

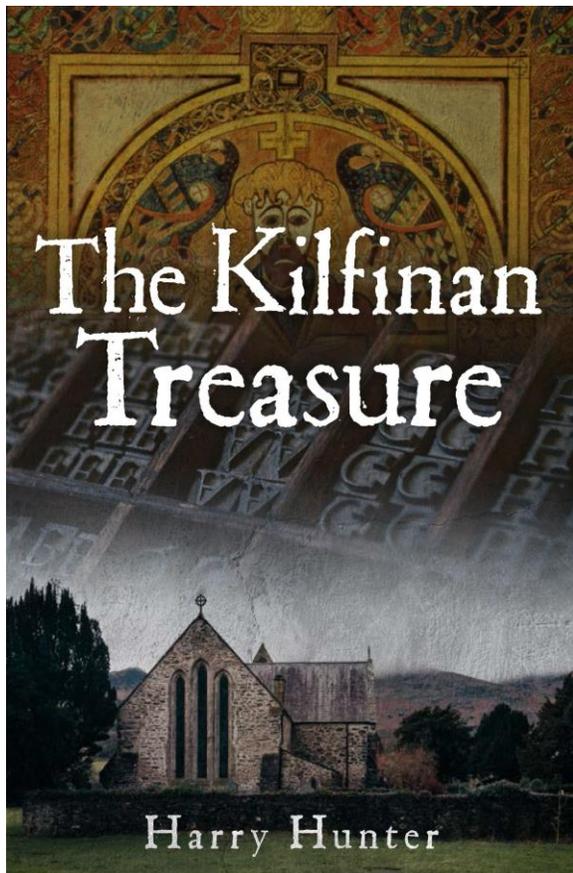
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Press release: *The Kilfinan Treasure – puzzling intrigue in search for true gold*

By Harry Hunter

*'Strongly recommended.'*

Professor Peter Scott, Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute



***Tantalising puzzles to solve  
in the quest for treasure***

***Finding clues in acrostic  
poems***

***Unlikely people searching  
the Bible ...***

***... and finding the greatest  
treasure***

***Beautiful, evocative setting  
on the west coast of  
Scotland***

***Intriguing, brain-teasing  
mystery***

In our fast-paced, tech-ridden society we constantly look to the future and to science in the pursuit of solutions to pressing modern-day problems. But is it possible that many answers are actually to be found in the past? How many of us consider the possibility that ancient texts might hold the key to solving twenty-first-century problems? For many today, reading the Bible might seem the last course of action to consider when looking for solutions. But what might happen if they were to take its contents seriously, if people who would normally never consider the Bible were to seek answers there?

This is the question Harry Hunter asks in his latest novel. He says of his characters, 'Like many people, the folk of Kilfinan aren't terribly religious but often have a spiritual side. Like many, they have a Bible in the house and have a vague recollection of Bible stories from schooldays. Like many, these characters are intrigued by the possibility of solving a puzzle, especially if there might be a reward at the end of it.'

The story is set in Kilfinan, a fictional seaside town in the west of Scotland, and populated with a range of recognisable and interesting characters going about various types of daily business. Drawing on Harry Hunter's talent for writing acrostic poetry, the plot is driven by mysterious poems that start appearing in the town's local paper. Hinting at the possibility of hidden treasure in the local area, the key to solving the poetic puzzles seems to lie in passages from the Bible, attracting the interest of believers and non-believers alike. More curiously still, non-churchgoers discover that the verses seem to have a particular meaning for them. Who is setting the clues, and why? How does an encounter with God's word affect the lives of ordinary people? If they find the Bible helpful, what is stopping them going to church? Is there an actual prize or is it just a clever way of getting people to read the 'Godslot'?

'You don't have to be "religious" to enjoy the book,' says Harry. 'Most of the characters wouldn't describe themselves as religious, especially the protagonist. However, when non-religious people look at what the Bible actually says, they often find it relevant to their own circumstances.'

Come and meet the characters of Kilfinan as they quest after the greatest treasure of all.

#### **About the author:**

An environmental scientist, Harry Hunter became a senior academic at a university in the north of England before retiring to Ayrshire. An elder in the Church of Scotland, he also enjoys classical guitar, Spanish language and culture, hill walking and live music. Harry's previous novels include *Taking the High Road* and *Orrible 'Ooligans*. He is married with two sons.

#### **What reviewers say:**

*'A tale of a treasure hunt, with the Bible providing clues: a highly enjoyable read, and an edifying one. Strongly recommended.'*

**Professor Peter Scott**, Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute based at Manchester University

*'I became involved through a puzzle and along the way I am introduced to a spectrum of well-portrayed people, each different in personality and circumstance – a telling cross section of any*

*parish. Incorporation of modern media, bloggers and search engines make it all very realistic. Many of the trite dictums of Church teaching are given a new relevance. Pass it on!*

**Bud Young**, magazine editor and landscape consultant

*'With characters that pop, spirited dialogue and puzzles that pull you in, this book will keep you reading until the last surprising page.'*

**Wendy H Jones**, author of the award-winning DI Shona McKenzie mysteries

**For review copies and media enquiries contact Nicki Copeland: [info@instantapostle.com](mailto:info@instantapostle.com)**

***The Kilfinan Treasure*** by Harry Hunter (ISBN: 9781912726059) is published by Instant Apostle and is available on 21st March 2019 from Christian bookshops, bookstores and online retailers. Fiction, 128pp, £7.99