

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

May 2019: No. 749

Interim Moderator: Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie



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 5th May	Morning Worship at 9.30am with Rev Morven Archer Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts Followed by special prayers
Sunday 12th May	Morning Worship at 9.30am with Rev Morven Archer Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts Followed by special prayers
Sunday 19th May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am with Rev Morven Archer Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts
Sunday 26th May	Morning Worship at 9.30am with Rev Morven Archer Morning Worship at 11 am with Rev Doug McRoberts
Sunday 2nd June	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 Rev Morven Archer followed by special prayers

Also, every Friday at 12 noon, prayers – at which people may be remembered by name
Please make any requests known.

"And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28.20)

An egg-cellent Easter!

I'd encourage you to have a wee check around for Easter eggs next time you sit down in church. Over the Easter holidays, Young Crown arranged four Easter egg hunts – I personally hid several hundred of them and I'm not totally sure all have yet been found. The egg hunts tell a story in themselves – which I share in the hope you enjoy some of what we're up to and why we have had so many egg-hunters around in the last few weeks!

The first of the hunts was undertaken by the children, staff, parents and many other friends + relatives at the Crown Primary School end-of-term service. What a privilege it is to be able to lead these services – to invite the whole school in and to share some of the beauty and joy of the Easter story with them all. What a delight to see an amazing group of Primary 1 children share some story, poem and song all about why we love this time of year too.

Another hunt later that day was held for the young people at the Friday Drop In. I've just loved spending Friday afternoons with the regulars – they come down for lunch, stay for some games and activities, enjoy the chat and banter and eventually will be hitting the streets by about 5pm (sometimes four-and-a-half hours after arriving!!) Our provision of this club has been both well received and useful in maintaining and building our relationships with young people who had come up through Energize throughout the last few years.

There was an egg hunt also as part of the entertainment of the day on Good Friday's BIG Footprint all-age event. The aim of the event was to join in with a national initiative to use Easter weekend as a point of connection between different generations and do something great together. Oh boy, the sun shone for us too! We had something like 60 / 70 people along for a 1.7 mile walk, bacon rolls for lunch, some arts and crafts; and an egg hunt in there for good measure too. A great event, which truly met our expectations in terms of bringing out a crowd of people from all different ages and stages. There was a particularly strong showing of people who had taken up the invite via toddler groups – which was just a joy for me as it has been one of the ministry areas we've well committed to over the last few years.

Another egg hunt happened during the opening night of our new youth club YC inc. We were chuffed to finally launch a new-look-new-format club which has been the product of several months' work and imagination. The opening night seemed to go successfully – with young people transported not to a church hall, but to the Hall of Memories – a space which over the weeks will continue to become more and more special as we shape it with our own personalities, experiences, memories and different signs and thoughts form the amazing Bible stories we explore together. We've worked really hard to bring it together and we're so chuffed with

all of the support you've shown us in your prayers and your spreading the invitation far and wide.

If Easter eggs have any summary message I think it's that there is always hope of new life. In all circumstances, the Author of Life can have His will be done. So these Easter eggs tell the story of the continuing flourishing of new life in the work and ministry of Young Crown. Happy Easter to you!

Struan



Thanks to Michael MacAulay for the above picture of the Good Friday BIG Footprint



Highland Foodbank is grateful for your continued support. Items needed for May are: Tins of potato , tins of custard Small packets of soap powder and deodorant.

Easter at Crown

The Easter season has just passed but was a very busy one!

The communal meal on Maundy Thursday was very well attended and much enjoyed by everyone. We have attached the photograph of some of the ladies who made the meal such an enjoyable event.

The church was beautifully decorated and the communion service which followed the meal on Thursday was really quite memorable.

There was another service on Good Friday and both the Easter Sunday services were well attended.

Thanks to everyone who contributed towards the success of the week. We have included some more pictures on the next page.





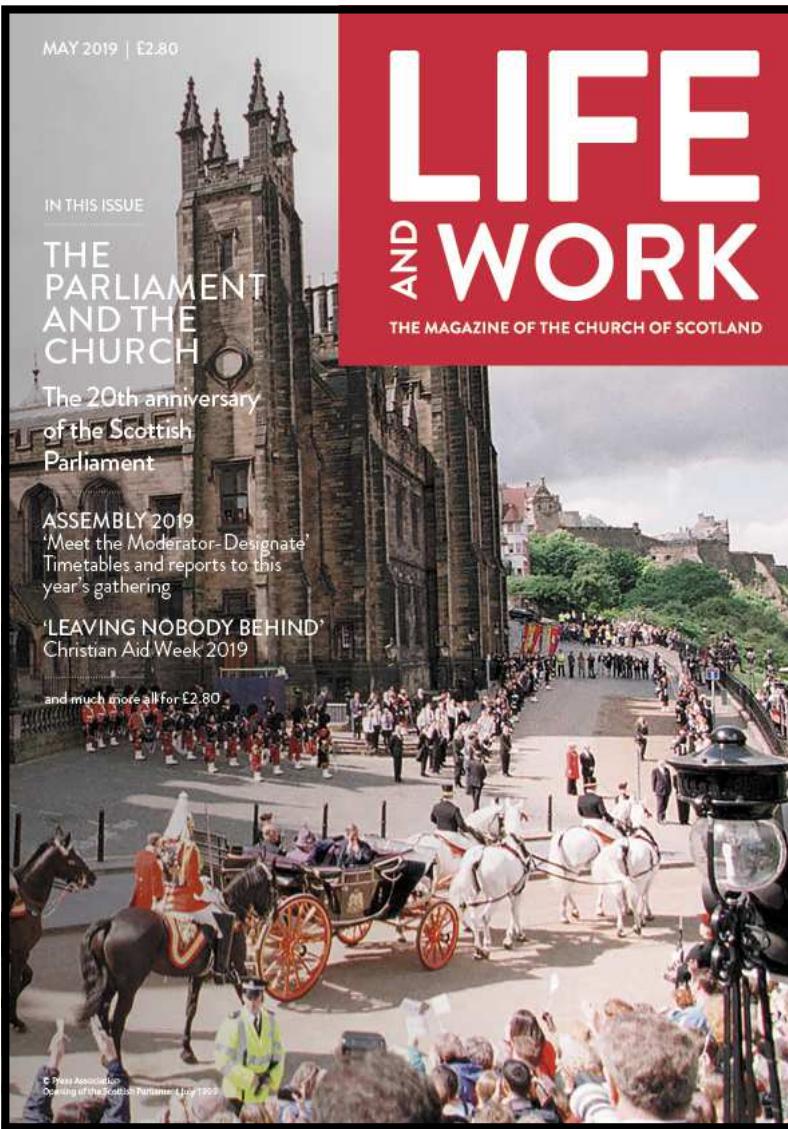
FLOWERS IN CHURCH

A big 'thank you' to all who donate money for church flowers during the year and also to Ruby Coe and her team of Flower Arrangers who arrange them each week in church.

Ruby explains the process as follows: "Members of the congregation donate money to buy the flowers, and I check if there are any particular colours or flowers they would like. Then members of my team, consisting of Adrienne Adie, Eileen Ardern, Lena Clarke, Robbie Mackintosh, Dorothy Mein, Margaret Melville, Judith Macleod, Irene Munro, Ann Nelson and Evelyn Reid take it in turn to buy and arrange the flowers. From time to time others help with the arrangements, and they are Mary Ann Buchanan Janet Fraser, Jean Hamilton, Janet Holmes, Sheila Kelly and Marjory Mackenzie . We usually all help on special occasions, ie Easter and Christmas. If anyone wishes to 'have a go' at flower arranging they are welcome to join the team. and instruction can be given until they are confident."

The flowers at Easter were wonderful and we are most grateful to you all.



**MAY 2019****Parliament and the Church**

As the Scottish Parliament reaches its 20th anniversary, politicians and church officials remember the official opening in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall

General Assembly 2019

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Colin Sinclair
Comment from the Rev Dr Doug Gay and the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

Reports and timetables
Heart and Soul preview
Prayer for the Assembly

Christian Aid Week

Interview with Christian Aid's country manager for Sierra Leone, focus of this year's appeal

'One of the Success Stories of the Church'

The 50th anniversary of the Housing and Loan Fund

Called To Set An Example

In the latest youth column, one of the Church's youngest ministers reflects on his experience

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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The Elders' Council

We felt it might be helpful if, from time to time, the newsletter carried some brief information about the work of the Elders' Council.

The Elders' Council is the executive arm of the Kirk Session. All active elders along with some invited church members serve on one of its teams. The leaders of those teams, along with the Session Clerk, Depute Session Clerk and a representative from the Congregational Board (currently Bill Mein) comprise the Council. Team leaders are appointed for three years, and can be reappointed once.



The present team leaders who serve on the Elders' Council are as follows:

- Judith MacLeod (Youth and Children)
- Marion Forrest (Pastoral Care)
- Bruce Merchant (Communication)
- Jude Madeleine (Discipleship)
- David Crippin (Worship) and
- Mairi Main (Community and Outreach)

How does it operate

The Elders' Council was designed to allow for necessary work and for projects to be carried out with the minimum of red tape, and acts under specific powers delegated to it by the Kirk Session.

Each team arranges for the smooth running of concerns within their remit - for example the Worship Team ensures people will read at the 11am services.

They each determine their own future policy proposals and bring that to the Council or Kirk Session where necessary, then go ahead and carry out that policy - for example, the Community and Outreach Team recently arranged to make contact with all the new residents in the McCarthy and Stone development across the road, and invited everyone to an afternoon tea.

They respond to remits which come to us from the General Assembly or Presbytery - for example we were instructed by the General Assembly to hold a conference to determine the way forward for our congregation in the light **(cont on next page)**

(cont from previous page) of the national decline in church membership and to do this by looking again at The Church Without Walls report. This has led in our case to the formation of the Crown 20/20 group to look at how we might re-imagine the church premises as a community hub or focus.

Matters reported recently by Team Leaders

The Elders' Council last met on 3rd April. Each of the six team leaders gives a report. The following highlights some issues reported and discussed:

The Sanctuary

The day to day opening of the sanctuary and the safety implications of it not being staffed. What options may be available and further questions to pose to the Board who arrange buildings insurance cover.

District Elders

Members of the congregation expect a visit from their Elder not only as a reminder about Communion but also as a way of keeping in touch. Should there be a shortfall in visiting, for whatever reason, members may feel at a loss, particularly in a time of vacancy. Elders' Council is looking constructively at how to address any shortages and will be resolving with the approval of Kirk Session.

Organ Supply

During the vacancy to date, there has been considerable discussion and liaison between the Council and the Congregational Board with a view to placing these organ supply arrangements onto a more stable footing. Last month contractual arrangements were completed whereby Louis Jones plays three Sunday per month and Ian Livingstone on a fourth.

Finance

As was highlighted at the recent S.A.M., expenditure has exceeded income for several years and the shortfall will require to be addressed. In addition, projects such as Young Crown, the McGilp window and the 20/20 project bring with them a significant need for additional resources. Discussions around how all of this is best prioritised and managed continues.

Destruction of old records

There has been a considerable body of work to make Crown Church compliant with the new Data Protection rules concerning which records must be retained, for how long and which records should be destroyed.

Brian MacGill

Prayer Diary

May 2019

This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful. You may like to detach it from the newsletter and use it to pray for our church and community.

If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (June 2019) please do send them to our **church secretary**, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

May 6-12

Pray for everyone touched by the bombings in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday. Pray that in the mist of their shock, morning and suffering, Jesus will continue to be with them.

Pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves; those who live in developing countries and countries where there is conflict and very little stability; for those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life.

Pray for Foodbank, for all those who contribute generously with kind donation of food; for continuing support, and for all those who benefit from the donations of food.

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting public examinations at school, at college or at university and pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path.

May 13-19

Give thanks for all the boys coming to the different sections of the Boys Brigade, that they continue to enjoy the time and learning together; pray for the continuing support of the leaders.

Pray for the success of the Battallion Sports Day and the Annual Display and Parent's Nights.

Pray for all the volunteers doing door-to-door collections for Christian Aid week.

Pray for God's blessing over the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

Ask God to open our eyes today to the beauty of His world and to prompt us to care for and protect what has been gifted to us. Pray for the advancement of conservation and renewable energy and that our governments will prioritise looking after our earth.

May 20-26

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5). Today, pause to thank God that He can bring light into every situation. Praise Him for being the light of the world and ask Him to help you reflect that light into the communities around you.

Pray for those who are homeless and give thanks for those who offer financial and practical support.

Pray for God's blessings on the Crown 20/20 team and everyone involved in developing this initiative ; Pray that God will guide and lead them in this important development work for Crown Church and the community.

Pray that just as God loves and cares for us, we would also similarly love and care for others. Help us to be loyal to those who need us.

May 27-June 2

Pray for our hospitals. Thank God for the medical staff at our local hospital. Praise Him for the NHS and ask Him to lift the burden of busy workloads and long hours and to give the staff strength, joy and stamina to work hard and deliver excellent care to their patients.

Pray for the ongoing work of the Nominating Committee, that God will continue to lead, guide and direct in all they are doing in seeking to do the work in Christ's name. Pray also for the minister who may be considering a move to Crown Church. Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

Pray for those who live alone and are lonely. Pray also for people affected by mental illness, ask that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

The Discipleship Team together with the congregation request ongoing prayer for:
The vacancy – that God is preparing the calling of someone to come to Crown Church
The Nominating Committee and their responsibilities
The teams that are working hard together to ensure that during the vacancy period, the work of the Church continues and moves forward.

Jude Madeleine and the Discipleship Team



Crown 20/20 May 2019 Newsletter

In 1906, the congregation of Crown ran a three day bazaar to clear the outstanding debt of £1200 from the £7000 cost of building the church. This was done with style, and the congregation even made a profit of £200. In today's terms, the amount raised at that bazaar would have been £168,000!

There have been numerous redecorations and refurbishments since then. Notably the addition of the upper hall in 1964, the addition of what is now the lounge and office in 1981, and the latest in 2001 when we reorganised the available space to give us the new large kitchen and new toilets, and redecorated the halls.

Twenty years is a considerable length of time without major redecoration, and the halls particularly are rather shabby. Crown 20/20 has carried out a survey of all organisations using the halls, asking them to dream about their ideal space. The results of the survey which has been carried out with all our hall users were shared with about 120 of the congregation at an after-church meeting on 28th April, and these will form the basis of our plans for the future. Jimmy Gray thanked everyone for coming, and expressed his thanks to all those who have already sent in their personal suggestions and thoughts to us. As he said, we are all part and parcel of the decisions about our future plans, and of their implementation.



There was a good attendance in the lower hall to hear Jimmy Gray's presentation on the 20/20 project immediately after the 11 am service on Sunday 28th April.

(Continued from previous page)

Our church sits in a fantastic location in an area which has no community centre. Currently, we have almost 300 young people, 160 adults attending community organisations which meet in our halls, and up to 100 of the congregation in any one week using the halls. Between them it has been suggested that we:

- Upgrade our kitchen and toilets, possibly adding showers
- Considerably improve our disabled access both inside and out, upstairs and down
- Improve storage areas which will free up space in the halls and make cleaning easier
- Improve the sound system throughout
- Make better use of the total floor space to provide the meeting areas we have identified
- Think of being able to offer a conference facility
- Consider offering the Olive Grove suitable space within the buildings and consider the provision of an adjacent soft play area
- Have much improved Wi-Fi



**We have included some photographs on this and the next page
of 2 recently renovated churches, one being St Bryce in Kirkcaldy and the
other being the Steeple in Dundee.**

These improvements could lead to, for example:

- First class facilities which could 'grow' Young Crown
- Enable the provision of a Lunch Club
- Film evenings/discussions
- Provide additional office space / access to photocopying and printing facilities
- Allow us to offer support for mental health patients and their carers
- The provision of a church caretaker to have the buildings staffed.



This presentation was followed by an inspiring video from LochEwe Community Church (watch it on <https://freechurch.org/news/loch-ewe-community-church-complete-refurbishment>) about their recent renovations which were led by 4 stalwarts of the congregation whose combined ages totalled over 310 years! Amazing, considering also the physical work which they themselves

undertook to save money. But what came over most strongly was their conviction that "The Lord wanted this building saved", and that He provided the necessary people for each phase. And supremely, their reliance on prayer "when the kitty was running a bit short".

There are many other churches which have recently carried out extensive alterations. Should you be near one of these, or any others in your holidays, please try and bring us back suggestions and good ideas. There is no point in re-inventing the wheel! Mannofield, Aberdeen, The Steeple, Dundee, Bankfoot Church Centre, Dunning Church, St Bryce Kirkcaldy, Auchterarder Parish Church and Kinross Parish Church.



The Olive Grove

Team Olive Grove had a celebration to mark the cafe's tenth anniversary on Saturday 27th April which was attended by 43 volunteers past and present. The occasion also marked the retirement of our long serving Treasurer Donald Matheson who has diligently kept us on the right financial road for the past decade, something we all greatly appreciate. He and Beth were presented with a voucher and a conservatory plant. Donald's place as Treasurer will be taken over by Liz Gray. Also being presented with a cheque for £250, and cutting our 10th birthday cake was Aileen, currently our youngest volunteer, who is building up funds to take part in a Vine Trust expedition.

Reviewing the past ten years, Mairi commented that, while there is plenty of change and renewal in volunteers and customers, one thing remains consistent: through the Olive Grove, we continue to be given the opportunity to make strangers welcome and in time make strangers friends. And so we can continue to think of the Olive Grove in terms of blessing - which the Oxford English Dictionary defines so well as 'God's favour and protection.'

At its best, the Olive Grove is a blessing to everyone who contributed to its set up, to all its volunteers and its guests past and present, and to everyone who receives from its profits.

Thinking on those who contributed, we took time to reflect on the remarkable foresight of Rev Willis Jones in identifying a lasting opportunity for outreach, his fearless approach to fundraising, which Donald could recall in greater depth, given his close links with the financial planning stage and Willis's ability to pick and enthuse his initial team of Angy, Eileen Lily, Rae, Ruby, Anne, Renee and others. Truly, a man to whom we have good reason to be very grateful.

As volunteers, we learn to rely on one another as shoppers, as bakers, as accounts keeper, as bankers, as treasurer, as cooks and servers. We exchange shifts when necessary; we pick up hints and tips from one another and we support one another at melt down moments, like multiple orders for different foods and drinks, with two cappuccinos and a hot chocolate thrown in for good measure.

And we are blessed emotionally and spiritually by being warmed, on a down day, by the company of colleagues, by chat with our guests, by a compliment on our cooking ... even if it was down to the soup maker on the previous shift. And we have the satisfaction of continuing to practise skills well after we have left paid employment. This certainly came home to a number of us at the funeral of one lovely volunteer who had continued to supply the cafe with beautiful baking despite



evidently failing health until almost the end of her life. The reason: she had once run a hotel and simply loved giving hospitality; baking allowed her to express who she was.

And so we are grateful to all volunteers, past and present, who have been part of the Olive Grove journey, and especially to our most recent volunteers who bring with them new ideas and make it possible for us to carry on. We hope too that our teenage volunteers who spend time as part of Duke of Edinburgh or Saltire awards enjoy building up customer and practical skills they can carry long into the future.

Our guests - 'customers' seems a colder word - are we hope also blessed by a place in which to share a simple meal with friends or to come solo to enjoy a quiet moment. Sometimes we are privileged to see a guest with learning difficulties gain confidence and blossom. More recent volunteers may not know that one little lady with a great fondness for scones, and plenty to say, was once almost too shy to ask for one. Those with longer Olive Grove memories will fondly recall a lady from Barra who, as she became more at home, would burst, most tunefully, into Gaelic song, winning applause. Sometimes we can be unaware of circumstance, as when one elderly lady said how much she enjoyed the soup, because she'd now forgotten how to follow recipes. So, though we can't change the difficulties in individual lives, we are privileged to help create good moments.

... and our regular guests are more than ready to be supportive in drawing into friendly conversation anyone who appears solitary or depressed. So many thanks to them too .. without their custom, and occasional patience when things are a little hectic ... we couldn't continue.

And lastly, we are blessed in our capacity to **give financially** through the Olive Grove. At December 2018, just over £22,000 had been contributed to a wide range of projects locally and abroad since we started. A further £4,000 will be distributed in the near future to church projects for Crown, St Ninian's and St Stephen's and to Mikeysline. So, acting together, we are privileged to exercise generosity far in excess of our individual means.

So we'll be moving forward prayerfully, in good heart and remembering, beyond occasional tribulations, plumbing problems etc, the verse from Hebrews (King James version): **Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.** Now, there's a thought!



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

43 members from the Friendship Club enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Heathmount Hotel on 26th April to mark the end of a very successful session. This club is expanding rapidly with over 50 names on the register. The expansion meant that we had to vacate the lounge and move into the small hall and sometimes even there it's a tight squeeze. Bring on 20/20 !! We had a variety of speakers throughout the session, Leanne from the Oxygen Works, Elsie Normington from the Haven appeal ,our own Pat Douglas regaled us with stories from policing in days gone by and Jimmy Gray came to teach us all about recycling -to name but a few . And what a turnout we had to greet Reverend Heidi with stories from her first year in ministry. Another highlight was celebrating ' wee Mary's ' 99 th Birthday. The club is run by a small team who provide the catering and lifts for some people who would otherwise be unable to attend. It's a much needed outreach in the community so if you feel you can help in any way please speak with any members of the team: Sandra Gorman, Elspeth Gibson, Jane Wilson, Janet Fraser, Eleanor Mellis, Dorothy Morrison, Val Little and Chrisanne Robertson. If you don't know any of us I'm sure Gloria in the office would pass on a message.

Chrisanne



Daily Bible Readings for May/June

May 5, 2019

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

Monday, Acts 10:18-23, *Peter's Vision*

Tuesday, Acts 10:24-33, *Peter's Vision*

Wednesday, Acts 11:1-18, *Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem*

Thursday, Acts 11:19-30, *The Church in Antioch*

Friday, Acts 12:1-19, *Peter in Prison*

Saturday, Acts 12:20-25, *The Death of Herod*

May 12, 2019

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Monday, Acts 13:4-12, *The Apostles Preach in Cyprus*

Tuesday, Acts 13:13-25, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Wednesday, Acts 13:26-35, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Thursday, Acts 13:36-52, *Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia*

Friday, Acts 14:1-7, *Paul and Barnabas in Iconium*

Saturday, Acts 14:8-20, *Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe*

May 19, 2019

Romans 1:1-17

Monday, Matthew 9:10-13, *Call of Matthew*

Tuesday, Romans 2:17-3:8, *The Jews and the Law*

Wednesday, Romans 3:9-20, *None Is Righteous*

Thursday, Romans 3:21-31, *Righteousness through Faith*

Friday, Romans 4:1-12, *The Example of Abraham*

Saturday, Romans 4:13-25, *God's Promise Realized through Faith*

May 26, 2019

Romans 5:1-11

Monday, Romans 5:12-21, *Adam and Christ*

Tuesday, Romans 6:15-23, *Slaves of Righteousness*

Wednesday, Romans 7:1-6, *An Analogy of Marriage*

Thursday, Romans 7:7-25, *The Law and Sin*

Friday, Romans 8:1-17, *Life in the Spirit*

Saturday, Romans 9:1-18, *God's Election of Israel*

June 2, 2019

Romans 6:1-14

Monday, Romans 9:19-29, *God's Wrath and Mercy*

Tuesday, Romans 9:30-33, *Israel's Unbelief*

Wednesday, Romans 10:1-21, *Salvation for All*

Thursday, Romans 12:1-8, *The New Life in Christ*

Friday, Romans 12:9-21, *Marks of the True Christian*

Saturday, Romans 13:1-14, *Love for One Another*

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

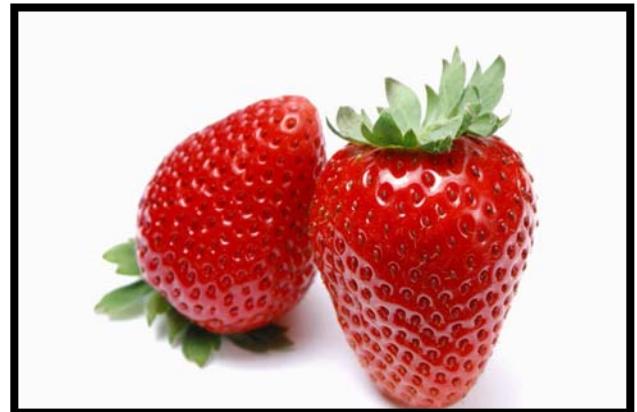
Mrs Mary Christie, died on 15 April

Highland Malawi Trust

A date for your diary

There will be a strawberry tea held at the home of Chrisanne and Stewart Robertson in aid of Highland Malawi Trust on Saturday 25th May 2019 from 2 pm until 5 pm.

All welcome!



The deadline for the June newsletter will be Sunday 26th May

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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