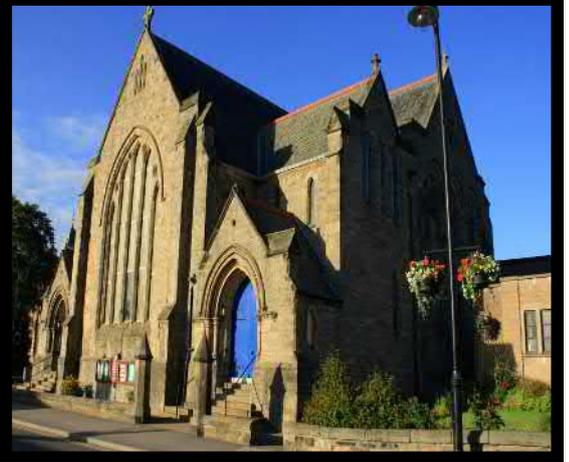


Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

APRIL 2022: No. 779

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. 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 3rd April** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers
- Sunday 10th April** **Palm Sunday** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
- Thursday 14th April** **Maundy Thursday** There will be a light meal at 6pm in Crown Church Hall followed by a service at 7pm in Crown Church which will include Holy Communion.
- Friday 15th April** **Good Friday** There will be a service at 7pm in St Stephens Church, followed by tea and coffee.
- Sunday 17th April** **Easter Sunday Celebrating Easter** at 9.30 am and 11.00am
- Sunday 24th April** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
- Sunday 1st May** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel.”

John 12 ;verse 13



From the Minister

Dear friends,

You know you're in Scotland when people start dressing for summer as soon as the temperature hits 13°C. I'm sitting in a coffee shop drinking a massive mug of coffee and using their free WiFi. People are walking past in shorts and t-shirts while I still need a jumper. Maybe it's the air conditioning. Maybe I just lived in Australia for too long.



Treating myself to an occasional regular! coffee in a coffee shop is just one of the many privileges that I enjoy, and I think many of you do too. We live in a time and place which is both peaceful and wealthy, which is what affords us these privileges. Of course neither our peace nor our wealth is perfect, there are many life situations that cause us stress or anxiety or emotional turmoil, but compared to history, and compared to many other parts of the world, we are incredibly blessed by God to enjoy the levels of peace and wealth that we do have.

I was thinking about this while reading some material about the Jewish celebration of Sukkot. It doesn't come around this year until October, so it seems a little bit out of place during Lent. Lent leads us towards Easter, which in the Jewish calendar would be most obviously matched with Passover.

But it was as I reflected on the self-imposed deprivation that Jesus suffered in the wilderness – which is the foundation for our season of Lent – my mind was drawn to the festival of Sukkot, a time when devout Jews self-impose an element of deprivation.

For a week they will live in temporary huts, or booths, usually erected in their garden. These symbolise the time when the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years – which is also reflected in the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. During that time they lived in simple tents that could be easily dismantled and moved and they relied on God for everything, manna (bread) from heaven and water from the springs that he drew out of the ground.

While Jews around the world have hardly had peace from persecution throughout the last 2000 years, nevertheless they worried that as they became more settled and affluent they might become complacent in their faith, they might become slaves to the world's riches – like the temptations Jesus faced – while neglecting the worship of God. So every year they have a festival in which they acknowledge the fragility of human life and achievements, and humbly admit their utter reliance on God for every element of life.

We too must never become complacent in our faith. We don't have a traditional festival quite as ingrained or structured as the Jewish festival of Sukkot, but Lent is intended to be a similar kind of step back from our everyday life and habits, to reflect more deeply on our relationship with God and our dependence upon his grace.

"Humanity shall not live by bread alone," said Jesus, "but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Wishing you God's blessings,

Douglas

EASTER SERVICES

There will be two joint Easter services this year with Old High St Stephens.

Maundy Thursday, 14th April

There will be a light meal at 6 pm in Crown Church Hall followed by a service at 7 pm in Crown Church which will include Holy Communion.

Good Friday, 15th April

There will be a service at 7pm in St Stephens Church, followed by tea and coffee.

We look forward to seeing you then. If you plan to join us for the meal on Thursday, could you please contact Gloria in the Church Office office@crow-church.co.uk. If you have any dietary requirements please let Gloria know and she will be able to pass that on.

Liz Munro

Marion Forrest



The (new) Olive Grove



Plans are afoot to restart the Olive Grove in early May, but this time on church premises. Once the lounge is tidied and spruced up, many of our volunteers are looking forward to welcoming some of our 'old' customers back for a tea or coffee and home baking, with maybe a limited menu for the first few weeks of soups and sandwiches for lunch.

We will also provide the hospitality for the adults who come along to the Toddlers groups, and would be willing to do the same for other groups meeting in the church.

The lovely spring weather we've been enjoying has also suggested to us that we could have tables on the lawn some days for customers to enjoy the garden and the sunshine. Keep an eye out for more publicity, and plan to come along to meet old friends and make new ones.

Eileen Ardern

Over the past few months the Guild ladies have been meeting at Fairways restaurant for an afternoon get together. This has been well attended and enjoyed by us all.

We have decided to curtail these meetings at present as there are other opportunities to meet.



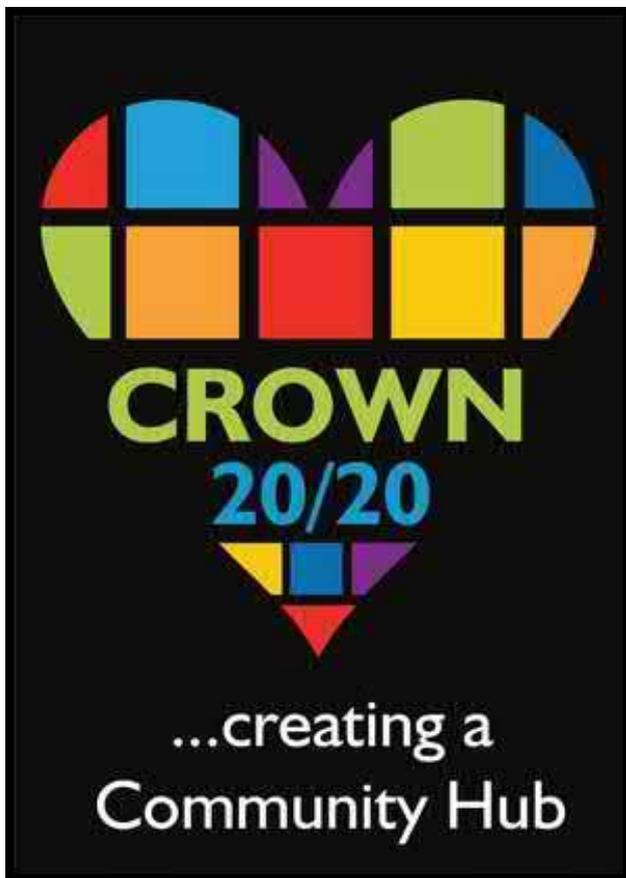
We have been invited on Tuesday 5th April to join Dalneigh and Bona Guild for afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. This will be held in the church hall at Dalneigh from 2:30pm.

On Tuesday April 26th all the Guilds from the Presbytery are meeting in Nairn St Ninians Church at 2:30pm. The guest speaker will be Karen Gillon who took over from Ian Whyte as General Secretary of the Guild.

If anyone requires a lift to either event please contact either Dorothy Mein on 01463 238617 or Ruby Coe on 01463 225467

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent



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

It's always good to begin with good news so we are delighted to confirm we have received the offer of a grant of £74,343 from the Place-Based Investment Programme to carry out some of the necessary repairs and upgrades to the church. This is a fund administered by The Highland Council on behalf of the Scottish Government to support capital projects which deliver on community-led regeneration.

Our project fitted the bill as our aim is to regenerate our wonderful historic building to make it a community hub, benefiting not only members of our congregation but the wider community.

Subject to Presbytery approval, this award will allow us to upgrade the lighting and the audio visual equipment in the Sanctuary and will ensure that we can livestream our church services without the outages which we have experienced all too often with our current outmoded equipment.

We also intend to improve access to our attic with wider walkways and provision of handrails and improve the insulation there. Secondary double glazing will be installed in The McGilp window to reduce heat loss.

Meanwhile, in the Lower Hall, Morrison Construction have issued their final programme for works they are carrying out to create a two-roomed nursery for Crown Primary, and now expect the completion certificate to be available on Friday 29 April.

The lift to the refurbished Upper Hall is now being installed during the week beginning Monday 4 April. We hope to hold an Open Day on Saturday 7th May when the congregation and the community can look over the nurseries and all the church premises.

We were delighted to return to the Sanctuary on Sunday 27 March following completion of the works to remove the pews and level the floor and the re-siting of the organ and the sound equipment. Delivery of our new chairs for the Sanctuary have been delayed until May but we are pleased to have secured the loan of chairs from Dingwall Town Hall. The heating pipes which run along the wall under the MacGilp window will be hidden by cupboards designed to allow the heat to escape.

So, good news and good progress to report as we look forward to all that Easter brings.

Crown 20/20 Group

S-N-A-C (Saturday Night At Crown)

What is SNAC? It is our new way of reaching out to families of one or more than one, aged from 1 to 91 or beyond!

What do we do? We share time together over food, with games for those who would like.

When? On the first Saturday of each month from 5-7pm.

Where? In the Upper Hall.

Who can go? Absolutely anyone. But we would particularly like to bring in people who are new to Crown Church or new to church. Please, if you know anyone in that category, invite them to come along. And come along with them. We'd love to have you there.

The next SNAC evening is on Saturday 2nd April at 5pm when we are having a Baked Potato Evening.

If you'd like to go, get in touch with Pat Crippin or Pamela McAra.

or

contact the church office on 231140 (office@crown-church.co.uk)



Prayer Diary

April 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

April 3-9

Loving Heavenly Father

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia who are caught up in this horrible conflict; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid and being tormented by this conflict; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. We pray Lord knowing that only You have the power over life and death; We pray that all people can have the life you have given, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for all those killed in this conflict; for those having to flee their homes; and we give thanks the support and hospitality received.

We pray for the leaders on the world stage; that they be inspired and strengthened by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, we pray for peace for Ukraine and for peace in the world.

Pray John 1:5; "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"

April 10-16

As we go through Palm Sunday and the Holy Week, we give thanks to God for His love, goodness and mercy; Praise God for the shining light in our lives, through the suffering and resurrection of Christ.

We pray O Lord that you would grant us a season of peace and joy at this time of Easter gladness. We thank You that Easter is not about a people but All people. That Your love and salvation are for all those who confess with voices, hearts and lives.

Give thanks to God for the new season of spring time, for brighter weather and the reminder of renewal and fresh life; For all the goodness and beauty of His creation.

Loving God, we ask for your healing over every part of our lives – physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. We pray that you would make us strong and resilient for the days ahead. We know that you have great purpose for those who believe in your name. Help us not to allow the distractions and struggles of our days, wear us down to the point of exhaustion.

April 17-23

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.

On this day 22nd April, Earth Day, 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 us to be a good steward of the earth. Pray for the advancement of conservation and renewable energy and that our governments will prioritise looking after our earth.

Pray for those who are struggling with loneliness and ill health, asking for His healing care and comfort. May the Lord be with them and bless them.

In times of stress, hardship and pain may those who offer comfort be blessed with Lord's guidance, taking strength from knowing that they do His work: bringing hope, charity and love to all they meet.

April 24 – 30

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.

Praise God and give thanks for the collaboration and partnership between Crown and Old High St Stephen Churches. Pray that both congregations will continue to work together to further God's Kingdom.

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 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.



This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful. If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (May 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 April

Sunday, April 3, 2022, John 19:1-16a, Jesus Condemned

Monday, Psalm 146

Tuesday, Isaiah 6:1-5, Holy Lord

Wednesday, Isaiah 28:5-6, Spirit of Justice

Thursday, Isaiah 32:1-6, King of Righteousness

Friday, Isaiah 42:1-4, Suffering Servant

Saturday, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Branch of David

Sunday, April 10, 2022, John 19:16b-22, The Crucified Messiah

Monday, Psalm 24

Tuesday, 2 Samuel 22:2-8, Lord Is My Rock

Wednesday, Isaiah 43:8-12, God Delivers

Thursday, John 19:23-30, Jesus' Last Words

Friday, John 19:31-37, Jesus the Passover Lamb

Saturday, John 19:38-42, Passover Lamb

Sunday, April 17, 2022, John 20:1-18, Resurrection

Monday, John 21:1-14, Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

Tuesday, John 21:15-19, Jesus and Peter

Wednesday, John 21:20-25, Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

Thursday, Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira

Friday, Acts 5:12-16, The Apostles Heal Many

Saturday, Acts 5:17-42, The Apostles Are Persecuted

Sunday, April 24, 2022, John 20:19-31, Thomas

Monday, Acts 6:1-7, Seven Chosen to Serve

Tuesday, Acts 6:8-15, The Arrest of Stephen

Wednesday, Acts 7:1-22, Stephen's Speech to the Council

Thursday, Acts 7:23-43, Stephen's Speech to the Council

Friday, Acts 7:44-53, Stephen's Speech to the Council

Saturday, Acts 7:54-8:1, The Stoning of Stephen

Sunday, May 1, 2022, Acts 9:1-19a, Paul's Conversion

Monday, Acts 9:19b-22, Saul Preaches in Damascus

Tuesday, Acts 9:23-31, Saul Escapes from the Jews

Wednesday, Acts 9:36-43, Peter in Lydda and Joppa

Thursday, Acts 10:1-16, Peter and Cornelius

Friday, Acts 10:17-23a, Peter and Cornelius

Saturday, Acts 10:23b-33, Peter and Cornelius



CROWN CANDLES

We're glad to report that Ian, our candlemaker is well again and asked us to pass on his grateful thanks for all our prayers and good wishes. He's back to work and so our stock of beautiful candles has been replenished - but they are still selling fast!

They are available after both services at church on Sunday mornings. However, if you would like a home delivery, we'll be happy to organise that for you. You can call Lesley 01463 772594 or email lesley.mcroberts@btinternet.com
All sizes are available large £16, medium £12, small £10. All proceeds to Young Crown.



THE LAUNCHPAD BOOKSALE

Have a clear-out of your bookshelves and help us to raise funds by donating books to us . We will be sorting books out in the sanctuary on Friday 22nd April in the morning and will be grateful if you could drop donations off then if you have not brought them earlier.

Then come back between 10am and 4pm on

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL

and choose some new books to fill up the spaces!

Prices from 50p, books for adults and children, fiction and non fiction.





Christian Aid Week 2022 15-21 May

The logo is familiar. Along with the daffodils that are gracing our gardens, it is a sign of spring.

It is therefore time to let you know that Christian Aid Week will be taking place again this year, as it did during the last two years of pandemic. However this year I am hoping that we can be a little bit more outgoing. By outgoing I mean going out. Putting the familiar red donation envelopes through letterboxes to raise money for the world's poorest, so that Christian Aid can respond to emergency, facilitate development projects and fight injustice against the poor.

This year the envelopes will be "delivery only". Each envelope will contain information to householders about the various ways that they can donate, some online, some by depositing their envelope in local shops etc. This will mean that volunteers will not have to go back to ask for filled envelopes. In the past I have resisted such a change because I have felt that amounts collected would be less. However according to Christian Aid, it is effective. It should be a great deal easier (and quicker) for volunteers and therefore a great deal easier for me. I won't have to twist so many arms to get volunteers...I hope! Please prove me right! Or prepare for sore arms!

This simpler variant of the door-to-door collection will be the main plank of our effort this year, supplemented by online giving, but once again I hope personally to undertake the "300,000 steps in May" challenge. Would anyone else like to do this? Last year I found it rewarding in all sorts of ways. You do it at your own pace. You don't even need to find sponsors because I will provide you with a Just Giving link which you simply send to your friends and relatives, nearby and far away. Delivering envelopes could kick start your step count!

Look out for more details in the coming weeks and in the May newsletter.

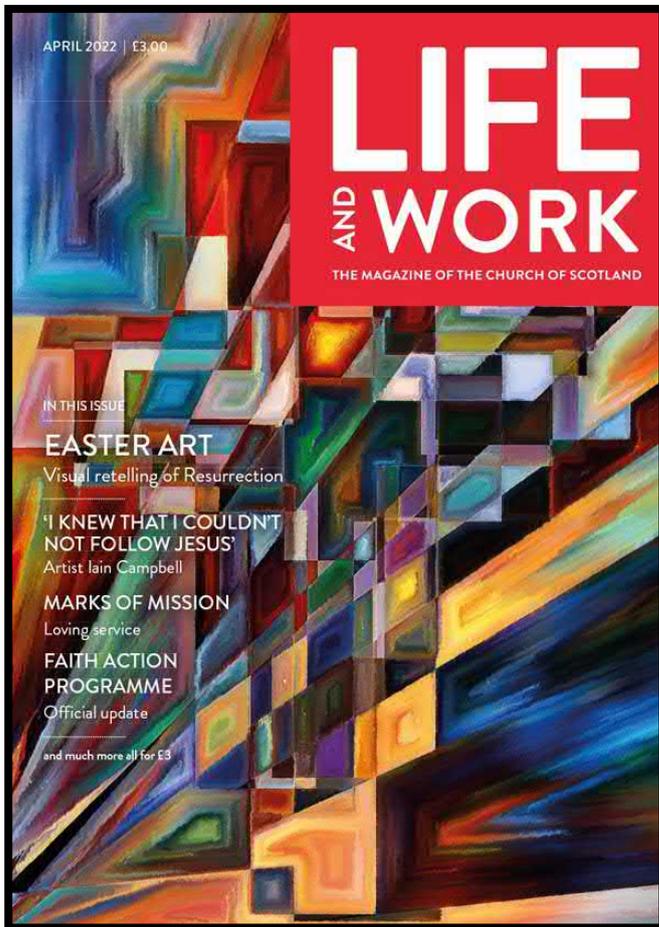
Thank you.

David Crippin

christianaid.crown@yahoo.co.uk

LIFE AND WORK

APRIL



Easter Art

Jackie Macadam talks to Christian artists about how the Resurrection story has been represented in art.

'I Knew That I Couldn't Not Follow Jesus'

Interview with artist Iain Campbell.

Marks of Mission: Loving Service

Continuing the series looking at the Marks of Mission, Thomas Baldwin speaks to the convener of CrossReach about how the Church responds to human need by loving service.

Faith in Action

An official monthly update for 2022 from the Faith Action Programme

Who Guards the Guards?

In his final column as Moderator, Lord Wallace pays tribute to the work of chaplains

Love, Grace and Transformation

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers argues that in His execution and resurrection, Jesus is an archetype of redemption

Unnoticed Joy

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the hidden moments of the Resurrection

Forgiving Others

Continuing the series on the Lord's Prayer

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.

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



I have recently had a hip replacement and have been very touched by so many get well wishes from my Crown Church friends. One card I received has a lovely verse which I would like to share with you.

'May the sun bring you new energy
As days grow long and light,
The hope of nature's wonderland
Make all your world seem bright.
May early rain wash cares away
And breezes touch your soul,
The summer joy refresh your mind
Though winter took its toll,
May moon and stars and drifting clouds
All promise quiet sleep,
The changing seasons soon provide
Some cheerful thoughts to keep.
And may tomorrow find you well,
Much better than before,
And every day in every way
Your hopes and dreams restore!
(by Iris Hesselden)

Thank you all so much
Adrienne Adie

Welcome Team

April 3rd	Boys Brigade Alison Harbison Sheena Ferguson
April 10th	Boys Brigade Sheena Ferguson
April 17th	Boys Brigade Sheena Ferguson
April 24th	Boys Brigade Alison Harbison Sheena Ferguson

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

April 3rd	Lena Clarke
April 10th	David Crippin
April 17th	Margot Tuley
April 24th	Alan Nelson
May 1st	Janet MacPherson

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Christine Chrystall, Aden House, 9 March 2022

Mr Peter Collinson, Culduthel Road, 15th March 2022

Items for the May newsletter by Sunday 24th April please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

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

Session Clerk Bob Forrest: sessionclerk@[crown-church.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk)

Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)

Registered charity SC 018159

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