



### In this Newsletter:

**General Assembly · Living Every Day for Jesus · A Quiet Garden**

Is there anyone you know who might be interested in (a part of) this fortnightly newsletter? You could maybe copy and send (just the section) to them.

Anyone interested in being added to the mailing list can email us.

### To the church...

'This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.'

1 Corinthians 13:4. J.B. Phillips translation

Corrie ten Boom referred to these specific verses back in the 1970s.

She spoke richly of God's love, with these words;

'The Holy Spirit gives us a vast heart. And we can, when we are filled with the Spirit enjoy more and more of [God's] great Love.

We can only see a little of the ocean when we stand at the rocky shore.

But out there beyond the eyes' horizon there is so much more.

We can only see a little of God's love, some rich samples of His mighty store.

But out there beyond the eyes' horizon there is more,

there is more.'

-see the whole video on God's Love [here](#)

Imagine church full of people of patience, people who are constructive, not possessive, not focussed on their own importance, expressing God's love, God's endless, evermore, wonderful, deeply humble love.

What a place of attraction we can be.

### What I admire Jesus for...

quotes from readers:

'He is my best friend. I can talk to Him about anything and know that He will listen and respond if necessary.' E, Kings Inverness

'I admire the way Jesus interacted with so many different people and asked such searching questions of them.' LW, Glasgow

'His unrelenting attitude to give His all for the Kingdom.' P, Cradlehall

... is that in him I was chosen before the foundation of the world, that he is present with me and loves me here and now, and that he will be with me, even to the end of the age. He is the same – and his love for his people is the same – yesterday, today, and forever.' J. Fraser, Kinmylies church

Have you shared this question in your small group? After a service? How rich the various perspectives are. We would love to post more of your short comments on what you admire about Jesus. If you would like to contribute, please send them in.

Please provide us with your short quote, followed by

a- your first name, or if you prefer, your initial,

b- age (optional) and

c- either congregation or area of residence.

Please pass this on to Sunday schools and clubs too, so we get many voices telling us about the wonders of Christ. Please email [2020.IPCS@gmail.com](mailto:2020.IPCS@gmail.com), or if you are unable to do this, please leave a message on 07 932 690 856.

### General Assembly

The Church of Scotland General Assembly for 2021 will again be held online. It will open on Saturday 22 May, with business sessions the following Monday to Thursday. The proceedings will be live streamed and available for everyone to watch on the Church of Scotland website. Lots of info [here](#).

May we pray that the General Assembly will make the best decisions to help us with many challenges and opportunities ahead, following God's lead.

The outgoing Moderator, Dr Martin Fair, will reflect on his unusual year in office from 8 to 9 pm tonight, Wednesday 19 May. He will share highlights from this unique year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, live on [Facebook](#) and a [live webcast page](#).

A recording will be available after.

### Thy Kingdom Come

We are in between Ascension Day and Pentecost, in the middle of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. You can take part and :

-*Deepen your own relationship with Jesus Christ*

-*Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*

-*Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, you are invited to take part – along with many around the world.

More info and daily prayer points on the local [Facebook page](#)

This Sunday night, May 23 from 6.30 to 7.30pm there will be a joint service at Inverness Cathedral involving all the churches involved in this year's Thy Kingdom Come. There are a limited number of places available. If you want to join, you can book your place by using this [link](#).

### Verse of the week memory verse 31 Romans 8:32

God's resource; His Provision

'He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—

how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?'

You can learn to memorize these verses by repeating them frequently, or even hand-writing them on a piece of paper. You can also do this together with a Christian friend, and test each other. Building a regular rhythm at a set time and place that suits you might be key. More info: [www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system/](http://www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system/).

### Living every day for Jesus

Interview with Bart Buell, retired minister.

Despite going to church, praying and being seen as a 'good boy', Bart shares there was an inner darkness in his life. He says; 'I knew it in my head that Jesus is my Saviour but it was dark in my heart.' While he was studying at a Lutheran college, sharing a room with five other poor students, he was part of a church that was cold and unwelcoming, polite but not really interested. Studies were particularly hard, life was lonely. He decided if life was dependent on his efforts he didn't want it.

But the darkness and frustration were with Jesus; That year, a man who was on the look-out for seekers, gave Bart an A4 sheet of Bible verses to learn and challenged him to start telling people about Jesus. He showed him at the start of Ephesians 2, that, through Jesus' sacrifice, we are saved, by grace, not works. Bart shares that at that point the Holy Spirit made Jesus' death a personal reality; 'It exploded in my head, like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, it all came together.' He adds 'The Bible then became like my mother and her cook book, I read it all the time. I grew fast.' Thirty years later he found out that a youth group had been challenged by their minister to select someone who was not a Christian, for whom they would pray every day. Bart was chosen. To this day they still might not know the effects of their prayers.

Growing up in the USA, he held a degree in social work and did jobs as a car park attendant, greengrocer and janitor. But his life took a turn when he was conscripted to the army and ended up in Japan behind a typewriter. He shares that his writing was so bad, his captain had to take it home to his wife to retype all. But there, out in the snow, a deep conviction grew. He realised he had a life to give, where he could tell the Japanese people about Jesus. He was particularly touched by an OMF

[omf.org/uk/](http://omf.org/uk/) missionary who had a deep love for the people and lived a simple lifestyle of deep dedication to Jesus. Bart decided to follow suit and later met his wife on a ship heading out to the East. God paired them up, as they were to take devotions in pairs and were alphabetically picked; Margaret Aitken got paired up with Bart Buell. She went to Thailand, he to Japan. He asked her to marry him by letter. For weeks he eagerly awaited a reply, not knowing he had misaddressed his proposal letter. Miraculously, he got a reply when he was sick in bed, and got so excited: 'I spilled my hot lemonade all over the bed.'

They ended back in her home country Scotland without money and furniture, with three kids and a few bags, not knowing if God would provide. 'But He did, at every turn.' On the very day Bart was free to look for a charge he got a phone call, leading them to minister for many years in Drumadrochit.

Having retired years ago, he still has a big heart for ministry and loves the visions of LICC ([licc.org.uk/](http://licc.org.uk/)) and Acorn ([link](#)). He loves being fruitful on his frontline and actively seeks opportunities to reach out every day, to family, friends and neighbours, in the midst of pain, through loving conversation. He is deeply committed to making disciples who want to reach out, fuelled by preaching and prayer.

Well into his nineties, Bart has a big heart to preach meaningfully, lovingly and relevantly to help people live every day for Jesus, reaching out. He sees God bringing new ways to the church where we are free to be more creative and accountable in disciple making, delegating people to be involved in the work of God.

Bart says his life is a testament of 'a sinner saved by grace'. He says 'Jesus was passionate about the Father's will and doing it. He wants me to be anxiously urgent about His will on earth. Jesus dies for that. Calling. He died, I got saved. I am a new man. I am trying to be faithful to it because. In my life, honouring the Lord Jesus, that is the main thing. I can only say that goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life.' Asking about his advice for us, he says 'Live your life by living out God's word honestly and openly and the Holy Spirit will take care of an awful lot of stuff.'

### Who can I invest in?

One of our people became a Christian, after an older Christian spent extended time with him, sought him out, took him along and invited him for meals at his home. It was this exposure to a Christian life that brought our friend to faith. He has since become an elder in two churches, prepares Bible study notes for people and even at times preaches.

Are we learning and seeking to invest in the life of willing seekers that will raise a harvest for the future? Who could I pray for and invite for a meal?

### Blythswood and the Big Church Leaders' online Breakfast

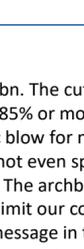
Blythswood invites us into the national Trussell Trust Big Church Leaders' Breakfast online on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Ministers, elders, church team leaders are welcome.

Emma Revie, Chief Executive of the Trussell Trust, shares about their work to build a hunger free future. There will be time for prayer and reflection, a live Q&A session, and input from church leaders, food bank teams, and volunteers.

The Trussell Trust will also be sharing a new set of resources for churches; video, small group sessions and a prayer guide for use in prayer groups, services, or individually. The prayer resources and a taster of the small group sessions are already available on their website [here](#).

Places are limited so register in advance here:

[http://trussell\\_trust\\_church\\_leaders.eventbrite.com](http://trussell_trust_church_leaders.eventbrite.com)



### UK plans £4bn of Humanitarian Aid cuts

The UK government plans cuts to humanitarian aid by more than £4bn. The cuts are not split evenly, with some programmes having funding reduced by 85% or more.

Two hundred charities said in a joint statement the cuts are a 'tragic blow for many of the world's most marginalised people' and 'The government has not even spared countries ravaged by humanitarian crisis, disease, war and poverty.'

The archbishop of Canterbury said; 'In his teaching, Jesus Christ tells us we mustn't limit our concept of neighbour simply to those close by to us. We need to heed that message in the tough times, as well as the good. Keeping our aid commitment is a strong signal that the UK is a reliable partner for long-term economic, social, environmental and educational advancement across the globe.'

[Worldvision](#) states: 'We urge the government to reverse this decision immediately.'

People who disagree with the government's decision can act by asking our local MP to oppose the cuts to UK aid.

Find information [here](#). Find a template email [here](#)

### For of such is the Kingdom...

One of our members often looks after his two grandchildren. The Sunday club at times produces great materials and sends them round. Last time they did, he says 'they ripped them out of my hands.' How lovely to see that hunger and excitement when we invest in young people.

### A Quiet Garden

by Joyce Mitchell

In both of the verses Matthew 11:28 and Mark 6:31 Jesus calls people to come to Him or with Him for a time of rest, recognising that need and providing for it. At this time in particular there are many who are weary, stressed or burdened by the changes we have all had to face in the past year, so I would like to offer a bit of help.

I made known to all the ministers I visited during my year as moderator, The Quiet Garden Movement, the motto of which is the verse from Mark – 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'

For those who have not heard of it, their vision is to "provide a network of local opportunities for prayer, silence, reflection and the appreciation of beauty; for learning about Christian spirituality and experiencing creativity and healing in the context of God's love."

Beginning from a single garden at a church in the south of England, there is now a large number of gardens all over the world on their list, at churches, schools, prisons, hospitals, but the majority are people's own personal gardens. See [quietgarden.org/](http://quietgarden.org/)

Our two acre patch is one of them, so I would like to remind or make known to you about it. If you, or anyone in your congregation, family or parish need or could benefit from a little time out in a quiet place we would be delighted to welcome you.

I also have a quiet room in the house if the weather was less suitable for sitting outside. Simply phone or e-mail to arrange a time. There has been much focus lately on the benefits of the natural environment for mental good health and wellbeing, so do come and enjoy the garden, surrounding landscape and the peace and rest they offer. Email: stanleymitchell121@btinternet.com. Phone: 01808 521285, Farr.

### Green Matters

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it' Ps 24:1

While coffee pods can be a convenient way to make a quick cuppa, for example in a Nescafe machine, the pods are a burden on the environment.

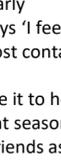
We have collected four eco friendly options:

1 Nespresso's [recycling](#) scheme for its aluminium pods.

2 The [EcoPress](#) which removes coffee grounds from capsules. Compatible with all brands of aluminium coffee capsules.

3 [Compostable](#) coffee pods – either for industrial or home composting.

4 Reusable coffee pods – metal or plastic pods that you can fill with your own ground coffee, clean and re-use.



### Improved Connections through Covid

One lady finds it hard to get to church. Her mind is willing but her body is struggling with physical disability. Going to church or a coffee morning became nearly impossible. This year, meeting online has been so helpful for her. She says 'I feel much more part of church. Zoom put me in touch with lots of people I lost contact with.'

She was so excited about new online connections, that she decided to use it to her advantage. She has many contacts through Facebook. She chose the Lent season to do something with God and chose to get in touch with as many online friends as she could to encourage them.

### Gospel goodness

We would love to post more news about your church & parish in this newsletter, please let us know what is happening.

Local news:

One of our churches has found teenagers starting to gather at lunch time on the front porch. Despite noise levels and rubbish being left, they are wondering if and how they can build new connecting points with this age group.

### Latest advice on Covid-19

This is a common section in every newsletter just to make sure you can access relevant and up to date info: [NHS](#) ~ [HIGHLAND COUNCIL](#) ~ [CHURCHOFSCOTLAND](#)

<https://www.covidhelp4highland.org/resources-and-information.html>

Information on volunteering, shopping responsibly, where to find additional support, helping your neighbours, friends and family, advice for community groups and businesses can be found here: <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/>

Food Standards Scotland advice on Covid-19:

<https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/consumers/food-safety/coronavirus>

Benefits/council services. The single free helpline number – **0300 303 1362** – will connect callers to relevant Council specialist teams (Mon to Fri from 8am to 6pm).

### IPCS

Please contact us with your stories and signs of hope or for further help or info, or let us know if you'd like to be added to (or taken off) the email list (people from beyond Inverness Presbytery are welcome too)

We thank many for their advice and input.

IPCS consists of Mission Development Worker Paul Haringman with support from Adrienne Dempster, Russell Lees, Kathleen Mackinnon, Linda Cook and Sheila Murray.

Contact Paul on 07837903277 or [paulharingman.mission@gmail.com](mailto:paulharingman.mission@gmail.com).