

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**OCTOBER 2021: No. 774**

**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. However it is no longer necessary to 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 3rd October</b>  | Morning Worship at 11.00am followed by a congregational meeting |
| <b>Sunday 10th October</b> | Morning Worship at 11.00am                                      |
| <b>Sunday 17th October</b> | Morning Worship at 11.00am                                      |
| <b>Sunday 24th October</b> | Morning Worship at 11.00am                                      |
| <b>Sunday 31st October</b> | Morning Worship at 11.00am                                      |
| <b>Sunday 7th November</b> | Morning Worship at 11.00am followed by special prayers          |



**'The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God, blesses us'**

**Psalm 67: 6**

## From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

### “About Us”

Recently Struan was working hard to update our website, especially to make sure that information about the church being open was accurate, to take account of the relaxation of covid regulations.

As part of this, he asked me if I could rewrite the “about us” page.



Most websites have an “about us” page. Often it contains a list of office bearers with brief biographical details, sometimes it includes a short history of the organisation, and sometimes it will state the foundational purpose for which the organisation exists. These things might be elaborated in greater detail elsewhere on the website, but “about us” is usually the place to look for a quick summary of the basics.

Our “about us” page, at that time, was still saying, “physical gatherings for worship and all other functions have had to be cancelled.” Not exactly welcoming!

So what should we replace it with? What would give a casual visitor to our website a decent intro into who we are and what we stand for? Perhaps you could help me to answer these questions – emails please to [drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk); or proper mail to The Manse.

For the moment, here’s my best effort, but if I get some feedback I’d be happy to update it again:

***Crown Church is a broad and diverse group of people who gather together regularly to worship God and to explore what it means to be followers of Jesus in our 21st century world.***

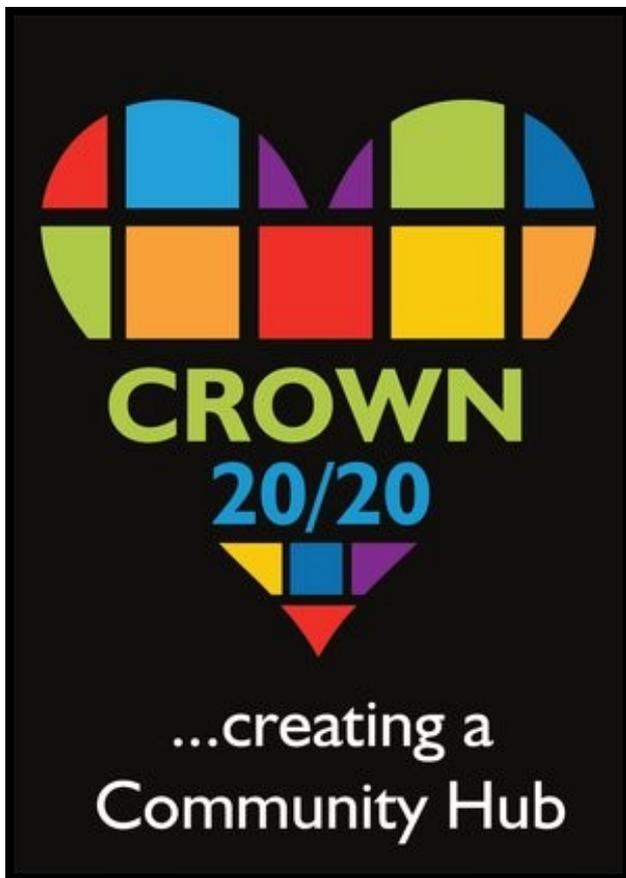
***Currently our weekly worship service is at 11am on Sunday morning, but we hope soon to restart our 9:30am informal service as well. Most covid restrictions on church attendance have been lifted, so we would be delighted to welcome you, if you come along any Sunday.***

***We host a Youth Group and a Toddler Group, run by Young Crown as an outreach service to the community around us.***

***And as we emerge out of this pandemic, we will soon see the opening up again of lots of different church groups that each in their own way provide opportunities for friendship, encouragement and mutual support.***

I look forward to hearing your improvements! Wishing you rich blessings from God,

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

The minister and the Kirk Session of Crown Church have decided to hold a Congregational meeting immediately after the service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The purpose of the meeting will be to decide on the removal of the pews from the sanctuary and replace them with comfortable chairs. This will also involve re-siting the organ back to its original position together with levelling, re-sanding and polishing the floor.

The history of this matter goes back to an Elders' Conference which was held in December 2018. At that time, Crown Church was in vacancy and our minds were focused on how to reverse the steady and continuing decline in church membership and to re-engage with our local community. Our Parish Profile, which had been prepared as part of the process to appoint a new minister, made specific reference to striving *“to strengthen our links with the local parish and community.”*

There was widespread recognition that we simply could not continue as before. We needed to embrace change, if necessary radical change, to achieve our core objectives.

This led directly to the formation by Crown Church of the project group known as “20/20” and its members were requested to make an immediate start with plans to realise our objectives.

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The 20/20 group entered negotiations with Highland Council which resulted in our giving a long-term lease of our Lower Hall to the Council to enable the Council to provide accommodation for up to 50 preschool children. Here is another photograph to add to that which appeared in last month's Newsletter of the nursery children looking towards the site of their new nursery.



This collaboration with Highland Council has not only solved the problem of accommodation for nursery children which the Council was, at that time, facing, it has brought many benefits to our church, including a £25,000 per annum rental which is index linked.

It was recognised at the outset that, given we would no longer have the use of our Lower Hall, we would need to make much better use of all the other accommodation left to us, particularly the Upper Hall and the Sanctuary itself.

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This website has documented the transformation of Upper Hall which now provides a state-of-the-art facility for use by both church and community groups. Crucially, our negotiations with the Highland Council also led to the installation of a lift to the Upper Hall which is under construction now and is being provided by the Highland Council at no cost to ourselves. Accordingly, we will have, not just this facility, but also the vastly improved kitchen and toilet facilities in the Upper Hall which are already in place and in use.

Which brings us to the Sanctuary itself. It was recognised at the outset that an integral part of the plan would be to make much better use of the space available in the Sanctuary. Put bluntly, without doing so, we would not be able to realise our vision of strengthening links with the local parish and community unless and until we did so.

This is where the proposal to remove the pews and replace them with comfortable chairs (see the pictures of some of the options available) came from. This proposal would not only bring greater comfort, it would also allow much greater and more flexible use of the space within the sanctuary.



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The need for this has recently been highlighted by the amazing success of Struan McRoberts (Young Crown) initiative in relaunching a toddler group using the sanctuary itself as no other accommodation is available within the church during the on-going construction work in the Lower Hall.

The numbers of children, parents, and grandparents whom Struan has been bringing into the church during these sessions (which take place on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and are open to all) is nothing short of amazing and this despite the severe restrictions which are imposed upon him by dint of the fact that most of the space in the Sanctuary is not available due to the presence of the pews. It is also worth pointing out that, through his initiative, Struan has been bringing, not just the children, but the adults who come with them, into our Sanctuary which many are seeing for the very first time.



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The church dearly wishes to replicate this initiative by bringing lots of other church and community groups into our buildings using all the available accommodation, including the Sanctuary, to its full potential.

Of course, during this process, our prayers were answered with the induction of our new minister, the Reverend Douglas Robertson in January 2020. Douglas makes no bones about the fact that he was attracted (all the way from Australia) to a church which had such a clearly stated vision to strengthen its links with the local parish and community and was sufficiently energised to roll up its sleeves and start doing something substantial to realise that vision. Since his induction, Douglas has been a staunch supporter of the 20/20 project.

The meeting to be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October will only decide on whether or not to agree to the removal of the pews and replace them with comfortable chairs, as described above. Further permissions, in the event of a successful vote, will still require to be obtained from the Presbytery and the Church of Scotland General Trustees. Nevertheless, it is also worth pointing out that the 20/20 group have already secured the funding needed to remove the pews and to buy high quality replacement chairs.

However, as avid users of our website are already aware, the replacement of the pews with comfortable chairs is only a part (albeit an important part) of the plan which involves the construction of a new, modern, and attractive all ability entrance to our church beside the church garden. We live in exciting times!

## **Crown 20/20 Group**

# *Prayer Diary*

## *October 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.**

### **October 3-9**

Pray for those who are grieving; those whose lives have changed through loss, that they will know the peace of God that passes all understanding. May they know that they are helped in the palm of God's hand.

Pray that God will help staff of our local care homes to touch the lives of others for good, whether through the words they speak or by their actions

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.

Loving God, Blessed be the work of Your hands. Your Spirit inspires trees and birds and waves into song and dance. It is that same Holy wind that breathed on Your disciples and on all creation. Let Your Spirit blow us to creative love and stewardship that shows reverence for Your creation. Blessed be the works of Your hands, O Holy One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen

### **October 10-16**

On this day, 10<sup>th</sup> October World Mental Health Day, remember all those who are struggling with mental issues, pray for them and their families; pray for the church to prioritise people with mental health issues and to be recognised in the community as a loving and supportive environment.

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that they continue to receive the help and support during this pandemic.

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 peace for every person experiencing the challenges and concerns arising from a diagnosis of dementia. Pray that those with poor mental health will find encouragement and solace in places and people as they travel through their journey to recovery.

## **October 17-23**

The health of loved ones has been a significant concern throughout this year. Thank God for His faithful presence in worrying as well as joyful times.

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."

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.

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

## **October 24-30**

Pray for the children and young adults you know. Pray that they will 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.

Remember those in prison and pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence. Pray that they can maintain a positive relationship with their families, wherever possible, and remembering those who have no visitors.

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.

Pray for each and every member of the congregation, that God's spirit continues to flow throughout their lives whatever their circumstances; Pray that each of us will place God at the centre of our lives and seek Him and His purpose in our lives.

## **October 31 – November 6**

Loving 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.

Give thanks for the Lord's promise that says when we are weak He makes us strong and that when we are weary and heavy burdened we can go to Him and He will make us strong and give us peace.

Pray for the Government and leaders; may they have wisdom and compassion when making reforms and decisions that affect the lives of so many people. Pray for the nation; for comfort and peace of mind through uncertain times.

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

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 October

### **Sunday, October 3, 2021,**

Monday, Exodus 6:28-7:7, Moses and Aaron Obey God's Commands

Tuesday, Exodus 12:1-13, The First Passover

Wednesday, Exodus 12:29-42, Death of the Firstborn

Thursday, Exodus 13:17-22, The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Friday, Exodus 14:1-25, Crossing the Red Sea

Saturday, Exodus 14:26-31, Pursuers Drowned

### **Sunday, October 10, 2021, Exodus 16:1-18, God Provides Manna**

Monday, Exodus 18:13-27, Jethro's Advice

Tuesday, Exodus 20:1-21, The Ten Commandments

Wednesday, Exodus 25:10-22, The Ark of the Covenant

Thursday, Exodus 32:1-35, The Golden Calf

Friday, 1 Samuel 1:1-28, Samuel's Birth and Dedication

Saturday, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah's Prayer

### **Sunday, October 17, 2021, 1 Samuel 3:1-21, God Calls Samuel**

Monday, 1 Samuel 4:1-11, The Ark of God Captured

Tuesday, 1 Samuel 5:1-12, Philistines and the Ark

Wednesday, 1 Samuel 6:1-16, The Ark Returned

Thursday, 1 Samuel 8:1-18, Israel Demands a King

Friday, 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8, Samuel Anoints Saul as King

Saturday, 1 Samuel 15:10-34, Saul Rejected as King

## **Sunday, October 24, 2021**

Monday, 1 Samuel 17:1-11, Goliath

Tuesday, 1 Samuel 17:12-23, David Visits His Brothers

Wednesday, 1 Samuel 17:31-40, David Prepares for Battle

Thursday, 1 Samuel 17:41-54, David Slays Goliath

Friday, 1 Kings 1:28-31, Solomon Becomes King

Saturday, 1 Kings 3:3-15, Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

## **Sunday, October 31, 2021**

Monday, 1 Kings 17:1-7, Elijah Predicts a Drought

Tuesday, 1 Kings 17:8-16, The Widow Zarephath

Wednesday, 1 Kings 17:17-24, Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

Thursday, 1 Kings 18:1-19, Elijah's Message to Ahab

Friday, 1 Kings 18:20-40, Elijah's Triumph over the Priests of Baal

Saturday, 1 Kings 18:41-46, The Drought Ends

## **Sunday, November 7**

Monday, 2 Kings 2:1-12, Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Tuesday, 2 Kings 2:13-18, Elisha Succeeds Elijah

Wednesday, 2 Kings 2:19-25, Elisha Performs Miracles

Thursday, 2 Kings 4:1-7, Elisha and the Widow's Oil

Friday, 2 Kings 5:1-19, Elisha Heals Naaman

Saturday, 2 Kings 9:30-37, Jezebel's Violent Death





## The Guild

During the last few months the Guild have kept in touch over Zoom. We have had catch-ups ,quizzes and invited speakers.

Morven Archer showed us the lovely photos of her holiday in Iceland; a speaker from Muir of Ord told us about their very successful Moo Project; and the dangers of scams was brought home to us by an employee of Highland Council.

These meetings were all good but we missed seeing everyone in the flesh, so to speak.

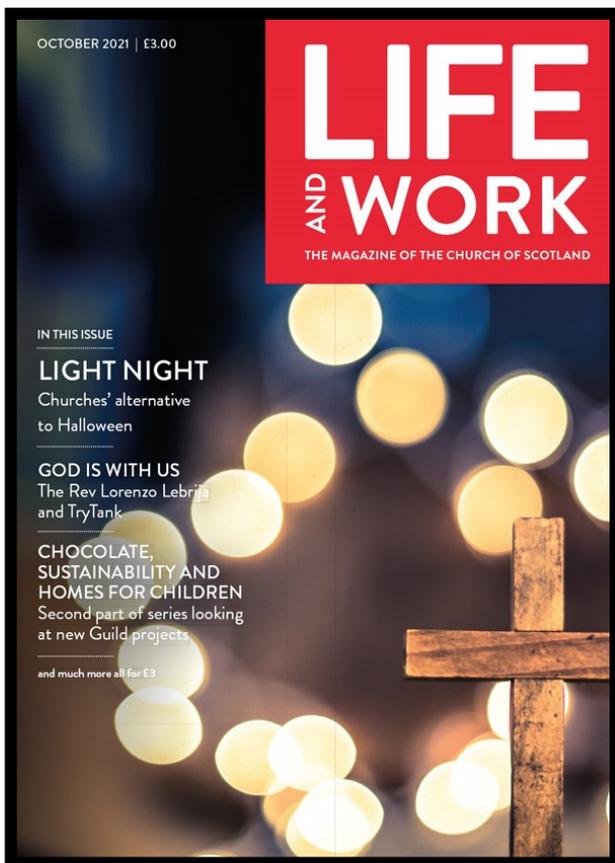
Therefore we arranged an afternoon to meet up at Fairways in August. Twenty members attended and enjoyed the experience so much that another date in October has been arranged.

The committee of Guilds Together last year organised an afternoon tea for all the Guild groups in the Presbytery. This was extremely successful so much so that the Chairperson , Heather Macdonald , of Ness Bank arranged it to take place again this year. This took place on the 22nd September and was attended by over 70 ladies from many of the Guilds in the Presbytery.

Once it is decided where in the church we could meet safely we will make up a syllabus for the next year.

## Dorothy Mein Guild Correspondent





## LIFE AND WORK OCTOBER 2021

### **Light Night**

The churches offering an alternative to Halloween

### **God is With Us**

Interview with the Rev Lorenzo Lebrija, leader of TryTank

### **Chocolate, Sustainability and Homes for Children**

Continuing from last month Jackie Macadam looks at the three remaining partner projects of the Church of Scotland Guild

### **Guild Gathering**

Lynne McNeil reports from the first in-person gathering since 2019

### **An 'Amazing and Supportive Community'**

In this month's youth column, Scott Derrick explains why he came back to Church

### **'With Love and Dignity to Anyone in Need'**

How the Church of Scotland in Bermuda has distributed nearly 100,000 meals to those hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **The Hungry Christ**

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning considers Luke 24:41 and explains why hospitality addresses real needs of hunger and thirst

### **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 and now on Instagram.

**You can now buy a single issue of Life and Work online. Visit [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://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 Sheena and Angus Ferguson who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 9th of October**

### **Deaths**

Mrs Helen Grant, Isobel Fraser Care Home, 8th September 2021

Mr Ted Mackenzie, St Ninian Drive, 22nd September 2021

### **Welcome Team**

**October 3rd** Lena Clarke , Mairi & David Main

**October 10th** Lena Clarke , Mairi & David Main

**October 17th, 24th & 31st** Evelyn Reid

### **Readers**

**October 3rd** Marion Forrest

**October 24th** Helen Boynton

**October 10th** Alison Robertson

**October 31st** Charles Forbes

**October 17th** Charles Gallacher

**November 7th** Sheena Ferguson

**As will be evident from the above we are very much 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.**

**Items for the November newsletter by Sunday 31st October  
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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