

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

SEPTEMBER 2021: No. 773

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 1 metre distancing and so in practice we still are limited in the numbers we can accommodate. Do 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 5th September The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 12th September Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 19th September Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 26h September Morning Worship at 11.00am

Sunday 3rd October Morning Worship at 11.00am followed by special prayers

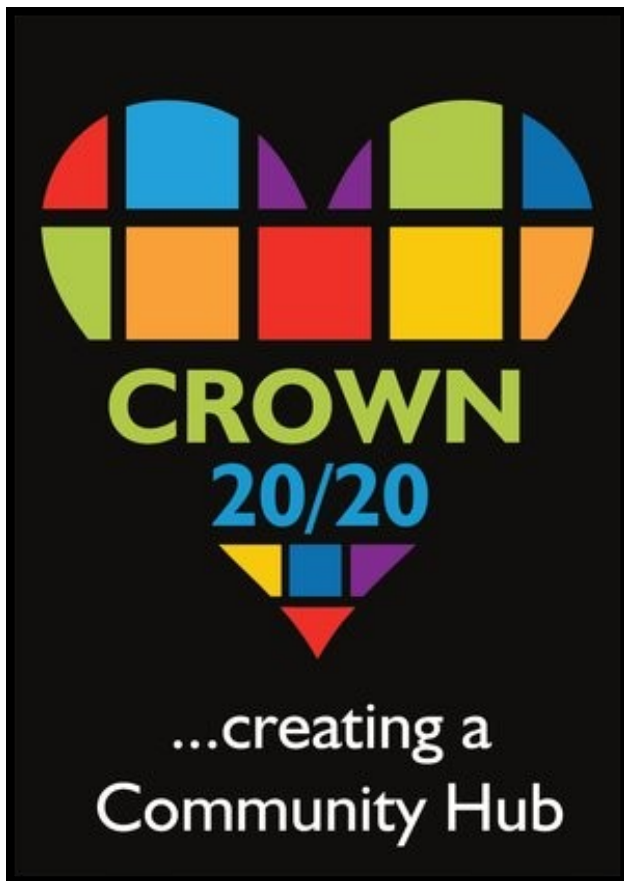
' Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.'

1st Corinthians 2:9



Douglas and Alison are enjoying a much deserved holiday this month and we look forward to having them back with us next week.





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

The work in our halls is gathering momentum. Everything across the Midmills corridor from the church has been subject to what in the trade is called 'downtaking' in preparation for the structural changes that will be made. The current kitchen is being redesigned. It will be used for serving Crown School Nursery lunches during the week but will then be available to us from 3pm every afternoon, all weekend, and during the school holidays.

The small hall will have the lift accessed immediately inside the door leading from the Midmills corridor, and the rest of the room will be freshened up. This will be where the children from the nursery eat lunch. After that, the small hall can be used by us or by outside lets during the same hours as the kitchen.

The current toilets and the old kitchen will have internal walls removed, and the area will be turned into new men's and ladies' toilets, which will be accessed as currently, and some small toilets for nursery children which will only be accessed from their classrooms. The adult toilets will be always available to anyone on the premises. The lower hall is now the subject of a long lease to the Highland Council, and a new entrance, with cloakroom and toilets, will be constructed where the large storage cupboards have been. The entrance will be accessed by a new path directly linking Crown Primary into the Nursery where approximately 55 children will take their first steps into the world of education. This area will be for the exclusive use of the nursery children and staff, with access for us only in an emergency.

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Crown Nursery children looking towards what will be their new nursery

This joyous photograph shows the nursery pupils from Crown Primary School looking over to their eagerly awaited new classrooms within the Lower Hall at our church. They are being kept fully informed of progress on their new nursery by Acting Head Teacher at Crown, Beverley Douglas, who is equally excited about our partnership.

Ms Douglas said: "The children are hugely excited about moving to their new home within the church building and are keeping a very close eye on developments. I too am excited by the project, which is a model of community partnership."

Here's what some of the pupils said.

Bria said, "We can do baking and help prepare the snack."

Sophie said, " I love dens and tents and will be playing in the garden."

Archie said," We will have a nice path to cycle and scooter on."

And Phoebe just wants to dance!

Most of all though the children are looking forward to all their favourite activities, story time, painting and climbing in a lovely big space where they can all be together.

Outside the fire door in the kitchen where the wall has been demolished, a play garden will be created for the nursery incorporating some land from Crown Primary.

We will not use any of these areas until the new year when the work is scheduled to be complete, and meantime as this is a building site, there is no access.

For the next few months access to the upper hall will be by the wooden stair, though an exit down the main stair will always be maintained for emergency use. The old fire escape is being replaced by a new enclosed fire escape, and the lift will whisk those who find stairs difficult straight to the upper hall.

While these major improvements are taking place, we will be bringing the sanctuary into use during the week for those activities which wish to resume, and which can manage initially with the pews in place. Money is now in place to fund the removal of the pews and the purchase of comfortable seats to replace them and also to lift the organ out of its present position and move it to under the screen, and to polish the floor. This work has been approved by the Congregational Board, but before it can be carried out, we will need formal approval from the congregation, and then also from the Presbytery and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

Before we will ask you to give this approval you will all want to know the full plans for the redevelopment of the church which have been the subject of much discussion by Crown 20/20 throughout this year, and which have been informed by the many comments expressed about the draft plans which were brought to you to give an indication of what would be done to bring the church into daily use and to make a welcoming main entrance to our buildings.

Although the change of use was implicit in the approval given by the congregation to the granting of the long lease to the Highland Council for the creation of the nurseries, you now need to approve the plans which we will present. We are excited by the outcome of all these discussions with our architect, Billy Reynolds, and hope you will be equally enthused by them.

In the first instance you will be able to look at some visualizations, and the plans themselves on our website, <https://www.crown-church.co.uk> and you are also invited to an introductory evening in the church on Thursday 23rd September at 7.30 pm.

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Thereafter the Kirk Session will arrange a Congregational Meeting after Morning Worship on a Sunday to approve these plans and to allow the first phase of the plans, the removal of the pews as outlined above, to go ahead.

The main emphasis in these discussions has been on ensuring that when we meet for worship all will have been done to maintain those aspects of our heritage which enhance our worship while allowing flexibility both in layout for worship, and layout for weekday activities. At the same time, we have spent considerable time in refining the concept of a main entrance and what is needed for access for able and disabled, during the day and on a dark winter evening that would be welcoming and encouraging for newcomers and regulars to our buildings.



Visualization of the new main entrance to our buildings.

Crown 20/20 Group

Prayer Diary

September 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.

September 5-11

On the 5th September, Climate Sunday, dedicate a prayer for resources and effort for protection of our world from climate change. God of all creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen

Pray for all those in different parts of the world whose lives and livelihood have been affected by natural disasters, such as forest fires, floods and storms. Pray for support to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Pray for peace in so many parts of the world where there's conflict, particularly Afghanistan. Lord, we lift up the people of Afghanistan to you right now. We pray that you would take hold of them and help them walk through this fearful time. Protect them under your wing and help them feel the comfort and peace that only comes from your powerful presence.

Pray for people who have been displaced due to conflicts; Give thanks for those who have been able to travel to safety and pray for support for them to adjust to a new life.

September 12-18

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.

Pray for those who are struggling with loneliness and ill health. May the Lord be with them and bless them.

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'

September 19-25

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.

Pray for unity among all people and 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.

Lord, please heal and bless our world. Bring comfort and hope as your light pierce the darkness. Amidst the doom-and-gloom reality we pray that Your love will illuminate and forge a path for all. Amen

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 26 - October 2

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 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.

If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (October 2021) please do send them to our ***church secretary***, Gloria who will pass them on.



Daily Bible Readings for September

Wednesday 1st: 1 Samuel: 5

Thursday 2nd: 1 Samuel: 6: 1; 7: 1 - 2a

Friday 3rd: 1 Samuel: 7: 2b – 17

Saturday 4th: 1 Samuel 8

Sunday 5th: Psalm 11

Monday 6th: 1 Samuel 9: 1; 10: 1 - 8

Tuesday 7th: 1 Samuel 10: 9 – 27

Wednesday 8th: 1 Samuel 11

Thursday 9th: 1 Samuel 12: 1 - 15

Friday 10th: 1 Samuel 12: 16 - 25

Saturday 11th: 1 Samuel 13: 1 - 2

Sunday 12th: Psalm 12

Monday 13th: 1 Samuel 13: 23; 14: 1 – 23

Tuesday 14th: 1 Samuel 14: 24 – 52

Wednesday 15th: 1 Samuel 15: 1 – 16

Thursday 16th: 1 Samuel 15: 17 - 35

Friday 17th: Matthew 13: 1 – 17

Saturday 18th: Matthew 13: 18 - 23

Sunday 19th: Psalm 13

Monday 20th: Matthew 13: 24 – 35

Tuesday 21st: Matthew 13: 36 – 43

Wednesday 22nd: Matthew 13: 44 – 52

Thursday 23rd: Matthew 13: 53 - 58

Friday 24th: Matthew 14: 1 – 12

Saturday 25th: Matthew 14: 13 – 21

Sunday 26th: Psalm 14

Monday 27th: Matthew 14: 22 – 36

Tuesday 28th: Matthew 15: 1 – 20

Wednesday 29th: Matthew 15: 21 – 28

Thursday 30th: Matthew 15: 29 – 39





Reopening the doors!

12-13 What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning... Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

14-16 ... Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.

Philippians 2, the Message

"What can we do for the community when we can open back up?" This was the key question we were asking ourselves in the weeks leading up to the summer. With schools returning in some capacity and hospitality reopening in limited measure, there were two critical considerations for us as an organisation. These two questions still do govern our output to this day. In fact, they always have governed our output. And always will.

What *can* we do?
What *should* we do?

Answering these is, of course, layered with complexity. What we *can* do is determined by the spaces we can occupy; the risk mitigation we can do; the government policy and restriction level we're under; the CoS guidelines we have to meet; the permissions we must seek and gain from the Kirk Session; the partner organisations we can collaborate with. What we *should* do is encumbered by satisfying ourselves that we're providing something that is needed, useful, doesn't add needless risk and mixing of people. Just because we could make something work (even within the rules) doesn't automatically mean it is the right thing to do. We thought, prayed and worked very hard.

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The passage from Philippians came to mind – we carry the gospel into the night of pandemic darkness by continuing to love and serve in the way we've always done. When those doors could reopen, we were determined that they would reopen and embrace the community in whatever ways we could uniquely serve them. So we have plunged the vast majority of our efforts into reopening Little Crowns toddler groups and YC youth clubs.

We're delighted to report that these have been so gratefully received.

It seems to me that a great number of people have felt that there have been particular groups who have been overly restricted or affected by the pandemic and its restrictions – I've heard many stories and have no cause to disagree. It has been tough. From my perspective, though, Young Crown was an organisation best placed to open toddler groups which have been completely missing from society since March 2020. For those with very young children at home, they can be an absolute lifeline – a way to get out of the 4 enclosing walls and meet others in the same situation. A chance for early socialisation and interaction for the wee ones. Or just a lovely cup of coffee somebody else has made! People have been so very grateful to have the groups back up and running and just so comforted and welcomed by the church. During the building work, we've also been displaced into the Sanctuary and it has been lovely to see the wee ones exploring that beautiful space (if a little lacking in room – see picture below).



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Between the scaled back operation of just toddler groups and a single weekly youth club output, Young Crown activities have already brought **more than 100 people** (not including leaders and helpers) back into the building – or in for the first time; with the majority of those becoming repeat attendees.

As a result of those successes, we're driven to keep going. To redouble and do more. When circumstances and restrictions allow we're aiming to not just return to some more of our regular activities (particularly all of that lovely work in schools), but also to diversify and try some new ways of loving and serving. These include training up a team of people to become early intervention mentors for children who are struggling in school and also exploring the possibilities of Messy Church and other forms of outreach to families.

If the pandemic killed the work of Young Crown, it's just as well we serve the God of resurrection – and the life to come is the one we had already been moving in before! So here we are, six years into the journey of Young Crown, and only just [re]beginning!

Struan

Young Crown Update

It seems like it has been a while since we gave the congregation an update on what's happening with Young Crown....

While 2020 was a difficult year for us all, we did have a little ray of light with Struan agreeing to extend his contract by a year, meaning he'll be with us until the end of November 2021. We are now looking into trying to get this extended for another 12 months...

Financially, Young Crown is in a stable position. Last year's accounts showed a slight deficit over the year of £770.69; total income was £30,879.15 and expenditure was £31,649.84.

Part of our income was from the Church of Scotland Go For It grant – this was received over a 3-year period; this element of funding has now come to an end.

Donations by Standing Order and one-off payments have remained constant over the past few years and account for almost half our income. However, with our grant funding finished we now need to raise another £15,000.00 per year to replace it.

The Trustees are looking at all options, but if there is any member of the congregation that would like to donate to Young Crown, either by Standing Order or a one-off payment, then please get in touch with the Church Office for further details.

We ask that you remember Young Crown in your prayers, particularly now as restrictions start to ease, and Struan can start making plans for new activities and interaction with the young people in our community.

Gary McAra

Treasurer

Harvest Appeal



Dear Churches supporting Highland Foodbank,

I hope you are feeling encouraged as restrictions continue to lift on meeting together as church, although we are far from where we were at Harvest time two years ago.

This past year has been an interesting one for Foodbanks. The government gave a lifeline of £20 per week to people claiming Universal Credit, and for many this was enough to keep their heads above water, and able to afford food. This extra payment is due to end by October this year, so we anticipate an increase in the number of people being referred to Foodbanks after this. The majority of people referred to Foodbank in the past year was due to low income, and often this was people in work.

'I lost my job just before the pandemic and had to apply for Universal Credit. At the start of the pandemic I was fortunate to get an extra £20 each week, but because I had got behind with my rent between losing my job and getting Universal Credit, more than £20 each week was deducted from my benefit to cover my rent arrears, leaving me short of money for food some months.....Cathy.

Harvest is a time when we remember God's goodness to us, and also reflect on our responsibility to express his love to those in our community and in our world who are in need. So it's not surprising that Harvest Thanksgiving has, over the years, become a significant time when members of local churches give to Foodbank, helping to replenish our stocks.

I've attached a list of items we're particularly short of just now, and would appreciate donations of, if your church is in a position to support us again this Harvest.

At the moment we're well stocked for pasta, soup and beans of any description, so we don't require donations of these items. We are always low on supermarket carrier bags, and would appreciate it if people in your church could keep any they won't be using for us.

As always if you need Harvest donations uplifted just get in touch and we can arrange a time to do this convenient to you.

Very many thanks,

Lorna Dempster

Highland Food Bank Co-ordinator

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Since the onset of COVID Highland Foodbank has continued to provide emergency food packages with enough food to make 3 meals for 3 days to people in crisis. Throughout 2020 we helped 8,267 people, who would have otherwise gone hungry.

People in crisis are referred to their local food bank by a variety of different agencies.

Food Bank is always a short term measure of help while more lasting solutions to the underlying issues are addressed.

Items they would be grateful for :

- * Juice (long life)
- * Crackers/oatcakes
- * Potatoes (tinned or smash)
- * Milk UHT (blue or green)
- * Rice (1kg bags or microwave packs)
- * Deodorant (male and female)
- * Washing detergent (small, for carrying)
- * Washing up liquid (small for carrying)

E: foodbank.admin@blythswood.org

T: 01463 717630

Charity No: SC 048001 **Company No:** 583493



Donations can be left at Church, at Liz Gray's door or if you contact Liz she can uplift from your home.

Contact Liz Gray:

01463239936

07845067501

**18 Beaufort Road,
IV2 3NP**

Blythswood Auction

SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER AT 7 PM
RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR ROMANIAN AFTER-SCHOOL PROJECT

Email: fundraising@blythswood.org





Over 65? Need help with your shopping?

Scottish Charity **Food Train**, started in Dumfries and Galloway, has been operating for over 25 years.

A service for older people in Scotland needing some help with regular grocery shopping.

Food Train is a registered charity, voluntary organisation and social enterprise. Since 1995 **Food Train** has been making daily life easier for older people, providing vital services to those who are no longer able to manage independently, through age, ill health, frailty or disability.

Food Train makes hundreds of grocery deliveries every week, ensuring those most in need have access to fresh groceries. Teams of dedicated local volunteers across Scotland also go that extra mile by helping with household jobs, delivering books through their library service and providing much needed friendly social contact and meals through Meal Makers and befriending services.

I've helped locally in Inverness for someone who had been in hospital and needing shopping done for the first few weeks. During lockdown over the last nearly two years a few folk were finding the service of help.

Please make contact:

Telephone: 0800 304 7924

www.foodtrainconnects.org.uk

Email: connects@foodtrainconnects.org.uk

Any queries, please contact me too
Isabelle – isabelle@drivebs.co.uk



A thank you from The Seafarers Centre, Invergordon

"Thank you to all who donated bibles and knitted bonnets, etc.

It is greatly appreciated especially as cruise ships are now returning to Invergordon. We never know where a lot of the bibles reach but the lord knows.

Every blessing"

Mrs E A Anderson (Chaplain Drew Anderson's wife)

FRUIT TREES!



Would you like to be part of
Crown & City
Community Orchard?

We are looking for volunteers who would like to grow one or two apple or plum trees in their garden. Full information on planting and caring for your tree will be provided!

**For more information please visit
www.crownconnects.org/projects**

(or pop a note of your contact details in to SHIMCA,
1 Ardconnel Terr and we will get in touch with you)

Thanks to funding from:



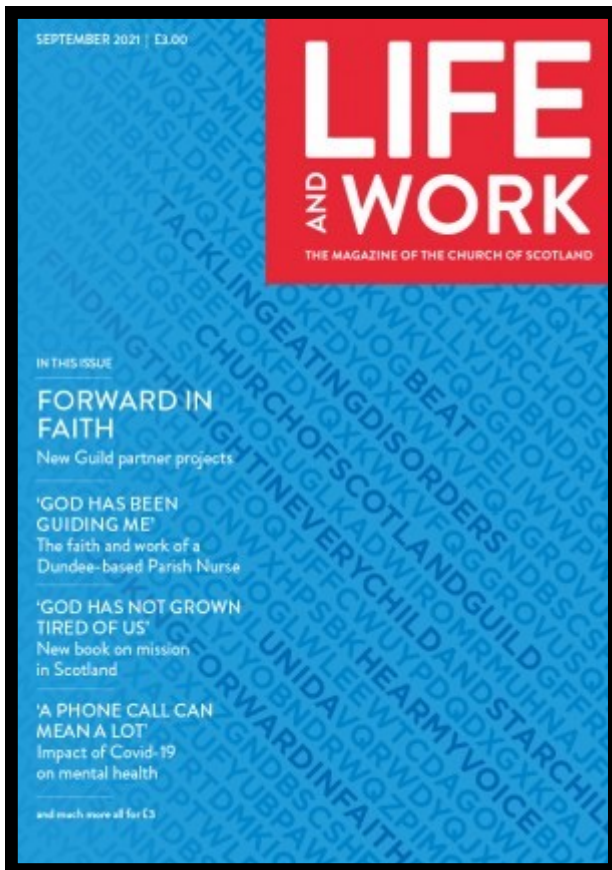
**Crown Connects is a registered charity
SC050700 developing sustainable
community projects in Hill and Crown.**

Marion McDonald of Crown Connects has been in touch to draw our attention to their community orchard campaign. They have some funding to purchase fruit trees and are looking for folk who want to grow one in their garden.

If people have garden space but would need help to plant and prune etc.. they will try to do that too. If we as a Church are interested in a tree, they could provide one.

LIFE AND WORK

SEPTEMBER 2021



Forward In Faith

In the first of a two-part series, learn more about the Church of Scotland Guild's new partner projects

'God Has Been Guiding Me'

The faith and work of Dundee-based parish nurse Barbara Farlane

'God Has Not Grown Tired Of Us'

The Rev Dr Liam Fraser outlines the background and basis for his new book, *Mission in Contemporary Scotland*

'A Phone Call Can Mean A Lot'

Dr Sally Bonnar, a retired consultant psychiatrist, talks about the potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health

Youth

In a powerful piece, Jennifer Bisset reflects on how a cancer diagnosis has impacted her faith

Moderator

Lord Wallace reflects on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, reflecting on the place of God in tragedy

Online

Visit 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 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

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY



Congratulations to David and Marjory MacKenzie who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 12th of August

Deaths

Mrs Renee Baillie, Isabel Fraser Care Home, 23rd July 2021

September Welcome Team

5th, 19th, 26th	Stewart and Chrisanne Robertson
12th	Anne Bowen
5th, 12th 19th, 26th	Irene Whyte

We are in need of volunteers to help with the welcome team over the months of October, November, December and January.

As restrictions are easing and we look forward to enjoying our newly refurbished upper hall, perhaps now more so than ever it is important we can offer a friendly presence at our doorways. If you feel you could help, even if it is just one Sunday, please do contact Gloria at the Church Office.

Readers

September 5th	Janet MacPherson
September 12th	Douglas Smith
September 19th	Edi McRoberts
September 26th	Donald MacKenzie
October 3rd	Marion Forrest

**Items for the October newsletter by Sunday 26th September
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)

Minister Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054 drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Crown Church Office: office@crowns-church.co.uk

Session Clerk Bob Forrest: bobforrest_1999@yahoo.co.uk

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The Church website is to be found at www.crowns-church.co.uk