

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

September 2020: No. 763

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.

9.30 services have been suspended for the time being.

Sunday 6 th September	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 11 am
Sunday 13 September	Morning Worship at 11 am
Sunday 20 September	Morning Worship at 11 am
Sunday 27 September	Morning Worship at 11 am
Sunday 4th October	Morning Worship at 11 am

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NIV



Dear Friends,

We've now had four Sundays with a live congregation gathering in Crown Church for worship. It has been a tremendous blessing to me, after more than 4 months of the rather lonely experience of preaching to a computer screen (with built in camera). Louis Jones might never appreciate the comfort he was to me as my only companion on most of these Sundays, faithfully playing the organ, hoping that folk at home were singing God's praise with uplifted hearts and loud voice.



Our return to physical gatherings has

hardly been 'normal', a much smaller congregation, everybody sitting 2m apart, no real opportunity for social interaction, no singing, and filling the church up from the back first. Oh, wait, that last part actually is normal!

Throughout the different stages of lockdown, people from all walks of life have been speaking about the 'new normal'. There is a resignation in that statement, that things may never return to the way they were, or at least it will take a very long time. This is as true in the church as it is everywhere else.

While I said in my last epistle in the Newsletter that we ought to *lament* the things that we have lost, I also want to say it's not always a bad thing to be confronted with change. It is the unavoidable reality of life, virtually every day, though sometimes the speed and / or magnitude of the change can take us by surprise and be quite upsetting, even frightening.

So what is the 'new normal' for Crown Church? Covid hit us precisely while we were already contemplating massive changes, not only to the physical appearance of our buildings, but also hopefully reshaping our understanding and practice of mission and ministry to the community. This is something we need to work hard at over the next few months, with the added complication of factoring in whatever Covid regulations will stay with us. (continued on the opposite page)

Whatever else we do, the primary calling for the church of Jesus Christ has never changed. The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

I'm looking forward to seeing where that leads us as a whole new future unfolds.

Wishing you all rich blessings from God,

Douglas

Harvest Thanksgiving

Liz Gray has been in touch to remind us that this is the time of year when we would be thinking of Harvest Thanksgiving. For the past few years, Crown Church has supported the Inverness Foodbank at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The Manager of the Inverness Foodbank is concerned that, with a number of churches not running services, it won't receive the usual amount which Inverness churches donate at this time.



As you will know, the Foodbank is being used more than ever as a consequence of the lockdown. If you would like to support the Foodbank, you can drop off any donations at their warehouse on Glebe Street. Alternatively, you can leave donations in bags in the usual Foodbank boxes at the Midmills corridor doors of the Church or contact Liz who will be happy to pick up any items you can spare. We don't have a current list of items that are in particular need but here are some of the things which have been asked for previously:

- Long life juice
- Tins of potatoes
- Tins of mince/stew
- Oatcakes/crackers
- Shower gel/shampoo
- Small washing powder/gel
- Tins of corned beef
- Tins of ham
- Jam



DEC/Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal



Thank you for all that you have already generously given this year for the general work of Christian Aid. Now however we must try, as much as we possibly can, to help the most vulnerable in the world as a matter of urgency during the coronavirus pandemic. Imagine that you had no running water, no soap, no hand sanitiser, no personal space, no comprehensive health system, no reliable information, all things we take almost for granted. I try to imagine how I would feel if I knew that Covid-19 was breaking out in my refugee camp and that there was nothing I could do to protect myself or my family. That's why we have to help.

So, I have set up another JustGiving page for the Inverness Christian Aid Group, just like I did for Christian Aid Week. However although Christian Aid supports this appeal and has a central role to play, it has not set up an umbrella page of its own on JustGiving. Therefore I have set up my page using the Disasters Emergency Committee umbrella page. Here is the link:

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

Alternatively go to www.justgiving.com and search for David Crippin. I am unique, it seems, so you can't miss me! You'll find my two Christian Aid appeals there.

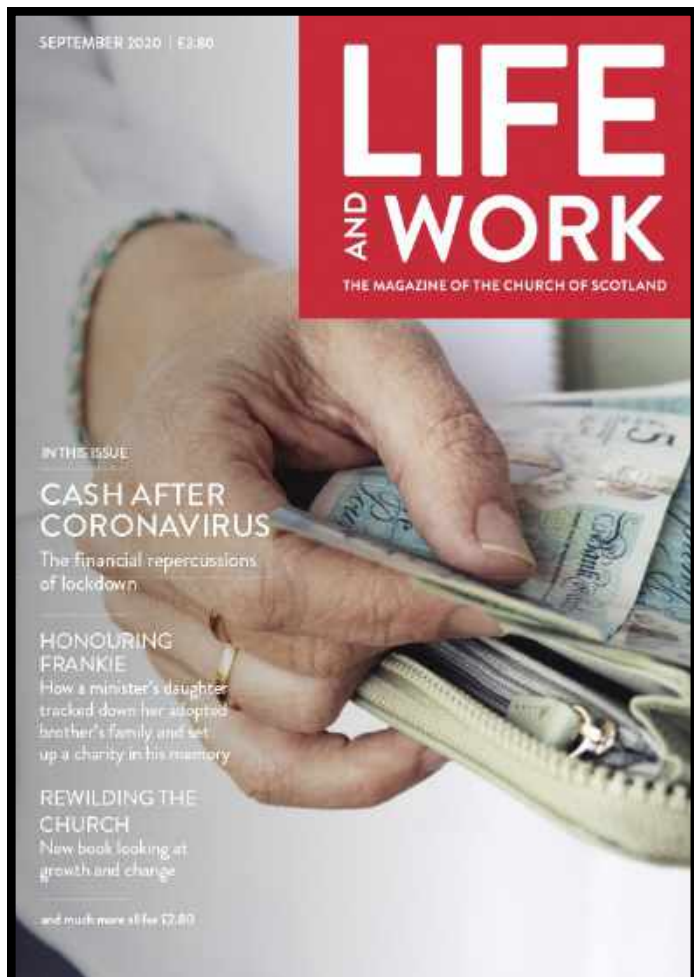


So, just a quick word about D.E.C. When large-scale disasters hit countries without the capacity to respond, D.E.C. brings together 14 leading UK aid charities as well as broadcasters to raise funds quickly and efficiently. D.E.C.'s 14 member charities include Christian Aid as well as the British Red Cross, CAFOD, Islamic Relief Worldwide and Tearfund.

The money you donate through our Inverness JustGiving page will go directly to D.E.C. for its work to help the most vulnerable people in six of the world's most fragile states. These are states where Christian Aid is already working: Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. A total of 24 million displaced people live in crowded camps and settlements in these countries. The appeal also includes the world's largest refugee camp – in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where more than 850,000 Rohingya refugees have sought sanctuary.

As usual if you are a taxpayer, please do fill in the Gift Aid details to allow D.E.C. (of which as I say Christian Aid is a member) to reclaim the tax on your donation. This increases the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you.

David Crippin



LIFE AND WORK SEPTEMBER 2020

Cash After Coronavirus

With many facing financial stress either during or following the lockdown, Jackie Macadam finds out how the church can help.

Honouring Frankie

Author Michaela Foster-Marsh tells of life growing up with her adopted brother, and how she founded a charity in his memory.

Rewilding the Church

Steve Aisthorpe reflects on a timely and challenging metaphor.

A Crucial Connection

In this month's youth column, choral scholar Jack Harris looks at the

relationship between music and faith.

Augustinian Reflections

In the continuing series celebrating 50 years of the Church of Scotland SRT, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison considers the thoughts and writing of Augustine on faith and science.

Flexibility and Creativity

The Moderator says the Church will have to hold on to the spirit of the last few months as it faces the challenge of reform.

'Keep Silence and Listen'

Ruth Harvey considers the importance of listening, demonstrated by the early Christians in Acts 15.

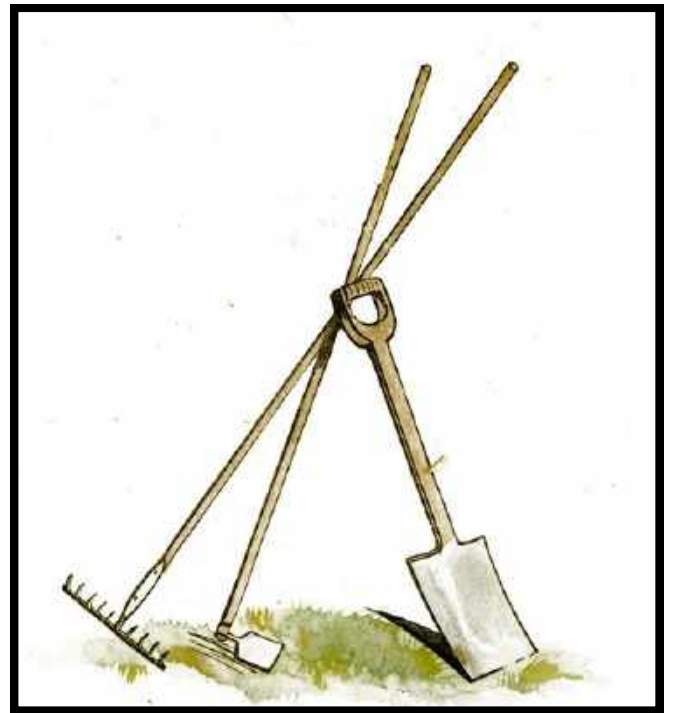
Online

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.

The Church Garden

The Church Garden has been looking especially beautiful this year. It has been much admired by passers-by, from toddlers and their parents to the oldest in our community. Doug and Jane Wilson, who have been leading the gardening work, have noticed how many people will stop for a chat with them when they are working in the garden.

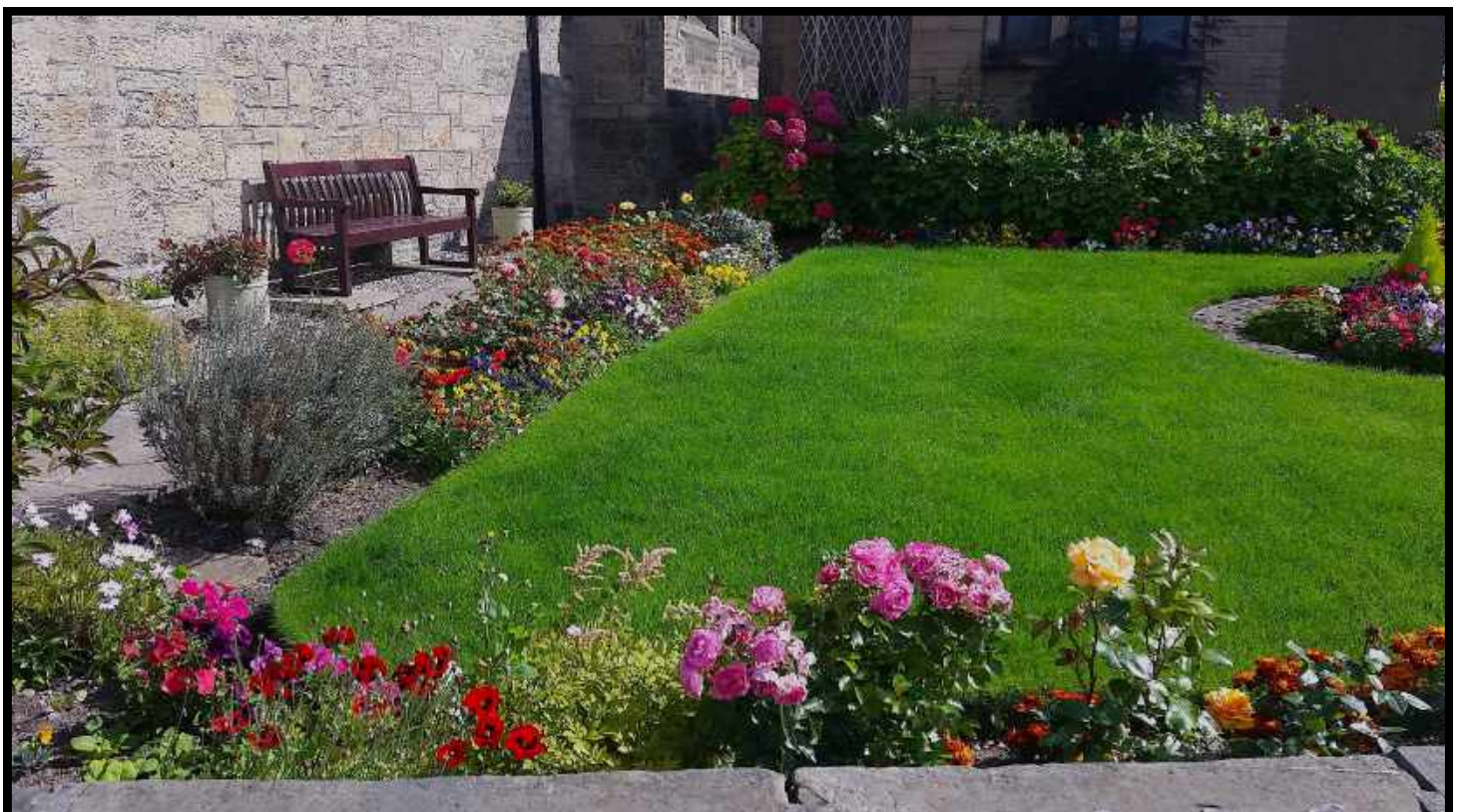


Since this photograph was taken, Doug Wilson has decided to take a step back from gardening at the church for health reasons.

We are fortunate that there are already a number of excellent helpers with the garden but if anyone new might be willing to step forward to help with the garden, that would be most welcome. Doug is happy to carry on with advice if needed. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please contact Gloria in the first instance using the office email address: office@crowne-church.co.uk.

In the meantime, many thanks to Doug and his helpers for their work.

Marion Forrest



Grasping the Nettle



Exploring the God Question: A Public Forum Led by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Church of Scotland Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, is set to put the existence of God to the test in the public square.

Increasingly the God question has come under scrutiny with the view gaining traction that religion is a fairy story for the weak minded. People are more likely to be encouraged to look to science for ultimate answers.

The Independent newspaper reported in 2014 that 2% of priests in the Anglican church don't believe in the existence of God!

"We live in an era where very little can be taken for granted. People today are increasingly conscious of the need to ensure that the information they consume is correct", claimed Dr Fair.

"If we really believe in the truth of the Christian faith we have nothing to fear from putting it under scrutiny. Christians should be confident about that. At the same time, the public needs to realise there are two sides to this debate."

ALL SET TO ZOOM

People across Scotland (and beyond, believers and sceptics alike) are invited to join the Moderator on three 90-minute Zoom sessions on Tuesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th September at 7.30pm.

YOUR INVITATION

To request registration details email office@graspingthenettle.org. For those who would rather spectate than participate, it is planned for there to be the option to view via the GTN Facebook page.

A NEW FORMAT FOR THE GOD QUESTION

The sessions will be based on a brand new format for The God Question series. Each programme has been divided into around 10 short excerpts designed to address a single question at the end of each clip.

PUBLICITY

A press release has been sent to news media in Scotland. Meantime please spread word within your own church circles and wider networks about this invitation to join the Moderator in exploring the God question.

Prayers for September 2020

This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful. You may like to detach it from the newsletter and use it to pray for our church and community.

If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (October 2020) please do send them to our church secretary, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

September 7-13

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.

Pray for the people who have been recently so badly affected by the explosive disaster in Lebanon. Remember those who have lost loved ones, and pray for aid and support in re-building their homes, businesses and communities.

Pray for mental health to be a priority as governments decide on health and care legislation. Lift up to God people you know who are struggling with illness, asking for His healing care and comfort.

There are many countries around the world without adequate healthcare services. Pray for charities and organisations who are trying to improve the availability of medical care globally.

September 14-20

Pray for all the children in our local schools as they settle in a new school year and give thanks that the chaplaincy team is there to support them if needed. Father we lift up the leaders of our country and all those that You have set up in places of authority to rule and govern our nation; for wisdom and guidance in making decision about the future of the country and well-being of the people. Praise God for creating the earth and ask for His wisdom and guidance in caring for it. Thank God for schools and businesses that are cutting down their plastic use. Pray for more action to be taken regarding plastic waste.

Pray for people using public transport or cycling with the aim of reducing carbon emissions. Pray that God would keep them safe on their journeys. Ask God to guide researchers and scientists in developing more renewable energy sources. Pray for forgiveness for when we have taken the earth for granted.

September 21-27

On the 21st September, the International Day of Peace, when the UN hope to strengthen the ideals of peace within all nations and peoples. Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and pray that more people will encounter His peace, which surpasses all understanding and can reach into every situation.

Lift up people you know who have lost jobs due to coronavirus. Ask God to help them find new, fulfilling roles. Pray for employers to support their staff who have been furloughed or are at risk of redundancy. Pray for global businesses to unite to rebuild financial security rather than undercut and compete against each other. Thank God for His provision and pray for Him to provide for anyone you know who has financial difficulties currently. Pray for developing countries that didn't have stable economies before coronavirus; pray for wisdom and guidance for their leaders.

Father, help us to trust You when we have financial worries. Open our eyes to those around us who need our help and give us the courage and opportunities to be generous. Amen.

September 28 - October 4

Pray for parents to feel encouraged as they try to teach their children about God. Praise God for the gift of children. Pray for loving relationships between parents and children.

Lift up people who have a difficult relationship with their family, and pray that God will touch their hearts and minds for help with mending broken relationships.

Ask God to give older generations opportunities to graciously share their experience and wisdom. Thank God that you are part of His global family, and ask Him to inspire you with ways to encourage other Christians.

Pray for migrants who are risking their lives travelling through dangerous situations to seek safety and peace in other countries. 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. Amen



September 2020

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, we are delighted to report very real progress in the planned upgrade of our church building. This update includes news of the launch of an appeal to the congregation for donations towards the costs of the major upgrade.

So where are we with our plans?

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. You will recall that the original plan – prior to Covid-19 - was for the classrooms to be up and running after the October holidays.

This unavoidable delay has allowed us to bring forward plans for the upgrade of the Upper Hall, including provision of more extensive storage capacity for church user groups. Following a competitive tendering process, I&K Ferguson Contractors who gave the lowest quote, have been selected to carry out the refurbishment.

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board have both approved the tender and we hope that work can be undertaken and completed before the Council commence work on the Lower Hall. This will allow the Corner Club to have a seamless move from the Lower Hall to the Upper Hall, avoiding any disruption to their activities, and will mean that temporary storage will not be needed for all their equipment and toys.

(continued on the opposite page)



(continued from opposite)

Currently, the Breakfast Club and the Corner Club are the only activities which have resumed in the halls and Crown 20/20 are grateful that the proposed timetable will mean very few people will be inconvenienced while the upper hall is being refurbished.

We have not been running fund raising efforts due to coronavirus. How are we able to fund the refurbishment project? After careful consideration, a large percentage will come from reserves. We also have a couple of small grants, and are applying for another. But we also need your support!

Given the generosity of church members demonstrated over the years, the Crown 20/20 Group believes it is the right time to launch an appeal for gifts or interest free loans to support the overall project which more than ever we are convinced is the right way forward for our church. Re-read our 'mission statement' at the top of this article. An appeal will come through your letter box shortly and we ask you to give it your prayerful consideration.

As always, we will try to answer any questions you have, and you can send them to the secretary of the Group, Eileen Ardern, on eileenardern@hotmail.com.

The Crown 20/20 Group

The image displays a set of architectural drawings for a church refurbishment project. It includes two cross-sections at the top: 'Section thru kitchen' (1:100) and 'Section thru upper hall and w/c facilities' (1:100). The main drawing is a detailed floor plan of the 'Upper Hall' (1:50), showing the layout of the hall, kitchen, and various service areas. To the right of the floor plan are several technical documents: a 'Specification' table, a 'Legend' with symbols for materials and finishes, a 'Clear schedule' table, and a 'reynolds architecture ltd' logo. At the bottom right, there is a photograph of the existing upper hall interior and a small table with project details.

No.	Description	Date
1	Change per discussion with client & HC 27/10/20	30/10/20
2	Revisions for work items	

Crown Church	
Upper Hall refurbishment	
working: upper hall	
Date	12.03.20
Drawn by	SAB
Scale	1:50 & 1:100 - 1:1
Scale	All remaining

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go towards the
caring work of
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Daily Bible Readings for September

Monday, September 7, 2020: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17
OR Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17

Tuesday, September 8, 2020: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7
OR Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7

Wednesday, September 9, 2020: Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22
OR Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22

Thursday, September 10, 2020: Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16
OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16

Friday, September 11, 2020: Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16
OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 41:53-42:17; Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, September 12, 2020: Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15
OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15

Monday, September 14, 2020: Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29
OR Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, September 15, 2020: Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2
OR Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29-50:14; Romans 14:13-15:2

Wednesday, September 16, 2020: Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25
OR Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, September 17, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4
OR Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14-2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Friday, September 18, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10
OR Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Saturday, September 19, 2020: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30
OR Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30

Monday, September 21, 2020: Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 16:31-35; Romans 16:1-16
OR Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 27:1-29; Romans 16:1-16

Tuesday, September 22, 2020: Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:1-9; Romans 16:17-20
OR Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20

Wednesday, September 23, 2020: Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32; Matthew 18:1-5
OR Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5

Thursday, September 24, 2020: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Isaiah 48:17-21; James 4:11-16
OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4:11-16

Friday, September 25, 2020: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 20:1-13; Acts 13:32-41
OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41

Saturday, September 26, 2020: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 27:12-14; Mark 11:27-33
OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33

Monday, September 28, 2020: Psalm 42; Exodus 18:1-12; Philippians 1:3-14
OR Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14

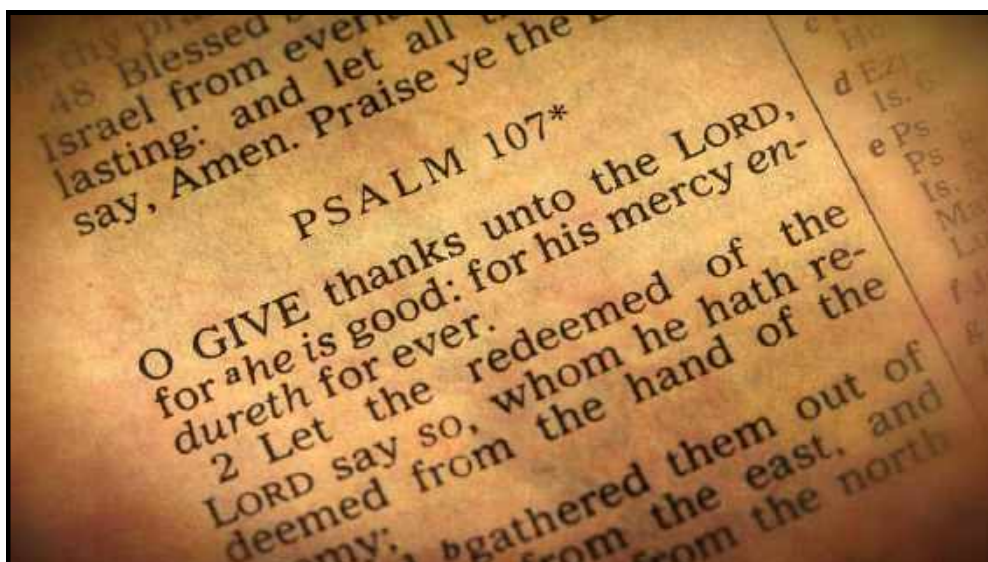
Tuesday, September 29, 2020: Psalm 42; Exodus 18:13-27; Philippians 1:15-21
OR Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21

Wednesday, September 30, 2020: Psalm 42; Exodus 19:9b-25; Matthew 9:2-8
OR Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8

Thursday, October 1, 2020: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:1-9; Colossians 2:16-23
OR Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:14-22; Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 2, 2020: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:14-19; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a
OR Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:23-37; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, October 3, 2020: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:10-13; John 7:40-52
OR Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 6:1-10; John 7:40-52



Readers

September 13 Brian Macgill

September 20 Alan Nelson

September 27 David Crippin

October 4 Pat Douglas

Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

F

Face coverings



A

Avoid crowded places



C

Clean your hands regularly



T

Two metre distance



S

Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms



nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
#WeAreScotland



NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

Mr David MacLeod, Lovat Road on 10th August.

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.



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The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

2021 Calendar

2021

Love Hope Peace Joy

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

2021

Items for the October Newsletter by Sunday 27th September please!

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

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