



In this Newsletter:

Green matters - Mission Needs Movement - Ping Pong

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...

‘Give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.’

Psalm 100:4b-5

In 2015 around 800,000 people prayed daily for the Paris climate conference. It is expected that the number for COP26 will be much higher, so we will be part of a vast army of praying people petitioning God to release His Kingdom and His will in and through this gathering.

Would you join in this prayer for COP26?

Lord, we thank You and praise You for Your goodness and love. We cry out for peace, joy, justice and righteousness to rule and shut out unwillingness, misunderstanding, disruption, and evil intent.

We pray for a change of heart – both our hearts and the hearts of leaders – that all would hear the ‘inner voice’ we cannot ignore, the voice of the Holy Spirit communicating Your will for discussions, outcomes, change and lifestyles. We pray for willingness to follow Your will and for creative, constructive paths to be found to implement difficult changes.

We thank You for Your faithfulness to us, the next generation, and every generation after and ask that You will help the determined body of Christ to be a voice of hope for the next generation.

IPCS ends, Here to Serve future

The next edition of this newsletter will be the last edition from IPCS. IPCS was called into being to help churches navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. With church buildings being open, IPCS will cease.

However, Here to Serve will continue as a newsletter to share good news and missional ideas under a small, new editorial board.

Green Matters

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

In my lifetime, I’ve witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you should witness a wonderful recovery,” Sir David Attenborough, speaking Monday at COP26.

Some interesting resources to inspire recovery:

The church of Scotland points to this Nasa website with lots of interesting data around our planet and it’s climate; climate.nasa.gov.

An Eco-Congregation Church resource for discussion:

lets-talk-about-the-climate-emergency/

Powerful, poetic, inspirational, challenging and thoughtful videos by filmmaker, speaker and creator prince Ea in partnership with National Geographic talking about our personal responsibility:

‘Truth can be denied, but not avoided’.

Man vs Earth, 4 minutes www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-nEYsyRIYo

Dear Future Generations: Sorry, 6 minutes www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLJscAlk1M

The church’s *Life and Work* magazine has produced a FREE four-page COP26 Special Supplement, available [here](https://www.lifeandwork.org.uk/cop26).

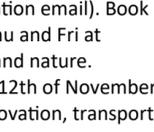
Has your church signed up as an EcoCongregation?

EcoHighland 2021; Many locally organised events. Do have a look at many things you can get involved in:

ecocongregationscotland.org/upcomingevents/.



Edinburgh New College Patchwork Banners for COP26



Local folks in the prayer gathering this morning prayed for God to raise up servant kings, like our Servant King Christ, people with high ethical standards to see COP26 plans birthed, financed and implemented. You can join the **Prayer Gatherings**, online via zoom, we are praying through COP26 topics for about half an hour. You can register on the [events page](https://www.lifeandwork.org.uk/cop26) to receive the link to attend for all or some sessions (might need to check your SPAM inbox for confirmation email). Book separately for the two weeks as they are on different links. This Thu and Fri at 9.15am we will pray for energy, youth and public empowerment and nature.

Next week, gatherings will be at 5.30pm each day, Mon 8th to Fri 12th of November. COP 26 topics will include habitat loss, female empowerment, innovation, transport and built environment.

A contemporary service of Praise & Prayer hosted by Re:Hope Southside Church Glasgow with Tearfund, Alpha, 24/7 Prayer, at 7.30pm on Friday 5th. watch here on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

With guests Tim Douglass, lead pastor of Hillsong UK, and Dez Johnston, director of Alpha Scotland. With Kuki Rokhum, a director of Tearfund’s partner in India, who will share about the devastating impact the climate crisis is having on people living in poverty. Anyone is invited to gather together to pray about the climate crisis and cry out to God, to make a difference, a to intercede for those in need.

March for Climate Justice. On Saturday 6 November, tens of thousands of people will be walking through the streets of Glasgow for climate justice: marching for those whose voices are not heard; those for whom the climate crisis is causing devastating effects to their everyday lives. More info [here](https://www.marchforclimatejustice.org).

Mission needs Movement

Reaching out is easy. We think we need to have more answers, more faith, more....-you fill in your blanks.... We don’t. We just need willingness and faith.

You see, mission is not about our knowledge but about God’s presence, with the other, not just with us. There are two movements in God’s mission; reaching out (go) to the other, and receiving them (come). We are there to embrace and welcome, like the father with the prodigal son. And as we receive them, we listen to their story for mutual healing, by just asking ‘How are you (really)?’ Then we realise that God might be stirring up things in their lives and we walk with them in these issues. As God calls us to go and we enter in, carefully listening in caring conversation, we learn to love them as a child of our Heavenly Father who wants to welcome people home.

Acorn roadshow comes to Inverness

Last chance to come and hear Michael Harvey, (Back to church Sunday, Weekend of Invitation) talk about Acorn; a way to help us try mission where we are, as we are, in simple ways through caring conversation, following God’s lead. It is simple, effective, positive and has gained huge popularity amongst ordinary members of congregations up and down Scotland.

At Culloden-Balloch Baptist church this Thursday November 4, 7.30-9.30pm. Book by 11am [here](https://www.ballochbaptist.org). If you are unable to book online but want to attend, contact Paul (details at bottom).

Out of the Box Ping Pong

Out of the Box (creative ministries) are playing 24 hours of Table Tennis from 6pm on Friday 12th Nov to 6pm on Saturday 13th Nov to raise £2000 for a new project they are working on. The project is a brand new resource for Schools and Churches to use as an introduction to Christianity, called The Intro Series.

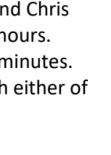
Main players will be Tom Walkinshaw, Carol Hutchison, Lindsey Stirling and Chris Watt, with a host of other guest players joining them throughout the 24 hours. They plan to go ‘live’ on facebook on the hour every hour for around 15 minutes.

www.facebook.com/outoftheboxscotland. You can support them through either of these two links:

<https://outofthebox.me.uk/support/>

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/outoftheboxfundraiser>

Want to join or would like more info on this or their work? Contact Chris Watt, chris@outofthebox.me.uk.



Online International Day of Prayer

Sunday 7 November - 7:30pm-8:30pm

CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) [Open Doors](https://www.csw.org.uk), [Release International](https://www.csw.org.uk) and the [Evangelical Alliance](https://www.csw.org.uk) are organising an online prayer event for the Persecuted Church. This jointly hosted webinar will feature the latest news, testimonies and prayer requests from Nigeria, Eritrea and India. Focus will be on praying for Christians in Afghanistan. Get your church or small group involved in IDOP using the free resources at [csw.org.uk/idop](https://www.csw.org.uk/idop).

Armistice Services on Sunday Nov 14.

For any church interested in Armistice from an occupied perspective, Paul Haringman is happy to share in the morning service what freedom and sacrifice (still) mean to Dutch people and their thankfulness to the Scots in fighting on their behalf in WW2.

Service of remembering

Sunday Nov 14, 3.30 pm, Hilton church, 4 Tomatin Road, Inverness IV2 4UA.

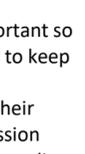
An opportunity for people recently and not so recently bereaved, to remember loved ones. All are most welcome to attend.

Alpha Spur lunch

with Dez Johnson, Alpha Scotland director

on Fri December 10 at Culduthel Christian Centre, 12.15-2pm.

SPUR Lunches are conversational forums for ministers, pastors and Alpha course leaders to discuss what’s working as they lead for mission, share best practice and learn together. Limited space available, contact Paul Haringman.



We need Safeguarding

by Annette Clunas, Presbytery safeguarding coordinator

In Scotland the Church of Scotland has the highest number of Volunteers who work with our Churches to provide Support and Activities within their local Church.

Without their dedication and work we would not be able to do the Lord’s work within our Churches. The Church wants to create a culture of openness, transparency and reporting harm or abuse. This is done through the Training of the Volunteers.

It is *mandatory for ALL* volunteers to have *Introductory Volunteer Training* and this is organised in each Church by a Safeguarding Coordinator. The Safeguarding Coordinator will ask Volunteers to attend Training. This Training is very important so that Volunteers know the processes which Church of Scotland have in order to keep everyone safe.

The other Mandatory Training is *Kirk Session Training*. Kirk Sessions, under their remit, will manage Safeguarding. The Kirk Session Training takes the Kirk Session through the management and support which they need to provide for Safeguarding.

Verse of the week

memory verse 41

Mark 10:45

Being Christ’s disciple; serve others

‘For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

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/.

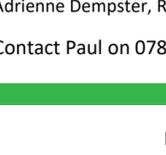
Gospel goodness

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

Local news:

Various people from many of our churches are expressing great joy about groups meeting again on site for the first time in 20 months.

Primary and secondary pupils have sent in many entries for the Highland 2021 schools ECO competition, organised by Crown with prizes kindly donated by the Rotary Club of Inverness. The winners are now displayed at the *Eastgate shopping centre*, Inverness, in the main food court, until Saturday November 13.



At the *Ecohighland 2021 Opening Worship* last Sunday at *Hilton church*, various voices, young and old, from near and far spoke powerfully on the issue of climate change. Jenny Adams, minister in Moray pondered the question whether we are hearing the voice of God through hunger, injustice, migrants and climate issues and asked if we are adding our own voice to these, to amplify these voices and challenge leaders. Dr Jamie Grant, Vice-Principal of the Highland Theological College, pointed towards our Creator King and put the magnitude of climate change next to the greater magnitude of God. Judith MacLeod, coordinator of Ecocongregation Scotland affirmed his words by agreeing that care for creation is bound up in the bigger picture of the second commandment to love others, as many in our world are today suffering from issues we are causing. By taking care of creation, we take care of them. If you would like to see the hour long service, you can find it online [here](https://www.lifeandwork.org.uk/cop26).

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](https://www.nhs.uk) ~ [HIGHLAND COUNCIL](https://www.highlandcouncil.gov.uk) ~ [CHURCHOFSCOTLAND](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

<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 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.