

DEREK THOMSON

'K&F'

THE MEADOWS, UPPER HEMPRIGGS

Kinloss & Findhorn Church News

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September 2009 - 'Year of Homecoming'



### From the Manse.....

'There was a Scotsman, an Englishman and an Irish man....' Sorry, but I can't tell you any more, lest I be arrested by the Racial Police! A sense of humour can be one way to let off steam and ease the stresses of this mortal coil. Unless, that is if it is at someone else's expense and is demeaning. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month, the ecumenical body '*Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*' are asking all churches to remember Racial Justice Sunday which aims to remind us of the diversity of the population in these islands. The Bible theme for the day is from St Mark 8 vs. 29 and the words of Jesus –“**Who do you say I am?**” These words pose 2 questions, not only to faithful disciples past and present, but also to the wider and diverse communities that we live in today. It is all too easy to demean someone who doesn't appear to belong to, or fit in to, our particular social circle. We remember the truculent disciple Nathanael when Philip asked him to come and meet Jesus. “Can any good come out of Nazareth” was his biased reply. We still hear these sentiments today don't we? Sadly, we tacitly support them! Tying in with this theme is another event in September, when we celebrate '**Homecoming**'. No, the church is not competing with the heather and tartan image, but is encouraging people to **celebrate their Christian roots** and literally, come home to the church they once knew or have left behind!

Remembering the parable of the prodigal son and his homecoming, strikes so many chords – loss and redemption, love and forgiveness. As he is brought low by the indignities of poverty and homelessness, the wayward son decides to swallow his pride and return to his father's house, thankful to be home. It can be difficult returning to church, so we *All* need to be very **aware and accepting** of those who seek to worship with us once again. “You welcomed me as if I were an angel”- Gal 4.14, is the invitation and it is one that we should all try to emulate. May God bless you and keep you. Yours aye, Duncan

Rev. Duncan Shaw - 4 Manse Rd, Kinloss - 01309 690931

## **Kirk bid to reduce unnecessary car use**

CAR-SHARING, getting the bus, cycling and walking to church are just some of the ways the Church of Scotland could be reducing its members' carbon footprints, it claims in a report today. The report, by the Energy Savings Trust and commissioned by the Church of Scotland, urges congregations to examine the environmental impact of travel patterns and proposes a ground-breaking initiative to reduce unnecessary car use by parishioners. The report, by the Energy Savings Trust and commissioned by the Church of Scotland, urges congregations to examine the environmental impact of travel patterns and proposes a ground-breaking initiative to reduce unnecessary car use by parishioners. It argues reducing car travel to church could result in less congestion, improved health and wellbeing for members, reduced transport costs, as well as helping the environment.

*(‘Have they not heard, have they not seen?’ We have already implemented this! Remember, the ‘Sunday Bus’ is up and running its service schedule with ours! Please do use it and invite your friends along for the ride! Ed.)*

## **A Prayer for the Armed Forces of the Crown**

Heavenly Father, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; and give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and help them to know that nothing can separate them from your love; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**(Please use this prayer and be mindful of their families at home too)**

## **Cows can be good news for the environment, says charity**

COWS, accused of being a significant cause of global warming because they emit methane, can help reduce greenhouse gases, a Christian charity said last week. The charity, ‘Send a Cow’, which used to fly the cows to Africa from the UK, now sources all its livestock locally. “Recent independent research into one of our projects indicates that an average Send a Cow project in Uganda absorbs more than twice as much carbon as is emitted by livestock and staff travel,” Lorraine Finnegan, who works for the charity, said. The charity achieved this turnaround by training farmers to make compost from cow dung and urine, to plant fodder trees to feed the cows and absorb carbon, and to chop up the cow’s feed and mix it with legumes to make it more digestible. “We also train families

in compost management, so that manure emits less methane as it breaks down,” she said. The gas could also be used for fuel.  
 (www.sendacow.org.uk) No this is not a ‘wind-up!’ Ed.)

# Bible Wordsearch

No.168

Matt.18:23-35

## The Unforgiving Servant

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

able	let
accounts	master
anger	mercy
begged	one
brother	owed
brought	pity
canceled	prison
children	refused
choke	repay
debt	servant
father	settle
fell	sold
forgive	talents
grabbed	ten
heart	thousand
heaven	thrown
hundred	treat
jailers	turned
just	until
king	wicked
knees	wife

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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Psalm 20

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## National Ethical Investment Week

8-14 November 2009

National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW) is a campaign to ensure that everyone knows that they have green and ethical options when it comes to their finance and investment decisions.

Find out more from the website by following this link: [www.neiw.org](http://www.neiw.org)

## **A Mini-Bible Study**

*“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,\*you did it to me.”*

*Matthew 25:31-40 NRSV*

Jesus’ illustration of the judgment scene also paints a clear picture of expectation for the church in the world. Jesus’ followers took these words to heart and to the streets, following the calling to take the message to Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Just as the early church was on the move, so too, we are calling churches to move beyond bricks and mortar to engage a world longing for love, compassion and hope.

Is this something we can all do?

## **Church Roll**

### **Marriage**

1st August at Kinloss – Heather Jarvis and Daniel Lees

## **Pastoral Support**

During the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September the Minister will be unavailable but pastoral support will be provided by Rev Bruce Lawrie. On 01343 830276

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## **And finally....**

Why did the girl call herself half an actress?  
She broke her leg and was in a cast for 6 months!

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What happened when the dentist and the manicurist fell out?  
They fought tooth and nail!