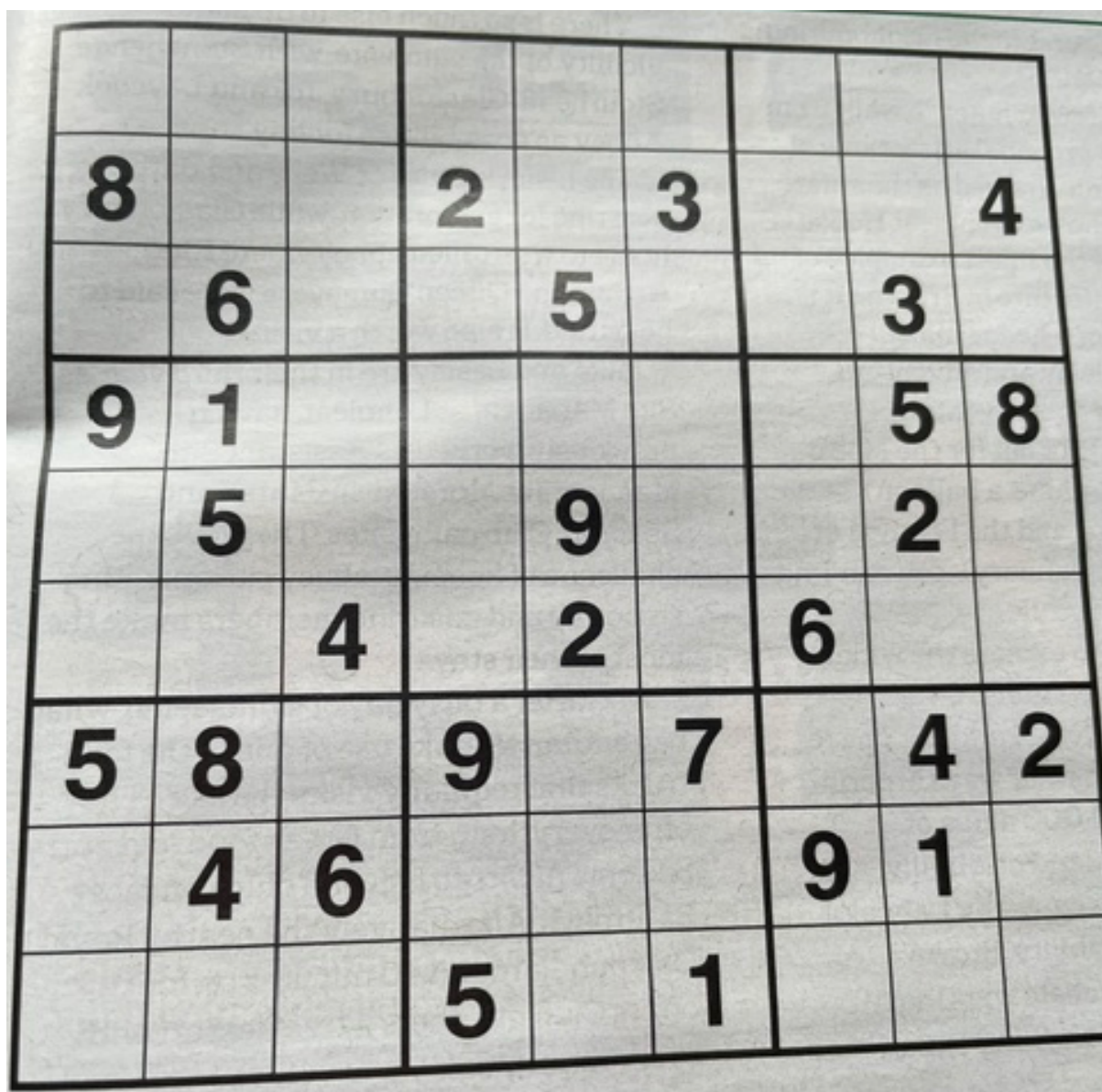
SWEAT

TRADITION

TWIG

WATER

SUMMER SUDOKU PUZZLE ONE

SUMMER SUDOKU PUZZLE TWO

SUMMER RECIPE

Chocolate Chip Cookie Pudding

Ingredients

1 packet of Maryland Chocolate Chip Cookies or you can use Double Chocolate Chip cookies.

2 tins of Ambrosia Custard

1 Large carton of double cream

Croft original sherry

1 Cadbury's Flake

Method

Have a reasonable sized bowl to put your pudding into. Take a mixing bowl and pour in the carton of cream. Mix well but not too stiff. Add the tins of custard and mix both together with a spoon making sure all the custard and cream are well mixed.

Pour some sherry into a small bowl and take your cookies and dip them into the sherry and place into the bottom of your bowl filling the base. Add a layer of the custard and cream mixture making sure to cover the cookies. Then take another layer of cookies and dip them and add them on top of the mixture. Put the remainder of the mixture on top until all added and smooth out with your spoon. Take you milk flake and crush it and then sprinkle it over the pudding. Cover with cling film and place in the fridge.

If you do not want to dip your cookies into the sherry, then just place the biscuits into the bowl and add the mixture. You can make a small one for children without the sherry.

I hope you enjoy this delicious pudding.

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: claikers@gmail.com

Telephone:- 01358 511624

Or

Mobile: 07944 248580

Finance

Mrs Linda Watson

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Mobile: 07402 404090

Property

Mr. Stanley Morrice

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Mobile: 07730 925480

Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church



HE IS THE VINE, WE ARE THE BRANCHES