

# ***Newsletter***

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

**February 2020: No. 756**

**Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson**



### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

All people, of any age, are welcome to participate at all our services. We have "Treasure Seekers", age related fun and learning activity for children, every Sunday at 11 am

- Sunday 2nd February Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am followed by Special Prayers  
Sunday 9th February Morning Worship at 11 am followed by Extraordinary Meeting of the Congregation **NB No 9.30 service**  
Also; Malawi Trust Lunch after the 11 am service  
Sunday 16th February Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am  
'Souper Sunday' do stay on for a bowl of soup!  
Also: Elders meet at 10.30am for Preparatory Worship  
Sunday 23rd February Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am  
Sunday 1st March 9.30am The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Rev Morven Archer  
11am The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Rev Douglas Robertson  
3pm The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Rev Douglas Robertson  
Also; Thanksgiving Worship at 6.30pm Followed by Special Prayers

**Prayers every Friday at 12 noon at which people may be remembered by name.  
Please make requests known**



As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**Matthew 3 verses 15 to 17**

# From the Minister

Dear Friends,

This Summer / Winter has been a season of upheaval for Alison and me, not to mention the disruption to our children's lives in Australia. We enjoyed the amazing experience of seeing the New Year in with some friends at our home in Melbourne, one of whom drove us to the airport for a 6am departure, and then being back in Glasgow in time for dinner with Alison's parents still on January 1. The wonders of modern travel!

We have arrived at Crown Church at an exciting time. I see so much hope and expectation within the congregation, wanting to revitalise the life, work and witness of the church, when some others in Christendom tend to be quite negative about the future. That's encouraging, and it's my hope that we can harness the energy and vision of so many wonderful members to develop congregational life, our connectedness to the community around us, and our mission for and with Christ in his world.

I do want to record here our sincere gratitude to the people who have gone out of their way to fix or clean the manse through the vacancy, and to prepare it for our arrival with basic furniture and household items while waiting for our own to arrive on the slow boat from Australia. We also love the garden that has been so carefully pulled into immaculate order by another team of volunteers.

For the period until after Easter I will be preaching through the Book of Matthew at the 11am service, so if you want to do some homework you could take the time to read it through prayerfully in your own time. As I said in one of the services, it can be read almost as a training manual for disciples of Jesus, culminating with the "Great Commission" which is a bit like the graduation charge entrusted to those who finish the course.

At the 9:30am service we're considering the "I Am" statements of Jesus, a great way to explore some of the more profound truths about Our Lord. One of the things I love about modern church is when we offer variety in worship.

**(Continued on next page)**



**(Cont from previous page)** People are not always comfortable in the same cultural or traditional ways of expressing their love for God or for their neighbour, and it's important that we provide opportunities to allow them to feel welcome and uplifted in the worship experience.

There is so much more that I would like to say, but above all I am grateful to God for the call that I heard and that has been confirmed by the hospitality you have all shown to us.

Every blessing,

**Douglas**

## Christmas in the Garden



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas garden nativity story.

Lots of people across several generations were involved and enjoyed working together.

There were two highlights for me. First was chatting with passers by while setting up and running repairs on the figures after stormy weather. So many great thoughts - Why has this angel got no wings? Why has that angel got a beard? Are you going to have King Herod too?

Second highlight was the carol concert in the garden when many of us dressed as Christmas characters. The star was Chrisanne Robertson who actually did come dressed as a star!

We shared hot chocolate, mince pies and mulled wine with passers-by and had a lovely afternoon together.

The nativity characters even made their way into church on the Advent Sundays and for Crown School end of term assembly. They were much appreciated by many people and did help to remind everyone of the true Christmas Story. Thanks to all involved.

**Lesley McRoberts**

# Crown Church Celebrates

After many months of prayerful consideration, the induction of the Rev Douglas Robertson took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 attended by a large congregation with many familiar faces from Presbytery of Inverness notably the current moderator, our very own Doug McRoberts. There was a slight change to the original programme for the evening and the congregation took refreshments in the lower hall immediately after the induction formalities had been completed.



Then followed a reception back in the church where Alison and Douglas were welcomed and warmly received by everyone. Some further presentations were then made to members of the ministry team, underlining the gratitude of the congregation for the continuation of preaching and pastoral care over the period of the vacancy.

**(Continued on next page)**

*The picture on the left was taken immediately after the induction service and shows the new minister, the Rev Douglas Robertson, with the Very Rev David Lunan.*

*There are further pictures on the next page of some of the other notables present. It is not often that the Moderator of Presbytery (the Rev Doug McRoberts) is able to induct a new minister into his own church!*



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January our new minister was preached-in by the Very Rev David Lunan who is a long standing friend and colleague of Douglas. The service included those who normally worship at 9.30am and the message of Mr Lunan was very well received.

On the following Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Douglas thanked everyone for all the many courtesies and acts of hospitality he and Alison had received since arriving in Inverness. They have felt comfortable in the manse despite their household belongings still being in transit to Scotland. We all say to Douglas and Alison again, "you are most welcome and we are glad to see you here!"

**Brian Macgill Session Clerk**

*Our thanks to Louis Jones and to Stewart Robertson for the photographs*





## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

A big 'thank you' to all who donated money for church flowers during 2019, and also to the team who arranged them each week in church. There are still a few places left on the rota (in the back corridor) if anyone would like to add their name. Ruby will be in touch with you to discuss which flowers you would like and monies can be passed to her or left in the Church office. Thank you!  
Ruby Coe.

Many thanks to Dorothy Mein and her team for the magnificent spread at the Induction Service for Douglas



# The Big Decision - Ninth February

The Kirk Session held its annual conference at Culduthel Christian Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The conference was followed by a meeting of the Kirk Session which was our first meeting with our new minister.

The Kirk Session agreed to put the 20/20 proposal to a meeting of all members of the congregation which will be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February immediately after the 11 o'clock service. There will not be a service at 9.30 that Sunday.

The purpose of this article is to explain what this meeting is all about and the nature of the decision which the congregation will be asked to take.

There has already been extensive coverage in earlier newsletters over the last year about the progress of the 20/20 proposal. A number of open meetings have now been held which have been well attended and there has been a very useful exchange of information and views on all sides.



However, the decision which the Congregational meeting requires to take is essentially a very simple one. The Congregation will be asked to decide whether or not it wishes to agree to the proposed lease of the lower hall to Highland Council in order to form 2 classrooms to accommodate nursery children. It is important to stress that this is the only decision which requires to be taken at that meeting.

However, the whole debate has been coloured and perhaps complicated by the fact that this issue is linked to the

proposed redevelopment of the church buildings. This article will try to explain some of the potential consequences of a decision to proceed with the lease to the Highland Council and also some of the potential consequences of a negative result.

## **So what happens if we decide to proceed with the lease?**

The answer to that is, "*quite a lot!*". In the first instance, it obliges Highland Council to pay us £25,000 rent each year for the duration of the lease. There will, however, be an option open to both the Church and the Highland Council to terminate the lease after 20 years.

The important point to take from the above is that it provides Crown Church with a guaranteed income of £25,000 per year for the next 20 years and for potentially quite a number of years thereafter. (continued on next page)

One of the important consequences is that this guaranteed income may very well allow the church to borrow a substantial sum of money from the Church of Scotland as an interest-free loan with which to fund the wider refurbishment of the church. It is not possible at this stage to say how much we might be able to borrow, but the sum is likely to be very substantial, running to perhaps several hundred thousand pounds. The projected cost of the current proposed refurbishment is £485,000. In addition, there is also the prospect that we will be able to obtain grants towards the cost of the refurbishment and a number of different funding organisations have already been identified (but not yet approached) who might be able to help.

At this point, it is equally important to recognise that some very substantial initial refurbishment (the first phase) will be undertaken in accordance with the agreement with Highland Council which will be carried out at their sole expense. This includes the installation of a 10 or 12 person lift which will provide disabled access to the first floor and therefore the upper hall.

Highland Council have also undertaken to refurbish both the existing kitchen and toilets, effectively providing new toilets on the ground floor. The work also involves replacement of the toilets and installation of a kitchen in the upper hall. The cost of this work which, it must be stressed, will be paid for exclusively by Highland Council, is estimated at £250,000.



The installation of the lift will be prioritised and the intention is to allow us to use our upper hall as soon as possible in order to keep disruption to a minimum while the other work is being carried out.

Therefore, the answer to the above question is that voting to proceed with the project will allow the church to commence the first phase of the refurbishment very quickly indeed and will, perhaps even more importantly, provide a platform from which to raise the necessary funds to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the refurbishment work in the very near future.

### **What if we decide not to proceed?**

The simple answer to this question is that we then need do nothing. We can keep things precisely as they are. We keep the lower hall to ourselves and Highland Council will simply have to look elsewhere in order to accommodate these young children. There is no longer any pressure to proceed quickly or even any pressure to proceed at all with any refurbishment of the church. We would have, of course, lost the advantage of the funding currently on offer and the prospect facing our church, if we wished to proceed with the present proposals for refurbishment or something similar, is that we would have to try to raise approximately £750,000 ourselves without any financial assistance from the Highland Council. (Continued on next page)



## Does any of this really matter?

It certainly matters to the young children and their families who, at the moment, have pinned their hopes on being able to use our lower hall. What that means to the school is perhaps best summed up in the letter from the head teacher which is published elsewhere in this month's newsletter. However, it matters a great deal to us too.

There was widespread recognition at the Elders' Conference held in January 2019 that simply continuing as we have been is just not an option. If we were to take a snapshot of our church membership as at 2000 and compare it with our membership today, at the point where Douglas Robertson is taking over, the decline is dramatic. We are not



just an ageing congregation, we are a diminishing congregation and the fact that we share this problem with many other churches is small comfort.

The Elders' Conference in 2019 recognised this and the 20/20 committee was created as a consequence. This is where the current proposal came from. It coincides with the radical report which emerged from last year's General Assembly which

encourages local congregations to take precisely the sort of steps which the 20/20 committee now proposes we should take. We are being strongly encouraged to take appropriate steps to re-engage with our local communities.

It is interesting that the Very Rev David Lunan who "preached in" our new minister on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, made specific reference to the fact that we simply cannot hope to continue as we have done in the past. Change is upon us whether we want it or not.

This last point was doubly underlined by the Rev Martin Fair who was the principal speaker at this year's Elders' Conference held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Martin is currently the Minister at St Andrews Church, Arbroath. He is also moderator designate and will take up the role of Moderator of the General Assembly in May this year. His address was quite inspirational and he explained that his own church had undertaken a similar refurbishment programme some years ago and spoke of the tremendous difference which this had made to the life and work of his church.

Therefore, the decision which we need to take on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February as a worshipping, Christian community, is likely to have a profound effect upon our future as such a community. (Continued on next page)

## **We have a new minister. Does he support this proposal?**

This very question was asked directly of our new minister at the Kirk Session meeting. He left everyone in no doubt that he is an enthusiastic supporter of the proposal and indeed went on to describe his experience of similar refurbishment being carried out at his former church in Melbourne, Australia and the benefits which this had brought. The Kirk Session voted heavily in favour of the proposal.

## **So what happens next?**

That is now up to the church membership. The Kirk Session has decided that the project should not proceed unless it receives the support of at least two thirds of the members of the Congregation present and entitled to vote at the Congregational meeting on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

We all need to think deeply and pray for the future of our church and our community.

## **The 20/20 Team**



## **The Guild**

Our first meeting of 2020 turned out to be a really entertaining evening when we welcomed Ramsey MacGhee. A very talented accordion player, he led us in his latest musical quiz. Each question had a tune attached to it and all the answers were related to Scotland. Most of the five teams did well but none got full marks!

On the 21st Corrin Macdonald came to tell us about the charity he runs called Day 1. This charity helps young teenage boys and girls who are not coping with life and find it difficult to see a way forward. They are referred to Day 1 by Guidance teachers in schools. They are then allocated a mentor, people who are volunteers, who work with these young people for a year. The charity has helped many young people over the past years with great success.

February 1st will be our coffee morning. A local ukulele band will come along to entertain us during the morning.

On Tuesday 4th we visit the Town House for a guided tour and on the 18th , Drew Anderson will speak to us about the Sailors' Society which is one of our chosen projects for this year.

As usual a warm invitation is extended to anyone in the congregation to join us.

**Dorothy Mein, Guild Correspondent**

# THANKS FOR PLANTS AT CHRISTMAS.

For many years Crown Church has organised purchase and delivery of pot plants to be gifted to the elderly, bereaved and housebound. 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. 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 Aaron Piper from Dobbies. The plants were delivered early on the Sunday morning along with Aaron's personal wish to all church members for a very Merry Christmastime. The selection of colours on the wonderfully healthy plants created quite a stir as those who were delivering voiced their compliments and enjoyed choosing the colours they thought the recipients would appreciate.

Last year we heard reports of the pot plants lasting for several months. Do please give some feedback to your elder the next time he/she calls.

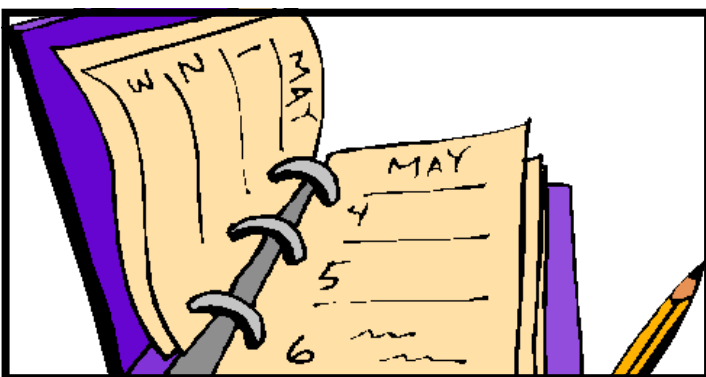
**Ann Johnston**

Could we add to the above our thanks to Ann Johnston and to Gloria for their invaluable help in organising the gifts. **The editors**

## **Advance Notice!**

### **Day Retreat - Saturday 22nd February 2020**

The Discipleship Team is organising a Day Retreat on Saturday 22nd February 2020 at the Kinraig Christian Centre. This will be a great opportunity to learn, re-vitalise and build on our fellowship with each other in a relaxed environment. Any one interested, please contact Jude Madeleine or Lesley McRoberts.



## ***Prayer Diary February 2020***

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 (March 2020) please do send them to our church secretary, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine;



### **Feb 2 – 8**

On this day of 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, World Cancer Day, pray today for the research and hard work that goes into diagnosing and treating cancer. Remember all those, including family members affected by a cancer diagnosis. Thank God for the funding and support for this essential work and pray that there will be a breakthrough in science and healthcare, eliminating cancer altogether.

Pray for the thousands of children who are at risk and living in dangerous situations as refugees. Ask God to protect refugees living in fear and restore them to a safe place where their rights will be recognised and they will be valued and protected.

Pray for our new Minister Reverend Douglas Robertson and his wife Alison. Ask for God's blessings over them as they settle in our community, and become a part of the family of Crown church. Pray that God's presence will continue to grow within the lives of our church and community as a result of Douglas' ministry.

### **February 9 - 15**

Pray for the ongoing work, planning, consultation and discussions about the proposed changes and development for the church building and facilities that are being considered. Pray that Crown 20/20 team, other relevant people, together with the congregation will be enabled in making the right choice about the way forward with God's glory at the centre of the decision.

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. 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.

### **February 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. 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.

Pray for all our local schools. Ask God to shine in the lives of children and teachers who know Him, for His name to be talked about in the staff rooms and playgrounds, and for the Bible to be read in assemblies and His goodness to be obvious when Christianity is taught.

### **February 23 – 29**

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 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.

Pray for love, peace and hope in every home and family. Pray that God's presence be felt in the lives of our families, friends and neighbours; that His guidance be the driving force in our decisions and choices we make.

## ELDERS' CONFERENCE 2020 - DISCIPLESHIP

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 54 elders and other members of Crown church met at the Culduthel Christian Centre for the annual Elders' conference which was based on the theme 'Exploring Discipleship'. The conference started with our new Minister Douglas Robertson leading the opening worship and sharing some reflections on discipleship with a scripture reading from the book of John.

One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote presentation by Rev Dr Martin Fair who is parish Minister at St Andrews' church in Arbroath and new moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly. A highly inspirational-speaker, Martin provided an excellent presentation about his deep desire and vision in being part of the renewing of the Church of Scotland. In considering the current climate of a declining church membership, Martin shared some real

insights into how his parish and congregation in Arbroath have had to evolve and adapt to changes in order to reach out and share fellowship and witness with the wider community. He also talked about the positive impact of the mission work that has been involved in supporting people who are recovering from drug addiction and other



disadvantaged people in his parish. The workshop and plenary sessions were aimed at developing participants' understanding of



discipleship through learning about some examples of disciples from the Bible and reflecting on how together as a church we may strive to become better at creating and deepening discipleship. Some of the

discussions were also focused on identifying people's gifts and talents, and exploring how we could improve on supporting and equipping others in the work and mission of the church. (Continued on next page)



The key message from the conference was that as Christians and followers of Christ, we all have an important duty and responsibility to contribute in building a church community that is welcoming and reaches out to others, to be adaptive in worship and witness in ways that provide acts of kindness to everyone, particularly to those most in need or less fortunate. Participants on the day commented that, "It was a very successful conference and they were highly enthused and inspired by the experience".

## Jude Madeleine



ECO Crown update. It's great to be able to report that halls users are making good use of the recycling bins. Eilidh, the church cleaner has started to use clear bags to line the blue bins, and this seems to be helping make sure that when the bins are taken out, the material that can be recycled ends up in the correct bin outside. However we would ask that if you are taking the blue bin liners out to the wheelie bin, can you put everything in loose and put the liner back into the indoor bin. Can we remind groups having refreshments to please check that the food waste

caddies are emptied before you go home.

A date for your diary: ECO Crown are planning an Earth Hour event, candle lit quiet hour from 8.30pm on Saturday 28th of March. Earth Hour is a global event, switching off our lights for an hour in support of the planet. More details to follow...



## 2 dates for the diary

Saturday morning- 14th March- Toy Swap as part of The Great Toy Rescue... more detail to follow.

Crown Church Family Party on Saturday 22nd February.



## A further Report from the Elders Conference

### **If the size of your vision doesn't intimidate you, then maybe it insults God.**

(Steve Furtick)

We were privileged to have the Rev Martin Fair (Moderator Designate) and Minister of St Andrew's Arbroath give the keynote address at the Elders' Conference on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, speaking on the topic of Discipleship.

He reminded us that 95% of the country will not be in church on a Sunday, **and challenged us as he had challenged himself: 'If your church closed, would people round about notice?'** Our urgent need is to engage with mission –to go and make disciples as Christ commanded. Remember, he said, where there is no vision, the people perish.

The first question which St Andrew's Arbroath considered when they began to think of how to do this as a church, was to look at their old church building, and decide how it could be made fit for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. **Sound familiar?** For them, this was is 1992, and when they undertook this transformation, the result was a tremendous



leap forward in the life of the church and its mission. The church premises brought in an extra £20,000 annually with increased lets to the community, At the same time, the church undertook a major reconsideration of their Welcome, their Worship and their Witness. While each church needs to do this

for themselves, it is worth reflecting on the research which shows that people coming to a church for the first time will have decided after 7 seconds whether they want to come back. Major factors will be the quality of the welcome, and their immediate impression of the building which speaks silently to them.

In worship, we have to remember most people don't know what goes on in church nowadays. We need to make worship engaging. Times have changed, and people are no longer happy to sit for a long time listening. But we need to take every opportunity to try to share what we do with the local community and to respond to local needs in appropriate ways. (continued on next page)



In mission, long gone are the days of inviting American evangelists to storm our country. We ourselves have undertaken a variety of mission outreaches over the years, varying from regular summer holiday clubs, through Alpha courses, the



ongoing Olive Grove, the current outreach to the new neighbours across the road. St Andrew's started to expand their mission with Acts of Random Kindness. At Easter they don't just deliver cards to their parish, but take Hot Cross Buns as well! They take gifts to the children in school. They discovered the school was fighting low reading attainment, and would welcome adults to sit regularly and help children read, so found volunteers. And a small group moved to help drug

addicts kick the habit has grown into a very large initiative highly respected by the whole community.

In the week between this article being written, and you reading it, another church has closed, and the Church of Scotland has lost 19,000 members. If churches don't change, this will keep happening every week.

**Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.** (William Carey)

Above, St Andrew's prepared for a school service, and previous page showing a flexible use of the same. **Eileen Ardern**



## Beetle Drive

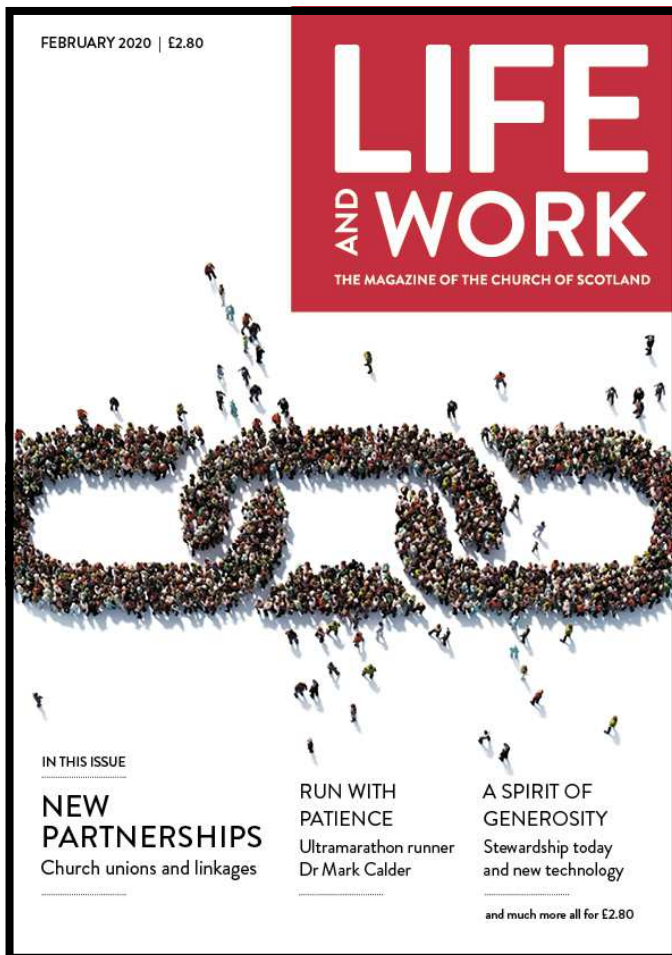
Bring your friends and family to this fun evening in aid of LAUNCHPAD.

Saturday 29th February 2020

In the Lower Hall at 7pm.

Refreshments, Prizes

**Tickets will be on sale at after church coffee, from the church office, the Olive Grove and on the door.**



**FEBRUARY 2020**

### **New Partnerships**

Jackie Macadam learns about the successes and hurdles faced by uniting or linking parishes

### **Run With Patience**

The life and faith of ultramarathon runner Dr Mark Calder

### **No Time to Waste**

In the first in a series of columns marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church of Scotland's SRT (Society, Religion and Technology), Dr John Francis reflects on nuclear energy and weapons

### **A Medieval Church Court**

Andrew Stevenson reports on a unique church court in the Channel Islands

### **A Spirit of Generosity**

David Lynch reflects on the recent journey of stewardship in the Church of Scotland and the advance of new technology

### **The Church of Veere**

Anne-Mary Paterson reflects on the history and legacy of the first overseas Church of Scotland

### **Be the Change You Want to See**

In this month's youth column, Matthew Macneil traces his faith journey, and his role in the Awakening Youth conference in Lewis.

### **Everything Has to Go**

Continuing his focus on 1 Thessalonians, the Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why there needs to be a turning away from one thing to another.

**Plus** all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and cross-words

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## **THANK YOU!**

After the Induction Service, we just wanted to say a huge "Thank you!" We were rather taken aback at the generous gifts we were presented with, and Doug in particular is really looking forward to his glider flight above the Cairngorms later this year!

Doug will also enjoy spending the book tokens on just the kind of books he wouldn't usually be able to buy – and the gift of dinner on the Strathspey Railway this summer is something, as you can see from the picture, that we'll really enjoy together.



But we also wanted to say thank you for all the ways in which Crown has made us feel at home, particularly during the last two years while Doug has been leading worship. We know that Douglas and Alison will feel equally thankful as their new life here begins.

## **Doug & Lesley McRoberts**

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Thank you everyone for the fantastic gifts you gave me .  
Also there are so many I would like to thank for their support and friendship over the last two years

So Thank you all

I am looking forward to my trip in the glider Bob says it will not be till March or April. When I do I am certainly going to take my camera.

I did notice on the voucher I was given that the glider was flying upside down, hmmm...

## **Morven**

We thought it might be helpful to publish the text of a letter sent from the Head Teacher of Crown Primary School to the 20/20 committee. It reads as follows:

'I am really grateful to be consulted about the proposals currently being considered. As a school we already consider Crown Church to be a big part of our learning community so to have the chance to have it as physically part of it is a privileged opportunity for us. There are many reasons why this would be my preferred option which I would like to share for your consideration.

We already value the opportunity to hold our end of term services in the church, all the more important with the marked change in family habits over the past 40 years which means many pupils would not otherwise experience church. I imagine that from a congregational perspective the life and joy our littlest learners would bring would help build even more inter-generational engagement opportunities. There is much research to show the mutual benefits for both young learners and our senior citizens.

Our children have the most wonderful play space. Having come from a school where there was not a blade of grass I still marvel every day, after 3 years here, at our pupils outdoor environment. I would be very saddened for them to lose any of that through a new build.

In addition to this, the inevitable impact on delivery of learning and teaching would be significant were the current building to be reconfigured as this would cause unimaginable disruption. Teaching is already a pressured career and for classes to be displaced due to building would be upsetting for staff and very confusing for our most vulnerable pupils, those with additional support needs. These pupils need stability, predictability and low sensory – arousal to manage a successful day at school. Building works and changes to classrooms would cause sensory overload for some of our pupils which would then have an impact on the rest of the pupils."

February 2020

## CrossReach Information Sheet

### Thank you!

CrossReach would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and to thank all individuals and congregations for the gifts, donations and offerings received over the festive period. You can keep up-to-date with CrossReach stories, news and events on their website: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

### CrossReach @150

2020 dates, times and locations for the 150th Anniversary Exhibition will be made available on their website: [www.crossreach.org.uk/150th-anniversary](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/150th-anniversary)

To read about the history of CrossReach please visit: [www.crossreach.org.uk/about-us/the-history-of-crossreach](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/about-us/the-history-of-crossreach)



### CrossReach events 2020

Are you looking for something exciting and adventurous to do this year? CrossReach has events taking place throughout 2020, where you can have fun whilst supporting its work across Scotland. For more information: [www.crossreach.org.uk/events](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/events)



#### Forth Bridge abseil

Join CrossReach CEO, Viv Dickenson, in abseiling down the Forth Bridge on 10 May 2020. To sign up, please use the link below and select CrossReach: <https://www.rcsqsales.org.uk/register>



#### Zip Wire Challenge, Aviemore

Zip through the trees over a stunning gorge in Aviemore. Dates available: 2 May 2020 and 5 September 2020. For more information: [events@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:events@crossreach.org.uk)

#### Scottish Half and 10k 2020

The Scottish Half Marathon + 10K is the ultimate running experience, with stunning views of East Lothian's Golf Coast. For more information on how you can participate, please contact: [events@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:events@crossreach.org.uk)

### The 5 Big Questions Survey

The Duchess of Cambridge has launched a new survey to bring about lasting change for children across the United Kingdom.

Join in the conversation by taking part in the 5 Big Questions survey available at: <https://5bigquestions.org.uk/>



### A kind act of kindness: Lasswade High School donation

In December, residents of CrossReach Cunningham House enjoyed winter-warming hot chocolate and cream thanks to Lasswade High School. The High School's Student Union raised over £20 and donated 12 tubs of delicious hot chocolate to the service.



### The Mallard hydrotherapy pool

Congratulations to CrossReach The Mallard in raising an impressive £50,000 for their hydrotherapy pool. Thank you to everyone and every organisation that has contributed and participated in their fundraising activities.

Looking to share ideas on local social care and outreach projects? The Social Care Forum is your one-stop-shop for social care resources. Visit: [www.socialcareforum.scot/](http://www.socialcareforum.scot/)

## **Daily Bible Readings for February/ March**

### **February 2**

Sunday, Mark 5:21-43, Jairus' Daughter Healed

Monday, Psalm 131, Psalm

Tuesday, Matthew 15:23-22, A Woman Healed

Wednesday, Luke 7:2-12, A Centurion Slave Healed

Thursday, Luke 8:40-52, Jairus' Daughter Healed

Friday, Luke 14:1-6, Healing on the Sabbath

Saturday, Luke 17:10-20, Jesus Heals

### **February 9**

Sunday, Mark 6:1-29, Death of John the Baptist

Monday, Psalm 122, Psalm

Tuesday, Mark 6:30-44, Feeding the Five Thousand

Wednesday, Mark 6:45-52, Jesus Walks on Water

Thursday, Mark 6:53-56, Healing the Sick in Gennesaret

Friday, Mark 7:24-30, The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

Saturday, Mark 7:31-37, Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

### **February 16**

Mark 7:1-23, What Defiles?

Monday, Mark 8:1-10, Feeding the Four Thousand

Tuesday, Mark 8:11-13, The Demand for a Sign

Wednesday, Mark 8:14-21, The Yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod

Thursday, Mark 8:22-26, Jesus Cures a Blind Man at Bethsaida

Friday, Mark 9:9-13, The Coming of Elijah

Saturday, Mark 9:14-29, The Healing of a Boy with a Spirit

### **February 23**

Sunday, Mark 8:27-9:8, Transfiguration

Monday, Psalm 27:1-4, Psalm

Tuesday, Mark 9:38-41, Another Exorcist

Wednesday, Mark 9:30-37, Passion Prediction (Ash Wednesday)

Thursday, Mark 9:42-50, Temptations to Sin

Friday, Mark 10:1-12, Teaching about Divorce

Saturday, Mark 10:13-16, Jesus Blesses Little Children

### **March 1**

Sunday, Mark 10:17-31, First Last and Last First

Monday, Psalm 19:7-10, Psalm

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

Wednesday, Deuteronomy 5:1-21, The Ten Commandments

Thursday, Psalm 52, Psalm

Friday, Psalm 62, Psalm

Saturday, Jeremiah 32:1-25, Jeremiah Buys a Field

<b>Feb</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Crèche</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>2</b>	Mairi Main	Jane Smith & Kay MacDonald	Eileen Ardern, Eleanor Ross, Mairi Main
<b>9</b>	Bob Shanks	Marjory MacKenzie & Muriel Choppy	Kay MacDonald, Lesley McRoberts, Janet MacPherson
<b>16</b>	Douglas Taylor	Jane Smith & Chrisanne Robertson	Liz Munro, Helen MacLeod, Irene Munro
<b>23</b>	Alastair Campbell	Marjory MacKenzie & Muriel Choppy	
<b>Mar 1</b>	Communion	Jane Smith & Kay MacDonald	Kimm Currie, Dorothy Morrison, Lena Clarke  Isabelle MacKenzie, Fiona Carter, Anne Bowen

<p><b>February Count Team</b></p> <p><b>Liz Forbes</b> John &amp; Marion Barbour, Mairi Main, Kay MacDonald</p>	<p><b>February Welcome Team</b></p> <p><i>North Door</i> Jean &amp; Una Hamilton <i>South Door</i> Janet Fraser <i>Midmills North</i> Jane Wilson <i>Midmills South</i> Heather Beck</p>
<p><b>March Count Team</b></p> <p><b>Alastair MacPherson</b> Alan Nelson, Richard Ardern, Robert Shanks</p>	<p><b>March Welcome Team</b></p> <p><i>North Door</i> Lesley McRoberts <i>South Door</i> Calum Macleod &amp; Bill Mein <i>Midmills North</i> Janet MacPherson <i>Midmills South</i> Ann Johnston</p>

## **NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

### **Deaths**

Mrs Adrienne Munro, on 1 December 2019  
George Mellis, on 2 December 2019  
Mrs Eileen Grant, on 6 December 2019  
Mrs Luella Sharp, on 7 December 2019  
Mrs Joan (Joey) Gunn, on 12 December 2019  
Mrs Christina Michael, on 29 December 2019  
Miss Jean McDonnell, on 31 December

### **Received into Membership**

By resolution of the Kirk Session: Alison Robertson

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**The Annual Souper Sunday will take place  
in the Lower Hall on Sunday 16th  
February after the 11am Service.  
All welcome. Mairi Main**



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**The deadline for the March newsletter will be Sunday 23rd 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](http://crown-church.co.uk)

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