

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

May 2020: No. 759

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.



The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. (Psalm 24:1-2)



Dear Friends,

Love is patient.

It has always struck me as significant that when the Apostle Paul was writing 1 Corinthians 13, having just said to his readers, "let me show you the most excellent way," (12:31) he describes love as the virtue that gives meaning to speech and knowledge and faith and charitable deeds (13:1-3). Without love, he says, you are just making noise or carrying out some meaningless duty. He then defines what love is; and the first word he offers is, "love is patient". (13:4)

If ever we needed patience, we need it now. I sense a growing impatience throughout the population to hasten back to "normal" life, to reopen the country, to restart the economy. It is being expressed in the media, of course, but is often coming from respected community and political leaders, and it is very understandable. Yet it seems to me that the loving thing to do at the moment, is to sit on our hands for just a little while longer.

It is not easy, but the way of true love seldom is. Love requires us sometimes to sacrifice our own time or comforts for the sake of others, it is the prime quality of placing other people's needs before our own. Often, we will benefit from this ourselves, as we all will when this pandemic settles down, but if an action is truly loving it is not done for our own benefit, but for the benefit of our neighbours, in this case our global neighbours as well as our next door neighbours.

In the meantime, I am repeatedly heartened by the countless expressions of community support and mutual encouragement that I hear about as I speak to parishioners, or I see unfolding across the world through the joy of modern communication technology. God is good, and the world he created is very good (Genesis 1:31), including our often-flawed humanity when it rises to its selfless best.

(Cont on next page)



Please do continue to join us as we offer prayers and hymns of worship to this God every Sunday at 11am, and through the week on our Facebook page. "Like" and "follow" the page to make sure you get updates when something new is posted, and feel free to contact us through the page, or by



email or phone, if you need any help, practical or spiritual.

Wishing you every blessing from God,

Douglas

The Revd R. Stewart Frizzell

Hearing about Stewart's death in the nursing home, it prompted me to offer a short memorial. Stewart sadly had to leave Inverness without us being able properly to pay tribute to him, his poor health having taken over all too quickly. Now we trust, to quote one of his favourite hymns, he is "safe in the arms of Jesus".

Stewart and Betty Frizzell arrived in Inverness not long after myself and Brigid, but in his case having retired from his last charge in Wick. He began life as a painter and decorator, and with Baptist Church roots, but in the Church of Scotland he served a number of parishes of which he kept fond memory, and they of him. Our joy in Crown was not only his willingness to supply times when I was on holiday but also to undertake a role of pastoral care as Assistant Minister. He did it very willingly, thriving in being able to give quality time to those he visited, and I know that this was hugely appreciated. For myself he was a very lovely colleague, encouraging and gentle. He continued to serve as long as he was able, and once a widower it only confirmed for him what he had always known, that in giving we receive; and often we receive richly from those we would seek to help.

So for those of you who remember him, think of him with that smile of his, with his love of the old hymns and of stories learnt through sixty years plus of serving as an ordained minister in parish charges and through his retirement. And so we give thanks for his life and witness, and pray comfort and blessing on his surviving family.

Peter

Revd Peter Donald

Crown 20/20 Group 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.”



Dear Members of the Congregation
As we enter week five of the Coronavirus Lockdown, we hope this update on the work of the Crown 20/20 Group finds you coping as well as can be expected in these challenging times. Through the various communication channels available to us, we are able to liaise with The Highland Council over its plans to convert the Lower Hall into two nursery classrooms for Crown Primary School and install a lift to provide much improved access to a refurbished Upper Hall. At the same time, we are able to make progress with upgrading the Upper

Hall by consulting with users of our facilities about the plans we have drafted.

Due to the restrictions imposed in combatting the pandemic, the Scottish Government has delayed implementation of its extended hours for 3 and 4 year olds beyond August of this year and the Council has had to reset its construction timetable, with an inevitable delay in work commencing on the Lower Hall.

The continued lockdown has allowed our Group to discuss with the Council the prospect of having the works in the upper and lower halls carried out at the same time, and, perhaps with the same contractor as we believe this will reduce our costs and be more efficient. We await a quote for the Upper Hall work from the Council's chosen contractor.

Ideally, we hope the work can be carried out over the summer months. We are working hard to ensure all the required permissions will be in place in good time.



As we turn our attention to the Upper Hall refurbishment, we are pleased to report that the Congregational Board has agreed that £100,000 be transferred from our general church reserves to the Crown 20/20 Development Fund to allow work to commence. The Board has also agreed to pay professional fees incurred in the preparation of plans and costings for the Upper Hall redevelopment. We are most grateful for this support.

We have also applied to two funding bodies -the Suez Communities Trust and the Ferguson Bequest, for funding to assist with the construction costs for the Upper Hall. We are always grateful for any donations to the Crown 20/20 Development Fund. A major fund-raising exercise will follow in a later phase of redevelopment when we are ready to reconfigure the Church Sanctuary.

Our thanks go to Heather Beck for undertaking the important role of consulting with user groups over the draft plans which were published in the April Newsletter. We are most grateful to those who have taken the time and care to respond, with most thoughtful comments and suggestions. Among those to comment have been the Crown Corner Club, who provide after-school care Monday-Friday and are moving their operation from the Lower to the Upper Hall.

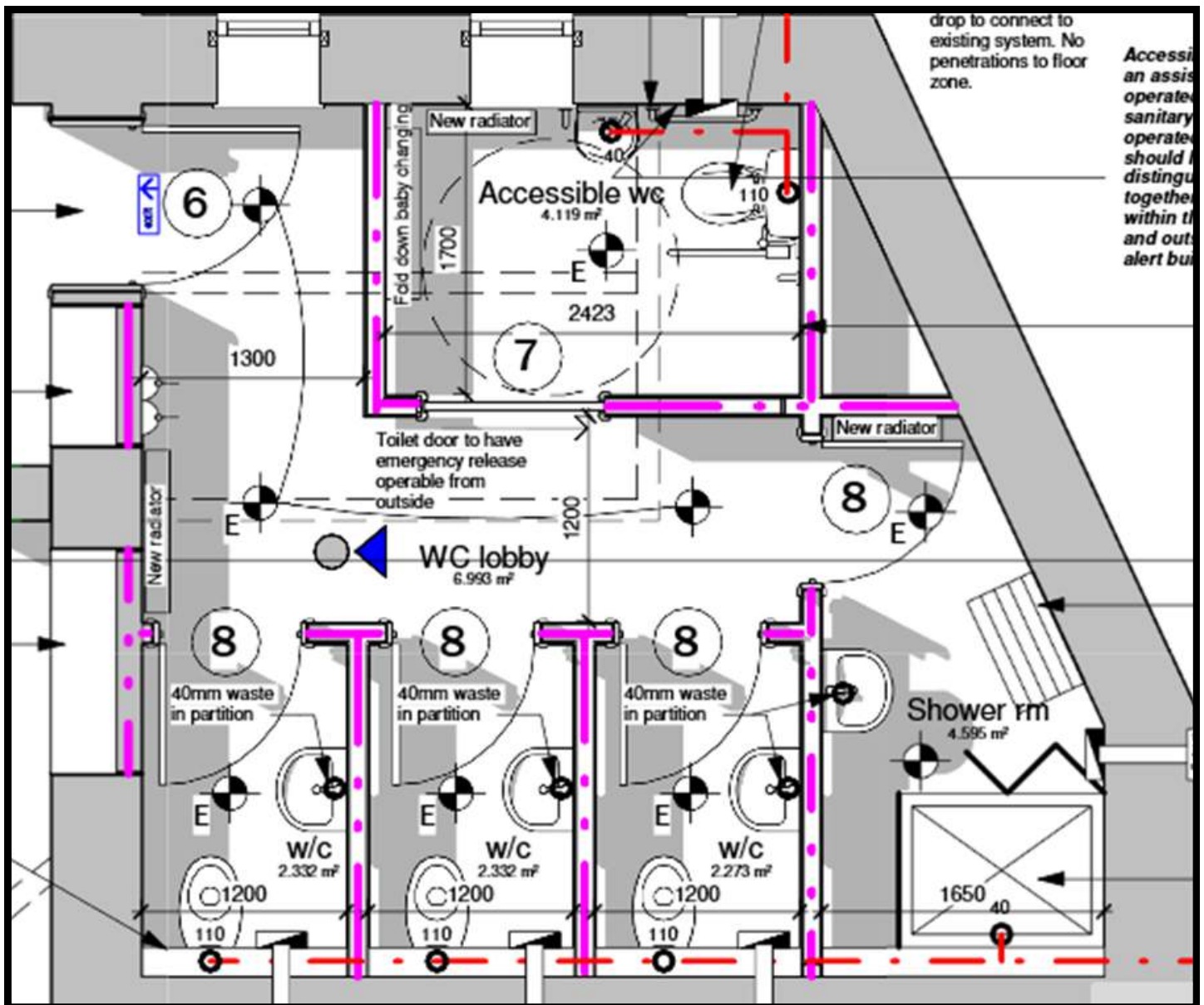
We have responded individually to those who have made comments but such is the interest in the draft plan that we have produced a 'Frequently Asked Questions' article which is included in this Newsletter to let everyone know our responses to the various queries/comments received and ensure any misunderstandings are corrected.

It is clear from the responses received that storage is one of the main issues that exercises Upper Hall users and we would wish to highlight that storage has been a high priority in our thinking. Many of you will have responded to our earlier consultation asking for specific details of your group's requirements, and our architect took these measurements away to incorporate them into his plans. Until we receive the results of a structural survey which will identify the best of three locations to site the lift, our plans for storage cannot be finalised. However, the intention is to remove the entire stage area and build two walk-in stores for users which will be complemented by five other storage spaces within the hall. A den for younger children is proposed to be built on top of the storage areas. Hopefully we can meet everyone's needs. Looking ahead, significant new storage space will become available once we reconfigure the Sanctuary.

We have asked our architect to modify the design for the toilets in the upper hall slightly as it was pointed out to us that the door into the toilet area opened outwards into the hall, thus being a possible collision hazard, and the new plan is attached. We hope this update assures you that we are making progress on these exciting plans to hugely upgrade our church facilities, despite the lockdown restrictions. We also hope that we have assured users of Upper Hall that we have listened to their comments, and responded appropriately.

Crown 20/20 is committed to sharing our plans with members of the congregation every step of the way. If you have any query about any aspect of the project please feel free to contact the Secretary of the group, Eileen Ardern (eileenardern@hotmail.com) who will ensure your query reaches the most appropriate person.

The Crown 20/20 Group



FAQs to Crown 20/20

It has to be said that the overwhelming response to the consultation we have carried out with the groups which will be using the upper hall has been positive and supportive. We are most grateful to those who have taken the trouble to go through the plans with a fine tooth comb and made comments and suggestions. The following are the main issues:

The lift Unfortunately the structural surveyors had not carried out the survey to determine the lift position before the lockdown, and some decisions cannot be made until we know the options for deciding the position of the lift, so we just have to be patient. We have asked for three possible locations to be investigated, -one from the accessible toilet at the Midmills door, one from the vestry and one where the wooden stair is currently.



Storage Groups were consulted about their ideal requirements for storage where we knew their current storage will not continue to be available. Storage has been planned with these requirements in mind. One or two current storage areas may or may not continue to be available, depending on the positioning of the lift, and this will be addressed when that decision is made. Fortunately we will continue to have plenty storage in the downstairs kitchen –particularly as some items will be relocated to the new upstairs kitchen.



There are four new small stores, one medium sized and two very large stores designated in the upper hall. These can be shelved as required by individual groups. In the current plans for the sanctuary, there is also considerable storage. No one ever thinks they have enough space, but we are confident we will have sufficient, well organised spaces to meet requirements.

New toilets and shower It was pointed out to us that we had the door into the redesigned toilets opening into the hall, thus risking a possible collision. Also that it was a slightly awkward approach to the accessible toilet for someone in a wheelchair. This area has been redesigned and the plans are attached. Why a shower we were asked? This was raised in our very first consultation by the uniformed organisations who would love to be able to offer hospitality to small visiting groups who might on occasion need an overnight stay in the halls. We only have space for the one shower, but better than nothing.

Security It is important that the leaders of those groups which have considerable numbers of children in attendance have a good security system. The new doors to the upper hall will have a glazed panel which allow the leader to see who is requesting access, and there will be a system which allows the leader to control access to and from the front door.

The Den Those of you who have not been in the upper hall perhaps do not realise that the old Resource Centre is currently 'The Den' for teenagers. As that will be taken over by the enlarged toilet area, the architect has come up with this exciting idea to have a den on top of the storage space. This will only require a slightly higher stair from the current entrance to the stage. While the young people are excited about this, we have realised it will also provide a suitable space for parents to speak with leaders out of the hearing of children when required, and will provide a small meeting space at other times.



Why do we need a washing machine and tumble dryer? Lesley McRoberts put this so well. "If we are designing a new kitchen it seems an obvious inclusion and for the sake of a few hundred pounds. It would be helpful for our own use after big events but could also be a (short term) community resource for people in need. Many a time when my children were young- with few modern conveniences -I wished someone would wash my towels

and bedding. Most people have these things nowadays but not all. We have the opportunity to be a resource for our community and so a source of loving care and practical support. Who knows exactly how they will be needed but let's be prepared. Mention of a washing machine came after one rainy night as a Street Pastor meeting one of our regular street people sitting on his rucksack, inside which everything was sodden. He asked if we had any dry socks which he insisted on exchanging for a pair of his (damp) gloves. Perhaps it was not practical to consider washing and drying everything he owned, but they were his possessions and important to him. Being able to offer a hot shower would also have been a practical help and a "kingdom act"."

Is the kitchen upstairs not a bit small? The kitchen will be ideal for all the groups using the upper hall. We envisage any really large catering to be carried out in the downstairs kitchen which is more suited to a large cooker. The upper hall is going to be so tightly timetabled that large events are realistically only going to happen occasionally there.

If hot food prepared downstairs is required, it will be swiftly taken up in the lift in a hot trolley. With the age demographic, the upper hall would not be the best venue for a congregational dinner for example as too many people would have difficulty exiting the hall if the lift was out of action with a fire. We will have to make do and mend until we can accommodate such gatherings, and maybe a lunch club or other initiatives, in the current sanctuary. At a large seated gathering, people only get to speak with those close by, so several smaller get-togethers would probably be better anyway. We are hoping to put in velux windows to compensate for the low ceiling in the upstairs kitchen. We will consult with the appropriate groups once we have a full spec for the upstairs kitchen to comment on. **Crown 20/20 Team**



Highland Malawi Trust

Just over three weeks ago, it was with great sadness that we heard of Covid 19 in Malawi . Up until this week it had been confined to the South and Central region but there has been one case now confirmed in the North.

This is the report we received on Sunday 26th from a nurse friend .

“We are good here so far it is 34 cases 3 deaths 7 recoveries but some of these cases are fake -government is fearing elections which is on 2 July so the figure of 34 can not be trusted but government has announced 34 cases so far”



It is frightening to think of how they will cope if it really gets a hold ! It is frightening to think of a Government working only for themselves !!

The week after the first announcement was made we received these pictures from another nurse who masterminds the mobile clinic from Ekwendeni hospital.

They were going out to their five districts to provide soap and teach proper hand washing . " We will fight Covid 19" she said . "Please keep praying for us " . Lockdown measures were put in place but then lifted for further consideration as people were saying they would starve in their homes if they couldn't get out . Schools are closed as are churches . Indeed we must keep them in our prayers. Hoping you are all keeping safe and well during these difficult times.



Chrisanne & Reay



Prayers for the COVID-19 Pandemic

May 2020

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful. If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (June 2020) please do send them to our **church secretary**, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

May 4-10

Pray 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5). Remember our light, hope and faith in Christ. Praise Him for being the light of the world and ask Him to lift us all up during this dark coronavirus period.

Pray for the friends and families of those who are ill with the coronavirus; that they would be comforted and enabled to care for them.

Pray that God would heal the elderly and vulnerable who have contracted the virus; that they would be relieved from any pain and suffering.

Pray for those who are dying without their loved ones near them because of the risk from the virus.

May 11-17

Pray for the funeral directors and remember especially Louis Jones; give thanks for their work in such difficult circumstances.

Pray for those struggling with addictions and the difficult times they must be going through due to impact of the coronavirus.

Pray for those who are isolated and far from family member, or who have no family remaining. Pray for those who have someone seriously ill in hospital and cannot visit them.

Pray for God's heart to be with the refugees and those in countries with inadequate health system; that the care and comfort of children and families will be in His glorious hands.

May 18-24

Pray 1 John 4:18-19. 'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been in perfect love. We love because he first loved us'

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that they continue to receive the help and support during this pandemic

Pray for our Minister Douglas Robertson with help from Louis Jones, for making effective use of internet technology for bringing many of us together in continuing Sunday worship, and ministering to a wider congregation.

Pray for members of the congregation whose clinic appointments or other medical procedures have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

May 25-31

Pray for the children in Inverness and around the country during this lockdown;

for whom home is not a safe place

whose family has no money coming in

who are depending on meal vouchers and foodbanks

who have no help and encouragement

Pray for all the children having home schooling; give thanks for the support they are receiving and pray for online safety with the increased time spent on line during the lockdown.

Pray for all the carers, frontline medical staff and other key workers who are more exposed to the virus; that God would protect them, that they would know His presence and that they would have adequate personal protective equipment.

Pray Psalm 91:1-3, 'For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence'. Give thanks for all the work of medical science going into research and for success in finding a vaccine.



May 2020

CrossReach Information Sheet

COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone and frontline care services face unprecedented challenges. The impact of COVID-19 means CrossReach residents can no longer receive visits during this worrying time. Staff are also under immense pressure as they continue to provide vital support in CrossReach's residential and non-residential services. The organisation also faces challenges as it works to provide Personal Protective Equipment to all front-line staff.



Your donations will help CrossReach tackle these concerns and continue providing care and support to those who use their services.

For more information, please visit: bit.ly/COVID-19CrossReach

Personal Protective Equipment



CrossReach has residential services throughout Scotland. Each one of these services has had to put in place additional measures to protect the residents and the staff. All of its residential services are home to the people who live there. As part of its ethos, CrossReach is maintaining that home feeling as much as possible, while balancing it with the clinical needs of the current pandemic and relatives' expectations to wear PPE.

Like most care homes and other residential settings, CrossReach services were not set up as clinical establishments. Therefore providing the necessary resources to all residential services which includes gowns, masks, visors and associated equipment has been at the forefront of their efforts.

Every week, personal protective equipment is arriving at the CrossReach central distribution site and being distributed by a staff team co-opted from other duties. This will be repeated regularly for the foreseeable future.

To donate or find out more information, please visit: bit.ly/COVID-19CrossReach

CrossReach Staff and Volunteers

During this pandemic CrossReach's front line staff have stepped up to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and without them the work CrossReach does would not be possible. Volunteers are also providing much needed support in various selfless ways. Their willingness to do what ever it takes to help, alleviates the pressure felt by services.

To find out how you can join their wonderful volunteers, please visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/support-us/volunteer or email: volunteer.withus@crossreach.org.uk



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/

MAY 2020 | £2.80

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Reflection on foodbanks and impact of Covid-19

'GOD HAS NOT FINISHED WITH SCOTLAND'

The Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Martin Fair

ASSEMBLY CANCELLATION

Church's business meeting cancelled for first time in over 300 years

WAR'S END

The role of churches in peacebuilding across Europe on the 75th anniversary of VE Day

and much more all for £2.80

Dear all

I hope that everyone is safe and well. I realise that many parish magazines will be suspended at the moment, but hope you can pass on the message about Life and Work through whatever channels you have. We are still here and publishing, and **the May edition will be available free on the website.** Maybe if you are in touch with someone without internet access you could print off a copy for them.

We also want to hear from

churches about how they are responding to the situation, whether that's getting together online for worship and fellowship or helping their community through the crisis, please let us know through magazine@lifeandwork.org.

Best wishes
Tom

Thomas Baldwin
Deputy editor, Life and Work



Christian Aid Week 2020, 10-16 May

When people ask me why Crown Church still does door-to-door collections when it is always a challenge to find enough collectors, I tend to throw the question back and ask how we could raise around £4000 in one week or even in a year by any other means. I'm about to find out...

Clearly door-to-door collections and any other sociable activities that are the bread and butter of fundraising in normal years cannot take place this year. However, luckily Christian Aid has been thinking about this. They have put together a number of ideas ranging from an art competition to a baby photograph contest. (Does that mean bonniest baby or does it mean guess the adult from the baby photo? Well, it could be either. Or both.) Maybe you will have even better ideas! Let me know!

Whatever we do during Christian Aid Week or beyond, it will involve online giving, at least for the moment. If you have no internet access or do not want to use online giving, we will have an event later in the year when we can all be present and make our donations in more traditional ways. In the meantime I am working on setting up fundraising using the Just Giving website. Some of you will be very familiar with this and some not at all. I myself am somewhere in the middle but learning fast. I am trying to set up a system whereby what we raise in Crown Church can be totalled as part of the overall Christian Aid total so that we know how we are progressing towards our own target. Note that your donation (which you can Gift Aid) can be made anonymously.

I think that a target of £4000 is probably unrealistic for CAW itself although I'd love to be proved wrong. Perhaps instead that should be our target for the whole year and we should have a more realistic target for CAW itself. Ambition tempered with realism. Keep a look out on the church Facebook page for updates and instructions. Elders and Board members in particular, please look out for an email with further information within the next week.

CAW is never just about fundraising however. It is also about raising awareness. It is about campaigning. It is about worship and prayer. Pray for the success of our fundraising. Pray for the people we aim to help. Pray for the Christian Aid staff, themselves under great pressure during lockdown amid uncertainty about their own future. Look for Christian Aid prayers on the church Facebook page during CAW.

The bottom line is: the need for Christian Aid's fundraising and for its experience since its creation in working with countries which have suffered from epidemics and public health challenges has never been greater. We must not let our brothers and sisters down. Together we can rise to the challenge. It'll be different. It'll be fun!

David Crippin

christianaid.crown@yahoo.co.uk

Bible readings for May

May 1

Friday, Acts 5:12-16, The Apostles Heal Many

Saturday, Acts 5:17-42, The Apostles Are Persecuted

May 3

Sunday, Acts 17:1-9, Church at Thessalonica

Monday, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Thanks to Thessalonica

Tuesday, Acts 6:1-7, Seven Chosen to Serve

Wednesday, Acts 6:8-15, The Arrest of Stephen

Thursday, Acts 7:1-53, Stephen's Speech to the Council

Friday, Acts 7:54-8:1a, The Stoning of Stephen

Saturday, Acts 8:1b-3, Saul Persecutes the Church

May 10

Sunday, Acts 18:1-4, Church at Corinth

Monday, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Factions in the Corinthian Church

Tuesday, Acts 8:4-25, Philip Preaches in Samaria

Wednesday, Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Thursday, Acts 9:1-19a, The Conversion of Saul

Friday, Acts 9:19b-22, Saul Preaches in Damascus

Saturday, Acts 9:23-31, Saul in Jerusalem

May 17

Sunday, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Faith, Hope, and Love

Monday, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, The True Wisdom of God

Wednesday, 1 Corinthians 3:1-23, On Divisions in the Church

Thursday, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Spiritual Gifts

Friday, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, One Body with Many Members

Saturday, 1 Corinthians 14:1-25, Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues

May 24

Sunday, 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57, Death Swallowed in Life

Monday, 2 Corinthians 4:1-15, Treasure in Clay Jars

Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10, Living by Faith

Wednesday, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13, The Ministry of Reconciliation

Thursday, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Encouragement to Be Generous

Friday, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem

Saturday, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18, Paul Defends His Ministry

May 31

Sunday, Acts 2:1-4, Gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost)

Monday, 1 Corinthians 12:1-13, Gifts of the Spirit

Tuesday, Acts 10:1-33, Peter and Cornelius

Wednesday, Acts 10:34-43, Gentiles Hear the Good News

Thursday, Acts 10:44-48, Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

Friday, Acts 16:6-10, Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

Crown Church Community response

Huge thanks to all the volunteers who are so willing to help not just from myself but especially from the people using the service.

I get so many thank you's from them saying how grateful they are and how good the service is, a life line for them.

To date there have been
23 shops
20 prescription pick ups
1 grass cutting



The shoppings are not an accurate reflection as there are now 6 regular users of the service who have been paired up with a volunteer so that they can contact them directly rather than go through me. So once again thanks to the volunteers **Morven**

Many thanks to Morven too for 'manning' the phone and co-ordinating the response.

The God Question

The team who ran the faith and Science week last year have reminded us that part of the materials used then 'The God Question' can be viewed free on <https://www.graspingthenettle.org/watch>



Thanks to Pat Crippin for this!

On average, a Panda feeds for approximately 12 hours per day.

This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine, which is why we call it a "Pandemic"

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Isabella Dickson, Highview House on 28th March

Mrs Rita Leith, Victoria Drive on 28th March

Rev Stewart Frizzell, Greenock in early April

Mrs Marjorie Livingstone, Argyle Street on 13 April

Items for the June Newsletter by Sunday 24th May please!

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

MINISTER Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054
DRRobertson@churchof Scotland.org.uk

Crown Church Office is closed at present but Gloria is working
Tues-Fri (9.30-12.00) 231140 office@crown-church.co.uk

Session Clerk macgill@outlook.com
Brian Macgill, 9 Lochardil Place, IV2 4LN 224650
brian.macgill@outlook.com

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