

# ***Newsletter***

## ***Crown Church, Inverness***

**February 2019: No. 746**

**Interim Moderator: Rev Dr Bruce MacRitchie**



### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**All people, of any age, are warmly invited to participate at all of our services**  
We have "Treasure Seekers", age-related fun and learning activity for children every Sunday at 11  
also Cloud 10 for secondary aged young people every Sunday at 11.

- Sunday 3rd February**      **Morning Worship at 9.30 with Rev Morven Archer**  
**and 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts followed by special prayers**
- Sunday 10th February**      **Morning Worship**  
**at 9.30 am and 11 am with Rev Morven Archer**
- Sunday 17th February**      **Morning Worship at 9.30am with Rev Morven Archer**  
**Elders' Preparatory Worship at 10.30am**  
**Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts**
- Sunday 24th February**      **Morning Worship at 9.30am with Rev Morven Archer**  
**Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts**
- Sunday 3rd March**      **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am with Rev**  
**Morven Archer and at 11am and 3pm with Rev Doug McRoberts**  
**Thanksgiving Service at 6.30 with Stewart Robertson followed**  
**by special prayers**

*Also, every Friday at 12 noon, prayers – at which people may be remembered by name*

**Jesus said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it:**

**"Love your neighbour as you love yourself".**

**Matthew 22: verses 37 to 39**



## The Nominating Committee

Note to congregations 13/1/19

In the interests of keeping you all as up to date as possible with the progress of the Nominating Committee, I have prepared the following statement.

As you will have been aware, the closing date for applications was 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 by which time we had received one application for the vacant charge of

minister here at Crown Church. With diligence and prayerful consideration, the Nominating Committee have decided to re-open and advertise for further applications.

I am grateful for the diligence, skill and expertise evident in the Nominating Committee and for your prayers for us as we seek the minister of God's calling for our church. **Struan**

### Interim Moderator for Crown Church

Rev Duncan MacPherson is on study/annual leave from 17 January until 9 May. In the Rev MacPherson's absence he will be relieved as our Interim Moderator by the Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie.

Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie and his wife Grace retired from Castle Street Church of Scotland, Dingwall a few years ago. Dr Ritchie has strong links with the Highland Theological College, where he has been a lecturer for many years. The majority of his ministry was spent in Crieff but he also served for five years at the Zomba Theological College in Malawi where he trained ministers for churches throughout Africa.

**Brian Macgill Session Clerk**



## Young Crown – The Story so Far

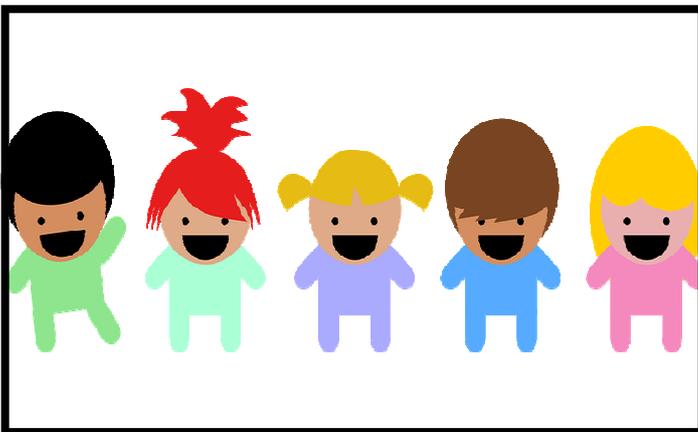
Marion and I managed to catch up with Struan recently over a cup of coffee and a slice of Marion's date and walnut loaf. Incredible though it may seem, Struan is already well into the 2nd half of his five-year contract and now seems a good time to draw breath, catch up with where we are and pause for some reflection as to where we might be going.



### So where are we now?

There is lots of good news. We now have 2 well established toddler groups running on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It is worth reflecting on the fact that these are bringing quite a number of not just children, but young adults into the church buildings on a regular basis. These are mostly people who otherwise are unlikely to darken our doorstep. These groups are running well but perhaps the time has come to start thinking about having Struan hand the leadership and day to day organisation of these groups on to some other person or persons to allow Struan to concentrate his energies into other activities

### Crown Primary



Any fears that the relationship with our local primary school would deteriorate following Peter's departure have happily proved unfounded. Struan confirms that we continue to have a quite excellent relationship with the primary school and with its head teacher (Miriam MacDonald). Struan cannot replicate Peter's musical skills but others have stepped into the

breach and both Eileen Ardern and Pat Crippin received a mention in dispatches in this regard.

Struan reported that in the Christmas term, use of the school hall was very pressured and that the school had been using our Upper Hall for both PE lessons and for rehearsals of the school production of "*the Lion King*."

This was not without its difficulties because our own halls are under pressure but Struan was keen to emphasise that the school were very grateful for the assistance which we were able to offer. Something there for us all perhaps to take forward in future planning?

In addition to the end of term services and the preparation with the teachers and children which goes along with them, Struan also leads school assemblies once every 3 weeks. He has also been organising visits to the church buildings and takes classes around the church on mini guided tours.



Struan was running, quite successfully, Scripture Union sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes at the school. However the parent who was co-leader with him has now moved on and is no longer available to help. He now urgently needs another adult to share these sessions with him as he is not able to run them on his own as a consequence of safeguarding issues. Would all

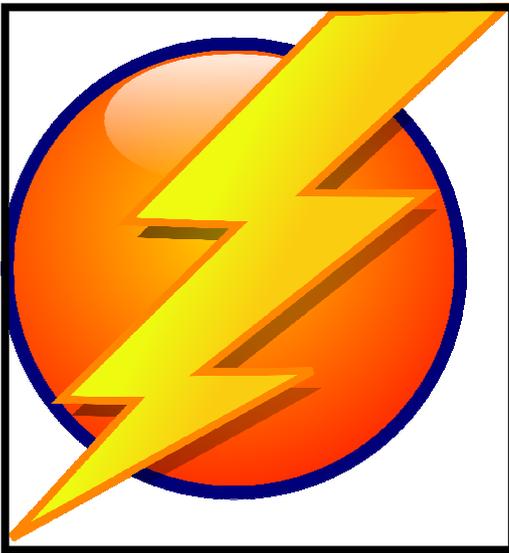
those wishing to volunteer please form an orderly queue?

## Millburn Academy

Struan's relationship with Millburn Academy continues to prosper. In addition to the now well established Thursday lunchtime drop-in which he shares with other local Christian youth workers, he has also established a Friday afternoon drop-in which takes place in our own buildings from 12:30 through until 3 o'clock or frequently beyond. Struan reports of this is going well with a dozen or so regulars who routinely bring friends along with them. He could no doubt do with some help to run this. As the format involves offering lunch along with activities, it would be possible to help out even if you don't think youth work is your particular calling.

Struan also takes part in the chaplaincy programme for the school assemblies. I put to Struan that he is very much the face of Crown church insofar as the people of all ages with whom he is coming into contact and he accepts this. More of this later.





## Energize

A decision has been taken to have a term off with a view to recommencing the Energize programme which is essentially aimed at primary 5 to primary 7 pupils until after the Easter break. Struan reflected upon the fact that he needs to do more than just continue with these programs but try and build in some "sustainability" to ensure that they will continue to flourish even if he is no longer around as leader. He expressed his gratitude to those who have been helping him who include Lynn Forbes, Jude Madeleine and Michael Macauley. It is now,

however, time to take stock, draw in more people and plan these activities on a more permanent basis.

## Youth Alpha

This was run very successfully last summer with 7 or 8 boys attending. Struan has indicated that he intends to encourage them to run another course next summer themselves. Watch this space!

## The Vacancy

Peter's departure has undoubtedly adversely impacted upon Struan's workload and I commented that he appears to be doing quite a lot of things which are not really in his job description. He cheerfully shrugs his shoulders and says that this simply goes with the territory insofar as a youth leader is concerned and does not really bother him. He has had to shoulder responsibility in areas where previously there would have been shared responsibility and someone to talk things through with.



## The Way Ahead

An essential part of the wider plan for Young Crown will be to offer weekly methods of engagement for all children from pre-school through to school leavers. This is an ambitious undertaking which will need resources, not just in terms of people but also in terms of hall space etc and is something which the church will need to give some very serious attention. Struan cannot do it on his own.

Struan clearly recognises the need to forge stronger links between those children and young adults with whom he comes into contact. He made the point that this is not about bringing "*them to us*" but maybe more about "*us going to them*".

Struan wants to create opportunities to allow us to make connections and establish a community relationship with the people who are coming into our church buildings. He recognises the difficulties but also recognises the need to move away from a position where he is the face of Crown church to a position where there are lots of other faces in Crown church who will become familiar faces to those coming into the building.

The task ahead is to start integrating all of the above into the life and work of church to create a real community.

It is a big ask but it seems now is the time to get on with it. **Bob Forrest**

## **Al Shurooq School for Blind Children. A little Christmas miracle .**

Thanks to everyone who contributed gifts for the children in Bethlehem. We have been overwhelmed by generosity! You managed to fill two large boxes with parcels which Jean and Lesley took to the courier slightly anxious about the likely cost of transport.

"Don't be afraid" said an angel at the depot. "My manager says it can go for free."

Both boxes arrived safely and the new underwear is much appreciated by the children. Ruba, the Principal, says " We thank you all, please send our gratitude to everyone. "

Thank you and "angels" everywhere. **Lesley McRoberts**





We are very grateful to the Rev Doug McRoberts for this happy picture of Crown at Christmas which was sent to Al Shurooq School with the gifts.

Which takes us to another season and we include this note from Jude Madeleine.



**'Preparations are underway for a Lent bible study for this forthcoming period of Lent. As for previous years, it is expected that this will be in the format of house groups. Appeals are being made to anyone who can support and help either as leader of a group or for hosting a group to get in touch with Morven Archer, David Crippin or Jude Madeleine'**

Dates for your diary:

The Outreach Group hope to hold the annual HIV Souper Sunday lunch on Sunday 24th February '

And Workshop with Dave Hopwood on 2nd March—see below for the big picture!

**Disney**  
**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS**  
**HOLLYWOOD**  
**MGM**  
**VUE**  
**BIG SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT**  
**EDEN COURT**

**THE BIG SCREEN COMES TO CROWN CHURCH**

**KEEP THE DATE FREE**

**SATURDAY 2nd MARCH**

**You've seen the movie ... you've read the book ... and now for something completely different! Dave Hopwood (author, speaker and mime artist) will spend a few days at Crown Church during which he will lead some workshops about what he calls Big Screen Theology. Dave takes clips from modern movies and draws Christian meaning (he calls it theology) from them. It is entertaining and fun, but it is also deeply meaningful. Fuller details nearer the time but, for now, we simply ask you to keep free the evening of Saturday 2nd March. Nibbles will be provided and perhaps, in true cinema style, there might even be popcorn, ice-cream, and hot dogs. The event will be held in the church premises.**

**STEWART ROBERTSON**



## The Guild

Celebrating 90 years of the Guild in Crown Church, the present members and some previous members enjoyed an excellent lunch in Craigmorie Hotel on the 27th November. Reverend Douglas MacRoberts attended along with Mr Iain Whyte, General Secretary of the Guild based at 121 George Street, Edinburgh. The latter gave a most interesting after-lunch speech followed by Morag Russell cutting the celebratory cake.

In December, because the Florians had cancelled their annual pantomime because of problems with their premises, we only had the high tea in the Waterside Hotel. This occasion was enjoyed by those who attended.

At our first meeting of 2019 we welcomed Anne Muirden, to speak about the Leprosy Mission. Unfortunately the attendance at this meeting was not as good as usual, but those who did attend were entertained by Anne's visit to India where she visited hospitals who treat those afflicted with leprosy. If caught early enough and treated with the correct drugs a cure is possible. Leprosy is not so widespread as it used to be but is still found quite widely in Asia, Africa and South America.

On the 22nd we were delighted to welcome Jimmy Gray, a member of our congregation and well known to many of us, who came along to tell us about his time as Provost of Inverness. He felt to be Provost was such a privilege and to meet so many interesting people, including the Queen and Prince Philip, and to be part of so many decisions about the future of Inverness was an amazing experience. We had a full turnout of members that evening, which was excellent!

Our main fundraising event takes place on the 2nd February, namely a soup and pudding lunch....good value at £5 a head. On the 5th the proprietor of the Oil and Vinegar Place in Union Street is coming along to tell us about their business and then on the 19th, Mattie Macdonald will give a craft demonstration.

As ever a warm invitation is extended to any member of the congregation to attend our meetings.

**Dorothy Mein**  
**Guild Correspondent**



On 27th January, the Rev Doug McRoberts presented long service certificates to the above members of the Guild. Left to right: Ruby Coe (26years), Jean MacGowan (31years), Marion Barbour (21years), Sheena Ferguson (26 years), Mary Ann Buchanan (21 years) and Heather Grant (45 years). Congratulations to all!

### **Thanks for 'Potmums' at Christmas**

For many years Crown Church has organised the purchase and delivery of pot plants to be gifted to the elderly, bereaved and housebound. Hopefully these plants have prospered and have given pleasure to those who have received them. The added bonus is that our elders and others have the opportunity to visit homes at a time when help, support and a friendly word is needed to rebuild faith and hope. Christmas brings out the best in us all!

In recent years the plants have been supplied, with much goodwill, by Dobbies Garden Centre at a much appreciated discount and delivered free of charge. This year special thanks are due to Peter from Dobbies for making this a relatively easy task.

If there is any preference for a particular plant do please let Ann Johnston or your elder know; it would also be interesting to hear of the plants that are still flourishing in March.

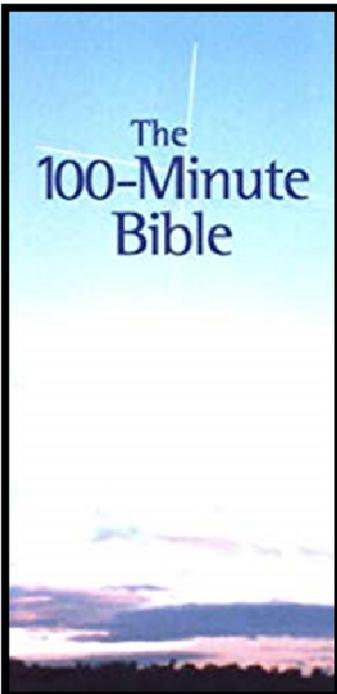
**Ann Johnston**

## THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS

### Rev Doug McRoberts

There are around 775,630 words in the Bible – depending on the translation you use – and it is still, of course, the biggest-selling book of all time. For those who like condensed versions, though, here's the Bible in fifty words:

**God made, Adam bit, Noah arked, Abraham split.  
Jacob fooled, Joseph ruled, bush talked, Moses balked;  
Pharaoh plagued, people walked.  
Sea divided, tablets guided, promise landed.  
Saul freaked; David peeked; prophets warned, Jesus born.  
God walked, love talked; anger crucified, hope died.  
Love rose, Spirit flames, word spread, God remains.**



During the next few months, we'll be basing our 11.00am services on this, usually by focusing on two words each week...

There are other excellent ways of getting the Bible's big picture in short form. One of these is the **100 Minute Bible**. Available as a paperback or e-book, it looks like this...

...and it can literally be read in about 100 minutes. It was launched in 2005 at Canterbury Cathedral, and frequently reprinted since then. Here's some real reviews:

*"For people who never have read the Bible or know very little about it... a great way into the stories and giving the big picture."* Kindle review, Aug 2011.

*"Inspiring and easy to use, especially when I only have a short time such as when stuck in traffic or waiting at the doctor."* Amazon review, March 2011.

*"It has been said that The 100-Minute Bible has been written in a style to encourage readers to keep turning the pages. I can vouch for that because I was still turning them on a seat at Slough station as my Ealing train came in and left without me!"* NH, Slough.

*"My son wants me to read a chapter each night from the book, and has shown a great interest (makes a bit of a change) as he asked me questions afterwards that he never used to, which is great!"* Matthew, UK.

*"We have some bad news for lazy Christians – your favourite excuse for not staying in touch with God has just disappeared with the arrival of The 100-Minute Bible. On a bad traffic day in Nairobi, you can begin reading it on Waiyaki and by the time you snake your way to the Nyayo Stadium roundabout, you will be done."* **Daily Nation, Nairobi.**

# HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

FRI 22  
FEB

PERFORMING  
IN SUPPORT  
OF

Inverness  
Street Pastors



INVERNESS  
METHODIST CHURCH,  
HUNTLY STREET

7.30 TO  
8.30 PM



## MacGilp Memorial Window

The response to the appeal for funding from the congregation has been amazing and we are well over our planned contribution to the cost. However it has proved very difficult to obtain grants for the work and it would be prudent to raise some more finance. So, if you have not contributed so far, please do so and if you want to do some fund raising please do so.

**Bill Mein**

**We are very grateful to Stewart Robertson for these pictures of the Crown Church Children's Christmas party**



# CrossReach Information Sheet

## Thank you!

CrossReach would like to say thank you for all the gifts and donations received over the Christmas period. You can keep up-to-date with news and stories about CrossReach services via the website: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

## CrossReach @150

This year CrossReach celebrates 150 years of providing social care in Scotland. Watch out for more details over the coming weeks as preparations are made to launch celebrations in May 2019.

Read the feature on the work of CrossReach in the January edition of Life and Work. Visit: [www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/current-issue](http://www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/current-issue)

## Events - lots of ways to have fun, and support CrossReach while you do!

Are you looking for something exciting to do in 2019? CrossReach has events taking place throughout 2019, where you can have fun whilst supporting its work with children and families across Scotland. For more information visit: [www.crossreach.org.uk/events](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/events)



### Kiltwalk - various dates throughout the year

Dundee, Edinburgh, Aberdeen & Glasgow throughout the year. Choose from 3 different walks of varying distances - suitable for all the family & all abilities.

### Edinburgh Marathon Festival - 25th - 26th May:

Run, with Edinburgh Castle as a stunning backdrop. Limited free charity places available. Join team CrossReach & set yourself a new challenge!



### Freefall Skydive Perth - 22 June 2019 or 13 July

Jump from 10,000ft and freefall 5,000ft at up to 120mph! This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity cannot be missed! Locations and Dates:  
Errol - 22 June and Auchterarder - 13 July.

### Zipwire - 4th May & 7th September.

Zip through the trees over a stunning gorge in Aviemore. Take the CrossReach Zip Wire Challenge

## Playlist for Life

Congratulations to Cameron House (residential Care Home) in being accredited to use Playlist For Life, a UK music and dementia charity. Music is used at Cameron House as a positive way to connect people with their memories.

For more information on CrossReach specialist services for dementia visit [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk).

## Recovery Volunteers

Congratulations to the CrossReach Recovery Volunteers who graduated in December. Having previously used CrossReach services, participants completed a programme of training and placement in a CrossReach service, where their voluntary roles included peer mentoring.

Did you hear Viv Dickenson, CrossReach CEO, being interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland recently? If you missed it, you can catch it here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGCpBbLlsgw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGCpBbLlsgw)



## **LIFE AND WORK FEBRUARY 2019**

### **South of the Border**

The Church of Scotland congregations in England and the Channel Islands

### **'Hope for a Change'**

Nuclear physicist Dr David Frame is a member of the Church's World Mission Council. He talks science and faith, and hopes for peace on the Korean peninsula

### **Where Now for Fairtrade?**

As one of the highest-profile Fairtrade companies struggles, we ask what the future is for the movement

### **Challenges and Joys**

Young member Gemma King reflects on growing up in the Church of Scotland

### **Making Love Count**

In the month of romance, the Moderator highlights the importance of a life of love

### **Uncovering a Seam of Coal History**

An appeal for help in finding all Scotland's mining memorials

### **The Real Cost of Christmas**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers describes how the poorest are paying the most for credit

### **A New Understanding of Friendship**

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the lessons of the 'Cell Church Movement'

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; or speak to your church's Life and Work coordinator.



**Coming soon!**

**New Taoist Tai Chi beginner classes in the Lower Hall at Crown Church**

We will be holding a free Open House evening event on Thursday 28th March 2019 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

The purpose of the Open House is demonstrate part or all of the 108-move set, tell you a little about the Taoist Tai Chi Society and give you the opportunity to try a few of the moves yourselves. You can just turn up, there is no need to book and no cost for the Open House.

If you are interested you can then enrol for membership and the Beginner Course, which starts in the following week on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April also from 7:30pm to 9:00pm, at which we teach the basic moves of the set over a 4-month period.

If you would like to find out more about Taoist Tai Chi and our organisation, please go to our website at [www.taoist.org](http://www.taoist.org)

Or, if you have any questions you can contact us via email at [highlands@taoist .org](mailto:highlands@taoist.org)



We look forward to seeing you at the Open House.

**Annie Woolston and Ian Ramsden  
Instructors, Highlands & Islands branch  
Taoist Tai Chi Society of Great Britain**

## Daily Bible Readings for February

### **February 3, 2019** Matthew 6:7-21

Monday, Psalm 20:7, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 6:22-24, Teachings of Jesus

Wednesday, Matthew 6:25-34, Teachings of Jesus

Thursday, Matthew 7:15-20, Teachings of Jesus

Friday, Matthew 7:21-23, Teachings of Jesus

Saturday, Matthew 8:1-17, Healings of Jesus

### **February 10, 2019** Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

Monday, Psalm 37:16-18, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 9:9-17, Call of Matthew

Wednesday, Matthew 8:18-27, Miracles of Jesus

Thursday, Matthew 8:28-9:8, Healings of Jesus

Friday, Matthew 9:18-38, Healings of Jesus

Saturday, Matthew 10:1-15, The Twelve Apostles

### **February 17, 2019** Matthew 13:24-46

Monday, Psalm 84:1-7, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 10:16-42, Coming Persecutions

Wednesday, Matthew 10:26-42, Coming Persecutions

Thursday, Matthew 11:1-19, John the Baptist

Friday, Matthew 11:20-30, Woes

Saturday, Matthew 12:1-8, Teachings of Jesus

### **February 24, 2019** Matthew 14:13-33

Monday, Psalm 95:1-5, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 12:9-21, Teachings of Jesus

Wednesday, Matthew 12:22-32, Teachings of Jesus

Thursday, Matthew 12:33-45, Teachings of Jesus

Friday, Matthew 12:46-50, Teachings of Jesus

Saturday, Matthew 13:1-23, Parables of Jesus

### **March 3, 2019** Matthew 16:24—17:8

Monday, Psalm 41:7-10, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 13:47-53, Parables of Jesus

Wednesday, Matthew 18:1-9, Who Is the Greatest?

Thursday, Psalm 146:7c-10, Psalm

Friday, Psalm 51:1-3, Psalm

Saturday, Matthew 13:54-58, Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

### DEATHS

Mrs Maimie Robertson, on 8 January.  
Mr Alister MacCallum, on 10h January

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Romans 12.15).

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**Website Design:** We are designing a new website for the church. If you have any experience in designing a website and would like to help, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Struan at the Church Office or Bruce Merchant. **Bruce**

**The deadline for the March newsletter will be Sunday 24th February**

Please send any articles or news to the Forrests at:  
marionandbobnewsletter@gmail.com or left in the 'F' pigeonhole.  
Please note that the newsletter can also be accessed via the church website where you will be able to see the photographs in colour

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### **Crown Church Office**

Open Tues-Fri (9.30-12.00) 231140 office@crown-church.co.uk

**Session Clerk** macgill@outlook.com

Brian Macgill, 9 Lochardil Place, IV2 4LN 224650

brian.macgill@outlook.com

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**The Church website is to be found at [www.crown-church.co.uk](http://www.crown-church.co.uk)**