

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

July 2020: No. 761

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.

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

First Peter 3 verses 8 & 9



Dear Friends,

I recently preached from the Book of Lamentations, not something I've done very often throughout my ministry. Set in particularly difficult times for the nation of Israel, the author (probably Jeremiah) seems to wallow in doom and gloom and an awful lot of 'woe unto us'. He offers little hope that their time of tribulation will end anytime soon. No wonder I'm not alone in seldom using it for preaching material.

Yet *lament* is surely something we all do.

We all face difficult times throughout our lives. Even if we reflect on our life overall and give thanks to God that we have largely escaped so many of the problems that have been common throughout history (war, poverty, famine, pestilence, etc), nevertheless we will have faced set-backs and disappointments, ill-health or accident, downs as well as ups, and of course bereavement.

I well remember the sense of utter dejection and loss I felt, aged 15, when my grandfather died. More recently, I will never shake off the feeling of desolation and helplessness Alison and I felt when our daughter was critically in in Kazakhstan. Thank God she survived and is now well, but the fear, the horror, the mind-numbing confusion that utterly destroyed our usual self-confidence and self-sufficiency, was crippling. Lament at a time of loss or difficulty is natural and we shouldn't be afraid to express our emotions. Through the covid-19 pandemic, that same sense of helplessness, perhaps even hopelessness, has gripped many people, arising from the loss of so much we once took for granted. Some of these losses are of course temporary and we are beginning to see the light at the end of the 'lockdown tunnel', but others will be with us for a long time, some forever.

(continued opposite)



It's ok to cry out to God, even to blame God or to be angry with him. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" as he hung on the cross. It's a quote from Psalm 22, a Psalm that begins with forlorn anguish but then flows into triumphant hope: "For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help..... The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him--may your hearts live forever!"

Which reminds me of Jesus' beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

It is my hope and prayer that any of you who have suffered through this pandemic will find comfort in the promises of Jesus, and in the fellowship of his church.

Wishing you rich blessings from God,

Douglas

Re-opening Crown Church

You may be aware that Scottish Government Covid-19 regulations would now allow places of worship to reopen for "individual prayer and contemplation".

Having had direct discussions with the Government about reopening our churches, the Church of Scotland has produced its own regulations that we must comply with before we can open. These include a lengthy Checklist to ensure the safety of the building, plus a Covid-19 Risk Assessment and plan to ensure that all social distancing and hygiene regulations will be followed carefully.

The Elders' Council is currently working through these documents, with assistance from the Property Convenor, and will in time present them to the Kirk Session for the Kirk Session to make a decision about when to reopen and for what purposes. We will not be reopening for any purpose until we can be confident that anyone attending Crown Church will be safe, and you can attend without undue anxiety.

Douglas

**Edna Simpson
(15 August 1918 to 30th May 2020)**

We are very grateful to Alan Simpson who has forwarded this picture of his late mother together with the attached article. We have no doubt this will be of keen interest to the many newsletter readers who will remember Edna with great affection.

Edna Simpson was born in the Parish of Newhills, Bucksburn, Aberdeen on 15 August 1918. She was the only child of Catherine and William Smith, both of whom worked in the Stoneywood Paper Mill. By all accounts her childhood was very loving and happy. Photographs show many pictures of happy times and outings by steam railway to places as far afield as Banchory and Ballater. She also used to tell



of a flight by biplane to Orkney for a holiday, which would have been very adventurous indeed for these days. Photographs also show that she developed early tastes for stage performance as a child actress. These interests were to develop later into music, a thread I will return to later. At heart, she was an Aberdonian and I well remember noticing how, when driving from Inverness to Aberdeen, her Aberdonian accent would become more pronounced as we approached Inverurie and Bucksburn!

She worked as a Secretary in the offices of Aberdeen County Council where, shortly after the Second World War, she met the young solicitor, Frank Simpson, recently returned from active duty in Burma where he had achieved the rank of Captain. Romance blossomed and they were married on 4 June 1949 in Bucksburn, Aberdeen.

In the late 40's Frank was appointed to a Solicitor's post in Inverness County Council and they moved to a new home in Kirkhill. Edna often spoke of these days and they were obviously happy times. They had three children-Margaret, who died in 2005, and David and Alan. In the mid 50's Frank and Edna moved to Heatherley Crescent and that was to remain the family home for over 60 years. Heatherley Crescent was, at that time, filled with young families, and close and enduring friendships were forged with the neighbours, the Donalds, the Mands and the Fyfes to name a few.

Frank and Edna were both active members of Crown Church from the mid 50's until death or old age intervened. Edna was a member of the Soprano section of the choir for some 50 years. She was also active in Church life, perhaps most notably the Action Group. Even in her 80's she would talk about going on Sunday afternoons to sing at various Care Homes in the town or, as she would put it going to sing to the "old folk", many of whom were considerably younger in age than she was. After her family grew up Edna returned to secretarial work, this time as School secretary at Millburn Academy.

Her beloved husband, Frank, died in July 1994. Edna is being buried in the same plot as Frank. They were very happily married for 45 years. As the years passed the family grew and she had 7 grandchildren, Neil, the late Emma, Graeme, Karen, Isla, Rachel and Lindsay and 4 great grandchildren Rory, Keir, Archie and Abbi, all of whom were much loved by Edna.

Edna lived independently until aged 95 when her mobility, eye sight and hearing declined to such an extent that she could no longer safely live alone. She then moved into the excellent care of the staff of Mains House, Newtonmore. During her stay there, and particularly as she grew weary and tired, the staff of Mains House became her family too. In the last few weeks they have provided love and care for Edna and for which we, as a family are very grateful indeed.

Edna's health was robust. Partly that was due to her daily shopping trips up and down Hetty's Brae but more likely to the fact that she was a strong hearted Aberdonian and singer. I mentioned earlier about her musical talent. In her younger days she was obviously a sought after Soprano and she was the lead Soprano and Soprano soloist for St Nicholas Church in Union Street, Aberdeen for which she was paid the grand sum of one Guinea per month. Indeed, early this year aged 101, lying in her bed, blind and almost completely deaf, Jo and I heard Edna sing the Anthem "Lead me Lord". Such is the power of music and Edna's musical memory.

Because of the current crisis Edna was not able to have the Funeral she planned in Crown Church, so it is perhaps fitting that, as she was laid to rest with her beloved Frank, we heard Handel's Aria "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" a piece of music that she knew well and would indeed have sung in soloist days.

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,

I hope this update on the work of the Crown 20/20 Group finds you well and encouraged by the clear signs of an easing of the Covid-19 restrictions in the coming days and weeks.

There is no disguising the fact that the lockdown has impacted significantly on the progress the Highland Council can make on 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. 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.

We have been working to ensure plans for the upgrade of the Upper Hall are ready to go as soon as the Council is able to make a decision on timing for the work on the Lower Hall. Ideally, we would wish work on both halls to be carried out by the one contractor at the same time and as soon as is practicable.

Now that Education Secretary Mr John Swinney has announced the Scottish Government’s intention to fully re-open schools from the commencement of the 2020/21 school session on 11 August, we will be urging the Council for a timetable so that we can advise user groups which premises they can use when they return after the summer break. The Corner Club would particularly welcome clarity given that they have only 6 weeks to make their plans to be Covid secure.



By way of an update, our architect’s plans for the Upper Hall are ready to be signed off as soon as we have agreement on lift size from the Council, and a copy follows this article. We agree with their suggestion that the lift should go immediately inside the door from the corridor to the small hall as this allows people to access both the stairs and the lift along the same corridor from the proposed new front door. The lift would be accessed from the pigeonhole wall.

(Continued on next page)

Exit from the lift would be from a second door at 90 degrees from the entrance door when the lift has taken you to the upper hall, arriving at the space currently left for it on the plans to the right of the 'general store'.

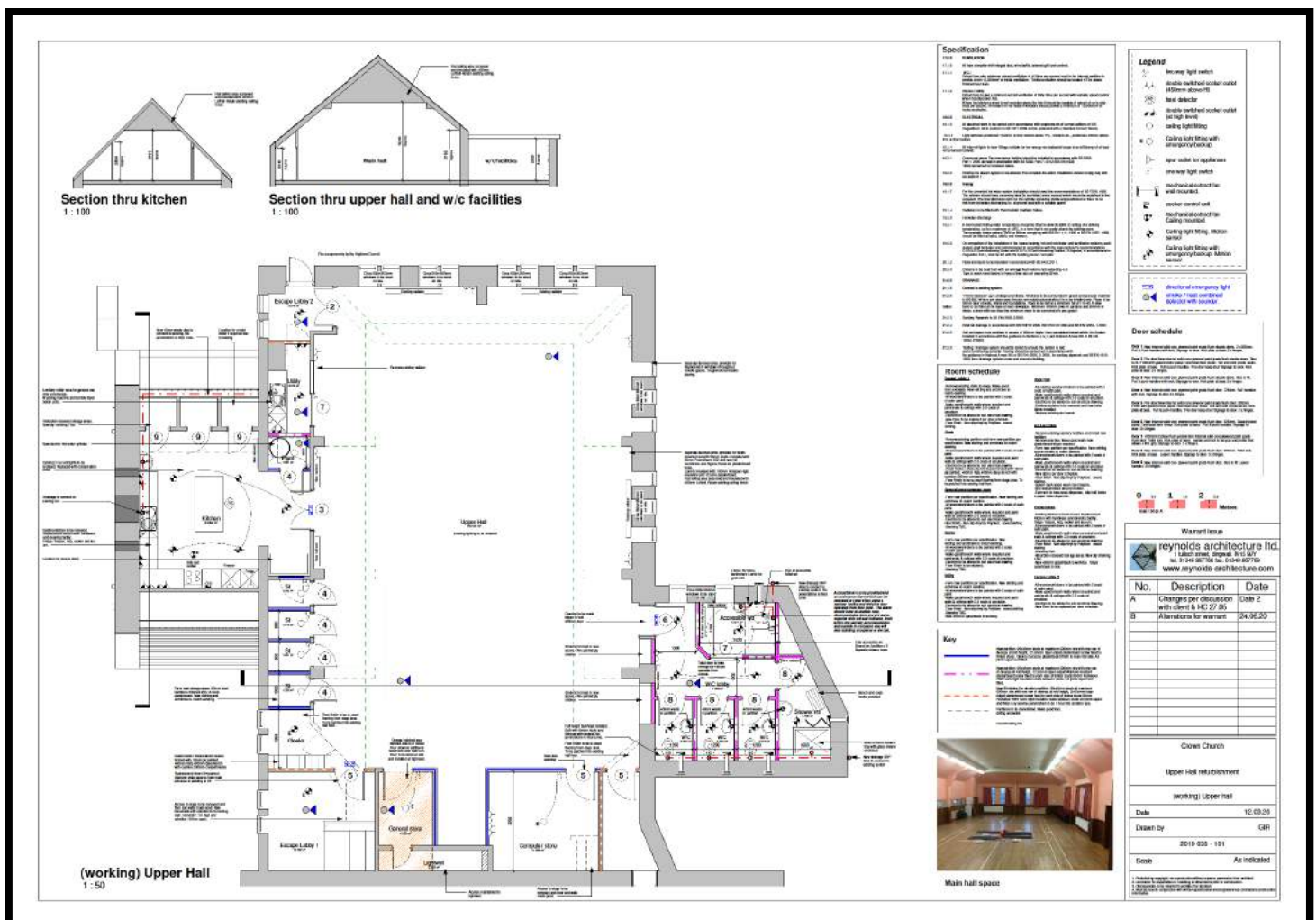
The application for the Building Warrant for the major Upper Hall upgrade is ready to be submitted and we are currently seeking estimated costs for the upgrade from three construction companies.

The details to be included in the lease are agreed, and our solicitor is preparing to discuss details with the Highland Council's solicitor. The lease has to be ready for signing once work on the lift and the fire escape are completed. The signing of the lease allows work to commence on the lower hall, and is the time at which the Council begins to pay rent.

It is expected that half the funding for the work on the upper hall will come from the funds transferred from reserves, and the rest we hope will come from Suez Communities Trust, the Ferguson Bequest, and the Council's local Ward Discretionary Fund. We will also be seeking the necessary permissions within the church.

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.

Crown 20/20 Group



Prayers for July 2020

June 29 – July 5

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

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

Give thanks that in this world of uncertainty, there is always the hope and praise that He is there for all of us at all times.

July 6-12

Give thanks for the summer sunshine that brightens the days during the summer months. Pray for safety, relaxation and happy times for everyone in our community. 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 Isaiah 40:31; "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like angels, they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Pray that God would give us all strength to do His will.

Pray for all schoolchildren and young people at colleges and universities who have had their school year so significantly interrupted by global events, and for the teachers who look after them. Pray that they would be able to focus on their studies as they approach the end of what has been an unusual and perhaps very difficult term.

July 13-19

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are experiencing the challenges and concerns arising from depression, anxiety or dementia.

Pray for people living in fear in their own homes to be able to ask for help. Ask God to provide help for healing of the physical and psychological wounds of those who are suffering domestic violence, and pray for health and social care services, and the police, to be able to keep vulnerable people safe.

Pray today for people who have recently suffered bereavement – particularly those who are mourning a family member. Ask God to give them His comfort, strength and hope as they grieve, and to know He is their comforter.

Pray for an end to discrimination in all its form; that each person may be respected and valued as a child of God. Pray for those who have struggled in the past and continue to do so today for civil rights, economic justice and the elimination of discrimination based on race, nationality or religion.

July 20-26

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

Whatever your own family situation today, thank God that He has adopted you as a son or daughter into His family. Thank God for relationship and the opportunity to share life with other people, ask Him to reveal more of His intended plan for families to You and to teach you how to love those around you as He does.

Lord God, You offer freedom and peace to all people. We pray for those in prison. Please break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with Your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His spirit, now and every day.

Pray for the resolution to the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Father God, You love the people of Yemen who are still in crisis, grieving the loss of children, struggling to find food and medicine, desperate for violence to end. Please comfort them, give governments the compassion to send aid and support, to soften the hearts of those inflicting pain and end the ongoing conflict. Amen

July 27—August 2

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

On 28th July – World Nature Conservation Day, pray for the recognition of a healthy environment as the foundation for a stable and productive society and for the future generations. Pray for protection, conservation and sustainable management of our natural resources.

On 30th July, International Day of Friendship, pause and thank God for all the friends that He has blessed you with. Pray for friends that you have lost touch with, for friends who you know are going through a difficult time, and for health and happiness for your friends in the future.

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 or e-mail Jude Madeleine: judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

The Elders' Council During the Pandemic

The picture below rather sums up the way we have been forced to communicate during the course of the Covid 19 pandemic. It shows a recent meeting of the Elders' Council conducted via "zoom". Although the doors of the church are closed, the work of the church continues. Indeed, the problems which the lockdown has created have, in some ways, increased rather than decreased some aspects of church activity.

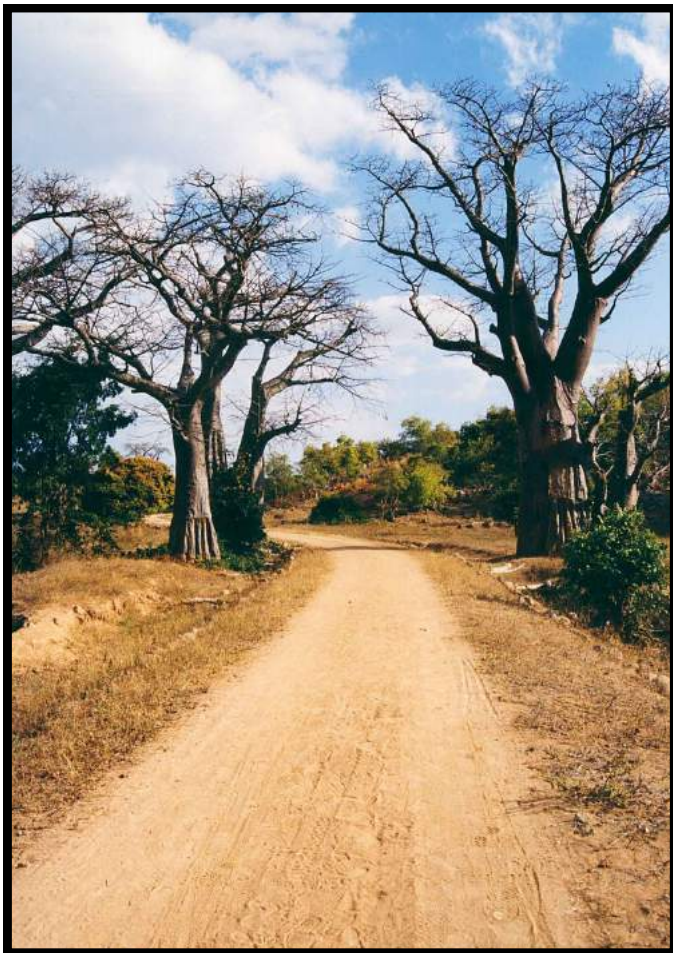
The Elders' Council has continued to meet and indeed is currently meeting every week rather than every month. We also hope to have our first Kirk Session meeting since the lockdown began in the very near future.

We are trying to bring our databases up to date and obtain as many email addresses



and mobile telephone numbers for our members as are available to improve the quality and speed of communication in these difficult times. It is becoming increasingly obvious that things will never return to exactly where they were before the pandemic struck. There is much talk of the "*New Normal*". Just exactly what the "*New Normal*" will look like remains to be seen.

These new challenges are forcing us to rethink the way we have done many things and will be the subject of much discussion by the Minister and the Kirk Session in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, we are trying to do all that we reasonably can to continue the work of the Church and identify new and better ways of doing so. We are all now looking forward to some easing of the lockdown so church life and life in general can resume. With some careful thought and lots of prayer, perhaps both will ultimately be enhanced by the experience we have all been enduring these last few months.



Highland Malawi Trust

Our Malawi Trip would have been over and done with and we would have been getting ready to tell you our stories, show you our pictures and deliver greetings from our friends. All we can do is deliver the greetings - the supporters are always in the hearts of our Malawian friends .

We also thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the donations received after the virtual Strawberry Tea . An incredible £992 has been donated by cheques, cash or bank transfer - we certainly never expected that . Truly touched as always. If you gave us a cheque, bear with us please they have still to be banked.

In Malawi the number of people known to have the virus has just passed 100 and miraculously none of our groups have been affected yet. The accuracy of the figure is probably questionable!!

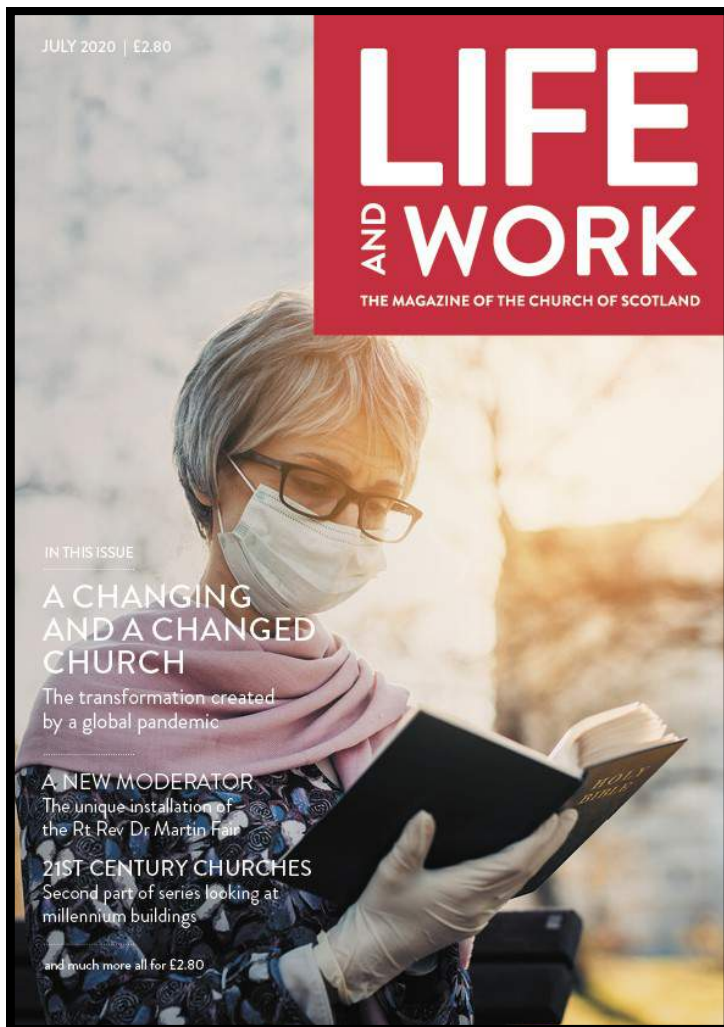
They have also just had their election and our friends are certainly happy with the result. A new party, a new President and hopefully a brighter future for them. They greet you warmly and we thank you again for your love and support .
God bless you all and stay safe .

Chrisanne, Reay , Brian & Doug

“Virtual” Communion

The communion service on Sunday 6th June was a little bit different since we were all taking part at home. The Minister had encouraged us all to use the elements to hand at home to help us take part in the sacrament. Many thanks to Donald Matheson for this visual proof that the minister’s words had not fallen on deaf ears!





LIFE AND WORK

During this challenging period, Life and Work is committed to helping keep our Christian community connected. The magazine continues to be published and distributed to our loyal readers. If you need to contact our team please email editorial enquiries to magazine@lifeandwork.org or all other enquiries to admin@lifeandwork.org

JULY 2020

A Changing and Changed Church

How the Church of Scotland has already changed, and how the near future might look for congregations

Installing a Moderator

Thomas Baldwin reports on the installation of the new Moderator, and the decisions taken by the Commission of Assembly in the wake of the cancellation of this year's

General Assembly.

Heart and Soul 2020

Lynne McNeil takes in the virtual Heart and Soul.

21st Century Buildings

The second part in the series looks at two churches that have blended old and new.

Faith and Evolution

Continuing the series marking the 50th anniversary of Church of Scotland SRT, Eric Priest, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at St Andrews University, looks at faith-based responses to the theory of evolution.

'A Highlight of a Fascinating Town'

John Hume considers the architecture and history of Linlithgow: St Michael's.

Online

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for news and exclusive features, including Coronavirus Diaries from Church of Scotland mission partners across the world. You can also find us at facebook.com/lifeandwork or on Twitter [@cofslifeandwork](https://twitter.com/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.

THANK YOU

to all who delivered crafts for Drummond School.

The school had wanted 88 craft boxes and thanks to people's generosity they got them. The boxes caused a lot of excitement amongst the pupils and their families.

One pupil was so excited she wanted to keep the box next to her bed while she slept.



Thanks also to those who donated toiletries for Care Homes.

Bags were delivered to Care Homes in our Parish: Kingsmills, Aden House and Isobel Fraser. Bags were also delivered to Cameron House and Ach an Eas. All were gratefully received.



We didn't put out a plea for pillow cases to make **Bags of Love** - laundry bags which carers, etc used to take home uniforms, etc as the quota required had been reached already. I know, however, that some people in the church have been involved in this project. To date (20 June) 2320 bags have been made locally and distributed to Care Homes, Raigmore Hospital,

Opticians, Chiropodists, Funeral Homes and Dentists. Another 300 or the makings have also been sent North to Lairg. What an achievement.

Heather Beck





Christian Aid Week 2020

I am pleased to report that 140 donors from the 24 churches of the Inverness Area Christian Aid Group have so far raised a total of £6,238 via our Just Giving webpage. This is a creditable sum, particularly when you realise that we have raised over one percent of the UK Just Giving total of £543,413 despite having only about an eighth of one percent of the UK population. Indeed our group's total ranks as sixth in the list of Just Giving fundraisers. So we should be pleased.

Pleased but not satisfied. I will be satisfied when the Inverness Group has raised more than £24,000 for Christian Aid this year. That is the sum we raised last year and we surely need to raise at least that amount in a year when the world's poorest are struggling with the combined effects of unfair trade, climate change and now coronavirus too. The need has not diminished.

Of course, just as I realise that many churches and groups across the country will not have used the Just Giving website at all, so too I know that in our own area some churches and members, including Crown members, will have donated in other ways either by cheque, bank transfer or the Christian Aid website itself. Yet others will have been waiting until we can hold more traditional fundraising events later in the year.

There'll be more plans for the autumn to come from Christian Aid. Meanwhile the Inverness Group Just Giving page is still open for donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/invernesschristianaidgroup>

So, £24,000 is the target for the Inverness Group. £18,000 to go. Can we do it? Sure! Will we do it? Not quite so sure.

Prove me wrong!

David Crippin

Daily Bible Readings for July

We are sorry but we do not have our usual source for these...Normal service will be resumes as soon as possible!

Saturday, July 4, 2020: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 27:18-29; Luke 10:21-24
OR Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 4:1-7; Luke 10:21-24

Monday, July 6, 2020: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 27:30-46; Romans 1:18-25
OR Psalm 131; Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16-22; Romans 1:18-25

Tuesday, July 7, 2020: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:1-14; Romans 3:1-8
OR Psalm 131; Jeremiah 28:10-17; Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday, July 8, 2020: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:31-35; John 13:1-17
OR Psalm 131; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 13:1-17

Thursday, July 9, 2020: Psalm 119:105-112; Exodus 3:1-6; Romans 2:12-16
OR Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 48:1-5; Romans 2:12-16

Friday, July 10, 2020: Psalm 119:105-112; Deuteronomy 32:1-10; Romans 15:14-21
OR Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 48:6-11; Romans 15:14-21

Saturday, July 11, 2020: Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 2:1-4; John 12:44-50
OR Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 52:1-6; John 12:44-50

Monday, July 13, 2020: Psalm 142; Micah 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
OR Psalm 92; Leviticus 26:3-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, July 14, 2020: Psalm 142; Jeremiah 49:7-11; Ephesians 4:17-5:2
OR Psalm 92; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wednesday, July 15, 2020: Psalm 142; Obadiah 15-21; Matthew 13:10-17
OR Psalm 92; Proverbs 11:23-30; Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday, July 16, 2020: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9
OR Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, July 17, 2020: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Hebrews 6:13-20
OR Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:9-17; Hebrews 6:13-20

Saturday, July 18, 2020: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew 7:15-20
OR Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:18-20; Matthew 7:15-20

Monday, July 20, 2020: Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 32:3-21; Revelation 14:12-20
OR Psalm 75; Nahum 1:1-13; Revelation 14:12-20

Tuesday, July 21, 2020: Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 33:1-17; Galatians 4:21-5:1
OR Psalm 75; Zephaniah 3:1-13; Galatians 4:21-5:1

Wednesday, July 22, 2020: Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 35:16-29; Matthew 12:15-21
OR Psalm 75; Daniel 12:1-13; Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday, July 23, 2020: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:1-8; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20
OR Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:28-37; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Friday, July 24, 2020: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:9-14; Acts 7:44-53
OR Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:38-48; Acts 7:44-53

Saturday, July 25, 2020: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:31-30:24; Matthew 12:38-42
OR Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 2:1-4; Matthew 12:38-42

Monday, July 27, 2020: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:25-36; James 3:13-18
OR Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 3:16-28; James 3:13-18

Tuesday, July 28, 2020: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:37-43; Ephesians 6:10-18
OR Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Ephesians 6:10-18

Wednesday, July 29, 2020: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 46:2-47:12; Mark 4:30-34
OR Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34

Thursday, July 30, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15
OR Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Proverbs 10:1-5; Philippians 4:10-15

Friday, July 31, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 41:8-10; Romans 9:6-13
OR Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 51:17-23; Romans 9:6-13

Saturday, August 1, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:1-21; Matthew 7:7-11
OR Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11

Monday, August 3, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:22-42; Romans 1:8-15
OR Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Romans 1:8-15

Tuesday, August 4, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 32:3-21; Acts 2:37-47
OR Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 26:1-15; Acts 2:37-47

Wednesday, August 5, 2020: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 15:32-39
OR Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29; Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35; Matthew 15:32-39

Thursday, August 6, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 35:22b-29; Acts 17:10-15
OR Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:1-16; Acts 17:10-15

Friday, August 7, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 36:1-8; Acts 18:24-28
OR Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40; Acts 18:24-28

Saturday, August 8, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 37:5-11; Matthew 16:1-4
OR Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:41-46; Matthew 16:1-4

July 2020

CrossReach Information Sheet

A new Board for CrossReach

CrossReach has said thank you and farewell to the 25 members of the Social Care Council along with those from other Councils and Committees of the Church of Scotland who had traditionally had a seat at the table, many of them who had served for a good number of years and who have pledged to remain stalwart supporters of CrossReach.

The new Board met for the first time last month, led by Rev Thom Riddell as convener and Mrs Sarah Wood as Vice Convener, and were welcomed to their new roles.

For the full list of board members visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/about-us/trustees

Continuing vital counselling services through training and digital technology

CrossReach took the opportunity during Volunteers' Week last month to recognise the incredible contribution made by their volunteer counsellors. March 2020 saw all nine CrossReach Counselling Services closing their doors due to COVID19, having to find a way of moving to an online/remote platform, previously not undertaken by any of the services.

Over 100 volunteer counsellors signed up to continue to work remotely with their existing clients, and potentially new clients going forward, and undertook extensive training to allow them to work remotely and safely.



To read the full story visit: www.crossreach.org.uk/news/recognising-the-invaluable-contribution-of-our-volunteer-counsellors

Pre-lockdown CrossReach had over 1,200 counselling clients in therapy or on waiting lists. With the temporary closure of premises and the need to quickly adapt to delivering counselling online and by telephone CrossReach applied to the Scottish Government Wellbeing fund.

CrossReach was successful in their application, being awarded £99,240 towards the cost of using live technology. By providing this lifeline, clients can continue to express themselves, explore their feelings, work through difficult life experiences and develop coping strategies essential for healthy development.

Cale House getting creative during lockdown



Cale House in Inverness have kindly been gifted a range of craft materials by Tesco and some members of Muir of Ord Church of Scotland. Colouring books, colouring pencils, jigsaws, board games and cards have proved to be very popular with residents; encouraging creative activities during this difficult lockdown period and putting a smile on the faces of the receivers.

To learn more about Cale House visit:

www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/cale-house

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/

For just now, the newsletter is not being printed and distributed in the usual way but if you know of anyone who is unable to see the newsletter on screen and who might wish a paper copy of the newsletter, please let us know and we can arrange for one to be printed and delivered.

Items for the August Newsletter by Sunday 26th July please!

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

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

**Crown Church Office is closed at present as Gloria is on furlough.
If you need to contact the church, please phone the Minister
direct on the above number or email the Minister as above.**

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