

FOCUS

Portsoy Church Magazine



August 2024—September 2024

A Message from the Manse

Although they haven't started at the time I write this, by the time you read it the Olympic Games will be in full swing in Paris. I spoke recently in church about the Olympics so I won't go over that ground again, but suffice to say I'll be watching avidly on TV - although there are some of the sports I'll very likely give a miss.

Like swimming, for instance. Maybe it's because I never learned how to myself, but I find watching the swimming about as exciting as watching paint dry! It just seems to go on forever too. No sooner than you've seen the breaststroke race than you have to (well, you don't have to!) watch some other swimmers take on the same distance but this time doing the back stroke. That doesn't happen in athletics, you don't see the runners doing it again but running backwards, do you? And please don't get me started on synchronised swimming...

The athletics can be exciting, although I'd like to see it made a bit more so. Here's an idea - why don't they combine disciplines? For example, they could combine the javelin with the sprinting. The sprinters would run an awful lot faster if they were trying to outrun someone throwing a javelin at them! Or they could combine the high jump with the hurdles race - that'd be fun, wouldn't it?

There are other events in the Olympics I find it a little hard to understand. For instance, I'd like to see the horses in the

equestrian events getting the medals rather than their riders - it's the horses that do all the work, isn't it? The various sailing events too, I don't understand them - isn't it just a case of whoever's got the best boat, wins?

Having said all this, I know that I'll be pretty much glued to my television - when I have time, anyway. And I'll enjoy seeing sports I wouldn't normally watch. That's the thing about the Olympics, it's so varied, with so many sports, so much to watch. And in every event we'll be seeing the competitors at their best, doing their best. We can learn from them, because they're living out the words that we can find in the book of Ecclesiastes, where it says (9:10) 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.'

Every blessing
John

If you need me for anything or you'd just like to call for a chat, my numbers are 01261 838506 and 07941 511192, or drop me an email at jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please contact John on 07941 511 192 if you know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital.

Funerals

7 June: Edward Bradford
25 June: Lily Coull
9 July: June Goodyear

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

WELCOME TEAMS
10.00am Portsoy Church Centre

August

- 4 Aug Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
- 11 Aug Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
- 18 Aug Cullen
- 25 Aug Moira McKenzie & Sheila McKay

September

- 1 Sept Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
- 8 Sept Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
- 15 Sept Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
- 22 Sept Cornhill
- 29 Sept Moira McKenzie & Sheila McKay

October

- 6 Oct Margaret Whewell & Olwen Christie
- 13 Oct Edith Stuart & Eileen Brown
- 20 Oct Helen D'Arcy & Yvonne McKay
- 27 Oct Moira McKenzie & Sheila McKay

If any of the dates are unsuitable please arrange a swap.

The power of the Bible

Kua Wee Seng, who works for the Bible Society in China, says:
'You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed. Once a seed is planted and becomes an apple tree you never can tell how many apples it will produce. It's the same with the word of God. You never can tell what God will do with your gift of the Bible'



I REALLY LIKE YOUR BIBLE, DAD ... HOW DO YOU TURN IT ON?

Teen Challenge

The church continues to support Teen Challenge in Fyvie, which helps young men with addiction issues. Three boxes of men's toiletries recently went to the centre, so thanks to all who donate to this worthy cause!





Prayer Focus

"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each day we are given blessings from our Lord. We are showered with spiritual gifts, possessions and money and we should thank God for the blessings He gives us, and then share as lavishly as we can out of that abundance. Jesus told us that, since we've been blessed, we should bless each other through the working of the Holy Spirit. Be glad of the gifts God has given us and humbly work out how to use them.

Giving is a measure of our love. How much do we love? You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving. What would you like to give to show your love?. Your time, talent, treasures? It doesn't matter if it is costly or inexpensive. Whatever is given should be given from the heart.

We can give of our time by serving in our church through the various organisations, arranging events or attending meetings--the list is endless.

Our talents can be used by caring for others through visiting the sick and elderly, volunteer work, outreach or even washing the dishes at an event!! Again there is so much we can channel our gifts into. Everyone has some special skills to offer. With our treasures we can provide for the people of our church and community and, very importantly, to the poor of the wider world through Christian Aid agencies and disaster appeals.

"Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy...instead, store riches for yourselves in Heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy...For your heart will always be where your riches are". Matthew 6:19-21

Father God, none of us can match Your standard of giving. You gave us the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we keep that in mind as we prayerfully seek to do Your work. When we face each day, please remind us that we may be called upon to give our love, share our gifts and care for others. Please help us to recognise the needs of others and the burdens they have to bear. Lord, we praise and thank You for the many gifts and blessings You have bestowed on us and may we share them in love and devotion to You, all people here and in the wider world.

Amen



FOCUS DEADLINE

The next edition of Focus will cover October 2024 to November 2024. Please let Johanna Sturrock have articles and any photographs for inclusion no later than Sunday 14 September. unicornathome@gmail.com.

Portsoy Church Guild

Guild members and many other helpers were very busy over the summer at our two big fundraising events Boat Festival Teas and Thrift Shop. Both were a great success with Boat Festival Teas raising £1,054 for Guild Projects and the Church and Thrift week £2,062.

Don't forget the first meeting of the new Guild year is on Tuesday 3rd September at 2pm. Everyone welcome.



All prepared for Boat Festival Teas and Thrift Shop



An informal group that's all about having fun, sharing friendship and exploring faith together - although existing faith is not required!

*28th August: The Judge and the Tentpeg Assassin.
AND our first birthday (a good excuse for cake...)*

*We meet in the Church Centre from 7-8.30pm
For more information call Kath on 07759 692968 or ask a Link Lady!*

Flower Rota

August	September	October
4 Olwen Christie	1 Anne McArthur	6 Margaret Whewell
11 Helenor Henderson	8 Yvonne McKay	13 Edith Stuart
18 Cullen	15 FF	20 FF
25 Helen D'Arcy	22 Cornhill	27 Eileen Brown
	29 Sheila McKay	

Many thanks to all donating to the Flower Fund. This gives us beautiful flowers in church each Sunday, which we gift to members of the community after the service. If you would like to join the flower rota, please let Margaret know. More volunteers are always welcome.(01261 843125) FF = Flower Fund

Everything I Needed to Know About Life I Learned from a Jigsaw Puzzle

1. Don't force a fit---if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you come back to it.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
6. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
7. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
8. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
9. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
10. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Answers to last issue's Places in the Bible questions:

ELM JAR SUE/Jerusalem A CREAM PUN/Capernaum

GAMES HES NOT/Gethsemane HOG OR RAM/GomorraH

**FOLIAGE LEAF SEA/Sea of Galilee FIVE LOOMS UNTO/
Mount of Olives**

**MAMAS PIE TOO/Mesopotamia JAR OVER RIND/River
Jordan EVE NAH/Heaven BEES REHAB/Beersheba**

Directory

Minister	Rev. John Gow Tel: 01261 838 506 E-mail: jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Mrs Yvonne McKay, 11 The Steadings, Findochty, AB56 Tel: 07592 395 581 E-mail: Yvonne@therealmckay.co.uk
Treasurer	Mr Raymond Wilson 5 St Tarquin's Place, Fordyce, AB45 2SH Tel: 01261 842204 E-mail: raymondwilsonpfp@btinternet.com
Gift Aid Convener	Mr Ian Whewell, Eynhallow, 14 South High Street, Portsoy. Tel: 01261 843 125 E-mail: ian.whewell@btinternet.com
Church Website	Mr Ian Whewell - as above
Church Centre Convener (For bookings)	Mr Ian Whewell - as above
Centre Caretaker	Mrs Sarah Willis, 40, Gordon Crescent, Portsoy Tel: 01261 843 928 or 07756 53 5731 E-mail: sarahsfamily@btinternet.com
Focus	Mrs Johanna Sturrock 21 Hill Street, Portsoy. Tel: 07766 390 318 E-mail: unicornathome@gmail.com

Service Times

10.30am at the Church Centre every Sunday

Except for the following joint services:

18th August 10.30am at Cullen Hall Church

22nd September 10.00am at Cornhill Church

(refreshments served after Sunday services)

Please join us for all are welcome

Picture on front cover is the new harbour on Boat Festival
Saturday 2024

Website—<http://www.portsoychurch.org>

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Scottish Charity No: SC 000522