



# CYC NEWSLETTER

June Edition| 2025 | Read, Pray, Pass on

## Prayer Points

- praise God for his faithfulness to us over 2024 as was made clear in the AGM on 26th May
- remember Board member Craig Parkes who is unwell, and also Wilf and Pat Urquhart
- pray that a possibility of partnership with another Christian young people's agency may come to fruition and advance our youth work
- give thanks for the money raised by Kiltwalk sponsorship
- give thanks that the young people at the after-school club are good to work with
- remember our need for younger, enthusiastic volunteers and Board members
- pray that our partnership with The Open Door Project will "take off" soon, upon completion of legalities



Though the photograph only shows Iain A. Macdonald at the start, be assured that the intrepid kiltwalker did finish the course! More information on page 2.

## AGM

Our AGM was held in the CYC on Monday 26th May at 7 p.m. The Treasurer, Gavin MacKenzie, presented the accounts, which showed that we were in a stronger financial position in 2024 than in the previous year. The Treasurer answered some questions and was thanked by Sandy Finlay, President.

The secretary presented the Trustees' report for 2024.

The following had been nominated and were duly elected:

President Sandy Finlay

Secretary George Maclean

Treasurer Gavin MacKenzie

Board Members Paul Bowman, Laura MacAra, Murray MacAra, Craig Parkes, Carolyn Ross.

A report on the progress of the partnership with The Open Door Project was given. by Esther Dowey.

Tea and coffee were served afterwards. Well done to Eddie Hughes, who joined us by Zoom from Winnipeg, Canada.

### End of Session

The After-school Club will go to Innoflate as an end of term treat. Look out for the photos in the next edition!



This photo confirms that Paul completed the challenge, too! Well done to our champion Kiltwalk fund-raisers!

Iain spent the night before the walk at his son Jack's manse in Queensferry. The walk was from Clydebank to Balloch via the River Leven (11.5 miles). After the walk, he spoke to Tom Hunter, the inspiration behind Kiltwalk to thank him. To date, Iain has raised £1355 and £262.50 Gift Aid.

There were six thousand on Paul's walk from Banchory to Aberdeen (17.5 miles). He took four and three-quarter hours from start to finish and made a new friend on the route. The weather was kind and even a heavy 5-minute shower two miles from the finish did not soak him as he was under trees. His total is £920 at the time of writing, but his walk was more recent than Iain's and Gift Aid has to be added.



As noted in the report of the YMCA AGM, the Licence to Occupy negotiations are still protracted.

Nevertheless, the most recent newsletter from the The Open Door Project (TODP) shows that it is active, holding bookstalls, supplying books for prize givings and dealing with practical issues such as quotes for anticipated building work.

We look forward to a fully realised partnership.

### **Wilf and Pat**

Many of you will know, or know of, Wilf and Pat Urquhart, one time missionaries in Burkina Faso. Pat is unwell and has been hospitalised. Please pray for them. The YMCA Board sent a signed card assuring them of our prayers.



Blackcap

## **Of Sparrows and Sparrowhawks**

I have just been looking out of the window, pleased to see a blackcap perched on a buddleia in my garden preening itself. It is not a common bird in Inverness.

It made me think of birds in the Bible, from sparrows to eagles with unusual ones such as ostriches and storks in between.

Sparrows are more the order of the day around here. But another bird I have only occasionally seen in my garden is a sparrow hawk. It is an impressive hunter of small birds ranging from sparrows up to pigeons. Life in a fallen world is precarious, no less for sparrows than for humans.

Jesus spoke about sparrows. As a common bird, they were not considered important. Jesus emphasised our importance to God because not a sparrow falls to the ground without God's knowledge. How more important are we to God than many sparrows? We can trust him to care for us.

We are not sparrows, but, like them, we can be very vulnerable. Young people are especially exposed to all sorts of temptations: drugs, gang culture, social media bullying and pressure to conform to woke ideas (to name but a few). That is why the CYC and all Christian youth work is really important. Has the CYC ever been so necessary in its 166 year history?

Help us to bring before young people the message that God not only cares for sparrows but for lost young people in 2025. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

## Opportunity!



How often do we hear nowadays of refugees, of asylum seekers, of economic migrants and immigrants? It is a political hot potato.

But is it not also a gospel opportunity? Many who arrive at our shores from Asia and Africa have next to no knowledge of true Christianity.

The CYC building is used by Aberlour Care to cater for young asylum seekers.

We have taken this opportunity when appropriate to present them with the pictured Muslim-friendly translation of the gospel of Luke by the Rev. Duncan Peters, who works with Muslims in Glasgow. The book is beautifully produced and is a very attractive gift.



YMCA Scotland is co-operating with SGN, which is short for Scottish Gas Network to promote health and well-being, part of which is keeping warm. We have agreed to join the scheme. Sandy Finlay, Iain Macdonald and Carolyn Ross have been appointed agents for Domestic Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty and Health eLearning. What we basically do is distribute leaflets, mainly to users of the CYC. The reward is a potential £7,000 donation to the CYC.

### **The Lamb of God** by Eddie Hughes

Not on the cross, but in the Christ  
 My sins were judged that awful day  
 When, true to His eternal tryst,  
 My Saviour bore my sins away.  
 Stripped of His glory, there He stood  
 Before the altar of God's will.  
 The Lamb of God, all pure and good,  
 Took my place there, silent and still.

God's judgment fell, the blood was spilt,  
 The Lamb was slain on that cruel tree.  
 Accounts exchanged! His, all my guilt,  
 And mine, His sinless purity.  
 Oh, praise the slain Lamb; crucified  
 And rise'n again in victory—  
 Oh, praise the Lamb of God Who died,  
 The Lamb of God, Who died for me.