

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

DECEMBER 2021: No. 776

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) .

Sunday 5th December The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 12th December Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 19th December Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Christmas Eve 10.30am Toddlers' Carol Service

Christmas Eve 6.30pm All Age Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30am The celebration of Christmas

Sunday 26th December Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

2022

Sunday 2nd January Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 9th January Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 16th January Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 23rd January Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 30th January Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 6th February Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

' For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace' Isaiah 9:6

From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

Christmas is coming....

I'm not so sure about geese getting fat, maybe it's those of us who overindulge (and not just at Christmas!) who are getting, well, a wee bit more rotund as the years go by.

And I'm also not sure about putting a penny in the old man's hat. It wouldn't go far these days. But I do like the idea that if you really can't afford a penny, or a ha'penny, or a farthing, then at the very least you can offer a simple, "God bless you."

Which brings together two themes that I think are vital, yet sometimes get lost amongst the tinsel and turkey.

On the one hand, the giving of presents at Christmas is a noble tradition, that began as an act of humble charity to the poor or destitute in our communities, which I fear has been hijacked by commercialism and consumerism. What can we do about that? Perhaps we could think simply about spending less on those who don't need much, and directing some of our generosity to the charities, or people we know, who really do need some of the basics in life.

On the other hand, this is a time to truly commemorate and share God's spiritual blessings, especially the stories of Jesus. As we study these stories, even just the birth stories, let alone his later ministry as an adult, we find God's blessing reaching into a lot of pain and misery. For example, the petty jealousies of politicians and their power games, the oppression of military occupation, the effective slavery of a population, the exclusion and exile that Jesus' own family was forced into, are all present in the birth stories of Jesus. And these are not just ancient problems, they are very contemporary even now in the 21st century.

Jesus entered into the struggles of our humanity, and was able, by the grace of God, to speak a word of comfort, inspiration, encouragement, and to effect healing of body, mind and soul. Surely this is the true gift of Christmas, that we ought to be handing out, spreading through our community.

So, to return to the wee poem about geese, while it is always vitally important to offer practical assistance to someone in need, it is also important to remember to seek God's blessing for them too.

Wishing you all God's richest blessings this Christmas,

Douglas



Starry Night Walk



When did you last follow a star? Journeys play an important part in the Christmas story. So, as part of our Christmas celebrations at Crown, we're planning to enter the spirit of the season with a gentle stroll from Walker Park to Crown Church starting at 6pm on Saturday 18th December.

As it will be dark by then, please bring a torch or light. Everyone is welcome from youngest children upwards; please feel free to dress up as a Nativity character, angels, shepherds, wise men and all.

Once there, we'll sing Christmas carols in the church garden or, if the weather isn't so good, inside the church itself. We'll also be serving mince pies with hot chocolate or spiced punch. Small donations for Young Crown are welcome but the main purpose is to come together outdoors to celebrate the season. We hope you can join us.

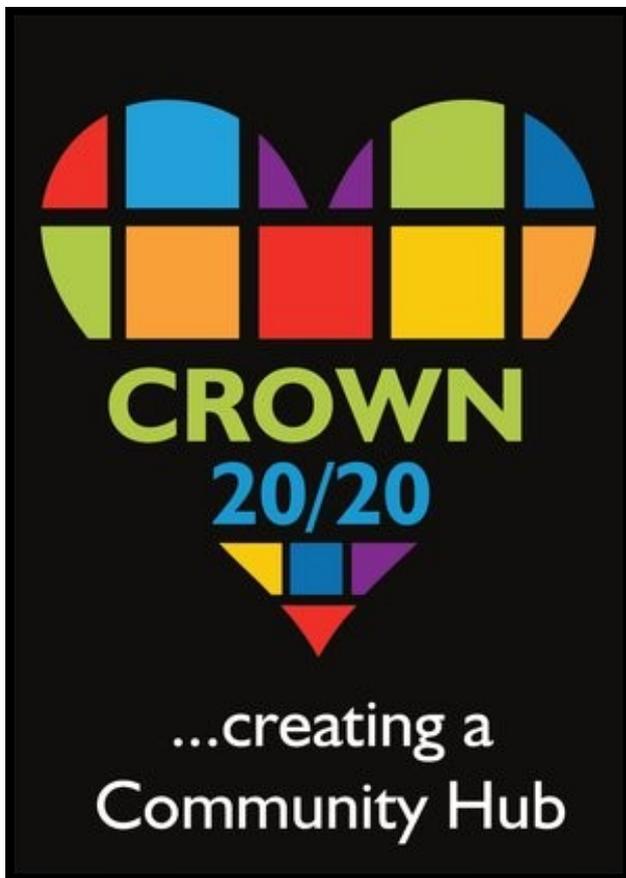
Many thanks

Mairi

QUIET DAY

On Saturday December 18th from 12noon–4pm the Church will be open for a time of personal prayer/reflection





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 have received an early Christmas gift from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. They have graciously agreed, in discussion with Presbytery, to approve our application to remove the pews from the main area of the Sanctuary and replace them with comfortable stacking wooden chairs with blue tweed which will match those in the chancel. The pews will be left in both transepts meantime as it is a requirement of the General Trustees that when pews are removed, the floor must be levelled. A grant from 'Adapt and Thrive' will cover the total cost of what we now plan, but would not stretch to levelling the floor in the transepts. (That will now be planned into the schedule of work required when the new entrance is made.) The pew removal will be scheduled in February to tie in with the delivery of the chairs. It is expected that there will be two or at the most three Sundays when services will take place in the upper hall, and of course by then the lift will be operational.

Ian Ferguson, the contractor who refurbished the upper hall, will be carrying out the work, which will also involve re-siting the organ back to approximately the position from which it was removed in the chancel area and making good the floor area where the organ is presently positioned. The floor will be levelled at the back of the area, and then the floor will be sanded and polished. This will allow much more flexible use to be made of the sanctuary itself and is very good news for all church users.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, members of the congregation who wish to purchase a pew should get in touch. As most of the pews being removed are rather too long for the average house or garden, we expect to be able to offer to have them adapted to whatever size is required. The shorter pews will be offered for sale in due course during the next phase of the refurbishment.

Meanwhile, we have the use of the Upper Hall from the 1st December again in the run up to the main Christmas services/activities. The Midmills entrance will also now be operational again. We apologise sincerely for the loss of the Upper Hall during the major refit of the Lower Hall for the Crown Nursery but this disruption has been entirely outwith our control. The Contractor has encountered very real challenges in modifying an elderly building and they must follow the stringent health and safety regulations by which they are governed. Further asbestos removal and installation of a comprehensive fire alarm system are but two of the issues being progressed by the Contractor, who advises us that they are hoping to install the lift to the Upper Hall by late January next year and complete the Nurseries and the refit of the kitchens and toilets by the end of February.

It has been a hugely eventful and challenging year, that is for sure. But Crown 20/20 Group has met the challenges head on and overcome most of them to make very real progress with our aims - to modernise our church building and to help our church meet the needs of our community. We sincerely thank the congregation for your support throughout.

It was encouraging to hear the positive remarks about the general principle of sharing our building with our neighbours in Crown School which were made by Paul Haringman the Presbytery Mission Development Worker when he was addressing the congregation on the 21st November. As he said we have put into practice what the General Assembly has been asking churches to do.

Crown 20/20

Online Advent Calendar

Crown Church has entered into partnership with Old High/St Stephen's to produce an online calendar during the course of Advent. The idea is a very simple one. Each day, from Wednesday first December, through until Christmas, we will post a short piece, usually 3 or 4 minutes, related to the Advent season.

Each day there will be either a Bible reading, a reflection, a musical item or something connected with the Advent season to look at and to enjoy.

We have tried to involve as many church groups and organisations as possible. Some contributions have already been prepared and others are in the process of preparation.

Old High/St Stephen's will make a contribution on all of the odd days in the month and Crown Church on the even days.

You will be able to access this material each day either through the Crown Church Facebook page or via our own website. In addition, Old High/St Stephen's will publish this material on their YouTube channel, accessible through their own church website.

Bob Forrest



Prayer Diary

December 2021 - January 2022

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.

December 5 - 11

Give thanks to God for the Advent season as we wait in anticipation with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the homeless and those cut off from their families, in particular during those long cold winter months, that practical help be made available to meet both their physical and spiritual needs. Remember the families and friends who have been affected by substance use; may they receive love, compassion and support, and may God guide them through difficult times.

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.

December 12 - 18

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.

Pray also for people affected by mental illness, and ask that God will grant them strength and hope for the future. 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 migrants who are risking their lives travelling through dangerous situations to seek safety and peace in other countries. Pray for the thousands of children living in dangerous situations as refugees. Ask God to protect refugees living in fear and restore them to a safe place where their rights will be recognised and they will be valued and protected.

December 19 - 25

We rejoice at the Christmas story and give thanks for the birth of Jesus, and knowing that He came on earth and died to save us. Pray that the real meaning of Christmas is not missed, and that the precious truth remains a reality in the hearts and lives of everyone. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus with family and friends as joyous occasion, please remember those who find the time of year filled with sadness and even despair because of their personal circumstances. Pray for those who will find the coming festive season difficult; those who have lost loved ones recently and are facing the first Christmas without them or those who spend the festive period alone. Pray that God will be with them all and provide comfort.

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.

December 26 – January 1

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."

Give thanks to God for the New Year ahead, and hope and pray that each day of the coming year be filled with joy, peace and love. Pray for all who are in care or nursing homes and for their families, friends and relatives. Give thanks for the dedications of the staff who work hard together to ensure the well-being of all people in those homes. 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.

January 2 - 8

Give thanks to God for all the skills, experience and talents among the congregation that continuously keep the church vibrant and support the church to develop and grow. Pray that more people will come forward to offer their skills and talent to support the church community that will further your Kingdom.

Pray for all those living with addictions; for assurance that there is a way forward and that they can lead strong and fulfilling lives. 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.

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

January 9 - 15

Pray for practical and political help for all those suffering from fuel poverty and for those most at risk in the cold. Ask God to open our eyes to neighbours or other people in our community who are perhaps struggling to heat their homes, and whether there's anything we can do to help.

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia. Remember those in prison and pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence. Pray for their mental and physical wellbeing; may they use the opportunities to learn new skills and lead positive lives on release.

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.

January 16 - 22

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.

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.

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 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.

January 23 - 29

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.

Pray for God's revival in our community and congregation. Ask God to open the eyes of the people around us, that they would see His unfailing love and sense His powerful presence and purpose for our lives. 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.

Give thanks for the ongoing work of **Crown 20/20 Committee** and pray for everyone involved in the future development of the church facilities; Pray for wisdom and guidance in decision making and for the views of the wider congregations to be considered in line with God's purpose and Mission.

January 30 – February 5

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

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'

Thank and praise God for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and the world. Ask that God will walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life. Pray for those who are persecuted and imprisoned because of their faith; give them courage to face their struggles, patience to bear the lies, and hope to see beyond the bars. May we do all we can to let them know that they are not forgotten.

If you have particular prayer requests for February 2022 please do send them to our Church Secretary Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



Daily Bible Readings for December and January

Sunday, December 5, 2021, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

Monday, Ezekiel 1:1-14, The Vision of the Chariot

Tuesday, Ezekiel 1:15-28, The Vision of the Chariot

Wednesday, Ezekiel 2:1-3:11, The Vision of the Scroll

Thursday, Ezekiel 40:1-19, The Vision of the New Temple

Friday, Ezekiel 40:20-37, The Vision of the New Temple

Saturday, Ezekiel 40:38-47, The Vision of the New Temple

Sunday, December 12, 2021, Isaiah 55:1-11, Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

Monday, Isaiah 40:1-11, God's People Are Comforted

Tuesday, Isaiah 53:2-12, The Suffering Servant

Wednesday, Isaiah 57:14-21, A Promise of Help and Healing

Thursday, Isaiah 59:1-8, Injustice and Oppression to Be Punished

Friday, Isaiah 61:1-11, The Good News of Deliverance

Saturday, Isaiah 65:17-25, The Glorious New Creation

Sunday, December 19, 2021, John 1:1-18, Word Made Flesh

Monday, Matthew 2:1-12, Wise Men

Tuesday, Luke 2:21-32, Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

Wednesday, Luke 2:33-40, Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

Thursday, Luke 2:41-52, The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Friday, Luke 2:1-20, Birth of Jesus

Saturday, Luke 1:26-38, Birth of Jesus Foretold

Sunday, December 26, 2021, John 1:19-34, A Voice in the Wilderness

Monday, Psalm 32:1-2, The Joy of Forgiveness

Tuesday, Psalm 32:3-4, The Joy of Forgiveness

Wednesday, Psalm 32:5, The Joy of Forgiveness

Thursday, Psalm 32:6-7, The Joy of Forgiveness

Friday, Psalm 32:8-9, The Joy of Forgiveness

Saturday, Psalm 32:10-11, The Joy of Forgiveness

Sunday, January 2, 2022, John 1:35-51, Jesus Says Come and See

Monday, Psalm 66:1-5, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Tuesday, Psalm 66:6-7, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Wednesday, Psalm 66:8-12, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Thursday, Psalm 66:13-15, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Friday, Psalm 66:16-19, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Saturday, Psalm 66:20, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

Sunday, January 9, 2022, John 2:1-11, Wedding at Cana

Monday, John 2:12, Jesus Goes to Capernaum

Tuesday, Psalm 104:1-9, God the Creator and Provider

Wednesday, Psalm 104:10-23, God the Creator and Provider

Thursday, Psalm 104:24-26, God the Creator and Provider

Friday, Psalm 104:27-30, God the Creator and Provider

Saturday, Psalm 104:31-35, God the Creator and Provider

Sunday, January 16, 2022, John 2:13-25, Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Monday, Psalm 127:1-2, God's Blessing in the Home

Tuesday, Psalm 127:3-5, God's Blessing in the Home

Wednesday, Psalm 128:1-2, The Happy Home of the Faithful

Thursday, Psalm 128:3-4, The Happy Home of the Faithful

Friday, Psalm 128: 5-6, The Happy Home of the Faithful

Saturday, Psalm 129:1-8, Prayer for the Downfall of Israel's Enemies

Sunday, January 23, 2022, John 3:1-21, Nicodemus

Monday, John 3:22-30, Jesus and John the Baptist

Tuesday, John 3:31-36, The One Who Comes from Heaven

Wednesday, Psalm 139:1-6, The Inescapable God

Thursday, Psalm 139:7-12, The Inescapable God

Friday, Psalm 139:13-18, The Inescapable God

Saturday, Psalm 139:19-24, The Inescapable God

Sunday, January 30, 2022, John 4:1-42, The Woman at the Well

Monday, Psalm 42:1-3

Tuesday, John 4:43-45, Jesus Returns to Galilee

Wednesday, Jeremiah 2:8-18, Hope in the Lord

Thursday, Jeremiah 17:8-18 Hope for Israel

Friday, Song of Solomon 4:10—5:4, Sweet Love

Saturday, Zechariah 14:3-13, Day of Deliverance

Sunday, February 6, 2022, John 4:46-54 [5:1-18], Healing Stories

Monday, John 5:1-18, Healing Stories

Tuesday, John 5:19-29, The Authority of the Son

Wednesday, John 5:30-47, Witnesses to Jesus

Thursday, John 6:1-15, Feeding the Five Thousand

Friday, John 6:16-21, Jesus Walks on Water

Saturday, John 6:22-34, Bread from Heaven



CROWN CANDLES

These beautiful hand-crafted candles, which depict our very own Crown Church windows have been on an exciting Christmas journey of their own!

They depict both the McGilp Window and the Rose Window and have been crafted especially for us by Ian Patterson of Gamries Candles. Artisan Ian has been producing candles in his workshop over in Aberdeenshire for twenty- four years. Young Crown fundraisers are very grateful to him for producing these in the midst of his own very busy Christmas season.

Saturday dawned. The day of delivery to Inverness. However, it was also the day after the night of Storm Arwen. Ian set out resolutely on his journey of ninety-five miles to get the goods through. It was dark, the power was out and the wind was howling over the exposed country roads. His trusty vehicle picked its way through fallen leaves, and twigs, and branches, and boughs – but just couldn't get by the many, many fallen trees. Ian swerved dejectedly back home to Garmond. How to explain there would be no candles for Advent Sunday? No power. No mobile phone signal!

Once more into the teeth of the storm – our hero made it to the next village where a phone signal teetered on the brink of useability. He managed to send a photograph of the precious cargo. This is it!



With the arrival of calmer weather, all our Christmas gifting problems are over. The lovely candles are available to purchase after the 9.30 and 11.00am services in the upper hall/lounge.

If you would like home delivery, email me lesley.mcroberts@btinternet.com or ring me on 01463 772594 and I will be happy to arrange this for you. They are the perfect gift for the person who has everything. And they give twice as all proceeds go to support the work of Young Crown. There are three sizes costing £10, £12 and £16. Why not buy a set? The candles may be gift wrapped in eco packaging for a small extra donation.

Be quick though. Who knows what might happen next? As with all good Christmas adventures, there's more going on than you knew.

See more of Ian Patterson's work at gamriescandles.co.uk

We also have some packs of lovely Christmas cards available. Please come by and support Young Crown.

Christmas blessings to you and yours.

Lesley McRoberts.



The Leprosy Mission Area Fundraising Group wish to thank all who supported our recent Coffee Morning. Over £1200 has been raised which is a great outcome considering the restrictions that have affected us all.

Thank you,

Marion Barbour

Local Church Review (LCR)

Local Church Review is about Crown's journey, story, faith and failures, hopes and dreams. All churches in the Church of Scotland do LCRs. For many churches, LCR has been a catalyst for transformation and renewal, through learning a church's story and discerning its hopes. It invites you to seek opportunities and move into the future, perhaps with a plan, or with a vision, hopes and dreams, a direction you believe God is leading in, especially now with some many changes afoot across the church. The hope is that various conversations and discussion around church life and mission will help you bring hopes and ideas to life.

LCR in Inverness Presbytery revolves around this basic question: *'How can we improve helping people further on, or into a journey with Jesus?'* In other words; How are we discipling people, and what would make us better at it?

The LCR process helps you take hold of this question through various forms and an accompanying journey of the Mission Development Worker, Paul. There is a visiting team (from other churches in Presbytery) assigned to meet with various people and support you through the process, consisting of Roger Gleed-Gates from Dores & Boleskine, Paul Haringman from Presbytery and led by Ian Manson, minister in Beaully (Kilmorack & Erchless).

Paul Haringman is the Mission Development Worker and he is coming alongside the church to advise, encourage and help you visualise and move further into following Jesus, being a blessing and making disciples. He is a Dutchman who has worked for the Church of Scotland for 17 years, supporting local congregations. He brings lots of experience in discipling and mentoring, leading Bible studies and prayer groups, leading toddler, children and youth ministries. He has developed resources, strategies and missional expressions. Presbytery is placing him with you church for a few months, to be a resource and support. He is hoping to visit many church groups and would love to engage with you in seeing how you are discipling others. Why not use that opportunity. You might want to think about how he could perhaps help advise your group or ministry. He would love to have conversations with you around mission, discipleship and reaching out and will connect with various groups over the next wee while. Don't miss out, he is a resource, but only here for a short time.

What if God's love for us is real, His ears are open, His heart willing and He is for us? What if God's promise to us is steadfast, His presence constant and His willingness to bless us unwavering? What if God has plans for Crown (Jeremiah 29:11), and has prepared good works for us (Ephesians 2:10)? May we realise we are already on an exciting, fulfilling road, when we search to find His ways among us. Jesus' strategy was this; he said he can do only what he sees His Father doing, (John 5:19). How do we connect with God? What do we need to do as a church? Let's really simply do what we see Him doing. Let's pray that He shows us, and let's talk about what we think He is up to. Let's carefully explore God's call for us, through prayer, Scripture, asking for revelations. What will it look like to make daily steps of faith, take up our cross and follow Jesus?

Will it work? Well, here are two other (better) questions; is it biblical? And is the Bible true? If the book of Malachi is anything to go by, it seems we are called to do two (incredibly simple) things: be faithful and talk to each other. God's words and plans are simple: I have always loved you, and all those around you. Local Church Review provides a real opportunity to figure out how to grow this further. What does it take for us to be on the road together, walking with Jesus, learning His ways and grace? Let's not be a stagnant church, but a moving one that has conversations who God is, what He has done in our lives, in this church, and what His plans are for this part of His world. And as we grasp some of the magnitude and presence of God, Let's move in faith with His agenda for our future. Let's... just talk, simple. Phone each other, meet and talk about God's plans. Talk to the elders.

Let's talk and dare to ask each other questions, and may we see that God will answer.

May LCR open up real questions and meetings among us all about how we express our faith and how we connect this with opportunities and challenges we face where God is calling us.

If you would like to learn how to help people into a journey with Jesus, Paul would absolutely love to introduce you to an idea called **Acorn**; caring conversations with people beyond the church, which is helping many up and down the country with their faith and love for others. It has changed his life and many others. Do ask him!

If you want to get a hold of Paul Haringman; you can reach him on;

telephone:07837903277

email: paulharingman.mission@gmail.com

Paul Haringman

Mission Development worker

Tel 07837903277

Unit C (Out of the Box), 12 Seafield Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SG



Stamp Appeal 2021.

This year the Stamp Project proceeds will benefit The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka which runs a project to support women and girls who have been victims of rape and sexual violence.

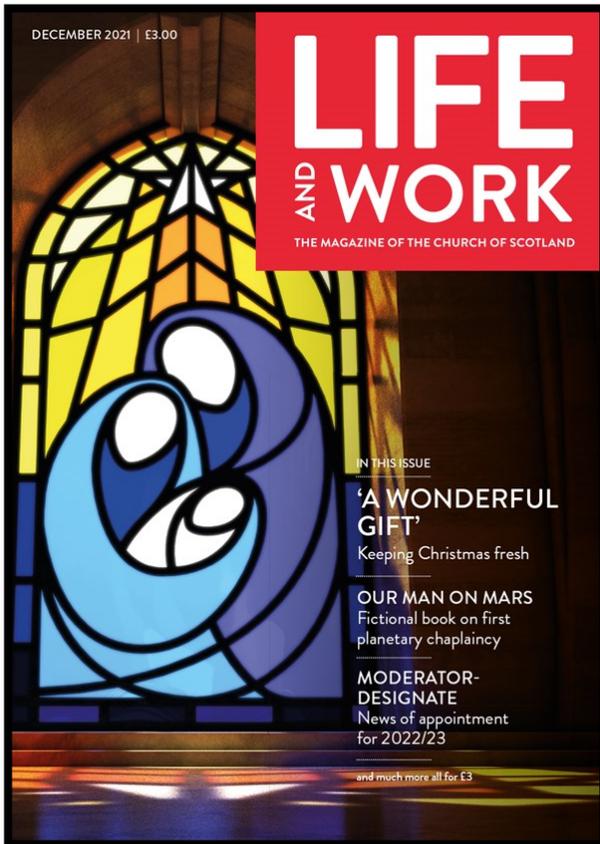
The WDC gives these women somewhere to stay, and supports them in caring for their children, helps them return to education if they wish, and trains them in skills they can use to make a living when they leave. The WDC has a social enterprise and café where the women can work and sell their hand-made products. The team at WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do. Help support them by collecting used stamps which are then sold on.

Place your stamps in the boxes in the vestibules on your exit. Please separate the UK and foreign stamps. If anyone would like their stamps collected this can be arranged.

Liz Munro

LIFE AND WORK

DECEMBER 2021



Christmas 2021

'A Wonderful Gift': How Church of Scotland ministers keep the eternal message of Christmas fresh again and again

The Moderator considers the message of Christmas carols

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the bitter-sweetness of a changing Christmas

Nativity in Lockdown: Young Members of Ayr: St James look back on last year's 'Bubble Nativity'

A new carol for Christian Aid

Our Man on Mars

Jackie Macadam learns about a new book by an East Lothian elder, imagining the first chaplaincy to Mars

Honouring God's Name

In the second part of his study of the Lord's Prayer, the Rev David Searle considers the importance of 'Hallowed be thy name'

The Core Elements

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why kindness – and the counselling and support of CrossReach – are needed now more than ever

A Biblical Connection

John R Hume outlines the history of a Glasgow church overlooking the Clyde

Plus

News, letters, readers' pictures, crosswords and registers

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 and now on Instagram.

This Christmas, why not give a gift subscription to Life and Work? 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

Welcome Team

December 5th	Neil Morrison Marion and John Barbour		
December 12th	Neil Morrison Alison Donald Marion or John Barbour		
December 19th	Neil Morrison Alison Donald Marion or John Barbour		
December 26th	Neil Morrison Liz Forbes		
January 2nd	Heather Beck Mary Ann Buchanan Sheena Ferguson		
January 9th	Agnus Struthers Helen Boynton Kay MacDonald	January 23rd	Anne Johnston Helen Boynton Mary Ann Buchanan
January 16th	Agnus Struthers Helen Boynton Kay MacDonald	January 30th	Angus Struthers Anne Johnston Helen Boynton

As restrictions are easing and we look forward to enjoying our newly refurbished upper hall, perhaps now more so than ever it is important that 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

December 5th	Blair/Isla McAra
December 12th	Joel Madelaine
December 19th	Edi McRoberts
December 25th	Lesley McRoberts
December 26th	Eileen Ardern
January 2nd	Heather Beck
January 9th	Alison Harbison
January 16th	Helen Taylor
January 23rd	Gill Silver
January 230th	Neil Morrison
February 6th	Gus McGowan

**Items for the February newsletter by Sunday 30th January
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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Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)

Registered charity SC 018159

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