Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

October 2019: No. 753

Interim Moderator: Rev Duncan MacPherson



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 29th September Morning Worship at 9.30 am Rev Morven Archer

and at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts—Dedication of Organisations

Sunday 6th October Morning Worship at 9.30 am Rev Morven Archer

and Harvest Thanksgiving at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts

Followed by special prayers

Sunday 13th October Morning Worship at 9.30 am

and at 11am Rev Doug McRoberts

Sunday 20th October Morning Worship at 9.30 am

and at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts

Sunday 27th October Morning Worship at 9.30am

and at 11am Rev Doug McRoberts

Sunday 3rd November Morning Worship at 9.30am Rev Morven Archer

and at 11 am Rev Doug McRoberts—BB enrolment service

followed by special prayers

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

Please make requests known

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you - I am he."

John, chapter 4 verses 23 to 26



Crown 2020 Update

On Sunday we celebrated 120 years of worship at Crown Church. The Rev Douglas McRoberts gave us an excellent presentation on this landmark historic occasion. There is no doubting the proud and distinguished past of our church and I'm sure we all want to see the church continue to flourish in the years ahead.

It is therefore timely that we have established the Crown 2020 Group to examine the best ways of making Crown Church a modern forward-looking church with the community at its heart.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who attended our Crown 2020 briefings on 4 and 8 September and subsequently commented on the proposals. They were very well attended and no lack of participation. Your input into our deliberations is so gratefully received. Be assured we will respond to each and every comment made just as soon as we have a clearer idea of our direction of travel.

So where are we? Following the two church meetings, we presented our initial thoughts to the Kirk Session on 11 September.

We are delighted that we have been given their blessing to develop a fully costed design of the major refurbishment planned.

Once this is ready, we will return to the congregation, the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session for approval. If this forthcoming. we will present our spending proposals to the Inverness Presbytery for their approval.

Following the two briefings with the congregation, we have extended the membership of the Crown 2020 Group to 16 members. (Continued on next page)

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We have established sub-committees to focus on specific areas of research/ investigation. These will cover communication, liaison with users, fund-raising and the nature of the major design and structural changes envisaged.

These small working groups will report back to the Crown 2020 Group on Tuesday 8 October.

To recall, it is widely accepted that our historic church would significantly benefit from care and investment to make it more welcoming and more accessible while making much better use of the space we have, much of which lies empty most of the time. We are working closely with The Highland Council, who have approached us to use the Lower Hall for two classrooms for pre-school aged children as the school has a considerable shortage of space.

To accommodate the groups who use the Lower Hall, we plan to reconfigure the remainder of the church, starting with the Sanctuary, so that we can utilise the space which presently lies empty most of the time.



In the Sanctuary, a fundamental early requirement will be to completely redesign the layout and create a much more flexible area for worship, for meeting while creating a lounge and offices in the upstairs galleries. Foremost in our thoughts is the need to considerably improve our disabled access both inside and out with the installation of a lift to allow greater access upstairs and a new more welcoming single entrance to the church. We do need to be able to welcome all.

Over the coming weeks, we will have forms available for members of the congregation to uplift and complete, letting us know what you most want to see in any upgrade/reconfiguration of the church building.

We are aware of those who do not think it is wise to see the Lower Hall used by The Highland Council for pre-school provision and do not wish to see the Sanctuary reconfigured, with pews replaced by moveable seating. The 20-20 team have been inspired by what they have seen achieved in similar churches to our own. We hope to be able to share this inspiration through communication meetings with the wider congregation.



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We have received comments highlighting the need for:

- a more welcoming single main entry to the church building;
- improved circulation within the church building;
- improved disabled access including the need for a lift to the upper hall and potential new office/meeting space/kitchen;
- discussion/negotiation with The Highland Council regarding access to the kitchen during school hours
- provision of adequate storage space
- retention of the garden area

Some of the positive comments that we have received are as follows: -

"Let us go forth in faith, knowing that as we do so others will follow as they have done all throughout history. So proud to be part of a Christian Community walking the road

of faith."



"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for Crown Church to move forward with the community and become even more integrally linked with the modern world."

"This building was the vision of those who erected it in a time when people came in their numbers to church to worship. In the 21st century we do not have the same mindset in society and we have to make this building one to which people will come as it is open, friendly and flexible to accommodate the needs of the present day.

"We have been given a legacy on which to build. Do not let us have it go to waste." "Change is not always easy, but we have to be positive and excited at becoming a much- needed facility in our community as well as a place of worship that younger people would feel at ease and comfortable in."

These comments are very encouraging as Crown 2020 focuses on presenting a fully costed plan of action to make our special building fit to meet the challenges of the next 120 years.

Jimmy Gray Chair Crown 20/20





We are grateful to Heather Beck who forwarded these lovely pictures of a recent trip on the "Seagull". The trip was much enjoyed by all who participated and they hope to repeat the voyage next year.



Young Crown and YFC Touring Teams

The very first letter of the title forms a question I think it's often good to explore. "Y?" (Or, to be more precise, "why?") In church we can be guilty of doing things without bothering to pause and ask "why?" We can find ourselves in a perpetual cycle of doing things because we've always done them; or because they had previously worked and, in spite of some evidence suggesting otherwise, they might work again. A question we therefore ask much more is "how?" 'How can we achieve [XYZ]?' 'How do we make this extra activity fit with our already over-full list of activity?' 'How do we accommodate and feed twelve bodies for the week?' 'How do we maximise the potential for ministry that the project brings in, whilst also having no time available to follow up?'

So many questions. None of which are worth answering unless we have explored why we should.

So what follows is a little of my thinking as to why the YFC Touring Teams are worth every bit of extra effort; and why I hope you'll be as excited as I am for their arrival.



Why YFC? Let's take it back to basics – you may not even know what I'm on about (in which case, thanks for persevering with this article up to here!!) Youth For Christ are a national agency set up to help, in particular young, people to find out about Jesus. One of their projects to do so is a band and dance troupe made up mostly of young people on a gap year around University who tour the country spending a week at a time embedded in schools. The first time they came to

Inverness, we put them up for a week – and got them into Millburn Academy. Inverness is now a fixture on their calendar; the first place they'll go on tour (after several months of rehearsal and preparation). Not only have they formed a strong link with the school (having been in Millburn Academy 3 times previously); but also with us as a church. We have forged a true Gospel partnership.

Why Millburn? The school absolutely loves them. Millburn Academy have been more evangelistic about the YFC teams than any other local agency (including YFC!!) which is why they now have so many schools lined up to take them. By the way, if you think it's a bit miraculous that schools in 2019 actually *want* Christian bands coming in and talking to their kids about how faith inspires them; you'd be right. In spite of huge demand from elsewhere, we've managed to negotiate another return to Millburn this November – which is both the result of, and feeds in to, the vibrant chaplaincy work we've been doing in there over the last few years. **(Continued on next page)**

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Why Crown Church? The teams could not function without places to sleep, food to eat and a venue for debrief. We are uniquely placed in both proximity to the school and a desire to see God's Kingdom come in our community (including the schools!!) We can be a part of this amazing ministry to over 1000 young people in the area. By my reckoning, the fact that we *can* be part of it also means we *should* be a part of it!

Why do it all again? Is it still worth it? Given that they've been in to the school several times already, haven't they heard it all before? Believe me, nobody will ask these particular questions more than the people who have had the most cost attached to being involved in the past. But we also have the best insight into the fact that each time the teams come to us, more and bigger results are brought about. The longer our

chaplaincy is established, the more meaningful the link becomes with those pupils who have big questions and are moved to ask them by the teams' visiting. The more times we can serve the school by adding value to their PE, RME, Music, Assembly and lunchtime curriculums; the stronger our links become at all levels with school life.



Why should I help? Because you can be a real and tangible part of this mission to young people, even the thought of talking to teenagers about faith scares you half to death. Let the evangelists evangelise; the dancers dance; the musicians play – but they can only do those things with your support. They need beds to sleep in (and breakfast in the morning!) They need people to cook a nice evening meal for them (even if you can only do one evening). They need almost nothing else!

The teams arrive on Saturday 9th November and leave on Saturday 16th November. Could you be part of this? I need to fill two blank sheets... One which lists places where the teams can sleep for the week; one with a list of who will feed them an evening meal each night that week. Can you be on one or both? Let me know!

Blessings, as ever,

Struan

As the Church of Scotland continues its challenging work on the three-year <u>radical action plan</u> which was approved by this year's General Assembly, we call on those from across the Church to join together in prayer.

Each week, from late September until late November, new prayers written by people from across the Church of Scotland and our partners will be shared. Please feel free to change and adapt these prayers to suit your own context. There are more prayer resources available on the Prayer section of our website.

This week's prayer is written by Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Jesus Christ
You call us all to follow You
in the adventure of faith.
As we begin the process of
change
guided by Your spirit,
help us to trust You.



Help us to willingly let go

of all "the ways we have always done things", when it feels safer to shrink from changes that deeply affect us, back into what we have known.

Inspire us

to take risks, to creatively and courageously be Your church today: looking to You in worship, reaching into our communities venturing out in service.

Bless the Church of Scotland as we seek to build Your Kingdom. Bless the Assembly Trustees in their tasks, bless the new Chief Officer when they take up their post and help us all to see what we can do, together, to bring into being the Radical Action Plan.

Let us renew our commitment to follow You as we step out in glad obedience. For Your name's sake Amen



The Guild

On Tuesday 10th September a large number of our Guild members joined many more from the other Guilds in the Presbytery at the Kingsmills Hotel for afternoon tea. In total 96 Guild members attended. After a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and a varied selection of cakes, we all took part in a quiz. This quiz was organised in Edinburgh and taken part in nationally. It was not too serious and good fun. Crown Guild invariably do well at these inter Guild quizzes and this occasion was no exception with Crown in first and second places. This was a truly enjoyable afternoon and one which we all felt should be repeated again.

Our first meeting of the new session is on Tuesday 24th September when we welcome Audrey Carlin as our speaker. Audrey is CEO of Wasps which runs the artists' studios in the revamped building across the road from the church.

On 7th October we are invited to Kilmorack and Erchless Church at 2pm to hear our National Convener, Marion Macintyre. On the 8th the Autumn Rally is in Ness Bank Church at 7:30pm. The next meeting here in Crown is on the 15th when Lesley McRoberts leads us in Bible Study. A representative from the Sandpiper Trust will speak on the 29th.

A warm welcome to our meetings is extended to any interested men or women in the congregation. **Dorothy Mein, Guild Correspondent**

A Request for Volunteers:

At times our church cleaner, Eilidh, is away on holiday or perhaps on other leave. The Congregational Board would be interested in hearing from any volunteers in the congregation who would be willing to do a little cleaning on these occasions to keep the premises clean and tidy. This would be mainly the kitchen and the toilets.

If you are prepared to volunteer please give your name to the church secretary on 231140.





Prayer Diary October 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 (November 2019) please do send them to our church secretary, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

<u>September 30 – October 6</u>

Pray for the people in the Bahamas affected by the disaster caused by hurricane Dorian; Give thanks for the rescue relief and recovery. Pray that they be filled with hope and reminded that Jesus makes all things new.

Pray for those who are grieving, those whose lives have changed through loss, that they will know the peace of God that passes all understanding. May they know that they are helped in the palm of God's hand.

Pray that God will help staff of our local care homes to touch the lives of others for good, whether through the words they speak or by their actions

October 7- 13

Pray for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and remember those who are in need for food. Give thanks for all donations to the Foodbank.

Give thanks for the hard work of **Crown 20/20 Committee** and pray for everyone involved in the future development of the church facilities; Pray for wisdom and guidance in decision making and for the views of the wider congregations to be considered in line with God's purpose and Mission.

On this day, 10th October World Mental Health Day, remember all those who are struggling with mental issues, pray for them and their families; pray for the church to prioritise people with mental health issues and to be recognised in the community as a loving and supportive environment

October 14 - 20

Pray for God's blessings on the Worship Team and its Convenor; Pray that God will guide and lead them in their work in supporting others.

Pray for those who are struggling with loneliness and ill health. May the Lord be with them and bless them.

Lift up the emergency services today and pray for the people in our daily lives who we often take for granted. Thank God for the everyday heroes who risk so much for us so that we can live safe lives, and pray for opportunities to thank them ourselves.

October 21 - 27

Pray for the children and young adults you know. Pray that they would know that they



are loved by God, and that they would have an awareness of their value in Christ. Pray for opportunities to support and love the young people in your life.

Remember those in prison and pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence.

Pray for our neighbours, for people who live alone, for people who are struggling with illness and for God's peace to fall on them. Pray for protection and safety over our neighbours' homes and families, and ask God to give us opportunities and courage to share His love with those around us.

October 28 - November 3

Pray for each and every member of the congregation, that God's spirit continues to

flow throughout their lives whatever their circumstances; Pray that each of us will place God at the centre of our lives and seek Him and His purpose in our lives.

Pray for those affected by domestic violence and abuse; Pray for support, recovery and reconciliation.

Praise God today for the earth that He has gifted to us, and all the beautiful plants and animals He has created for us to enjoy. Commit to caring for every part of God's creation, and ask Him to prompt you to be a good steward of the earth.

The Manse Garden

On Sunday 4th August members of the nominating committee went for a visit to the Manse with the Rev Douglas and Alison Robertson . This was my first visit to the Manse and I was absolutely disgusted at the overgrown garden and some aspects of the House. I decided there and then to do something .

We put a notice in the order of service asking for volunteers to assist with a makeover of the garden. By the end of the week there were three and over the following week the team had grown to nine. The whole garden project took 4 weeks to complete The team of enthusiastic gardeners shared skills, knowledge and knowhow and a willingness to achieve our goal of creating a pleasant garden for the Rev Douglas and Alison to enjoy.



The privacy has not been lost; instead there is an open and spacious garden to be enjoyed by the new residents. We removed 13 trailer loads of garden rubbish to the recycling.

Plants shrubs and bulbs have been planted, all

donated by the team and this project has been

completed at no expense to the church.

Many thanks to the team members: Mary Ann
Buchanan, Ann Bowen, Jane Smith, Evelyn Reid,
Jane Wilson, Pat Douglas, Jude Madeleine
James Harcus, Donald MacKenzie, and Janet
MacPherson who supported us.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely

thank the team for all their hard work and support . **Douglas Wilson**







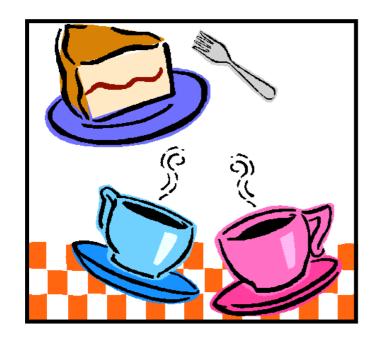
A big thank you to all those who sponsored me for the Run the Runway in raising funds for Maggies and all the fantastic work that they do.

Maggies aim was to raise £40,000. I have still to hear the final total but if last year was anything to go by they will have surpassed that. There were over 200 people taking part of all ages and levels of fitness including a baby of a few months pushed round in his pram by his mum and dad and getting his finishers medal!

The weather was reasonably kind and it was a great experience to be on the runway knowing that I have been in a plane which has taken off where I was walking.

I would recommend anyone so inclined to try it if it runs next year.

Through your generosity I was able to raise just under £400 so again thank you all so much. **Morven**



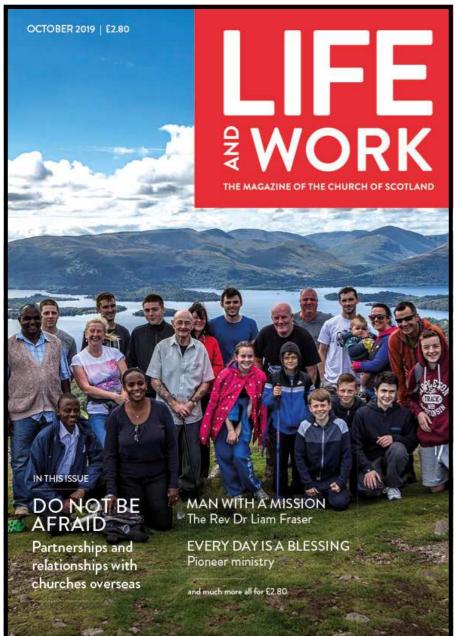
Save the date!

Highland Malawi Trust Coffee Morning

Saturday 23rd November

10.00am to 12 noon Crown Church Lower Hall

Reay



LIFE AND WORK OCTOBER 2019

Do Not Be Afraid

Reflections on partnerships with overseas churches

Man With a Mission

Pioneer Minister and Author, the Rev Dr Liam Fraser

Every Day is a Blessing

The Church of Scotland's Pioneer Ministers reflect on their roles

CrossReach Rescued Me

Continuing the celebration of 150 years of social care in the Church, we hear from some of those who have been helped by Cross-Reach counselling services

Friendships and Memories Will Remain

Hannah Dunlop reports from the final National Youth Assembly

Every Place of Worship a Place of Hope

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Church-backed conciliation charity, Place for Hope

Free at Last

The Rev Richard Baxter concludes his series themed on slavery by looking at how former slaves react to freedom

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.



As an ancient Inverness citizen who has still very clear memories of the local celebrations at the end of the Second World War in Europe,

I attach a photo for the Newsletter of our local celebrations of the end of the second WW in May/June 1945. Yes I can well remember!

The families in the area were entertained to a party lunch in the former canteen tin huts in the grounds of the now Crown Primary School. We were then led in a parade by Boys Brigade pipers to Darnaway Road and entertained to in the then extensive garden Caputh owned by Mr & Mrs Macoll of Fraser and Macolls, ironmongers, Eastgate, Inverness.

The photo included residents of Leys Drive. Myself standing second front right, late brother John front right. Also included is our Mother Dorothy with our sister Jane kneeling front centre. Also in the photo are Smith and Brian Rattery 10 Leys Drive, Cameron Gordon Leys Drive, Mrs Eric Mackay, Mr Maclennan baker and family.

We then adjourned to the Fraser Park where a bonfire with an effigy of Hitler on top was burned. So yes an occasion to remember.

Inverness escaped the bombing but in the early years school children were issued with gas masks. Fortunately never needed. But for some reason I was issued with two gas masks which I still have? And just for your elucidation I attach photo of them (now severely perished thank goodness!) But just for the record I do have in my loft a babies large gas mask for my then baby brother! **Donald Matheson**



Community Fête

Many thanks to Struan for organising the community fête. Thanks are also due to all the volunteers who assisted with the organisation, who assisted on the day and whose help made the event the success which it was.

Special thanks from the newsletter editors to Bill Mein for these photographs taken on the day.





Shoebox leaflets are available at the church doors. Filled shoeboxes can be dropped off at the church or the Drawing Room throughout October. The deadline is first November. If you would like a shoebox filled on your behalf, please place £15 in an envelope marked shoebox if you in the collection plate. Mairi

How old are you?"

Amir holds up three fingers to indicate his age. The basic and overcrowded conditions of the Roma camp at Kragujevac, Serbia, are all he has ever known.

www.shoeboxappeal.org

Each room is home to an entire family, even one with eight children. Water is carried home in plastic containers. Cooking is done by bottled gas or on a wood-burning stove. The children are enrolled in school but many do not attend. Some of the parents are unable to read or write.

Older members of this community of 70 people can remember what it was like to live on the roadside and then under a bridge after their displacement from Kosovo in 1999.

Today Amir's family survives by collecting scrap metal and plastic for recycling, and also receives the equivalent of 75 euros per month in child benefit. For people in their situation every item in a Blythswood shoebox is valued and useful – clothes, toiletries, sweets, tools and stationery.

You can bring a smile to Amir and others this Christmas - www.shoeboxappeal.org

Bible Readings for October/ November

October 7, 2019

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

Thursday, Exodus 13:17-22, Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Friday, Exodus 14:1-31, Crossing the Red Sea

Saturday, Exodus 20:1-21, The Ten Commandments

Sunday, Ruth 1:1-17, Ruth

October 14, 2019

Monday, Ruth 1:18-22, Ruth and Naomi

Tuesday, Ruth 2:1-13, Ruth Meets Boaz

Wednesday, Ruth 2:14-23, Ruth Meets Boaz

Thursday, Ruth 3:1-18, Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

Friday, Ruth 4:1-12, The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Saturday, Ruth 4:13-22, The Genealogy of David

Sunday, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5, David Anointed King

October 21, 2019

Monday, Psalm 150, Praise Psalm

Tuesday, 2 Samuel 5:6-16, Jerusalem, the Capital of a Kingdom United

Wednesday, 2 Samuel 6:6-11, The Ark Comes to Jerusalem

Thursday, 2 Samuel 6:12-23, The Ark Comes to Jerusalem

Friday, 2 Samuel 7:1-17, God's Covenant with David

Saturday, 2 Samuel 7:18-29, David's Prayer

Sunday, 1 Kings 12:1-17, The Kingdom Divided

October 28, 2019

Monday, 1 Kings 12:18-24, Jeroboam Reigns over Israel

Tuesday, 1 Kings 12:25-33, Jeroboam's Golden Calves

Wednesday, 1 Kings 13:1-34, A Man of God from Judah

Thursday, 1 Kings 14:1-20, Judgment on the House of Jeroboam

Friday, 1 Kings 14:21-31, Rehoboam Reigns over Judah

Saturday, 1 Kings 16:24-34, Ahab Reigns

Sunday, 1 Kings 18:20-39, Elijah at Mount Carmel

November 4, 2019

Monday, 1 Kings 17:1-7, Elijah Predicts a Drought

Tuesday, 1 Kings 18:1-19, Elijah's Message to Ahab

Wednesday, 1 Kings 18:41-46, The Drought Ends

Thursday, 1 Kings 19:1-10, Elijah Flees from Jezebel

Friday, 1 Kings 19:11-18, Elijah Meets God at Horeb

Saturday, 2 Kings 9:30-37, Jezebel's Violent Death

Sunday, Hosea 11:1-9, Hosea

Sept 29	Reader Una Hamilton	Creche Marjory MacKenzie & Chrisanne Robertson	Coffee Eleanor Ross, Mairi Main, Eileen Ardern
Oct 6	Jean Smith		Lesley McRoberts, Janet MacPherson, Kay MacDonald
13	Joel Madeleine	Kay MacDonald & Chrisanne Robertson	Helen MacLeod, Irene Munro, Liz Munro
20	Robert Laing	Muriel Choppy & Chrisanne Robertson	Kimm Currie, Dorothy Morrison, Lena Clarke
27	Sheena Ferguson	Kay MacDonald & Muriel Choppy	Fiona Carter, Isabelle MacKenzie
Nov 3	Iain S Fraser	ТВА	Eileen Ardern, Eleanor Ross, Mairi Main

October Count Team Alastair MacPherson

Alan Nelson, Richard Ardern, Bob Shanks

November Count Team

Sheena Ferguson

Heather Beck, Robert & Aileen Laing, Helen Boynton

October Welcome Team

North Door Marjory MacKenzie South Door Bob & Tricia Hanna Midmills North Lucy & David Livingston Midmills South Seonaid MacLellan

November Welcome Team

North Door Jimmy Gray
South Door Ruby Coe
Midmills North Alice & Bill Morrison
Midmills South Neil Morrison

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

Jessie (Jay) Urquhart, on 7th August Vivienne Johnston, on 3rd September Joanna Cobham, on 14th September Margaret Donald, on 15th September

The Friends of Cameron House would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported their recent Afternoon Tea. We are delighted to say that the wonderful sum of £1650 was raised for the benefit of the home and residents. **Kay MacDonald**.

The deadline for the November newsletter will be Sunday 27th October

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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Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)
Registered charity SC 018159
The Church website is to be found at www.crown-church.co.uk