

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

March 2021: No. 768

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



Sunday Services

During the current restrictions due to Covid—19, Douglas will be broadcasting on Sunday mornings at 11 am. To watch these and previous recordings please go to the Crown Church Facebook page (a Facebook account is not required to see the service)

9.30am services have been suspended for the time being.



'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'. (Jeremiah 29:11)

From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

Prayer was important to Jesus. Luke records that, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (5:16)

The words of Jesus' prayers are not always recorded. What seems to have been important for the Gospel writers, is often just the simple fact that he made the effort and took the time, to keep himself centred in the mind and will of his Father in heaven.



Some of Jesus' prayers are of course recorded, most famously "The Lord's Prayer". These prayers have formed the basis of a series of Bible studies for the season of Lent. As I write, I'm preparing for a study based on the brief prayer of Jesus in John 12:28, "Father, glorify your name", though in some sense the context of the prayer is as important as the content.

Jesus was contemplating the final, brutal part of his ministry of service to the purposes of God. He says openly that his soul is troubled, and he foreshadows the later prayer, in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he might even wish that there was some other way to accomplish God's salvation, yet he submits wholly and willingly to God's will. (Mark 14:36)

In his anguish, he prays only that the name of God will be glorified. And God responds in a voice that was heard for the benefit of those who were with Jesus, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." Presumably in the first part he was referring to the life and teaching of Jesus, and in the latter part to the resurrection – which can only be achieved through the crucifixion.

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Herein lies the whole mystery of Easter, the moment of both judgement and salvation, the sins of our humanity carried to the cross by the sinless Son of God and forgiven. None of this made sense to the disciples who were listening, and to be honest there are many aspect of it that still don't make sense to us, even after 2000 years of theology and faith being studied and explained!

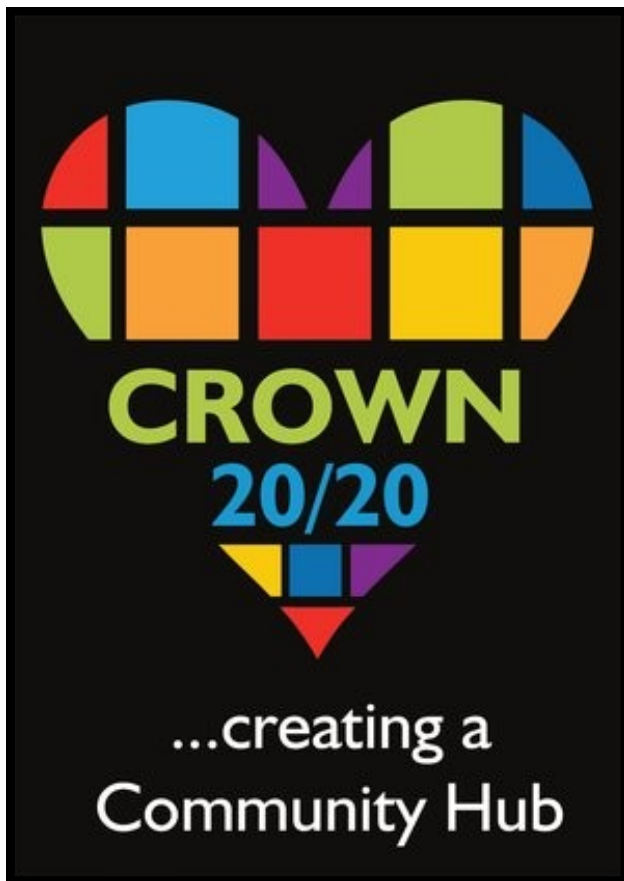
Yet we do know that above all, God will be glorified, and the light of his love, grace, mercy and forgiveness will shine through those who follow Jesus.

"Whoever walks in the dark," said Jesus, "does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." (John 12:35-36)

May God richly bless you,

Douglas





Update from Crown 20/20 Group

“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,

Really positive progress continues to be made on the refurbishment of the Upper Hall as well as the installation of our new lift and the refit of our kitchens in the Lower and Upper Hall areas.

We have incorporated in the newsletter the latest images of the Upper Hall, the lift and the kitchen lay-outs to give you a better understanding of developments.

Another big issue for us is the removal of a significant quantity of asbestos insulation material, mainly from the basement, and we are indebted to The Highland Council for identifying and paying for a specialist to carry out this vital work.

The Council are carrying out the work ahead of converting the Lower Hall into a nursery unit for Crown Primary School. The Council have advised us that their contractor, Morrison Construction, hopes to start work in the Lower Hall on Monday 26 April and complete the contract by 6 August. We are confident that most of the work being carried out in the Upper Hall will be completed by the time the Council moves in.

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The Upper Hall is the focus of much of the current building activity at the church and contractors I&F Ferguson are making good progress on the refit to give us even better facilities and greater storage.

So to the images I mentioned at the start of this update.

The Upper Hall is taking shape as this photo illustrates.

The 8-person Innovation Lift is produced by Scandanavia AB, whose mission statement is: "We can, we do and we do it smarter". A photo is attached. I hope you agree it looks impressive.



The designs of both the Upper and Lower kitchens have now been signed off. To view the Upper Hall kitchen, click on this link

<https://my-kitchen.howdens.com/plan/ErB4900656253Cv0>

Innovation Lift
SCANDINAVIA AB

ILS 1K We can, we do and we do it smarter

As well as overseeing the immediate upgrades, the 20/20 Group continue to meet regularly to consider plans for modernising our wonderful church. Please be assured we are making sure and certain progress. Thanks again for your support for our vision.

Eileen Ardern
Crown 20/20 Group



After so many months of not seeing our friends in the Guild face to face it was decided to instigate meeting on Zoom to take advantage of this new technology. Unfortunately there are a few of our members who do not have access to a computer and we are sorry about this.

However we have gone ahead and our first meeting was held. Our guest speaker was Sheila Proudfoot who gave a most

interesting talk about her visit to London to receive the Maundy Money from the Queen. The lovely photographs let us see the inside of Windsor Castle and gave us an insight into the meticulous planning it takes to stage such an event. A wonderful experience for Sheila and her husband.

In January, Morven Archer took us on a cruise to the Faroes and Iceland. With pictures of all the interesting places she and her sisters visited we really got a taste of areas most of us would like to visit.

Our next meeting was delivered thanks to Eco-Congregation Scotland and was hosted by Lyn, a project worker with MOO Food, based in Muir of Ord. This project is mainly for the benefit of the local people as they grow food for the whole community. There is a community fridge where anyone can leave foods for others to help themselves. In addition other projects have sprung up. These involve children being made more aware of the world around them and how they can live in a more eco-friendly way.

At each of our last two meetings we had a quiz which was good fun. This was followed by chat time and catching up on our news.

There is a meeting on 16th March when we hope to have a speaker and then our AGM will be on 23rd. Throughout the summer we hope to keep in touch with virtual coffee mornings and outside coffee time. The link for any of these meetings can be obtained by contacting either Ruby Coe or Morven Archer for the entry code to the Zoom meeting.

Dorothy Mein, Guild Correspondent

Prayer Diary March 2021

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

March 1-7

Give thanks for the period of Lent; Pray for the groups doing the Lent Bible study and other bible study groups, for prayer and thanksgiving, for the time and attention paid to personal examination and reflection on our relationship with God.

Pray Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

God Our Father, grant us stillness to pray; to acknowledge your presence with us as we travel through this life journey.

On the 5th of March, World Day of Prayer, join in prayer with other Christians around the world to praise and thank God for His mercy and goodness. Thank God for each new day of grace and the many blessings that we have from Him.

March 8-14

Pray for God's strength and sustaining grace during the period of change and development.

Lord, help us not to lean on our own understanding but in everything acknowledge You so that You can direct our words, thoughts and actions, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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 our neighbours, for people who live alone, for those 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.

A prayer for Mothering Sunday, 14th March: Loving God, Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love; Let your love be present in every home; And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

March 15-21

Pray for those who are homeless; may God help us to be thankful for our own blessings and to reach out to others.

Pray for those who are persecuted and imprisoned because of their faith; give them courage to face their struggles, patience to bear the lies, and hope to see beyond the bars. May we do all we can to let them know that they are not forgotten.

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.

Pray for each and every member of our congregation and the Parish; that God's blessings and grace be upon them and sustain them in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

March 22 - 28

Pray for those who live alone and are lonely. Pray also for people affected by mental illness, ask that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

Pray for anyone going through hardship, bereavement or any other sadness, that God would show them that he is the light of the world and nothing can ever put His light out.

Give thanks that during difficulties and distress, others can lift us up before the throne of grace. Help us always to remember those in great need.

As we go through Palm Sunday and the Holy Week, we give thanks to God for his love, goodness and mercy; Praise God for the shining light in our lives, through the suffering and resurrection of Christ.

March 29 – April 4

As we celebrate a blessed and joy-filled Easter, pray God to sharpen our visions and brighten our views of the world with renewed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

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.

Give thanks that each of us are made in God's image and are of great value to him.

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. Amen



If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (April 2021) please do send them to our ***church secretary***, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk

Recollection of a Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

I have been looking through old papers recently and came across the following:

Excerpt from my diary of 22nd April 2005 during a pilgrimage in Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela



"It was late afternoon when Donald, Ken and I arrived in the little hilltop town of Astorga. Footsore and tired, we threw our rucksacks down by the fountain in the town square and rested.

We made friends with an English gentleman by the name of Jim who told us that he had had to give up his pilgrimage after twisting his ankle and spraining the tendons in his leg. Jim told us how his companions had continued on their journey while he rested his leg and made plans to return to England.

Without hesitation, Donald asked Jim if he would like us to pray over him for the healing of his leg to which he agreed so we sat Jim down on the steps by the fountain while we both placed our hands on him and prayed in the name of Jesus that his leg be healed.

Imagine my astonishment when, standing with one hand on Jim's shoulder and the other hand raised to heaven calling on the Holy Spirit, a pure white dove with lovely little red eyes came out of a clear blue sky and alighted on the edge of the fountain not six feet away and facing us. Looking at Jim, then at Donald and myself, the dove turned around and took a drink from the fountain, rose up and was last seen disappearing over the rooftops.

If this was not a sign from God, I don't know what is. I am certain that all will be well with Jim.

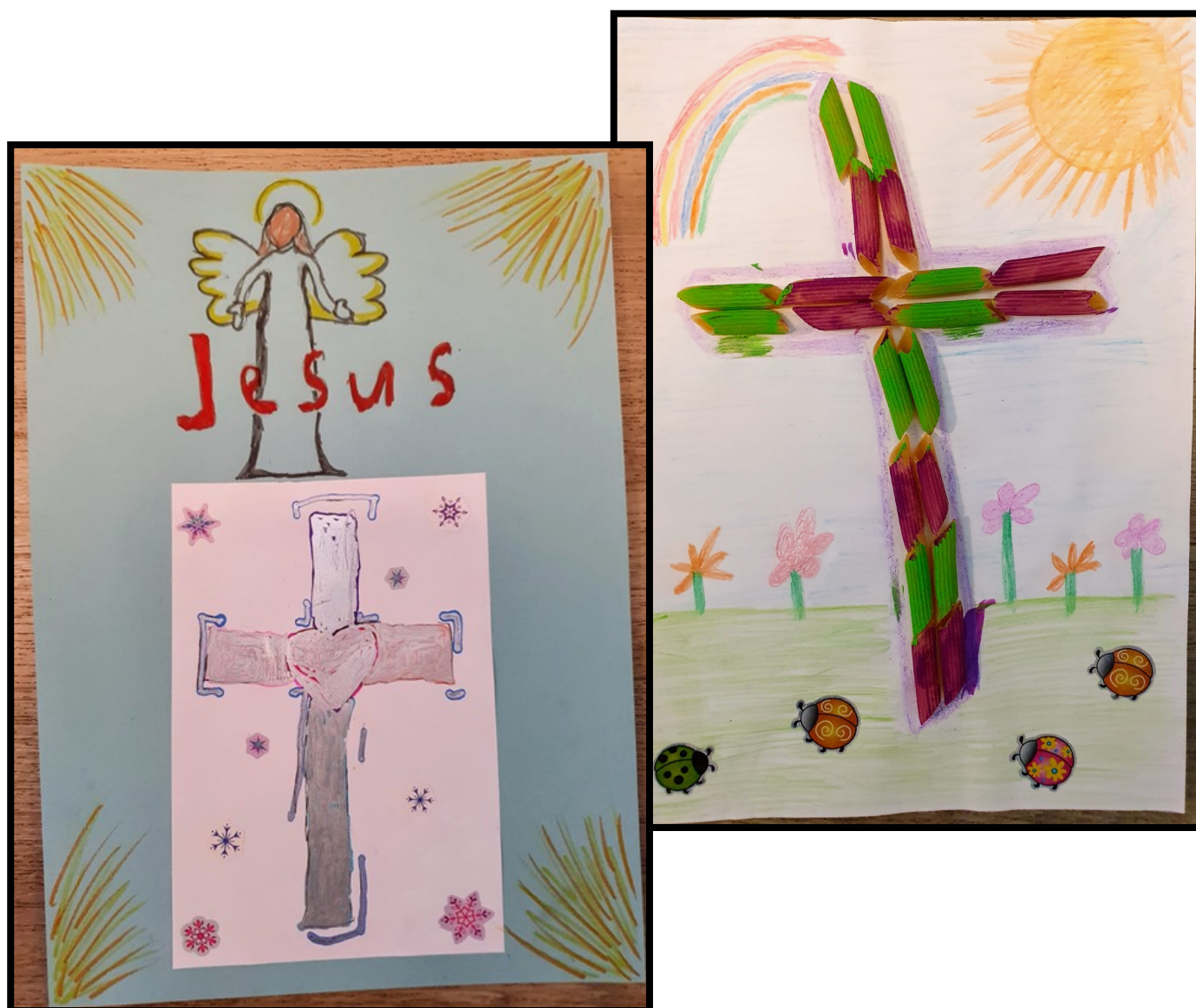
Thanks be to God."

The footnote to this recollection is that, three years later, the wife of my companion Donald sent me a cutting from a Christian newsletter with an article by Jim which told of his injury on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and of two pilgrims asking for his healing while he was resting at the fountain.

The article went on to say that, when he woke the following morning, his pain had gone and that he had set off once more on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Jim's spirits had been so lifted, that within two days he caught up with his companions and that they all continued their journey together to their destination in Santiago de Compostela. Jim ended his article by praising God for His goodness.

You can imagine my reaction on reading this!

Roddy Lightbody



Many thanks to Isla MacKenzie, one of our Treasure Seekers, who created the beautiful crosses shown here and on page 3 in response to the Moderator's 'Hidden in Plain Sight' competition.



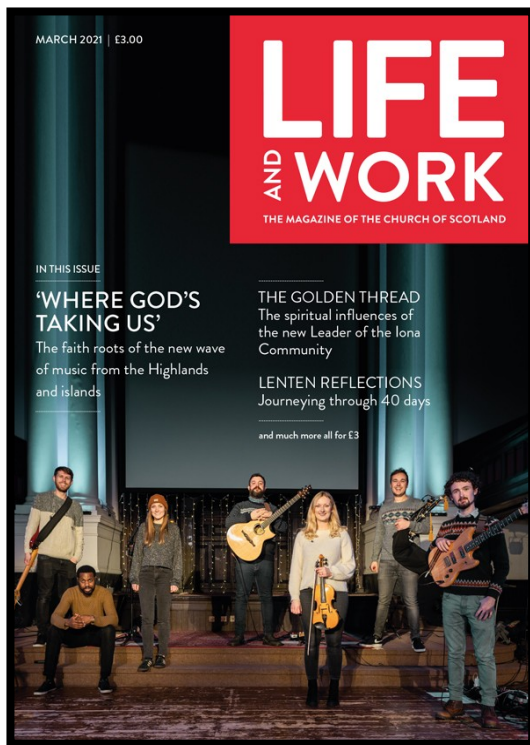
We have received an email from the Community and Events Officer at CrossReach inviting us to get take part in their 'CrossReach Prayer Share' campaign.

The campaign encourages us to upload a 10 second video of what we are praying, hopeful or thankful for. Then on Easter Sunday all the videos will be compiled into one message of prayer, hope and thanks started by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair.

If you would like to take part, full details on how to upload your video can be found at the link below

<http://bit.ly/3u45Vr7>





‘Where God’s Taking Us’

Thomas Baldwin explores some of the connections between faith and Scottish traditional music, speaking to members of Tide Lines, Skerryvore and Celtic Worship

The Golden Thread

Jackie Macadam meets Ruth Harvey, new Leader of the Iona Community

Lent Reflections

Continuing the series of reflections for each week in Lent

A Serving of Daily Bread

The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why not all habits are bad ones

The Healing Cross

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the healing power of Lent

Epiphany on the Capitol

Ruth Harvey explains why the Psalms can hold the answers in times of uncertainty

Standing on the Giants of Faith

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why those whose stories are remembered should encourage and inspire today **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)

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Daily Bible Readings for March

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Monday: *The Law of the Firstborn's Inheritance*, Deuteronomy 21:15-17

Tuesday: *Stoning a Rebellious Son*, Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Wednesday: *Penitent's Psalm*, Psalm 51

Thursday: *A Righteous Heart*, Proverbs 21:1-5

Friday: *The Parable of the Dishonest Manager*, Luke 16:1-13

Saturday: *The Kingdom of God*, Luke 16:14-18

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Monday: *Sayings of Jesus*, Luke 17:1-10

Tuesday: *Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers*, Luke 17:11-19

Wednesday: *The Coming of the Kingdom*, Luke 17:20-37

Thursday: *The Widow and the Unjust Judge*, Luke 18:1-8

Friday: *The Pharisee and the Tax Collector*, Luke 18:9-17

Saturday: *The Rich Ruler*, Luke 18:18-30

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Monday: *Parable of the Ten Pounds*, Luke 19:11-28

Tuesday: *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*, Luke 19:45- 20:8

Wednesday: *Parable of Wicked Tenants*, Luke 20:9-19

Thursday: *Jesus is Questioned*, Luke 20:20-47

Friday: *The Widow's Offering*, Luke 21:1-19

Saturday: *Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold*, Luke 21:20-38

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Monday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 22:28-46

Tuesday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 22:47-71

Wednesday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 23:1-31

Thursday: *Last Supper (Holy Thursday)*, Luke 22:1-27

Friday: *Crucifixion (Good Friday)*, Luke 23:32-47

Saturday: *Burial of Jesus*, Luke 23:48-56

(continued on next page)

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Monday: *Jesus Appears to His Disciples*, Luke 24:36-53

Tuesday: *Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas*, Acts 1:12-26

Wednesday: *The Holy Spirit*, Acts 2:1-13

Thursday: *Early Christians*, Acts 2:14-47

Friday: *Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar*, Acts 3:1-10

Saturday: *Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico*, Acts 3:11-26



You've probably seen news coverage on Yemen. It makes for hard reading and viewing.

We've spent the last year responding and adapting to the coronavirus pandemic, especially in the UK. But at the same time, our teams have also continued to give a lifeline to people overseas.

And by every measure, Yemen is the worst humanitarian emergency in the world today.

I'm sure you'll know about the broad strokes – death and suffering on an enormous scale because of war, disease and hunger.

We're working with our friends and colleagues at Yemen Red Crescent Society, German Red Cross and Danish Red Cross (to name just a few) to **help people access clean water, food and other essentials, and receive emergency healthcare.**

But we do need support. If you can, [make a donation to our Yemen crisis appeal.](#)

And please don't underestimate the difference your donation could make – especially now, when people in Yemen can't wait. It could save a life.

Thanks to Jude Madeleine for forwarding the above

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Mrs Helen Speirs who celebrated her 100th birthday last month



Items for the April Newsletter by Sunday 28th March please!

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

marionandbobnewsletter@gmail.com

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