

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

May 2021: No. 770

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



SUNDAY SERVICES

With the easing in Coronavirus restrictions there is no longer a limit placed on the number who can gather in a place of worship. However we **do** still have to maintain 2 metre distancing and so in practice we still are limited in the numbers we can accommodate and so please continue to contact the office to let us know if you would like to attend on a Sunday morning.

Douglas will continue to broadcast on Sunday mornings at 11.00 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.

Sunday 2nd May Morning Worship at 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 9th May Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 16th May Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 23rd May Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 30th May Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 6th June The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 11.00am followed by special prayers

'For the heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands'

Psalm 19

From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

The Apostle John contributed more to the writing of the New Testament than anyone else, except Paul. While there are always some uncertainties about who wrote what in the Bible, modern scholarship broadly accepts that the same man wrote the Gospel of John, the three short Letters of John and the book of Revelation.

Through the season after Easter until Pentecost, we've been taking a tour through the first of John's three letters. (He probably wrote more than three, but these three have been preserved in the canon of Scripture.)

While it is sometimes difficult to be sure about historical facts for events that happened about 2,000 years ago, there is actually a lot of literature surrounding the early days of the church, both in the Bible and in other sources, which gives us some confidence in the things we know about John's life.

It is generally believed that John was a very young man when he and his brother James began to follow Jesus. He was present at many of the significant moments in Jesus' life which were shared with only two or three disciples, such as the Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8), Jesus' private prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:37), he was given special mention by Jesus from the cross (John 19:26) and he was amongst the first to see the empty tomb (John 20:3).

John also lived to be a very old man, spending most of his life in and around Ephesus, with a direct involvement in the development of the Christian churches in each of the 7 cities that received the letters recorded in the book of Revelation. (All in western Turkey as we would call it today.) He suffered savage persecution and was exiled on the island of Patmos for a period of time, during which he received the vision that became Revelation.

In part because he had been so close to Jesus, and in part because of his longevity, he became very influential in the nurture of the second generation of church leaders, those who succeeded the Apostles. In particular, Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna, referred to as "Apostolic Fathers" of the church, were both students of John.

He was a fascinating man who lived a fascinating life, and I hope you take time to do some research of your own. One of the joys of the modern world we live in is that information on people such as John is frequently right at our fingertips and very easy to find. Feel free to email me any interesting details you discover...

Wishing you every blessing, **Douglas**

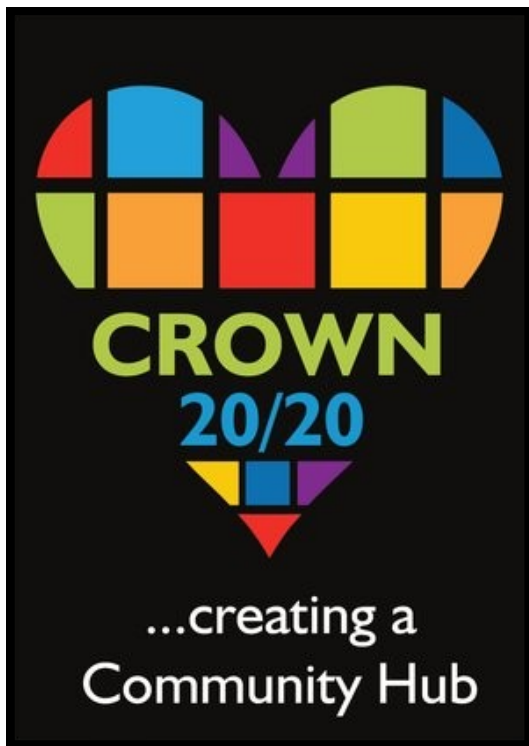


Douglas & Alison Robertson are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandchild, a daughter for Eilidh and Ben Crowley on 7th April in Melbourne, Australia.

Eilidh and Ben have called their daughter Sapargul, which is a name from Turkmenistan, as they lived and worked in the region for several years.

She will be known as Sappie.





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

We are delighted to announce that the major refurbishment of the Upper Hall is now at the stage where we can make use of the greatly improved facility. Our contractors I & K Ferguson deserve our warmest thanks for working within budget. They have been a pleasure to work with.

The finance for the project has been in place for some time thanks to the response to our appeal to the congregation and the granting of funding applications, particularly from the Inverness Common Good Fund and the Scottish Government's Climate Communities Action Fund.

First users of the hall are the Breakfast Club and the Corner Club and once Covid-19 restrictions ease we look forward to welcoming other church and community groups. We are happy to consider hall bookings for when the restrictions are lifted. Enquiries should be channelled via the church secretary or by emailing your interest to:- office@crown-church.co.uk.

When you are able to view the Upper Hall I am sure you will be immediately struck by the bright and airy feel to the increased space. The removal of the stage and the corridor from the top of the stairs into the kitchen has allowed us to create much needed additional storage space, which will be welcomed by user groups. We have invested heavily in a new state of the art audio visual system, ideal for church and community meetings/conferences.

The old opaque window units have been replaced by new clear double glazed window units which allow views over Crown Primary School. The new fully fitted kitchen, with excellent storage space, is roomy and provides all the mod cons. The toilet facilities have been transformed and incorporate three toilet units, an accessible toilet and a shower unit.

(continued on next page)



The walls and ceilings have been extensively insulated to provide a high energy efficiency. Everything possible has been done to reduce our carbon footprint, bearing in mind that the Church of Scotland wants church buildings to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The upper hall is the first area to be connected to a new digital fire alarm system. The downstairs areas and eventually the church itself will be added when they are refurbished. There is a new controlled entry system which allows the leader in the upper hall to see and speak to anyone who comes into the Midmills porch and rings for entry. The door lock can be released at the leader's discretion.

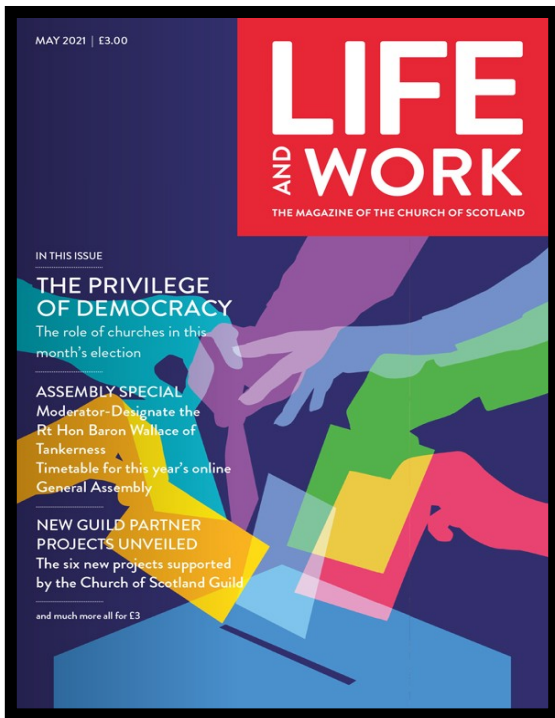
Space has been left in the middle of the former stage for the new 8-person lift which The Highland Council will install during the summer once they move in to convert the Lower Hall into two nursery units for Crown Primary School.

Other work that has been completed is the removal of asbestos from the building. We are grateful to the Council for commissioning and paying for this work. So much has been achieved in the face of very considerable challenges caused by the pandemic. We now have a real appetite to continue our ambitious programme to meet the future needs of our congregation and wider community. We could not have got here without your support.

Crown 20/20 Group

(photographs continued on next page)





LIFE AND WORK

MAY 2021

The Privilege of Democracy

Thomas Baldwin explains why churches have a key role to play in this month's elections to the Scottish Parliament

'A Cherished Part of the Church's Tradition'

The Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC looks ahead to his year as Moderator-Designate to the 2021 General Assembly with Lynne McNeil, as he encourages elders to serve more widely in the

Church of Scotland

Assembly 2021

Timetable and reports to this year's General Assembly, which will be held online

God's Table

The first in a new series of Bible studies by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, focusing on hospitality

Kirk Session Records Launched Online

More than a million pages of local Church of Scotland records have been published online for the first time

New Guild Partner Projects Unveiled

The six new three-year projects adopted by the Church of Scotland Guild

Our Planet is Changing

Val Brown of Christian Aid Scotland introduces the campaign for this year's Christian Aid Week

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

You can now buy a single issue of Life and Work online. Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, where you will also find options to subscribe to either the print or digital magazine

Prayer Diary

May 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

May 2-8

As the lockdown due to the pandemic starts to ease, pray for understanding and strength among the whole population in adapting to the new normal of social distancing; for protection and safety in keeping the coronavirus under control.

Pray for the continuing success of the vaccination program in bringing down the level of infections, hospital admission and fatalities.

Pray for countries where coronavirus infection rates have been rising; Pray especially for the people in India who has been suffering from significant mortalities; Pray for the much needed medical aid and supplies to be available.

Pray 1 Peter 3:8; 'Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.' Lift up our friends, neighbours and families in our daily prayer.

May 9-15

Pray for Christian Aid week, 10-16 May. Give thanks to God for all the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

With Christian Aid week focussing on the climate emergency, pray that we can all work together to stop this climate crisis.

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.

Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

May 16-22

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

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

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

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.

May 23-29

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting exams and assessments at school, at college or at university for what has been another difficult year for the education system; Pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path.

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 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. Amen

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 2021) please do send them to our **church secretary**, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



Treasure Seekers

Palm Sunday Video

The highlight of recent times has most certainly been our Oscar winning Palm Sunday Video. OK– so it's not in this year's list! But not to be missed none the less.

Involving many of our children, their families and our wider Crown Family, filming took place in gardens, streets, parks, fields and farms. Live donkeys and ponies, rocking horses, palm fans and even a jar of olives all played their part. Thank you to everyone who put time, effort and imagination into their contribution and to Douglas who did the technical bit pulling it all together. If you missed the premier watch it on Catch Up here.

<https://youtu.be/YNKPp22xN7k>

Easter Eggs

The young people want to say a big thank you to the Guild, who took time to knit for them Easter Chickens with a chocolate egg hidden inside. The kind thought was much appreciated.

Pat Crippin



Prize winners

Hugh congratulations to Izzie and Abigail Johnstone who won the Moderator's Lent Photography Competition (Primary School section) with their wonderful photograph of a hidden cross, which they found on an old tree stump. They donated their £50 prize to Guide Dogs for the Blind -a most worthwhile charity. Well done girls! **Pat Crippin**





Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2021

With every gift, with every voice, with every prayer, with every action, we help stop this climate crisis.

Our planet is changing, but some people are feeling the effects of this more than others. Weather extremes are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis and one place that has experienced this is Kenya.

In parts of Kenya in 2020, drought was followed by relentless rainfall and flooding, which damaged crops that had struggled to grow. Together, the climate chaos and coronavirus are a double threat to lives and livelihoods.

Climate chaos is causing a hunger crisis

In Kitui, eastern Kenya, staple crops like maize and beans wither up and die without water. People can't earn a living and they go hungry. People are forced to walk further and further to collect water. This daily burden robs them of the chance to farm and grow food for their families. Elderly women and children are especially vulnerable on these dangerous journeys and can face robbery or conflict as people battle over scarce resources. Cows, sheep and goats are becoming weaker and weaker. They can't produce milk or be sold..

Christian Aid's local partner organisation ADSE helps communities build earth and sand dams, so they can harvest water near their homes. Dams are simple and cost-effective. They catch the rain when it falls, increase the amount of stored water available to communities, defend against intense rain and flooding, and free women and girls from making long and dangerous journeys to collect water.

Meet Rose: a loving, hard-working grandmother

One woman who is experiencing the worst of the climate crisis is Rose. A grandmother, Rose is an experienced village leader. She is proud to be able to cover the costs of her grandchildren's education by working as a casual labourer.

In this desperate climate chaos, Rose battles to bring water home for her grandchildren. Every morning, after nothing to eat, she sets out on a long, dangerous journey, walking six hours to collect water.

The full jerry cans are heavy (40 litres of water weigh 40kg). 'We have to walk long distances. We are suffering,' she says.

Rose needs every last drop to survive the climate chaos

Rose remembers her childhood when the rain was reliable and there was plenty of food. She wishes her grandchildren could have the same lives. But it shouldn't have to reach this breaking point.

A song of hope and power

What happens when the search for water does not consume people's lives? What happens when people have the water they need to thrive?

Meet Florence: a woman who has transformed her life with access to a dam full of water.

Florence is a joyful woman: full of life, love and laughter. The women in her farming group look up to her.

A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. Like Rose does now, she had to walk for hours to collect water. Florence could easily have been defeated. But with help from Christian Aid's local partner, Florence and her community were able to build a dam together, just 30 minutes from her house.

Using water from the dam, Florence grows tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables, and she has enough left to sell. It's her source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the dam to keep bees: the microclimate of plants growing around the dam means the bees don't need to search long distances for nectar. She sells the rich, golden honey at the market.

She says: 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy.'

Blessings for all in need

Florence is a generous woman of faith. She knows others are struggling to cope without a reliable water source, and wishes the same blessings she has received will be granted to them: 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They are suffering. I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving.'

This Christian Aid Week, will you stand with people like Rose and Florence?

Give: Every pound raised, every prayer said and every action taken, are expressions of our Christian love and compassion, of our belief that all life is equal and precious in the sight of God. Together, we stop this climate crisis, and give brave, hard-working women like Rose the chance to thrive.

Act: You can join us as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality.

Pray: Pray with us for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

We can all be part of the solution. All we need is courage and determination.

Stand together with us to fight this climate crisis.

Please donate at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Inverness-Crown-Church>

You can follow the Inverness CA Group's progress at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/Inverness-CA-Group-2021>

or follow me, and please sponsor me, as I attempt a "300,000 steps in May" challenge:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/David-Crippin-300k-steps-in-May>

If you cannot or do not want to donate online, please contact me via the church office (01463 231140). Thank you. **David Crippin**

Daily Bible Readings for May

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Monday: *The Conversion of Lydia, Acts 16:11-15*

Tuesday: *Paul and Silas in Prison, Acts 16:16-40*

Wednesday: *Paul Sails for Rome, Acts 27:1-12*

Thursday: *The Storm at Sea, Acts 27:13-38*

Friday: *The Shipwreck, Acts 27:39-28:16*

Saturday: *Paul Preaches in Rome, Acts 28:23-31*

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Monday: *Welcome to the Galatians, Galatians 1:1-12*

Tuesday: *Paul Defends His Apostleship, Galatians 1:18-24*

Wednesday: *Paul and the Other Apostles, Galatians 2:1-10*

Thursday: *God's Promise to Abraham, Galatians 3:10-18*

Friday: *The Purpose of the Law, Galatians 3:19-22*

Saturday: *Paul Reprimands the Galatians, Galatians 4:8-20*

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Monday: *Hagar and Sarah, Galatians 4:21-5:1*

Tuesday: *The Nature of Christian Freedom, Galatians 5:2-15*

Wednesday: *Works of the Flesh, Galatians 5:16-21*

Thursday: *The Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-26*

Friday: *Bear One Another's Burdens, Galatians 6:1-10*

Saturday: *Final Words and Blessing, Galatians 6:11-18*

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Monday: *Paul Greets the Ephesians, Ephesians 1*

Tuesday: *One in Christ, Ephesians 2*

Wednesday: *Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles, Ephesians 3*

Thursday: *New Life in Christ, Ephesians 4*

Friday: *On Being Christian, Ephesians 5*

Saturday: *Put on the Armor of God, Ephesians 6*

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Monday: *Psalms 5*

Tuesday: *Psalms 10*

Wednesday: *Psalms 17*

Thursday: *Psalms 26*

Friday: *Psalms 36*

Saturday: *Psalms 73*



FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY !

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days.

The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your Honour, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned..."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!



NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mr Donald Matheson, Leys Drive 18th April 2021

We have all been greatly saddened by the death of Donald Matheson who died on Sunday 18th April. His funeral took place in Crown Church on Friday 30th April. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Beth and family. We hope to have a much fuller appreciation of Donald's life ready in time for the June newsletter.

May Welcome Team

David and Mairi Main
Members of Boys Brigade
Gary McAra

Readers

May 2nd Fiona Carter
May 9th Lena Clarke
May 16th Bruce Merchant
May 23rd Mairi Main
May 30th Alan Nelson

Items for the June newsletter by Sunday 30th May please!

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

marionandbobnewsletter@gmail.com

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