

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

September 2019: No. 752

Interim Moderator: Rev Duncan MacPherson



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 1st Sept	9.30am	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Morven Archer
	11am	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Doug McRoberts
	3 pm	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Doug McRoberts
	6.30 pm	Thanksgiving Worship	Phil Gunn then special prayers
Sunday 8th Sept	Morning Worship at 9.30am	Rev Morven Archer and at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts	
Sunday 15th Sept	Morning Worship at 9.30am	and at 11 am Rev Morven Archer	
Sunday 22nd Sept	Morning Worship at 9.30am	Rev Morven Archer and at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts	
Sunday 29th Sept	Morning Worship at 9.30 Am	Rev Morven Archer And at 11am Rev Doug McRoberts	
Sunday 6th October	Morning Worship at 9.30am	Rev Morven Archer and Harvest Thanksgiving at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts Followed by special prayers	

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



He said to them: *"It is not for you to know the times or dates the father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts chapter 1 verses 7 and 8

20/20 VISION

The following is an open letter from Jimmy Gray to the church membership outlining the exciting proposals which the 20/20 committee are putting forward for consideration by the Kirk Session.

Dear All

The small task force set up by the Kirk Session to progress plans to make Crown Church a modern forward-looking church with the community at its heart is making good progress and this summary brings you up to date with our thinking. A more detailed report will be presented to the Kirk Session for consideration at its meeting on 11 September.

Prior to that, there will be two opportunities for everyone to hear more details and be able to share comments and discussion on **Wednesday 4th Sept at 7.30**, and **Sunday 8th Sept** after the 11am service.

In keeping with the guidance provided by the Kirk Session, Crown 20/20 is aiming high. This is a once in a generation opportunity to significantly upgrade our historic church building, which commands such a prominent location right at the heart of the Crown community, but it is clearly in need of care and investment.

The Church of Scotland is encouraging churches to work more closely with other organisations and services, such as local schools and voluntary organisations to underscore the church's role and relevance within their community.

So, at Crown we have a situation that allows us to not only significantly upgrade our church building but also work in partnership with The Highland Council to help to solve a capacity problem at our immediate neighbours in Crown Primary School.

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The school has a considerable shortage of space which could be resolved if we could allow them to use the Lower Hall to accommodate two classrooms for pre-school aged children. The Council's target is to open this new unit in September 2020. Conceptual Plans are currently being drawn up to illustrate the potential conversion of the lower hall, with refurbishment of the toilets and the kitchen and provision of a new play area on land we own.

Clearly, allowing the school the use of the Lower Hall impacts on our ability to accommodate the many church and community groups that use this facility but there are not too many alternatives available to allow the school to meet their needs and we do have alternatives. We have ascertained that the solution we propose can accommodate all current church and community activities using the halls.

The solution is to reconfigure the remainder of the church starting with the sanctuary, the two wings (transepts) and upper galleries and then to upgrade the Upper Hall to provide greater and more flexible meeting space. This would allow us to make greater and more efficient use of the space we have available.

Incredibly, we find that at present about 60% of the floor space in Crown Church, the Sanctuary is only used for approximately 80 x 1:5 hours in any 12 months period. The reason for this is solely down to the present design and fixed nature of all the fittings—a design which has remained static for the last 120 years.

In the sanctuary, a fundamental early requirement will be to completely redesign the layout and create a much more flexible meeting area, creating a lounge and offices in the upstairs galleries, and by using sliding panels to have the option of two rooms in the wings (transepts) when required, with the possibility of using individual seats which can be stored when not required for worship or meetings. A plan is to create a coffee area at the rear of the sanctuary with sliding partitions creating much greater options for use from the resulting flexible open space.

Also, foremost in our thoughts are the need to considerably improve our disabled



access both inside and out with the installation of a lift to allow greater access upstairs and down. Improved storage areas will free up space in the halls and make cleaning easier. The sound/AV system will be improved throughout.

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These improvements could lead to, for example:

- **First class facilities which could 'grow' Young Crown**
- **Greater access and more welcoming space for disabled,**
- **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 is just a summary of what is being planned and Crown 20/20 is committed to keeping you advised of the progress we make.

Our new Minister, the Rev Douglas Robertson, has been briefed and is enthused by the forward-thinking nature of our work. These are exciting times for Crown Church as we all come together to face the challenges of the future. We have a great opportunity to make a difference in creating a church which is at the hub and to make a major contribution to a thriving Crown community.

Jimmy Gray
Chair
Crown 20/20

VE Day Commemorations

Crown Church is planning to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day next year. This is an important anniversary and we would like to mark it appropriately.

We are looking for some volunteers to form a small committee to oversee the planning for this event. Anyone interested should contact the Session Clerk, Brian Macgill.





The Guild

Now that we are approaching autumn we, in the Guild, are thinking about the next year of Guild meetings. We have kept in touch over the summer with very successful coffee mornings.

Before our actual syllabus begins, we have two events to look forward to. On Saturday 7th September, there will be a streaming of the Annual Meeting in Dundee. This begins at 10:00am and those attending are reminded to bring a packed lunch. The Crown School car park will be open. The next event is on Tuesday 10th in the Kingsmills Hotel. This has been arranged by Guilds Together to celebrate Guild Week. As well as afternoon tea, there is a quiz which has been issued to all Guilds in Scotland. This event begins at 2pm.

Our Guild year begins on Tuesday 24th September with a speaker from WASPS studios with an open invitation to anyone interested. Our two projects this year are the Sailors' Society and World Mission helping young mothers in Zambia and for these we have Drew Anderson, Port Chaplain at Invergordon and the Rev Gordon Strang. We will have a Bible Study, Holiday Memories, a musical Quiz and many more interesting evenings. To find out more, come along to our meetings and enjoy the fellowship.

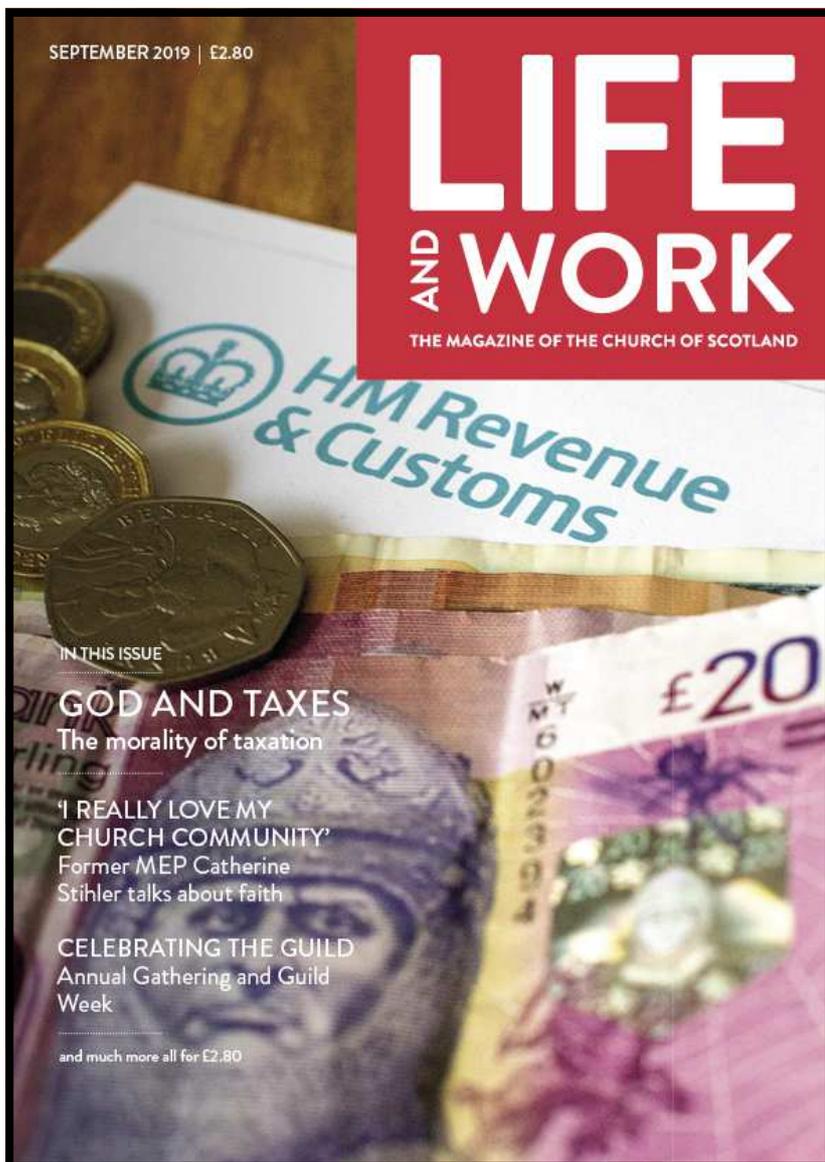
Dorothy Mein

Harvest Thanksgiving Service 6th October

Donations for the service would be received gratefully on behalf of Highland Foodbank. Items that the Foodbank have requested are:

- Long life juice
- Tins of potatoes
- Tins of mince/stew
- Tins of ham
- Oatcakes/crackers
- Shower gel/shampoo





LIFE AND WORK SEPTEMBER 2019

God and Taxes

The morality of taxation

'I Really Love My Church Community'

Former MEP Catherine Stihler talks about faith

Removing Barriers

An innovative partnership between CrossReach and the Prince's Trust, helping young people access careers in care

Web Worship

Iain McLarty describes the background to the web project capturing hymns from CH4

Celebrating the Guild

A look ahead to the annual Gathering in Dundee and Guild Week

The Disinvestment Debate

Second in a two-part series exploring the argument for disinvestment from fossil fuels

This Church Family Is Unique

Buwanika Weerasinha, a member of the Scots Kirk in Colombo tells her faith story

Building Strong Communities

The work of the Council for Christian and Jews

Plus all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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

An update from our Congregational Board

The good news about the MacGilp Memorial Window is that it is nearly ready to return to us! We expect that the window will be installed in late September or early October over a three week period when it will require the work of scaffolder, mason, joiner and the team who have conducted the conservation work. I recently visited the workshop in Glasgow and was impressed with the quality of the detailed workmanship by our contractor, Mark Bambrough and his team. The Church of Scotland Trustees have recommended that we fit a protective screen but this would add approximately £19,000 to the cost. The Board will consider whether to postpone this to another year.



The other good news is that the Board is now setting about completion of the work required to complete the preparation of the manse for our new minister and family. What remains at present is a list held back because we have to consult the minister and family regarding choice of colour and materials. The manse has been transformed during the vacancy, mainly thanks to the many hours devoted to this by David MacLellan and David Mackenzie. Extensive masonry and external building work had been undertaken in 2016/7 but the empty manse revealed a wide range of work needing undertaken; this began with essential repairs, removal of old carpets and floor coverings, total alteration of the guest bathroom and redecoration of every room of the manse in neutral colour meantime.



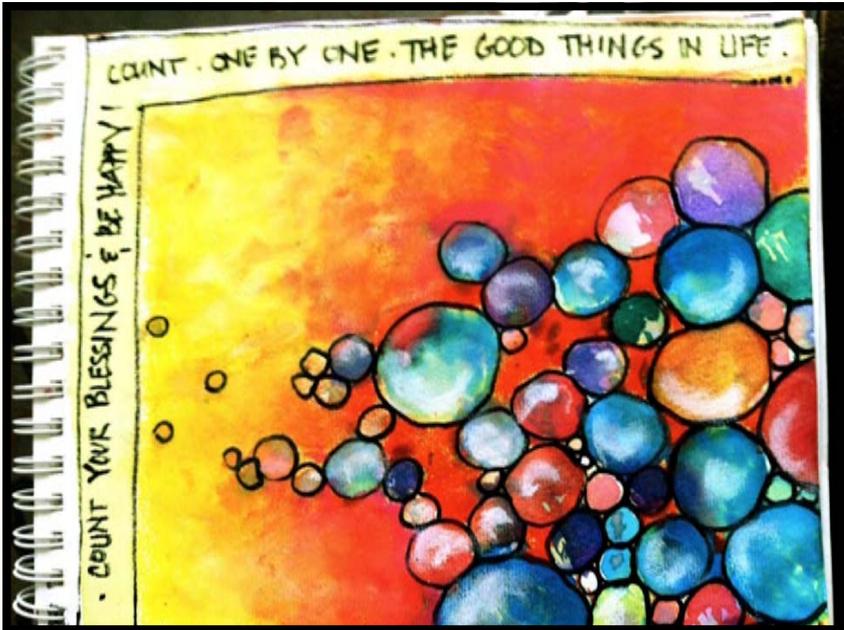
Mark Bambrough in his studio at the lighting table.

Three large trees were felled along with other smaller trees and some of the overgrown shrubbery removed; a fence at the rear, where none existed, was erected thanks to the single-handed labour of Jim Marcus. The Board is grateful to the team of volunteers who completed the transformation of the garden. Volunteers led by Doug Wilson.

Bill Mein
Chairman of Congregational Board

Prayer Diary

September 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 (October 2019) please do send them to our church secretary, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine.

September 2-8

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; give thanks 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.

On this day 5th September, the International Day of Charity, pray for charities to support one another in solidarity rather than compete against one another. Pray for an increase in respect and trust for charities who are working hard with integrity and honesty to bring lasting, sustainable change all over the world.

September 9-15

Pray for all the children in our local schools as they settle in a new school year and give thanks that the chaplaincy team is there to support them if needed.

Give thanks to God for Reverend Douglas Robertson, for accepting the call to minister to Crown Church and our community. Pray for God's blessings over Doug and his wife Alison as they prepare to be part of Crown Church family and our community.

Father we lift up the leaders of our country and all those that You have set up in places of authority to rule and govern our nation; for wisdom and guidance in making decision about the future of the country and well being of the people.

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September 16-22

'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.

On the 21st September, the International Day of Peace, when the UN hope to strengthen the ideals of peace within all nations and peoples. Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and pray that more people will encounter His peace, which surpasses all understanding and can reach into every situation.

September 23-29

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia

Pray and give thanks for all those who help with organising and serving at the monthly breakfast service; Pray for all who come along and rejoice in sharing food and fellowship.

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.

Church Garden

We were delighted to receive this email. We entirely agree with the sentiments and have a photograph to prove it!

Dear Crown Church,

As a local who walks past the Church two or three times a week, I just wanted to record my thanks for the great pleasure that your garden gives me. This year in particular it is extra

good ;The skill and time given by the volunteers who look after it are very much appreciated by me and no doubt by others who comment on it when passing. I even saw some tourists taking photos last week!

I'd be grateful if you'd thank those involved in giving us local folks such a treat.

Many thanks

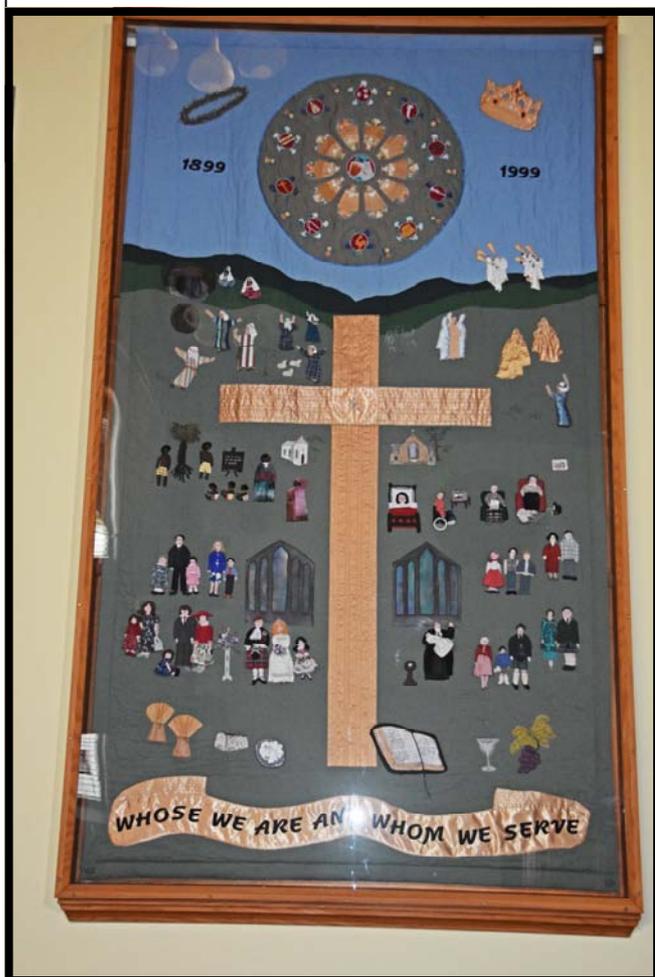


Crown Church: our 120th year anniversary

It comes as a shock to realise that it is now 20 years since our Centenary celebrations in 1999. It seems a Millenium ago!

We take the centenary as being 100 years from the induction of the first minister, the Revd William Todd, on 19 September 1899. This seems the most appropriate date. Although the Lower Hall was completed at Christmas 1897, the Sanctuary was not ready until 1901.

A lot of useful information was researched from our own Archives and others in Inverness including local newspapers and our Congregational newsletter. An excellent 40 page illustrated book was produced by Bill and Dorothy Mein "***Crown Church: 100 years of worship and witness***".



Apart from the book, the most obvious reminder of the centenary is the large framed wall hanging near the south door exit from the Sanctuary. This was the Guild's biggest contribution to the event. Most of the ten ladies who created it, led by Morag Russell, were Guildswomen. All the children in church and in the Crown School were given a "gold" centenary medal with a long blue and white ribbon. Centenary mugs are still to be seen in some households and there was a centenary tea towel as well.

There was a big exhibition in the Lower Hall where Bill Mein put a lot of work into organising the panels which we still have and which we display occasionally. The wedding photographs of members of the congregation were particularly popular. Janet Fraser organised the flower festival for the days leading up to the centenary service which was addressed by former Moderator and "pastors' pastor", Dr

Sandy McDonald. The singing of the opening hymn accompanied by George Borland on the organ was only the start of a tremendously uplifting service.

A centenary dinner for 160 was held at the Lochardil Hotel with the Very Revd Dr Sandy McDonald and the Revd Bob Logan as guest speakers. A centenary cake was distributed amongst the housebound by the lady visitors. Artwork from the Crown School was exhibited at the Eastgate Centre. **(Continued on next page)**

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The centenary bazaar organised by Beth Matheson's team was opened by Sir Fraser Morrison (Morrison Construction) and there is a picture of this hanging in the Lounge. The precedent for this was the September 1906 bazaar in the Victorian Market which paid off the outstanding monies from building the church. The bazaar guidebook and catalogue was reprinted in a limited edition of 50 numbered copies.

Eddie Adie was Treasurer for all the Centenary events and, when the books were closed, a sum of over £20,000 was shared between Launchpad and Chogoria Hospital in Kenya.

It is appropriate to reflect again on what our then recently inducted Minister, Peter Donald, wrote in his Minister's Letter in the June 1999 Newsletter.

"The Centenary gives a very welcome focus for our life as a congregation of God's people. Already the events we have had are wonderful to look back on. How right that we are raising money and generating prayer for causes "out there" in the world. I would warn only that the danger with what is one-off is that it becomes only a cherished memory, only a thought of what people once could do. The continuing and exciting challenge for us is to see what our regular and future course is, as the people of God meeting at Crown Church. And going public will always be an important aspect of that."

Onward Christian "soldiers" of Crown, wherever our 20/20 vision for the future may lead!
Richard Ardern

Music at Crown



This issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the Elders Council. We would very much like to involve more young people in the musical life of Crown Church. If possible, we would like to encourage both the youth band and a youth choir. Anyone who might be interested in becoming involved in any way should contact Eileen Ardern.

In addition, Crown Church choir has now restarted for the autumn session. We would be delighted to welcome anyone interested (of any age) to our choir practices which take place most Thursdays in the Small Hall at 7 p.m.

August 2019

CrossReach Information Sheet

CrossReach @150

The history of CrossReach stretches back 150 years to the formation of the Church of Scotland Committee on Christian Life and Work in 1869. Throughout this time CrossReach and its predecessor bodies have worked in communities all over Scotland and beyond, providing social care for those most in need.



In celebration, a free to visit exhibition will be on display in a variety of venues and locations throughout the coming months. To read about the history of CrossReach visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/about-us/the-history-of-crossreach

For more about the 150th Anniversary and Exhibition visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/150th-anniversary



Host the 150th Anniversary Exhibition

CrossReach is inviting churches and organisations to host the social care exhibition. There are various options available to ensure all can be catered for!

Explore the brochure: bit.ly/150ExhibitBrochure

This is a great resource you can use to engage your local community!

CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Catalogue 2019:

The CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Catalogue will be arriving late August, with the online shop opening at 9am on 2nd September. Look out for videos and read how you can make a difference to social isolation and to loneliness. Visit the online shop: shop.crossreach.org.uk



Teaming up to promote recovery!!

Dundee United Football Club are supporting the work of the Revive and Restore Café as part of the DUFU's Community Trust. The Colonside Parish Church volunteer led café is co-ordinated by CrossReach Tayside Support Services and provides a safe place for those at any stage in their recovery from substance use. Read more:



www.crossreach.org.uk/news/teaming-up-to-promote-recovery

Smiling together

CrossReach Daisy Chain Early Years Project in Glasgow is running an initiative in partnership with the Scottish Government to promote oral health for pre-school age children. Sessions will include advice and discussions around oral health, alongside fun games, crafts, and healthy snacks. Registration is now open.

Visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/daisy-chain-early-years-project



We hope you can make use of these features and opportunities in your congregations. To contact the CrossReach Supporter Development Team please call: 0131 454 4374

The New Minister

Sunday, 4th August 2019 turned out to be a very big day for Crown Church.

The Rev Douglas Robertson, by invitation of the nominations committee, preached as the sole nominee for the vacant position of minister at Crown Church.



The Rev Robertson, and his wife, Alison, had been welcomed to Inverness by the nominations committee and were accommodated in the Crown Church manse for the duration of their stay in Inverness.

The interim moderator, the Rev Duncan MacPherson, introduced the Rev Robertson who then went on to conduct both the children's address and the sermon.



He was very well received by a congregation which was as large as we have seen for some considerable time. The choir, augmented by several former members, performed "*Amazing Grace*" as an introit which was something in the way of a special request as the Rev Robertson had requested something on the theme of "*grace*".

At the conclusion of the service, the Rev Robertson and his wife withdrew and the usual Church of Scotland procedures were followed, overseen by the interim moderator and efficiently conducted by the session clerk, Brian Magill.

Voting then took place under the supervision of 4 volunteers from Hilton Parish Church who then counted the voting slips.

There was an overwhelming vote in favour of the Rev Robertson, the final figures being 169 in favour with 4 votes against.



Queues at the voting stations!

The Rev Robertson has accepted the call and will leave his present position in Melbourne, Australia and take up the position of minister in Crown Church in Inverness at a date still to be arranged but likely to be early in the New Year.

Preparations are now underway for his induction and we have no doubt that the rest of the congregation will share the anticipation and enthusiasm of the newsletter editors as we look forward to receiving our new minister.

Marion and Bob Forrest

Readings for September

September 8, Sunday, Genesis 2:4b-25, The Garden of Eden

Monday, Genesis 1:1-4a, First Creation Story

Tuesday, Genesis 3:1-24, Sin and Punishment

Wednesday, Genesis 4:1-16, Cain and Abel

Thursday, Genesis 4:17-26, Beginnings of Civilization

Friday, Genesis 6:1-8, Human Wickedness

Saturday, Genesis 6:9-22, Noah Pleases God

September 15, Sunday, Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7, Isaac Born to Sarah

Monday, Genesis 16:1-16, The Birth of Ishmael

Tuesday, Genesis 17:1-27, God's Covenant with Abraham

Wednesday, Genesis 21:1-21, The Birth of Isaac

Thursday, Genesis 24:1-67, The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Friday, Genesis 25:19-24, The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Saturday, Genesis 27:1-46, Isaac Blesses Jacob

September 22, Sunday, Genesis 32:22-30, Jacob Wrestles God

Monday, Genesis 32:3-21, Jacob Sends Gifts to Esau

Tuesday, Genesis 33:1-20, Jacob and Esau Meet

Wednesday, Genesis 37:1-11, Jacob's Son, Joseph

Thursday, Genesis 37:12-36, Joseph is Sold by His Brothers

Friday, Genesis 41:37-57, Joseph's Rise to Power

Saturday, Genesis 46:1-27, Joseph Brings the Israelites to Egypt

September 29, Sunday, Exodus 1:8-14 [15-2:10]; 3:1-10, Moses and God's Name

Monday, Exodus 7:14-8:15, First Two Plagues

Tuesday, Exodus 8:16-32, Two More Plagues

Wednesday, Exodus 9:1-12, Two More Plagues

Thursday, Exodus 9:13-10:20, Two More Plagues

Friday, Exodus 10:21-11:10, 12:29-32, Final Plagues

Saturday, Exodus 12:33-42, The Exodus from Rameses to Succoth

October 6, Sunday, Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-6, Hear, O Israel

Monday, Exodus 12:43-13:2, Directions for the Passover

Tuesday, Exodus 13:3-10, Festival of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, Exodus 13:11-16, The Consecration of the Firstborn
Narrative Lectionary

Sept	Readers	Creche	Coffee
1	Communion	Kay MacDonald & Chrisanne Robertson	Janet MacPherson ,Kay MacDonald, Lesley McRoberts
8	Jude Madeleine	Jane Smith & Marjory MacKenzie	Irene Munro, Liz Munro, Helen MacLeod
15	Pat Douglas	Kay MacDonald & Muriel Choppy	Lena Clarke, Kimm Currie, Dorothy Morrison
22	John Barbour	Muriel Choppy & Jane Smith	Isabelle MacKenzie, Anne Bowen
29	Una Hamilton	Marjory MacKenzie & Chrisanne Robertson	Eleanor Ross, Mairi Main, Eileen Ardern
Oct 6	Ella Low		Lesley McRoberts, Janet MacPherson, Kay MacDonald

<p style="text-align: center;">September Count Team</p> <p>Liz Forbes John & Marion Barbour, Mairi Main, Kay MacDonald</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October Count Team</p> <p>Alastair MacPherson Alan Nelson, Richard Ardern, Bob Shanks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">September Welcome Team</p> <p>North Door Chrisanne & Stewart Robertson South Door Evelyn Reid & Paul Davidson Midmills North Robert & Aileen Laing Midmills South Elspeth Gibson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October Welcome Team</p> <p>North Door Marjory MacKenzie South Door Bob & Tricia Hanna Midmills North Lucy & David Livingston Midmills South Seonaid MacLellan</p>
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NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

James Grant, on 11 July

Mrs Janet Brown, on 15th July

Hamish Allan, on 25 July

George Ewing, Miller Gardens on 11 August

BAPTISM

Emma Rose Jane MacKellaich, on 18th August

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

The Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning

The annual Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 5th October at 10.00am in the Free North Church Hall (entry from Church Street, beside New Start). Donations for the Bring and Buy stall welcome - Marion will pick up if necessary.

Tickets £3 available from Marion or at the door.

The money raised will go towards the work of the Nilphamari Hospital, Bangladesh and community - based rehabilitation for people affected by leprosy in the slums of Dhaka



The deadline for the October newsletter will be Sunday 22nd September

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

Crown Church Office

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