

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

August 2020: No. 762

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



SUNDAY SERVICES

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. We are planning to recommence public worship on 9th August. Please see the Minister's letter overleaf.

Sunday 9 th August	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am
Sunday 16 August	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am
Sunday 23 August	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am
Sunday 30 August	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11 am

***And Moses did as the Lord commanded him, and the congregation was assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting.
(Leviticus 8:4)***

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church:

With the relaxation of the Government's lockdown restrictions, we can once more worship together as the congregation of the Crown Church. So, I am delighted to let you know that weekly public services will begin again on **Sunday 9 August at 9:30am (in the Lower Hall) and 11 am (in the Church Sanctuary).**

I look forward to seeing some of you then, although I realise that sadly it will not be possible for everybody to come. The virus is still with us although far less prevalent than previously. Government advice remains that those who are '**extremely vulnerable**' and therefore shielding, should not come to church, and those who are '**vulnerable**', which includes everyone over 70 and those suffering from various medical conditions, should think very carefully about your own situation and risks before coming. You should not, of course, come to church if you are unwell.

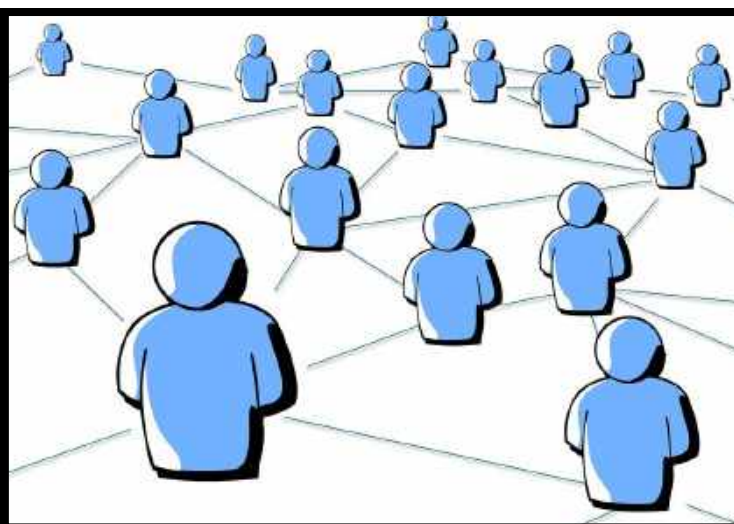


Just as in shops, we need to make changes in the way we do things to keep us all safe and to comply with the Government's requirements.

We must at all times observe the 2 metre rule and good hand hygiene.

For both services, you will be met by a member of a Welcome Team but of course we cannot shake hands.

As you enter you will be asked to record your name and a phone number to comply with the



with the **Government's *test and protect* scheme.**

The information will be used only for this purpose. Please don't think you **have** to come! I appreciate that a number of you will be happier to continue watching the service from home for just now.

Please wear a **face covering**, and use the **hand sanitiser** which will be available. **Ushers will show you to seats**, following a pattern that is designed to minimise risk of compromising the 2 metre rule.

For the 9:30am service, please enter by the door beside the minister's parking spot on Midmills Road, which has an accessibility ramp. Seats will be set around tables for family / household groups.

For the 11am service, please enter by either the Midmills Door or the Garden Door. Disabled access is available at the Garden Door. In both cases, at the end of the service, you must follow the guidance that will be given to you, to exit safely.

Other things you need to know:-

We are not permitted to have congregational singing.

The toilets will not be available, except in emergency.

We cannot meet for tea/coffee after the service.

Carparking will not be available in the school car park.

I do hope that it will not be long before these restrictions can be removed or reduced, but in the meantime, let us give thanks for some movement in the right direction.

I have, of course, continued to broadcast services throughout the lockdown. To comply with government requirements, I have had to be alone in the church, accompanied only by Louis our organist. I have been heartened by the many messages of support I have received and the consistently high numbers continuing to 'gather' week by week online, but it will be a joy to have company again in the house of the Lord as we worship.

We will continue to live stream the services for the benefit of those who are unable to attend. In view of the data protection regulations, the broadcast will not show the congregation.

Even in difficult circumstances, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

Wishing you all rich blessings from God,

Douglas



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 move towards an easing of the Covid-19 restrictions and a return to communal worship, a clearer picture is emerging of the timescale for the major changes that are planned for our church building.

The Highland Council programme for carrying out the work to convert our Lower Hall into two nursery classrooms for Crown Primary School shows that they aim to start construction in the final two weeks of 2020.

This will include the installation of a lift to provide access to the Upper Hall, where we have plans for a major upgrade, improving the insulation, extending and refurbishing the toilets, fitting out the kitchen and providing greater storage capacity for church user groups.

Meantime the Highland Council are pursuing surveys and permissions, and their kitchen designer has visited to discuss with us prior to drawing her plans for the kitchen upgrade.

One urgent issue that has been identified is the need to create space for the many users of our facilities during the major construction works in the halls. We had hoped to have access to accommodation at Crown Primary School but due to the Covid-19 restrictions we cannot expect this to be automatically possible now. A solution is therefore urgently needed and the Crown 20/20 Group is recommending a pragmatic way forward. We have asked the Kirk Session to support Crown 20/20 to bring forward a detailed plan and costings for the removal of pews from downstairs in the sanctuary in advance of the Council works beginning, to create the space required for all our users 24/7, and this support has been given.

We will keep everyone updated with progress in this regard.

Crown 20/20 Team



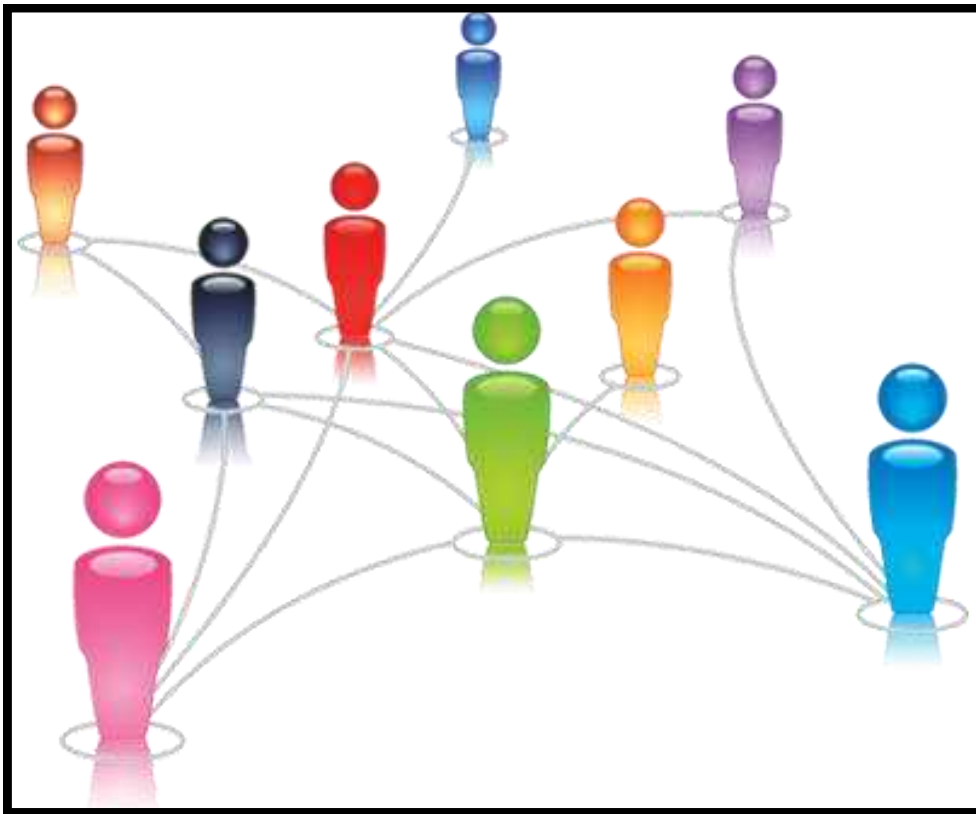
God uses Crown Church and an old Subaru

By *Struan McRoberts, Crown emergency project coordinator*

It has been a privilege to be able to run an emergency supply hub which has the versatility to meet many needs. We have seen churches and partner organisations better able to support those in need in their communities going forward through follow up. In a typical week my 2004 Subaru Outback takes roughly 10 to 15 crates of donated supplies from Tesco to stock up every Monday since mid-March. This has then gone out to churches and from there on to foodbanks, individuals, charities and food projects all over the presbytery. More supplies are now going out of the door than a couple of months ago – which will be in part due to more people knowing about what help we can offer, but also I think indicates an increase in need.



In March Crown Church set up a community helpline and sent flyers to 1600 households letting them know we could help. God has placed us in the community to love our neighbours and we've been able to do so in a very tangible way throughout the last few months; in many cases it has been positive contact with our neighbours that we've not had previously. Furthermore, we've delivered emergency supplies to people who have been referred through social services and HighLife Highland adult education services. We delivered supplies to people who were sadly awaiting access to Universal Credit. It isn't just the fact that we can supply food, toiletries and other essentials; but also that they know we're here, willing and able to help in the hour of need – that makes all the difference. A local group has started a Crown Community larder. It has been a privilege to work with them as we help each other in providing care for our community.



We've also benefitted from looking to engage with worship services online. We've found ways to connect most regular congregants (and a good number of new ones!) with our online broadcast services, and meet by Zoom for post-church coffee which has perhaps led to more conversation than would have happened before lockdown! It's been eye-opening to see what we had previously dismissed (because it was difficult) in terms of online services is actually quite

possible. The next question for us should not be "when can we get *back to normal*?" God is calling us into new and better, He always has been. There have been so many blessings in loving our community during lockdown and a strengthening in the resolve of the church to prioritise meeting together. We're already on a journey towards a redevelopment of our buildings in search of how God is calling us to better love our community and renew our worship, and I believe He is inspiring much thought and prayerful reflection amongst the church during this period.

Anyone can contact project coordinator Struan McRoberts on 07736040031 or struan@young-crown.co.uk for supplies.

(With thanks to Paul Harringman for this article which appeared in the Inverness Presbytery Newsletter)

Prayers for August 2020

August 3-9

Offer a prayer of personal thanks to God today: Lord, I thank You for prayer – that I can come before You and call You Father; that You listen to me and care about everything I bring before You. Today, above all else, I choose to give You thanks. Give thanks to the Father that He is the source of all that is good. His beautiful creation is testimony to His artistry and handiwork.

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

Pray for the plans for the re-opening of the church for worship; For God's strength and guidance over our Minister Douglas Robertson, with the help and support of Elders, Boards members, Gloria, Eilidh and others who have been working very hard on the plan to make the church building safe to re-open for worship.

August 10-16

Pray for the Foodbank, for all those who contribute generously with kind donation of food; for continuing support, and for all those who benefit from the donations of food.

Praise God for sending Jesus! Praise Jesus for the hope we have because of His sacrifice, for the joy we have in knowing that we are free to live life to the full because we have the security of eternity. Pray that we won't ever take salvation for granted.

Pray for all teachers and pupils heading back to school after the long break from school. Pray for their safety during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Ask God to guide and inspire teachers as they prepare, and to instil in children the desire and confidence to learn and grow.

On this day 12th August – International Youth Day, thank and praise God for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and the world. Ask that God will walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

August 17-23

Pray for the thousands of children 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 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.

On this day 19th August -World Humanitarian Day, pray for all countries experiencing disasters and crisis; pay tribute and give thanks for all aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service.

Pray for those who are lonely or live alone; may God be so present in their lives and protect them from isolation and loneliness.

August 24-30

Pray for the homeless and those cut off from their families; that the much needed practical help and support be made available to meet both their physical and spiritual needs.

Give thanks to God for all the love and blessings of our friends and families; that they be blessed, protected and guided in overcoming the daily challenges of life.

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia. Pray for opportunities, resources, and new and renewed relationships which help and support people with mental health challenges in healthier ways.

Remember and pray for those who are experiencing everyday life challenges with great difficulties and whose spirits are weakened; may they find support and comfort through relationships and appreciation of life's daily triumph.

August 31 – September 6

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. We ask for wisdom for our leaders that they make appropriate decisions on behalf of all of us.

Give thanks for whatever plans God has in store for us. We ask that God will help us to be aware of other people's concerns and feelings.

Pray Romans 8:39. 'Whether in heights or depths, light or darkness, may you never forget God's unending love for you'.

Remember and pray for those in prison, especially during this ongoing pandemic. Pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence. For safety and well-being of staff and offenders, and a change of heart that has to take place in each person. Pray for the victims and families of the offenders.

If you have particular prayer requests for the month of September 2020 please do send them to our **Church Secretary Gloria** who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

ECO Crown

On Tuesday 11th of August there is "Climate Emergency: How to respond?"- with Adrian Shaw, Climate Change Officer of C of S and David Coleman, Eco Chaplain for Eco- Congregation Scotland. It follows on from a talk last month by Professor Pete Smith , of Aberdeen University.

Book for the event via the website- <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/climate-emergency-how-to-respond/>

I have attached the graphic from the website for you to put in the newsletter. There is to be a launch of Creation Time Resources which is an Ecumenical resource on the 4th of August - this will be available to book on the events page shortly. <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/upcomingevents/>

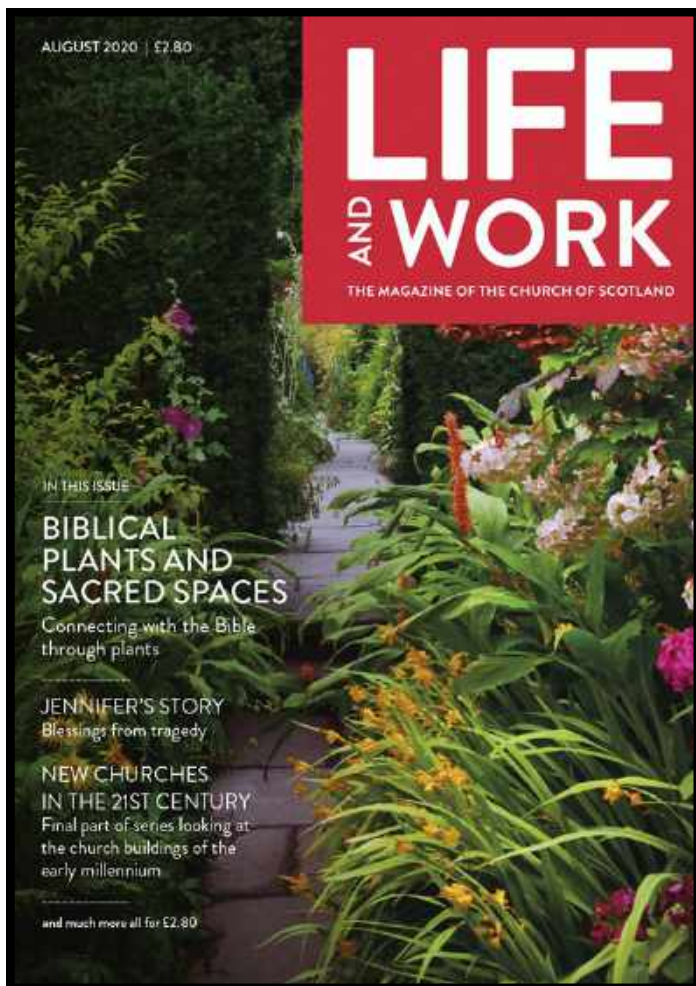


There are always more events coming up on the website, so it is worth people having a look at them and also at the Eco Congregation Scotland facebook page and Twitter feed. People may also be interested in following David

Coleman (Eco Chaplain). He has moved his work online during the pandemic and posts short sermons and thoughts on his facebook page.- EcoChaplain online. Hope this is useful

Judith Macleod





LIFE AND WORK

AUGUST 2020

Biblical Plants and Sacred Spaces

Lynne McNeil discovers how you can create a direct link to the Bible in a garden or balcony

Jennifer's Story

Thomas Baldwin learns how the loss of a precious baby daughter provided the backdrop for the author of a new book. Plus, the work of a charity which provides a Christian charity on issues of miscarriage, infant loss and infertility.

New Churches in the 20th Century

The final part in the series looks at a rural parish that got a new lease of life

by uniting in one extended building.

Our Wake-up Moment

In his first column as Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair reflects on the impact of the pandemic.

Emergent Church

Ruth Harvey considers the pathway for the Church from lockdown offered by Matthew 18.

The Children of God

In this month's youth column, three teenage siblings reflect on their baptism.

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

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

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 August

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

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 : 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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

Monday, August 10: Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10
OR Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 7:11-8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, August 11: Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29
OR Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday, August 12: Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27
OR Psalm 18:1-19; Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24; Matthew 8:23-27

Thursday, August 13: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:14-36; Revelation 15:1-4
OR Psalm 67; Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4

Friday, August 14: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:37-57; Acts 14:19-28
OR Psalm 67; Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28

Saturday, August 15: Psalm 133; Genesis 42:1-28; Matthew 14:34-36
OR Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36

Monday, August 17: Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21
OR Psalm 87; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, August 18: Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29
OR Psalm 87; Isaiah 43:8-13; Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, August 19, 2020: Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13
OR Psalm 87; Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, August 20: Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
OR Psalm 138; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, August 21: Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
OR Psalm 138; Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, August 22: Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12
OR Psalm 138; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12

Monday, August 24: Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11
OR Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; 1 Samuel 7:3-13; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, August 25: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36
OR Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39; Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday, August 26: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13
OR Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday, August 27: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6
OR Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday, August 28: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
OR Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, August 29: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 4:1-9; Matthew 8:14-17
OR Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17

Monday, August 31: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 4:10-31; Revelation 3:1-6
OR Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:2-26; Revelation 3:1-6

Tuesday, September 1: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 5:1-6:13; Revelation 3:7-13
OR Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:27b-12:15; Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday, September 2: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 7:14-25; Matthew 12:22-32
OR Psalm 17; Jeremiah 17:5-18; Matthew 12:22-32

Thursday, September 3: Psalm 149; Exodus 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Friday, September 4: Psalm 149; Exodus 10:21-29; Romans 10:15b-21
OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:15-27; Romans 10:15b-21

Saturday, September 5: Psalm 149; Exodus 11:1-10; Matthew 23:29-36
OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:1-6; Matthew 23:29-36

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

Mr Alan Melville, MBE, Old Perth Road on 23 June

Mrs Margaret Wiener, Druim Park on 4 July

Mrs Catherine Matulevicze, Culduthel Care Home, previously Drumossie Avenue, on 9 July.

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 September Newsletter by Sunday 30 August please!

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



Congratulations to Richard and Eileen Ardern who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this month

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