

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

MAY 2022: No. 780

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 1st May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers
Sunday 8th May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
Sunday 15th May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
Sunday 22nd May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
Sunday 29th May	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
Sunday 5th June	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'

Hebrews 13:2

The Crown Family invites you to another....

S-N-A-C Time

(Saturday Night At Crown)



Games, conversation and crafts

CURRY NIGHT ON SATURDAY 7th MAY
5-7pm

Contact Gary, Pamela or Pat to register interest

pamelamcara@btinternet.com pcrippin@gmail.com

All ages welcome...



SEE YOU THERE!!!

(Parking available in Crown school)

Treasure Hunt and Explorers' Lunch



Did you know Inverness City centre is teeming with animals? Would you like to test your powers of observation on a safari-type Treasure Hunt?

On Sunday 29th May, after the 9.30 Service, you will have the opportunity to set off into town with a set of very interesting instructions. They will guide you on a journey of discovery. Spend a happy hour or so tracking down the answers to our mostly animal focused clues.

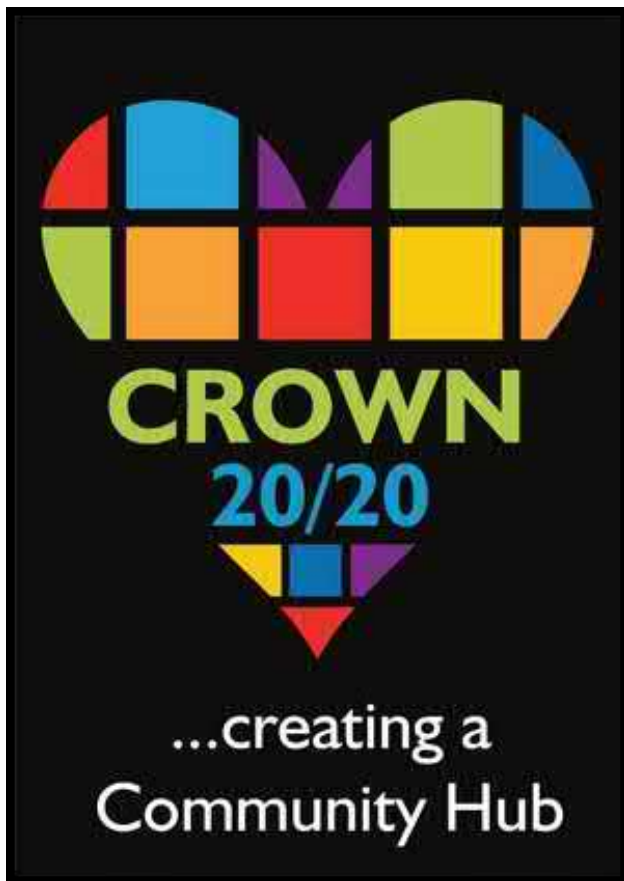
Then head back for a well-earned Explorers' Lunch at the church.

Treasure Hunt sheets will be available to all after the 11am Service too and you can investigate at leisure. Do come for lunch though.

Everyone is welcome to join in. This is a fun Treasure Hunt designed especially for the inquisitive.

Donations will be gratefully received in support of Young Crown.

Please speak to Lesley McRoberts, Pat Crippin or Gary McAra if you would like to book a place in advance.



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

Given the extent and complexity of the work undertaken to reconfigure our historic church building in recent times, it is perhaps not unsurprising that the timetable for completion of the Lower Hall into a nursery unit for Crown Primary School has been set back again.

We had hoped the Lower Hall contract would be completed by 29 April, but the latest update from The Highland Council is that a more realistic date for completion is 3rd June with the aim of opening the nursery unit in time for the start of the new school session in mid-August.

We are advised that parts are awaited for the fire escape windows and that scaffolding cannot be removed until the fire escape is finished, and therefore the ground around the scaffolding cannot be made good. Internally the work is 95% complete, and looking good. Unfortunately none of the areas downstairs - kitchen, toilets etc. can be used by us until there is a completion certificate.

A possible new date for an Open Day, when we throw open the doors of the new facilities, is Saturday 13th August - the weekend before the new school session begins.

Since the last newsletter, the new 8-person lift has been installed, and will create an accessible link to the Upper Hall. The pews in the central area of the Sanctuary have been removed, the organ relocated to nearer the AV screen, and the new flooring laid and polished.

The new flexibility of the Sanctuary is shown here where it is ready for the toddler groups, run by Young Crown on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Lots of space for driving in the little cars!



Struan McRoberts

Over the last four Sundays, we have been back in the Sanctuary for Sunday services and have been using individual folding seats borrowed from Dingwall Town Hall. Our own new seats will be arriving at the end of May.

Half of the new seats will have arm rests, which will be welcomed by many members of the congregation. We are delighted that the Congregational Board has agreed to purchase 10 tables -the same style as the eight we currently have on loan in the Sanctuary. It has been a very useful exercise to have borrowed these as it has shown how much they are needed at both the 9.30 service and after the 11 o'clock service for coffee, and will be much used as the Sanctuary is increasingly booked up for a wide variety of mid-week activities.

Work pending in the Sanctuary is the installation of cupboards which will mask the heating pipes under the MacGilp window and provide additional storage.

Work is also planned once permissions have been obtained to upgrade the lighting and audio/visual system in the Sanctuary thanks to a grant of £74,343 from the Place-Based Investment Programme - administered by The Highland Council on behalf of the Scottish Government. This 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 MacGilp window to reduce heat loss. Three consultants will be submitting lighting plans within the next couple of weeks for our consideration. A small team of those most involved with the AV equipment, with the professional input of Andy Belby of Pro Media who installed the AV in the Upper Hall, will work on choosing from the latest technology available.

The lounge is being given a facelift in a joint effort by the Olive Grove and some of the Crown 20/20 team, and will soon be a light, bright space for small group meetings. During the day on Wednesdays and Thursdays the Olive Grove team are hoping to welcome back many of their former customers as well as attract new ones. Good weather will see tables on our sunny lawn.

Another busy update as we work relentlessly to deliver the aims of our ambitious project.

Crown 20/20 Group

Prayer Diary

May 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

May 1-7

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting public examinations at schools, at colleges or at universities, and pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path

Pray 1 Peter 3:8; 'Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.' Lift up our friends, neighbours and families in our daily prayer.

Pray for those suffering from stigma and discrimination; may they be shown kindness, compassion and understanding.

Give thanks for SNAC (Saturday Night At Crown) time, for sharing of food, conversation, games and blessings; for all those coming along and those preparing meals, and supporting this superb initiative

May 8-14

A Prayer for Ukraine,

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression.

Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace, Please Lord come and find Your way in Your world, May Your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven.

May Your peace reign. Now and always. We lift this prayer to You, our God who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine.

In the name of Christ our saviour, Amen

Pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia; for an end to the bombing, shelling, killing and an end to the conflict; for peace between all nations.

May 15-21

Pray for Christian Aid week, 15-21 May. Give thanks to God for all the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

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 the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

Pray for those suffering from stigma and discrimination; may they be shown kindness, compassion and understanding.

May 22-28

Pray for those who live alone and are lonely. Pray also for people affected by mental illness, ask that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

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.

Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

May 29 – June 4

Give thanks for the summer sunshine that brightens the days during the summer months. Pray for safety, relaxation and happy times for everyone in our community.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for Your rich blessings that come to us fresh and new each morning. Amen

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.

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 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.

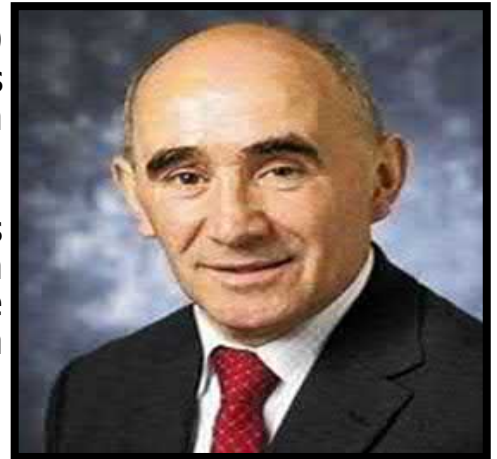
This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful. If you have particular prayer requests for the next month (June 2022) please do send them to our **church secretary**, Gloria who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



Serving Inverness with distinction and friendliness

In Crown Church Newsletter for September 2009 I used this heading to salute Jimmy Gray's appointment as Provost of Inverness in a team with his wife, Liz, as Lady Provost.

The same headline is just as appropriate now as we mark Jimmy's retirement after over 20 years with The Highland Council as one of the Members for the Millburn Ward and Convener of the South Area Planning Committee amongst many Convenerships.



He also steered the Inverness Townscape Heritage Project, the catalyst for many splendid improvements to, and greater knowledge of, our built environment particularly in Academy Street.

Jimmy was elected to The Highland Council for the Crown Ward in 1999. Nothing ever stays still in life and this was subsequently reorganised and renamed as Millburn Ward. His 1st May 2003 election address "Jimmy Gray's BUSY DIARY of REAL local PROGRESS as your Councillor" focuses on recently improving the schools and on new plans to upgrade the carriageway of Stephens Brae for pedestrians. En passant he mentions that with another Councillor they were successful in getting a £20k grant from the Highland Council Landfill Tax Credit Fund to assist Crown Church to pay for a much needed new boiler.

Jimmy has worked tirelessly and with great integrity for this part of the new "city" and for Crown Church as a vital part of the community. He is the energetic and hands-on Chairman of our 20/20 Committee which is now completing the impressive major upgrade to all our premises. This has certainly given the church and community a "LIFT".

This same active approach is often also seen in sweeping up after others whether it be in the streets on his early morning run or in his attention to sweeping the church floors after coffee on a Sunday.

He and Liz have put in many, partly unseen, hours of work for the Crown Church fixing and painting, housekeeping etc. which are on top of their designated positions within the church.

We salute them both.

Richard Ardern

BOB SHANKS

Bob Shanks, a long term member of Crown's Congregation, was recently presented with the British Empire Medal, on behalf of the Queen, by the Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire. The ceremony took place in The Medal Room of Dingwall Museum on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 and a photograph of the medal awarded is shown below.

The award was originally announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list of 2020 but because of COVID and other factors there had been a long delay in organising the actual presentation of the medal.

The award was made because of Bob's work as Chairman of the Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association (Ross-shire Branch) and his links, over the years, with a number of bodies including the Consulates of Poland and Japan.



Daily Bible Readings for May

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

Sunday, May 8, 2022, Acts 16:16-34, Paul and Silas

Monday, Acts 16:35-40, Paul and Silas

Tuesday, Acts 15:1-11, The Council at Jerusalem

Wednesday, Acts 15:12-21, The Council at Jerusalem

Thursday, Acts 16:1-5, Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

Friday, Acts 16:6-10, Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

Saturday, Acts 16:11-15, The Conversion of Lydia

Sunday, May 15, 2022, Acts 17:16-31, Paul's Sermon at Athens

Monday, Acts 18:1-17, Paul in Corinth

Tuesday, Acts 19:1-10, Paul in Ephesus

Wednesday, Acts 21:27-36, Paul Arrested in the Temple

Thursday, Acts 21:37-22:5, Paul Defends Himself

Friday, Acts 23:12-22, The Plot to Kill Paul

Saturday, Acts 28:23-30, Paul Preaches in Rome

Sunday, May 22, 2022, Philippians 1:1-18a, Partnership in the Gospel

Monday, Philippians 1:18b-30, Partnership in the Gospel

Tuesday, Philippians 2:14-30, Timothy and Epaphroditus

Wednesday, Philippians 3:1-11, Breaking with the Past

Thursday, Philippians 3:12-4:1, Pressing toward the Goal

Friday, Philippians 4:2-9, Exhortations

Saturday, Philippians 4:10-23, Acknowledgment of the Philippians' Gift

Sunday, May 29, 2022, Philippians 2:1-13, The Christ Hymn

Monday, Acts 1:1-5, The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Tuesday, Acts 1:6-11, The Ascension of Jesus

Wednesday, Acts 1:12-26, Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Thursday, Acts 2:37-42, The First Converts

Friday, Acts 2:43-47, Life Among the Believers

Saturday, Acts 3:1-10, Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

Sunday, June 5, 2022, Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7, Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord

Monday, Acts 3:11-16, Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

Tuesday, Acts 3:17-26, Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

Wednesday, Acts 4:1-12, Peter and John before the Council

Thursday, Acts 4:13-22, Peter and John before the Council

Friday, Acts 4:23-31, The Believers Pray for Boldness

Saturday, Acts 4:32-37, The Believers Share Their Possessions



Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors Commissioning Service

You are warmly invited to the Commissioning Service of the Inverness Street & Prayer Pastors who joined and trained just prior to the pandemic. It would be a great encouragement for them to have your support. All have already served to the best of their abilities and as personal circumstances allowed, throughout this very difficult time in our communities.

The service will take place on Sunday 8th May at Culduthel Christian Centre at 6pm. One of our own members, Lena Clarke, is being commissioned a Prayer Pastor!

Lesley McRoberts

THE LAUNCHPAD BOOKSALE

Thank you so much to the many people who donated a wonderful selection of almost new books to the Launchpad Big Booksale. The Sanctuary was a lovely space to welcome a very steady stream of customers throughout the day. So many people enjoyed the opportunity to chat with each other as they made their way round the tables.

The event raised £540.: This will allow Launchpad to offer more grants for applicants who would like some help to take up a hobby, or have a bike to get around, or even help with their preparation for work. Unsold books are being donated to the Hospice or Blythswood.

Eileen Ardern



- ❖ Are you 60 or over?
- ❖ Do you find Sundays lonely?
- ❖ Do you wish you could have Sunday lunch made for you?



If you say **YES** to any of the questions above, why don't you come along to the over 60s

Sunday Lunch Club, at
The Royal Highland Hotel Inverness
(next to the rail station)

Every 3rd Sunday of the month.
1pm-3pm and
enjoy a two-course meal, tea & coffee and entertainment

All for £5.!



All you have to do is contact **Liz on 07925145496** before the Thursday of the lunch club to book a place. You must book a place.

Dates for the next few months are:

15th May, 19th June, 17th July, 21st August, 18th Sept.

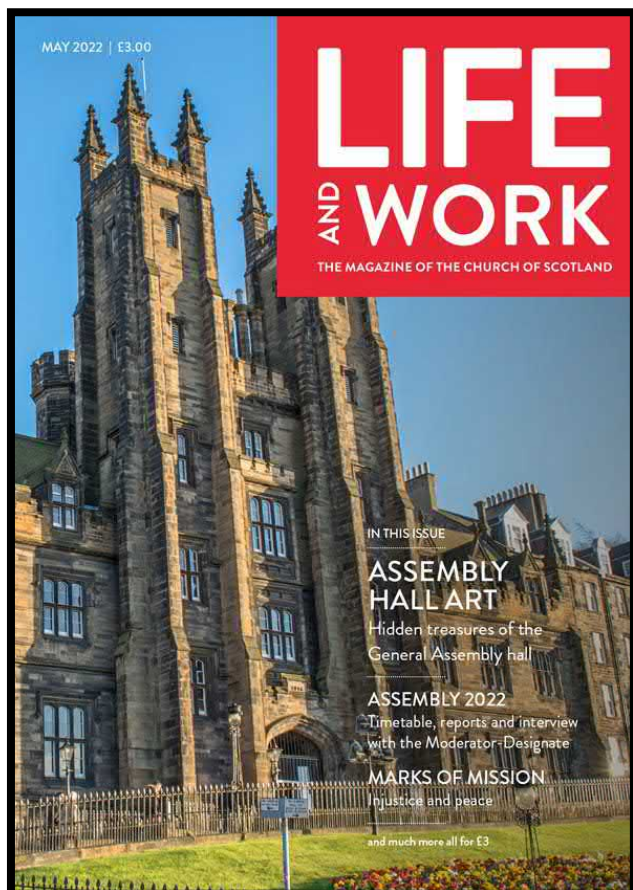
Everyone is welcome



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LIFE AND WORK

MAY



General Assembly 2022

The hidden art treasures in the Assembly Hall
Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Iain Greenshields.

'No Time for Turning Back': The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, convener of the Assembly Trustees, urges the Church to continue the journey of reform

Assembly reports and timetable

Marks of Mission

Continuing the series with the Fourth Mark of Mission: to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

A Privilege and a Joy

In this month's youth column, Jamie Sutherland reflects on his experiences after being called to the Eldership at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic

United by Hope in Times of Crisis

This year's appeal for Christian Aid Week

Plus: Prayers and Aid for Ukraine

Celebrate Digital Church

The Very Rev Albert Bogle says that as in-person church resumes, it is important that local congregations continue to develop their digital footprint

East Neuk Churches

John R Hume reflects on the history of some of the churches around the East Neuk of Fife

God's Test

In the latest of the series on the Lord's Prayer, David Searle considers temptation

Buy or subscribe, in print or digital, at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, or speak to your church's Life and Work promoter.

The General Assembly kicks off on Saturday May 21.

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for daily reports during the Assembly and a free downloadable summary of the key decisions, available the following week. There will also be full coverage in the July magazine.

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.

christian
aid

We believe in life before death

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Drought starves. It robs people of the power to farm and grow food for their families. Now too, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mothers often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have. One of these mothers is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

'My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide.' Jessica says. **'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'**



Photo credit: Christian Aid / David Brazier

Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to adapt to growing food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into an oasis of hope.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help women and men grow crops that survive in the drought.
- **Act** and raise your voice for justice.
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

Here we are doing things a little differently this year. Yes, there will be envelopes delivered to all households in our parish but these will be delivery-only envelopes. Each envelope will have details of how to donate, either using online methods or by leaving envelopes at a drop off point, for instance at the newly restarted Olive Grove I'm hoping. There will also be envelopes in the pews – no wait, chairs – for those who don't want to use online giving. And again this year I will be doing my individual "300,000 steps in May" challenge. Even steps to get to the biscuit barrel count!

Could you do it? It's not too late to join in, just at your own pace. Contact me for details.

These are the relevant links for online giving:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/inverness-crown-church-2022

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-crippin-300k-steps-in-may-2022

If you can't use any of these methods please get in touch with me via the church office (231140 or office@crown-church.co.uk).

Thank you

David Crippin

SAVE THE DATE

Our friends at Old High St Stephens are holding a coffee morning for Christian Aid at St Stephens on Saturday morning 14th May from 10.00am and would welcome you there.



Highland Malawi Trust (HMT)

Dear friends and loyal supporters this is not an easy post to write.

Last month Highland Malawi Trust (HMT) transferred money to Mr Lupia our dear friend and manager of Trust affairs on the ground in Mzuzu for the last time. The money was what was left in the bank after the amazing response to our Christmas Appeal in 2020.

That appeal funded the feeding programme for all the groups in 2020 and 2021 and also provided fertiliser for the maize planting. They had bumper crops last year and we hope and pray that that will be the case this year too. There was also enough money to renovate a building that had been damaged in the January storms and also pay school fees for the Lupia family for this Session.

When HMT was set up in 2009 we never once envisaged just how big it would grow or how many lives it would affect.

Winding up the Trust was not a decision that was taken lightly and has been on the cards for a while. We achieved more than we ever envisaged and our trip in 2020 (which unfortunately never happened) was going to be our last.

The intention was to wind up then, but Covid struck and we thought "we can't do it now - we need to see them through it, if we can" and with your help as always, we did.

Losing Doug in 2020 was a huge blow and we lost out IT expert then. Brian our hardworking accountant is retiring this Summer - it will be good for him to hang up his Trust hat too. His work was unseen but it was also time consuming and the Maidens were always glad of his steadying hand on the tiller when perhaps they were getting carried away!

We will keep in touch with Mr Lupia who will keep us informed of how the groups are getting on. Hopefully what we have put in place for them will keep them going as long as they can themselves.

It has been an amazing experience for the Maidens and we shall treasure the memories of our HMT years forever .

We could not have done it alone however, so as this chapter closes our love and heartfelt thanks is sent to you all.

God bless you and yours.

The Maidens & Brian x

Welcome Team

May 1st	John and Marion Barbour Jimmy and Liz Gray
May 8th	John and Marion Barbour Helen Boynton, Jimmy/Liz Gray
May 15th	John and Marion Barbour Jimmy and Liz Gray
May 22nd	John and Marion Barbour Jimmy and Liz Gray
May 29th	John and Marion Barbour Helen Boynton, Jimmy/Liz Gray

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. We are in need of volunteers for June and especially July.

Readers

May 1st	Janet MacPherson
May 8th	Bob Forrest
May 15th	Jimmy Gray
May 22nd	Bob Shanks
May 29th	Fiona Carter
June 5th	Brian Macgill

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Mrs Irene Sutherland, Auldcastle Road, 25th March 2022

Mrs Christine Macdonald, Oakwood Court, 5th April 2022

Items for the June newsletter by Sunday 29th May 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](mailto:office@crowns-church.co.uk)

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

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