

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**JULY & AUGUST 2021: No. 772**

**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.

<b>Sunday 11th July</b>	Morning Worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 18th July</b>	Morning Worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 25th July</b>	Morning Worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 1st August</b>	Morning Worship at 11.00am followed by special prayers
<b>Sunday 8th August</b>	Morning worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 15th August</b>	Morning worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 22nd August</b>	Morning worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 29th August</b>	Morning worship at 11.00am
<b>Sunday 5th September</b>	Morning worship at 11.00am followed by special prayers

**'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,  
just as you are doing'**

**Thessalonians 1:11**

## From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

I imagine most of you will instantly recognise this jaunty little chorus:

*Oh what a beautiful morning,  
Oh what a beautiful day,  
I've got a wonderful feeling,  
Everything's going my way.*

That is the opening song of the stage musical Oklahoma! (Don't forget the exclamation point!) Through my teen years I was involved in amateur dramatics. I was never in a full production of Oklahoma! but became familiar with the music through various skits and other 'revue' productions.

I was sitting at my desk the other day, trying to think what I might write to the congregation for the summer months, looking out the study window at our wonderful garden with the sun brightening everything I could see, and I couldn't help but sing to myself: *O what a beautiful morning!*

Don't try to read too much metaphor into the stage play – it is a very simplistic and superficial romance – but the song, with its bright and cheerful optimism, observing all the good things in life as the singer rides by on his horse, a bright golden haze on the meadow, corn as high as an elephant's eye, cattle standing like statues and the sounds of the earth sounding to him like music; it is a reminder to us that sometimes we need to slow down and smell the roses, or wake up and smell the coffee, whichever takes your fancy.

As our call to worship said last week, from Psalm 118, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Whether we are moving too fast through life, or in the last 16 months perhaps it's more likely that we've felt as if we are moving too slow, life is on hold while the pandemic blows over, but in either case we can too often be distracted from the amazing depth and breadth of the beauty around us, in God's creation and in the people who we have the privilege of sharing life's journey with.

Which brings me to another song, one that, believe it or not, I am much less familiar with. Perhaps I sang it at Sunday school, but in any case I am sure many of you will know it well. Again, it is the chorus that tends to stick in our minds:

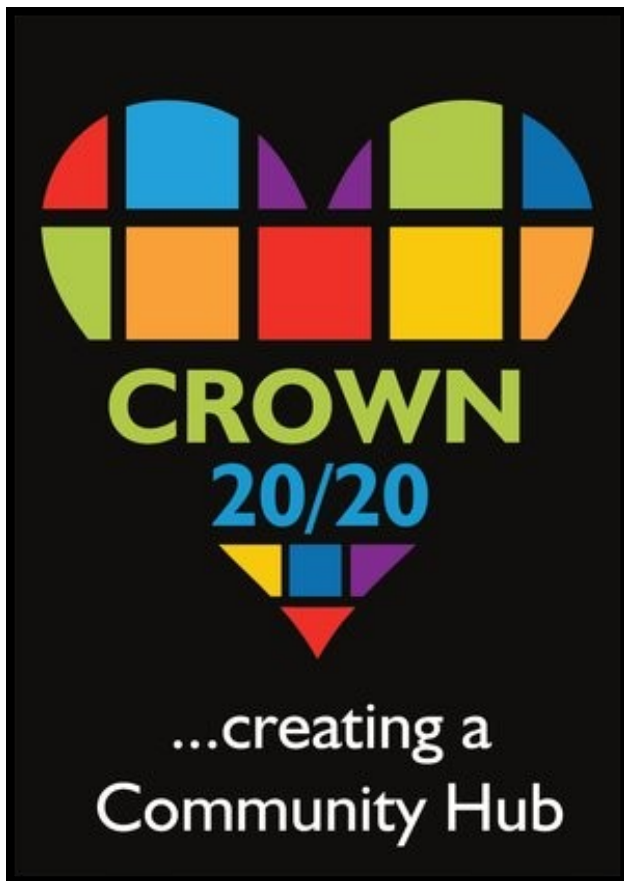
*Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done*

The verses speak of the trials and struggles of life, which can get us down and discourage us, but then try to encourage us to make a conscious effort to count our blessings and (as the song says): *it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

Wishing you every blessing,

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

We are delighted to report continuing excellent progress with the redevelopment of our church building. Recently, The Highland Council issued a statement confirming that work on converting the Lower Hall into a nursery unit for Crown Primary School will commence on 9 August and be completed before Christmas. Morrison Construction have been awarded the contract.

In doing so the Council highlighted our partnership working, which we agree promises to greatly benefit the local community.

The Council has agreed a 25-year lease for the use of the Lower Hall to accommodate 60 3-4 year olds in two new nursery classrooms. The lease commences on 6 August, and the rent will be paid annually in advance.

Other provisional dates will see the new fire escape installed in early September and a new kitchen and toilets in November.

As part of the partnership, the Council is also installing a lift to the Upper Hall and the installation has been earmarked for 22 October.

As you will be aware the Council has also completed a comprehensive asbestos removal programme at the church.

This is all very positive news as the Crown 20/20 continues to meet and discuss future phases of the redevelopment of the church.

*(continued on next page)*

We would like to extract a couple of quotes from the joint news release issued by the Council:-

Provost of Inverness and Area Councillor Helen Carmichael said: "This is a great example of partnership working and is a win:win situation for the thriving Crown community. We did not want pupils at Crown to lose out on playground space to accommodate the expansion of the nursery classrooms and are delighted that the congregation of Crown Church helped us find a solution by offering us a long lease of the Lower Hall. The partnership is a model for future projects throughout the Highlands. Inverness Councillors were delighted to support this project through the Inverness Common Good Fund."

Acting Head Teacher at Crown Primary Mrs Bev Douglas said: "We are all delighted at the solution to the challenge of finding the extra space needed to accommodate the growing number of 3 and 4-year-olds joining our nursery. We value our community partnership with the Church and this exciting project will enable us to develop our partnership work further in many ways."

Crown Church Minister Douglas Robertson said: "In many ways, the clock has been turned back as Crown Primary began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a Church-owned building. In working with our neighbours at Crown Primary School, we have the chance to strengthen our bonds with our community and signal a very clear message that our church is not afraid of change but is committed to outreach with a very clear sense of Christian purpose."

Mr Robertson also paid tribute to the congregation for gifting £33,600 towards the costs of the Upper Hall upgrade and thanked the Council's Inverness Common Good Fund for a £30,000 grant and the Scottish Government for a £10,000 grant for improved insulation through their Climate Communities Action Fund and The Millburn Ward Discretionary Fund also made a donation of £9,500.

Be assured, we will do everything in our power to maintain momentum on this exciting project.

Crown 20/20 Group

# *Prayer Diary*

## *July and August 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**

### **July 4-10**

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.

As we continue to move towards easing of the Coronavirus restrictions, pray for safety and protection of everyone against the COVID virus; Give thanks for the benefit and success of the vaccination programme.

### **July 11-17**

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.

Lord God, help us to live as an expression of sacrificial love at home, at work and in our communities. Amen.

## **July 18-24**

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 like 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.

## **July 25-31**

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

Today 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **August 1-7**

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.

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.

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.

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.

## **August 8-14**

Father, thank You for sending Jesus into the world so that we could have a relationship with You. Help us to be part of sharing the gospel with the world. Amen

Remember and pray for those who have been affected by substance use; may they receive love, compassion and support, and may God guide them through difficult times.

Oh God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this day 12<sup>th</sup> August, International Youth Day, Pray for the children and young adults you know. Pray that they would know they are loved by God, and that they would have an awareness of their value in Christ. Pray for opportunities to support and love the young people in your life.

### **August 15-21**

On this day 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Lift up the emergency services today and pray for the people in our daily lives who we often take for granted. Thank God for the everyday heroes who risk so much for us so that we can live safe lives, and pray for opportunities to thank them ourselves.

Pray those who are experiencing a form of terminal and long term illnesses or have a family member or friend affected; may they be comforted, experiencing strength and courage in their treatment.

Pray for all elderly people in our community, for those living in their own homes or nursing homes and care homes. Pray for strength, resilience and peace among them, their families and staff who support and help look after them.

### **August 22-28**

Bless us Lord with hope in you and the power to share this hope with those around us. We love you; we praise you, and we put our faith and hope in you, knowing that you and you alone have everything in the palm of your mighty hands.

Pray for love, peace and hope in every home and family. Pray that God's presence be felt in the lives of our families, friends and neighbours; that His guidance be the driving force in our decisions and choices we make.

Father God, we love You and we care for the world You have made. Direct us as we seek to be good stewards of creation. Amen.

Pray for the children and young adults you know. Pray that they would know that they are loved by God, and that they would have an awareness of their value in Christ. Pray for opportunities to support and love the young people in your life.



## **August 29 – September 4**

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. Amen.

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.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5). Today, pause to thank God that He can bring light into every situation. Praise Him for being the light of the world and ask Him to help you reflect that light into the communities around you

Pray for teachers and pupils heading back to school in the UK after the summer break. Ask God to guide and inspire teachers as they prepare, and to instil in children the desire and confidence to learn and grow. Thank God for the opportunity of education and learning.

If you have particular prayer requests for September please do send them to our ***church secretary***, Gloria who will pass them on,  
or e-mail Jude Madeleine; [judedmond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judedmond@yahoo.co.uk)



## **Daily Bible Readings for July and August 2021**

### **Sunday, July 4, 2021, Psalm 150**

Monday, Psalm 2

Tuesday, Psalm 22

Wednesday, Psalm 25

Thursday, Psalm 50

Friday, Psalm 106

Saturday, Psalm 119

### **Sunday, July 11, 2021, Ephesians 1:1-14, Spiritual Blessings**

Monday, Ephesians 1:15-19, Paul's Prayer

Tuesday, Ephesians 1:20-23, Paul's Prayer

Wednesday, Ephesians 2:1-3, Dying to Living

Thursday, Ephesians 2:4-10, Dying to Living

Friday, Philippians 1:3-11, Paul's Prayer

Saturday, Philippians 2:1-11 Imitating Christ's Humility

### **Sunday, July 18, 2021, Ephesians 2:11-22, One in Christ**

Monday, Ephesians 3:1-6, Paul's Ministry

Tuesday, Ephesians 3:7-12, Paul's Ministry

Wednesday, Ephesians 3:13, Paul's Prayer

Thursday, Ephesians 3:14-15, Paul's Prayer

Friday, Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul's Prayer

Saturday, Ephesians 3:20-22, Paul's Prayer

### **Sunday, July 25, 2021, Ephesians 4:1-16, Unity in Christ**

Monday, Ephesians 4:17-24, Old to New Life

Tuesday, Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2, Rules for the New Life

Wednesday, Ephesians 5:3-5:5, Renounce Old Ways

Thursday, Ephesians 5:6-14, Renounce Old Ways

Friday, Ephesians 5:15-20, Renounce Old Ways

Saturday, Ephesians 5:21-24, The Christian Household

Saturday, Ephesians 5:21-24

**Sunday, August 1st, 2021, Ephesians 6:10-20, Put on the Armour of God**

Monday, Ephesians 5:25-29, The Christian Household

Tuesday, Ephesians 5:30-33, The Christian Household

Wednesday, Ephesians 6:1-4, Children and Parents

Thursday, Ephesians 6:5-9, Slaves and Masters

Friday, Ephesians 6:21-22, Closing

Saturday, Ephesians 6:23-24, Blessing

**Sunday, August 8th , 2021, Psalm 46, Acts 2:37- 42, Baptism**

Monday, Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Tuesday, Mark 16:14-18, Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Wednesday, John 1:29-34, The Lamb of God

Thursday, Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Friday, Acts 9:1-19, The Conversion of Saul

Saturday, Acts 16:16-40, Paul and Silas in Prison

**Sunday, August 15, 2021, Psalm 84, Romans 6:1-11, Baptism**

Monday, Romans 8:12-17, Heirs with Christ

Tuesday, Galatians 4:1-7, Heirs with Christ

Wednesday, Titus 3:1-8, Heirs with Christ

Thursday, Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, Created in God's Image

Friday, Psalm 8

Saturday, Psalm 139

**Sunday, August 22, 2021, Psalm 65, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, The Lord's Supper**

Monday, Matthew 26:17-25, Passover Feast

Tuesday, Matthew 26:26-30, Institution of Lord's Supper

Wednesday, John 6:22-40, Bread from Heaven

Thursday, John 6:41-51, Bread from Heaven

Friday, John 6:52-59, Bread from Heaven

Saturday, Psalm 146, Psalm 146

**Sunday, August 29, 2021, 1 Samuel 21:1-9, Mark 14:12-25, The Lord's Supper**

Monday, Psalm 43, Grace

Tuesday, Romans 3:23-24, Justified by Grace

Wednesday, Romans 8:8, Definition of Grace

Thursday, Ephesians 2:4-5, 8, By Grace We Are Saved

Friday, Lamentations 3:24-25, Hope in the Lord

Saturday, Psalm 33, Hope in God

**Sunday, September 5, 2021, Matthew 18:15-20, Mutual Consolation of the Saints**

Monday, Acts of the Apostles 1.12-19, The Disciples Gather

Tuesday, Acts of the Apostles 2.39-47, The Disciples Work Together

Wednesday, Romans 8:24-30, The Disciples Work Together

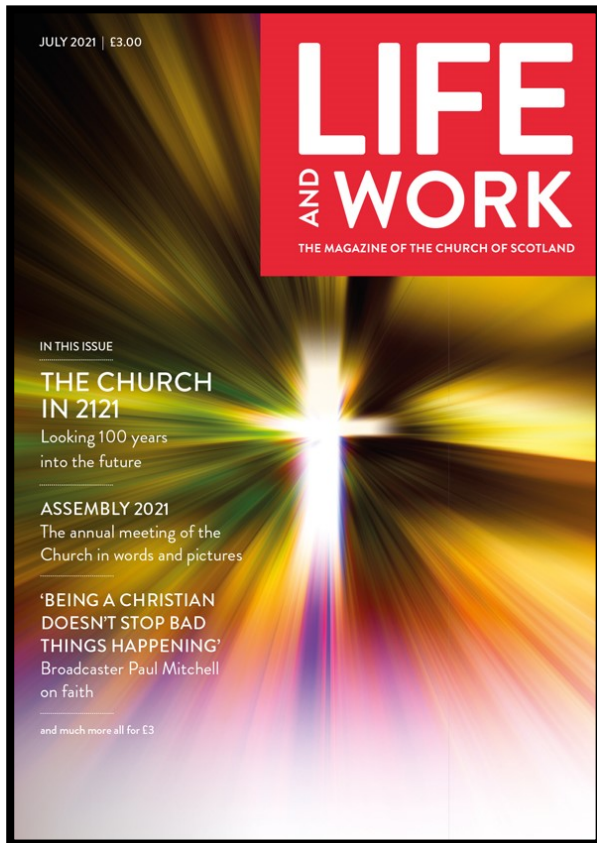
Thursday, Romans 15:1-11, Welcoming One Another

Friday, 1 Corinthians 12:1-26, Spiritual Gifts

Saturday, 2 Corinthians 1:1-9, Mutual Consolation



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## LIFE AND WORK

JULY 2021

### The Church in 2121

Looking ahead 100 years

### General Assembly

Six pages of reports and pictures

### 'Being a Christian Doesn't Prevent Bad Things'

Interview with Paul Mitchell, sports broadcaster and Church elder

### Planting for the Future

The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains how sowing seeds will allow shoots to be shaped for the future

### eXp and Me

Eleanor Preece, 17, describes her experiences with the Christian youth project in Dunoon and Cowal

### A Wilderness Menu

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning shows how God's hospitality continues in times of both wilderness and plenty

### A Black Isle Church

John R Hume considers a church with connections to early Christianity

### Online

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

### Assembly Supplement

Download our four-page guide to this year's General Assembly FREE from [www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement](http://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement)

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# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Deaths

Mrs Lottie Cowan, Castlehill Care Home, late of Eastfield Avenue, 27 June 2021.

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## July Welcome Team

Jane and Doug Smith  
4th & 11th Sheena Ferguson  
18th & 25th Eileen Ardern

## Readers

<b>July 4th</b>	Douglas Young
<b>July 11th</b>	Ella Low
<b>July 18th</b>	Jane Smith
<b>July 25th</b>	Bob Shanks

<b>August 1st</b>	Juel Madeleine
<b>August 8th</b>	Irene Whyte
<b>August 15th</b>	Jean Smith
<b>August 22nd</b>	Brian Macgill
<b>August 29th</b>	Alistair Campbell

**September 5th** Janet MacPherson

**Items for the September newsletter by Sunday 29th August please!**

**\*\*\*Please note our new email address\*\*\***

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

**newsletter@[crowns-church.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@crowns-church.co.uk)**

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