



## RITUAL AND REMEMBRANCE

### An experience of a Service of Dedication for a Memorial Bench

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 family and members of the community gathered at Carnac Point to dedicate a bench in memory of Joshua Mitchell. The dedication service was led by Rev Alistair Murray of Trinity Church in Inverness. He had been murdered on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008. The cost for the bench was raised by members of the community. Joshua had simply left his family home and about 100 yards from there a boy of around the same age as Joshua, full of drink

and drugs, angry with the world, stabbed Joshua who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. A dedication service was held to offer comfort and support to the family who still are trying to come to terms with their loss. The service was covered in the local newspaper, The Inverness Courier.



## Memorial to knife victim unveiled

**FAMILY** and friends of murder victim Joshua Mitchell gathered at a spot he loved to visit as a child to unveil a memorial bench and plaque.

The dedication ceremony, which took place on Sunday close to the former South Kessock ferry terminal and the Merkinch Local Nature Reserve, marked the anniversary of the 17-year-old's murder just yards from his home in Carnac Crescent.

Rev Alistair Murray, of Trinity Church, led a prayer and reading before Joshua's family laid a bouquet on the bench, which was purchased by the South Kessock Residents' Association and environmental group Merkinch Greenspace.

"A number of people from the family and the community turned out and it went according to the wishes of the family," said Mr Murray, who also conducted Joshua's funeral.

"There was a great number of people and the fact the community has made this gesture of respect. It's a very fitting memorial for such tragic circumstances."

On 22nd March last year Joshua was stabbed once through the heart in an unprovoked attack by Alan Dewar, who was high on drink and drugs.

Joshua's girlfriend, Cheryl Fraser (18), of Charleston

View, was pregnant with his child at the time of the attack and she attended the ceremony on Sunday with their seven-and-a-half month old son, whom she has named Joshua.

"Hopefully, as baby Joshua grows, develops and matures, his mother will be able to share some of the memories of Joshua," said Mr Murray.

"Obviously he will never know his father in a physical sense, but hopefully she will be able to share memories of Joshua's life, so as little Joshua grows up and develops an understanding of his surroundings, he will at least have some understanding of what his father was like and what went on during that tragic night."

Joshua's killer is currently serving a minimum 13-year prison sentence for murder. As the young father bled to death Dewar, also of Carnac Crescent, puffed on a cigarette as onlookers rushed to his victim's aid.

The 18-year-old told police Joshua had simply been "in the wrong place, at the wrong time".



□ LEFT: Joshua Mitchell's parents, Andrew and Marilyn led family and friends at the service marking the unveiling of the memorial bench.  
□ BELOW: The plaque on the bench.



Dedicated to the memory of  
Joshua Mitchell  
Tragically taken from us  
22 March 2008