



## UPDATE: JULY - AUGUST 2024

*If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.*

Colossians 3:1-3 (Phillips New Testament)

### Love is Everywhere

It's festival season and once again we have been asked to join the welfare teams to provide pastoral care at Belladrum for those who might overdo things a bit. This year the theme for the Tartan Hearts Festival is love – whatever that means. In Britain we have 100 words for rain<sup>1</sup> but only one for love. It is a kind of catch all word that covers a vast landscape from insect names, a favourite food, through to deep intense emotions.



*True Lover's Knot moth*

It is easy to love people who we agree with, or at least we find agreeable. But some people can be challenging to love because...[insert your own justification here]. Love on our own terms can be fickle, but our culture talks of it all the time.



*Taking God's love where it is needed.*

We know love to be one the characteristics of God – it is holy, perfectly pure. We also know that God's love is not transient or performance based because it is bound by covenant and God is unchanging. God's love has been demonstrated by Jesus on the cross – we need no further proof. Love is one of the few characteristics of God that we can share in. God's love is blended with other attributes such as power, justice and holiness, so should be respected accordingly.

We are called to be gentle with each other, especially those who love Christ (see James 5:9). So how come this love can be so difficult to live out? Like most things we need to look outside of ourselves and our own desires. To look to the objective love of God for us, through his Son and in the Spirit, and to ask for help.

<sup>1</sup> <https://starkeycomics.com/2019/03/14/100-british-words-for-rain/>

## Patrol Dates for Prayer

July	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-01:00	City Centre
	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-03:00	City Centre
	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	09:30-11:30	City Centre
	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-01:00	City Centre
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	Belladrum
	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-01:00	Belladrum
	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-03:00	City Centre
August	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	20:00-24:00	City Centre
	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	22:00-03:00	City Centre
	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	09:30-11:30	City Centre
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	22:00-01:00	City Centre
	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	22:00-03:00	City Centre
September	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	09:30-11:30	City Centre

## Ness Pastor News

Over the next couple of months we will be working with reduced staff numbers. Mark will be working two days a week spread across Mon-Wed and Fri coordinating and managing patrols. Sue will be coordinating prayer on a Friday. Either can be contacted by email using their first name followed by @loveinverness.org.

Recreational habits have changed since the pandemic and we have noticed the city centre to be less busy at night and for the patrols around Hilton to see fewer young people out and about. We continue to experiment with different patrol options including trying to engage with disadvantaged children in the IRA catchment and school children in town on Friday afternoons. These activities are paused for the summer holidays but do please pray for good connections and for any seeds that are sown to be fruitful.



### Prayer Points

Give heartfelt thanks for the demonstration of love through Jesus on the cross. Pray for a society where we genuinely care for and love one another.

Continue to pray for wisdom in the management team and for Mark, who will be covering extra duties in the coming months. Pray for the patrol teams, especially those attending Belladrum for whom this may be a new experience. Pray a blessing of peace over the event and give thanks for the other volunteers such as the highly skilled MERT Highland medical response teams.

We were saddened to hear that the eBikes around the city have had to be removed (hopefully temporarily) due to malicious damage. This will be felt, especially by those on low incomes who use them as transport for food delivery services. Please pray into what drives folk to spoil things for other people.

It is the holiday season. Please pray for recovery for our teachers. Exam results will be due on 6 August; not everyone will get what they need, so pray for direction for young people as they make major life decisions. Give thanks for the practical resources that are available through Ness Bank Church, Café 1668, Inverness Cathedral (InSpire), Hilton Parish Church and Blytheswood Care on Glebe Street.

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

**Inverness Street Pastors** is managed by **Love Inverness**, a Scottish charitable company limited by guarantee. Companies House # 331481. Office of Scottish Charities Regulator number SC041605.