

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

April 2020: No. 758

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



SUNDAY SERVICES

During the Coronavirus lockdown we are not allowed to hold our usual worship services in the Church. Douglas will be broadcasting live on Sunday mornings at 11 am. To watch these and previous recordings please go to the Crown Church facebook page.



**They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting
"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the king of Israel."**

John 12 verse 13



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

It's a strange feeling, standing at the front of the church, preaching to empty pews. Sadly I haven't yet had time to know you well enough to picture you sitting in your own spot; but I do try to think of you as I pray, as I preach and as we listen to and enjoy the music – with thanks to Ian and Louis. Each member of Crown Church, every attender at worship, whether regular or infrequent, or a visitor, you are important to God and you are important to me and to one another. You've probably seen the internet meme suggesting that we should stop talking about "social distancing" and think of it instead as "physical distancing" while

trying to maintain social contact with one another. It's not easy, but it is vitally important, for the sake of each other's emotional health and mental wellbeing that we use all means available to us, phone, internet or good old-fashioned Royal Mail, to keep in touch.

It is also important for our spiritual wellbeing. As I said on Sunday, we still need a regular cycle in our lives of stepping back from the normality of our daily routine to reflect on the grace of God and our relationship with him in and through Jesus Christ. As best as I can, I intend to continue to provide that weekly cycle of linking the whole congregation together at 11am on a Sunday, to help direct your thoughts and prayers to the things of God; but it is every bit as important that you develop your own regular opportunities for reflection on the Word of God, for prayer, or even just for a quiet moment of meditative contemplation on the good gifts of God in creation.

Easter is fast approaching, and, like everything else in life, it will be very different and unfamiliar this year.

On Maundy Thursday (April 9) at 7pm I will broadcast a service from the sanctuary of the church. It will be a communion service, and I would ask you to prepare a communion table for yourself or your household. Take time to set it out nicely, with a small plate of bread and a glass of wine. Being alone at home you can use whatever type of bread and drink suits you. It will be a short service, focussing on the sacrament, and I will follow a very familiar liturgy. At the appropriate point, we can share together in the elements, spiritually united as one in Christ, though separated by distance.

(Continued on next page)

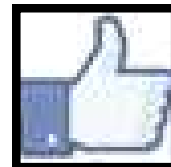
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On Easter Sunday morning I will also broadcast from the church a service of celebration and rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus – he’s alive, he’s alive, he has risen!



To tune into any of these services, download the Facebook app, sign up for an account (it’s free), and then search for “Crown Church, Inverness”. Once there you will see items for prayer and reflection being posted every day.

And at the right time for the service, you will see a “live stream” video of me and / or an organist in the church. You can “like” the video, or post a comment, which I can see while conducting the service.



Wishing you every blessing from God through challenging times,

Douglas

A Prayer for these times

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their
light;
through him who suffered
alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We’ve enjoyed seeing pictures in rainbows in the windows of homes around us. Thank you to Isla for her artwork. And as Isla says, thank you to the NHS.





Crown 20/20 Update

“Crown Church aims to invest in a major upgrade of our church buildings to provide a warm and welcoming home for worship, equip us with modern and accessible facilities to support Christian outreach into our community and to help our church meet the needs of that community.”

Mission statement of the Crown 20/20 Group

Dear all,

Despite the uncertainty of the Coronavirus pandemic which has dramatically changed the way we live our lives, the work of the Crown 20/20 Group continues, albeit mainly by telephone and email communication.

Be assured we are:-

- liaising with the key Highland Council officials who are progressing the project which will see the Lower Hall converted into a two-classroom Nursery for Crown Primary School. An early priority is to identify a location for the lift which will provide access to the Upper Hall. The kitchen designer might well be working from home , in which case we will set up liaison between her and some of the Socials team. We have engaged a solicitor to secure the detail of the long lease of the Lower Hall to the Council.
- liaising with the organisations and community lets which use our halls. Heather Beck has taken on this role and has been in touch with all the church organisations and community lets who will be using the upper hall after the refurbishment to check they are happy with the plans and talk about the detail of storage. All groups are being assured that suitable accommodation can continue to be provided for them.
- liaising with our architect, initially on plans to significantly upgrade the Upper Hall. After a meeting of Crown 20/20, the architect has submitted the revised plans which we now show you. The intention is to improve the insulation by double glazing the windows, insulating the walls, and providing new doors which will have a secure entry system. The existing teenagers’ den will be opened up to the (continued opposite)

- current toilets to provide space for 3 unisex toilets, one accessible toilet and a shower. The kitchen will be fitted out with cupboards and surfaces, and will have a dishwasher, fridge, cooker, an urn and sinks. There will be a separate utility area which will have a sink for washing up craft materials and it will also house a washing machine and tumble drier. The stage will be removed and floor level storage spaces will be constructed in its place, with a new 'den' on top of them. There will be additional storage opening into the hall in place of the corridor which currently links the top of the stairs to the kitchen. All these works will ensure that the Upper Hall meets the requirements of the Care Inspectorate, which will ensure that everything is in place for the Corner Club particularly, but also means the hall will be of a standard which anyone can use with confidence.
- Liaising with all the relevant bodies, from the Kirk Session and Congregational Board to Inverness Presbytery and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to ensure we secure all the permissions and funds necessary to deliver this exciting project. As many of you will be aware, our Congregational Board has set up a Crown 20/20 Development Fund to meet the various preparation costs.
-
- pressing ahead with grant applications to help meet the costs of our plans for the Upper Hall and Sanctuary and identifying our own fund-raising activities as funders require to see evidence of wide ranging support for a project. Account entries of donations from a variety of small fundraising efforts go a long way to helping with this. We have already been awarded £9,500 from the Millburn Discretionary Budget.

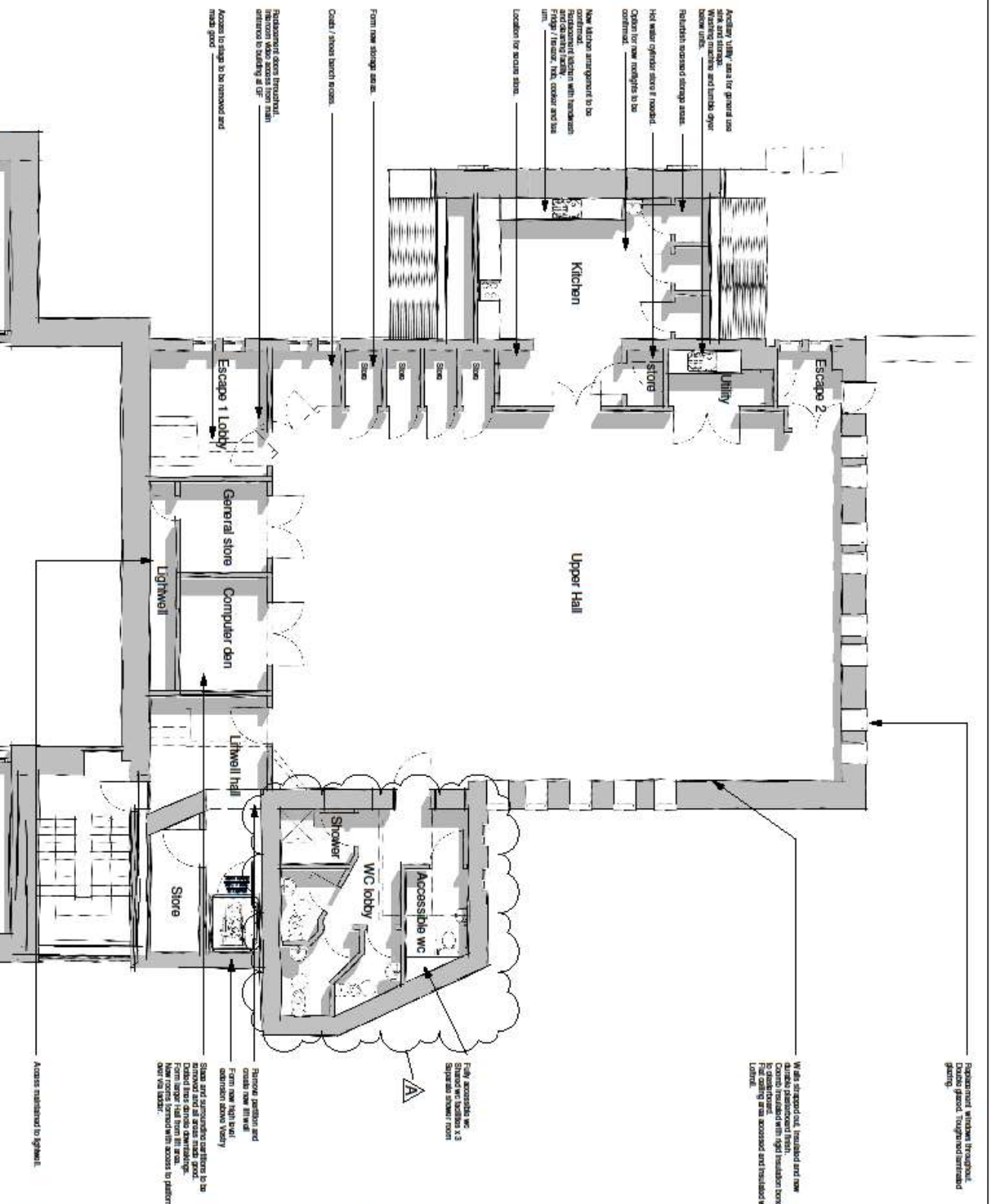
Again, Crown 20/20 would like to thank all those who continue to provide encouragement in developing the vision for our church and halls. It is frustrating that we cannot meet together to press on with the work in hand but we all fully appreciate the need to stay at home, stay safe and help beat this invisible threat to our health and wellbeing.

Inevitably, some of our fund-raising initiatives need to be placed on hold but any individual and any church organisation willing to raise even a modest amount in the future should know how much that will be appreciated.

Key contacts within the Crown 20/20 Group for fund-raising are Mairi Fraser at the Drawing Room (Tel 01463 711888) or on her mobile (07889647996) or with Liz Gray (Tel 01463 239936) or on her mobile (07845067501). Please do not hesitate to contact them with any fund-raising ideas.

As ever, our commitment is to keep you updated with developments and we appreciate just how important this will be for most folks during this extended period of self-isolation.

The Crown 20/20 Team



Upper Hall

1 : 100

For discussion

reynolds architecture ltd.
 1 bullock street, drygate, IV15 5JY
 tel: 01349 867766 fax: 01349 867769
 www.reynolds-architecture.com

No.	Description	Date
A	WC arrangement altered	20.03.20

Crown Church

Upper Hall refurbishment

Upper Hall floor plan

DATE: 12.03.20
 DRAWN BY: WJF
 SCALE: 1 : 100
 2019 035 - 100

1. This plan is copyright © Reynolds Architecture Limited and is not to be reproduced without written permission from the architect.
 2. This plan is a preliminary design and is subject to change without notice.
 3. All dimensions are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.
 4. All dimensions are to the centre of the wall unless otherwise stated.
 5. All dimensions are to the face of the wall unless otherwise stated.
 6. All dimensions are to the face of the wall unless otherwise stated.

3rd Inverness Boys' Brigade Company News



As usual, a New year brings a busy time for all sections of the BB Company....

Company Section Boys have taken part in the Battalion swimming gala, badminton and table tennis competitions; they've

also helped out with a water station at the Inverness Half Marathon. The boys that took part in the all 3 competitions celebrated individual success and collected the team trophy as well.

The boys also progressed to the Scottish Final of the Masterteam quiz; following a really close competition and 3 tie-break rounds we thought we'd qualified for the National Finals. However, due to an error in the marking we were told we had missed out. After many e-mails and messages, the Brigade Nationally agreed to let



Scotland have 3 teams in the National Finals and so we were all set for a trip to Belfast (unfortunately, all on hold now!!).

The Junior Section boys have also had a few activities that they have taken part in – they were 3rd in the swimming gala and 4th in the Figure Marching competition.

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Not to be left out, the Anchor Boys have been kept busy too!! They had a fun evening at Crown and made some wonderful crafts, including Easter bonnets.



Due to the current situation in the country, all BB meetings have stopped; however, the Brigade is posting programmes and ideas to do at home – these are on our Facebook page for anyone looking for things for the kids to do.



I hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we battle this terrible virus

Let's remain SURE & STEADFAST...

Gary McAra



Young Crown

On pause.

You don't need me to tell you that the world seems a very different now than even when the last newsletter was published. A new reality with us has made it all the more visibly apparent that Jesus' call on us to love our neighbours is really very important.

I wrote last month that what we're aiming to do with Young Crown is to look at what Jesus

does and calls us to, and do that. Jesus tells us to love God and love neighbour; He tells us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, welcome the stranger, release the prisoner. When normal activity must cease, I'm pretty sure Kingdom activity can still go on. Must still go on...

With that in mind, we halted all regular Young Crown activity on 16th March, and began immediately to refocus on how we support the community through the next few weeks and months of self-isolation. The interesting thing about these times of pandemic and its associated healthcare, social and economic fallout is that it brings to the fore hunger, illness, the needy stranger (those among us we really probably *should* know, but don't), those imprisoned and isolated at home. In my opinion, the church is the ideal community response group, because our mission statement is literally to fulfil these needs in Jesus' name.

With that in mind, we set about growing a pool of volunteers and letting everyone in the parish know that we are here to help. We set up a dedicated mobile phone number, email address and mechanisms for operating them and mobilising volunteers to meet needs. We sent out over 1600 cards to all households in the parish, and we prayed that whatever needs arise, God would make us fit for the tasks.

I've been so humbled to be part of what we've done already to help those in the community. Every prescription picked up; every shopping trip done; every isolated person connected with community by phone or by act of kindness; every social worker who has passed on our details to colleagues because Crown Church gets things done for the most vulnerable; every meal cooked, frozen and distributed; every act that increases hope has been part of us fulfilling our calling to be those God is calling us to be in these times. Every one of these acts matters, and will continue to matter into eternity because they are kingdom work. **(continued overleaf)**

(continued from page 9) We're just beginning on this journey. The direction of the road is changing seemingly daily, but we are committed to doing what we can (safely) do. We've anticipated how the requests for help will change over weeks coming, and started to work towards that too. We press on to love our neighbours; that's who we've been called to be.

Struan

Hello! If you are self-isolating, we can help.

Crown Church is here to help. Over the next few weeks we know that many in the community will be self-isolating due to coronavirus. We would like offer any of the following services for you during this time:

- Do your shopping
- Deliver a meal
- Pick up medications
- Check in by phone
- Put out bins
- Other things we haven't yet thought of.
- Obtain emergency supplies
- Pick up parcels
- Dog walking
- Pray for you
- Garden tasks

We will be offering these services for free. If you would like us to help, please let us know what we can do any time by contacting our dedicated phone number: **07933138434** or dedicated email: **community@[CrownChurch.co.uk](mailto:community@CrownChurch.co.uk)**

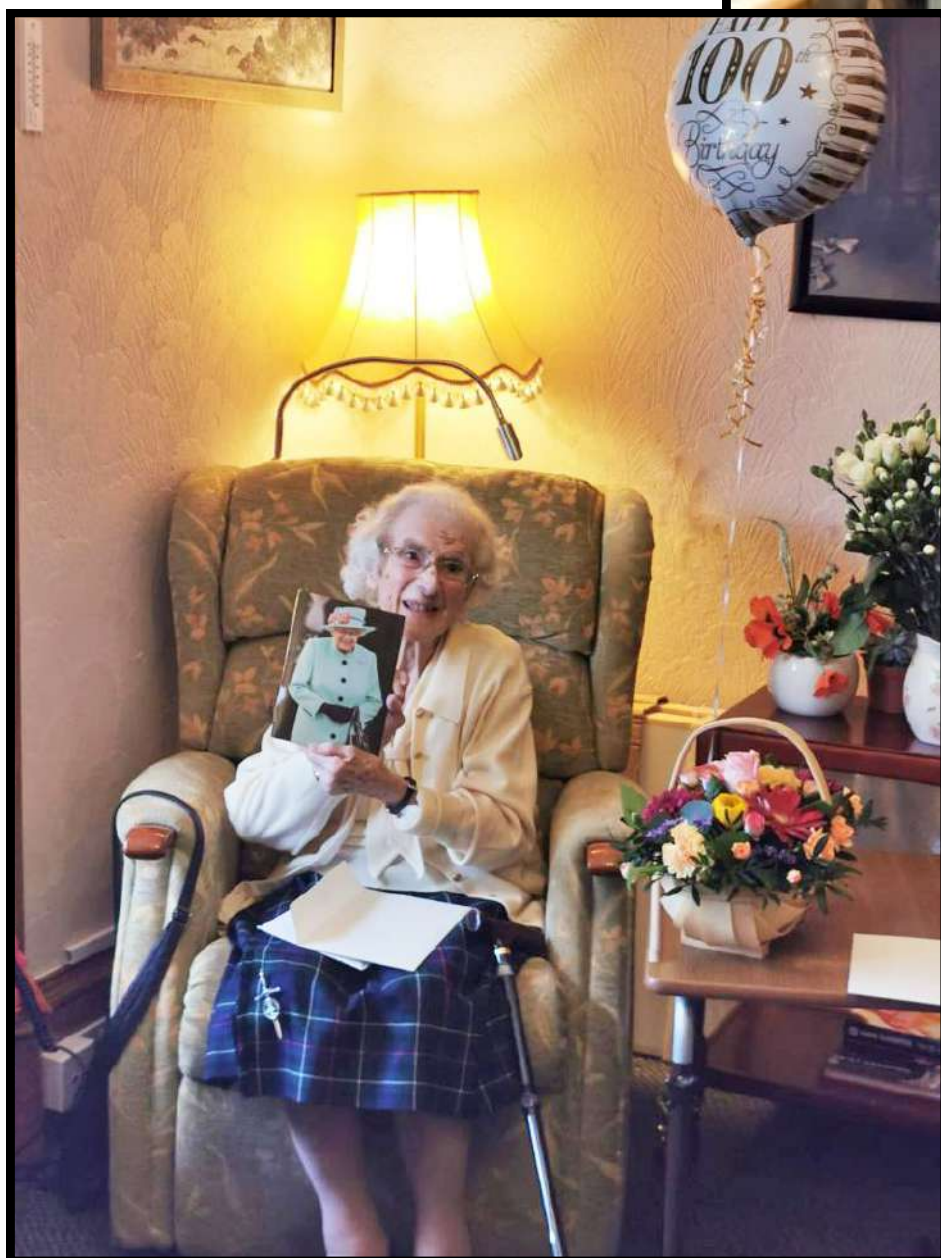
[facebook.com/CrownChurchInverness](https://www.facebook.com/CrownChurchInverness)
www.crown-church.co.uk

Inverness Foodbank

One of the concerns during the coronavirus outbreak is that there may be increased need of food banks. The boxes at the doors of our church cannot be used by us to leave items and can't be collected by the Foodbank. The Foodbank in Glebe street remains open for food donations. Liz Gray has been in touch with Lorna Dempster of the Inverness Foodbank who suggests that we might wish meantime to donate online at www.blythswood.org. They would also welcome your prayers.



Many Congratulations to Mrs Mary MacLean (right) and to Mrs Muriel Gordon (below) who both celebrated their one hundredth birthdays in March.



Seagull Trust Cruises

The Highland Branch of the Seagull Trust Cruises has a strong connection with Crown Church through Duncan Sutherland, Kenny Beck and Angus Ferguson (Ferg) who have been involved with the charity for a number of years now. Duncan is the vice chairman of the Highland Branch and a Director of Seagull Trust Cruises. When we met a few weeks ago, Duncan explained that the charity offers free canal boat trips to elderly people and to disabled people of all ages. The Trust has four branches all in Scotland. The Highland Branch provides cruises on the Caledonian Canal, cruising the four or five miles between Caley Marina (near the Tomnahurich Bridge) and Dochgarroch. It welcomes passengers not only from the Inverness area but all over the Highlands and indeed from Aberdeen to Wick.

The cruise takes around two hours and is run twice daily from Monday to Friday – in normal years from April to September. Unfortunately, this year all cruises have been suspended until further notice due to the Coronavirus crisis.

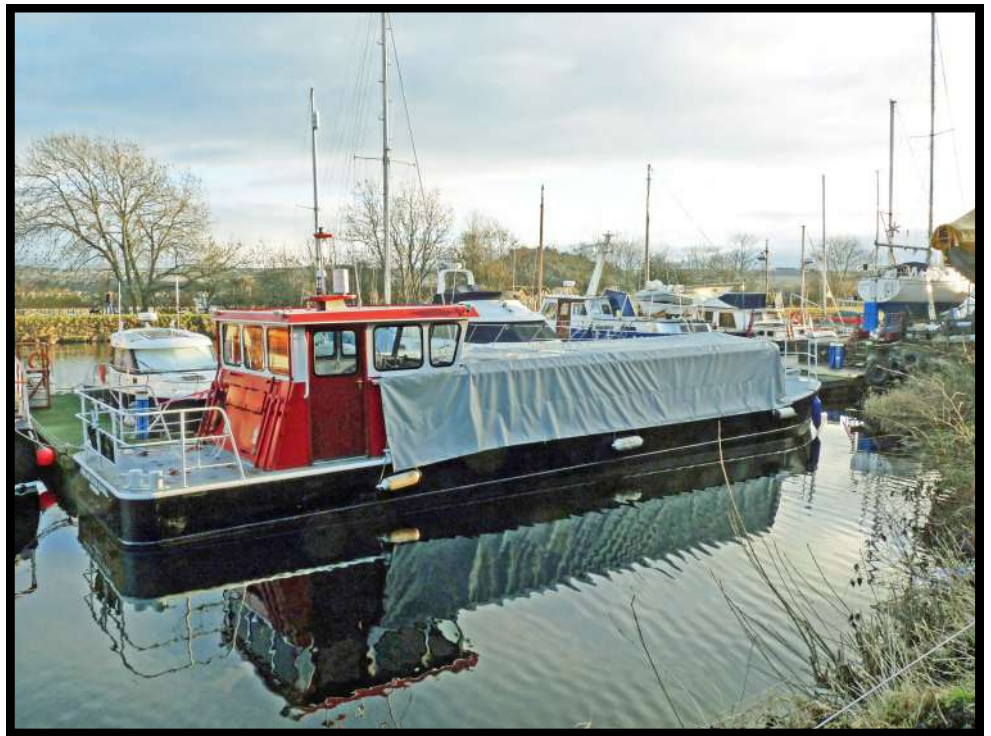


The charity has one boat at Inverness - The Highland Cross Seagull - which can take 12 passengers. It is fully accessible with a lift available for those with mobility problems or who use wheelchairs and it has a toilet which can accommodate wheelchairs.

Volunteer Musicians entertain on some of the cruises. Passengers make bookings ahead for a cruise. Otherwise all the passengers have to do is organise their own transport to the canal and provide their own carers, medical requirements, and any special equipment or items they may require.

There are five teams of four volunteers running the boat each day of the week. Duncan, Kenny and Ferg all volunteer one day a week and it is obvious from chatting to them that they enjoy the experience as much as their passengers.

The Highland Branch of Seagull Trust Cruises have a number of very generous supporters, including the Hogan family at Caley Cruisers, Cap Gemini, MacGregor Industrial Supplies , the Common Good Fund and the Highland Cross (who part-funded the present boat). In the past the branch had funding from Highland Council. Seagull Trust Cruises is a registered charity and welcome donations of all sizes from individuals and businesses. Every penny helps to make difference with the costs of each trip being around £50.



The Crown Church connection continues with Ruby Coe, Heather Beck and Sheena Ferguson all helping with fundraising. There is a busy calendar of fundraising events over the year with quiz sheets, raffles and in addition charity collection days, coffee mornings and other events. Some of these will also be affected by the current crisis.

The cruises have given a taste of freedom and pleasure to thousands of people whose lives are restricted in different ways. Many thanks to Duncan, Kenny, Ferg, Ruby, Heather and Sheena and all the other volunteers for this worthwhile charity.



Thanks to Duncan for the pictures of The Highland Cross Seagull. The photo of Duncan, Ferg and Kenny was taken before we knew anything of 'social distancing'! Marion Forrest

April 2020

CrossReach Information Sheet

The gift of time

Every 4 years we're gifted an extra 1,440 minutes. This year, you are invited to gift some of your extra time to CrossReach. To explore the ways you can get involved: www.crossreach.org.uk/news/gift-of-time

You can also contact the Supporter Development team on 0131 454 4341



Update on CrossReach events 2020

In light of the fast moving developments in relation to the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), all CrossReach events have been cancelled or postponed.

For more information, please visit www.crossreach.org.uk/events



The Kiltwalk Aberdeen and Glasgow: Postponed

Whilst the Kiltwalk has been postponed, Sir Tom Hunter has offered to increase monies raised by any individual participating by 50% and to give this to their chosen charity. If you are registered for this event, please continue to fundraise.

To register, please visit: www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/events

Push up for CrossReach #YouAreNotAlone



Social isolation and loneliness is a daily reality for many groups of vulnerable people which impacts their mental health and wellbeing. These people need support now more than ever and that's why CrossReach is inviting everyone to take part in the 'Push up for CrossReach' fundraiser.

For more information, please visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/pushupforcrossreach

Claymore's story - CrossReach Care and Education

Maintaining supportive relationships is of great importance to the work done by CrossReach's Care and Education Services and the organisation is proud to have supported Claymore during his care journey (from age 9 into adulthood).

Claymore's story includes his momentous contribution to the Who Cares? Scotland 2013 award winning campaign to extend the age of support given to looked after young people from 16 to 21. The campaign resulted in a change to legislation of support in Scotland being extended to age 25.

Claymore recently spent a day at the Six Nations rugby match at Murrayfield Stadium with staff members who supported him during his time at CrossReach. The day involved a meet and greet with Stuart Hogg, Kyle Steyn and Gregor Townsend, a tour of the grounds and the gifting of the match ball. Rugby has held a significant place in Claymore's life and it was an honor for CrossReach to be a part of Claymore's experience, both on and off the pitch.



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/

APRIL 2020 | £2.80

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

EASTER 2020

Reflection and prayer

COMMUNION AND CHILDREN

Youngsters and the sacrament

FROM D'OYLY CARTE TO DUNFERMLINE

Opera singer and elder
Frances McCafferty

and much more all for £2.80



LIFE AND WORK APRIL 2020

Easter

Reflection by the Very Rev Dr
Derek Browning

Prayer from the Rt Rev Colin
Sinclair

Children and Communion

The experiences of churches
actively involving children in
their communion services

From D'oyly Carte to Dun- fermline

Interview with opera singer and
church elder Frances McCafferty

A Celtic Pilgrimage

Gemma King describes her walk
on the Columba Experience, a
week-long pilgrimage for young
adults.

Under Par

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

reflects on the importance of good mental health

No Short Cuts

In his final column, the Moderator of the General Assembly explains why
Jesus is still worth following

The Cruellest Month

Ron Ferguson reflects on the gift of April

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

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features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

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

Daily Bible Readings for April

March 29

Sunday, Mark 13:1-8, 24-37, End of the Age
Monday, Mark 13:9-13, Persecution Foretold
Tuesday, Mark 13:14-23, The Desolating Sacrilege
Wednesday, Mark 14:1-2, The Plot to Kill Jesus
Thursday, Mark 14:10-11, Jesus Agrees to Betray Jesus
Friday, Mark 15:1-5, Jesus before Pilate
Saturday, Mark 15:6-15, Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

April 5

Sunday, Mark 11:1-11, Triumphal Entry
Monday, Mark 14:3-9, Woman Anoints Jesus
Tuesday, Mark 14:43-65, The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus
Wednesday, Mark 14:66-72, Peter Denies Jesus
Thursday, Mark 14:12-42, Lord's Supper
Friday, Mark 15:16-39, Crucifixion
Saturday, Mark 15:40-47, The Death and Burial of Jesus

April 12

Sunday, Mark 16:1-8, Resurrection
Monday, Psalm 118:21-27, Psalm
Tuesday, Mark 16:8, The Shorter Ending of Mark
Wednesday, Mark 16:9-11, Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene
Thursday, Mark 16:12-13, Jesus Appears to Two Disciples
Friday, Mark 16:14-18, Jesus Commissions the Disciples
Saturday, Mark 16:19-20, The Ascension of Jesus

April 19

Sunday, Acts 1:1-14, You Shall Be My Witnesses
Monday, Acts 1:15-26, Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas
Tuesday, Acts 2:1-13, The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday, Acts 2:14-36, Peter Addresses the Crowd
Thursday, Acts 2:37-42, The First Converts
Friday, Acts 2:43-47, Life among the Believers
Saturday, Acts 3:11-26, Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

April 26

Sunday, Acts 3:1-10, Peter Heals in Jerusalem
Monday, Acts 4:1-22, Peter and John before the Council
Tuesday, Acts 4:23-31, The Believers Prayer for Boldness
Wednesday, Acts 4:32-37, The Believers Share Their Possessions
Thursday, Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira
Friday, Acts 5:12-16, The Apostles Heal Many
Saturday, Acts 5:17-42, The Apostles Are Persecuted

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Jean Skinner, Ardconnel Terrace on 11 March

Mrs Jessie MacLennan, Burn Brae Crescent on 12 March

Dr Eddie Moore, Porterfield Road, on 13 March

Mrs Margaret MacRae, Forbes Place, Smithton on 20 March

Items for the May newsletter by Sunday 26th April please!

Please send any articles, photographs or news to the Forrests at:
marionandbobnewsletter@gmail.com

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