

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

SEPTEMBER 2022: No. 783

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



SUNDAY SERVICES

We are now back meeting regularly for our two Sunday Morning Services. Douglas is however continuing 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 4th September

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

Sunday 11th September

Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 18th September

Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 25th September

Harvest Thanksgiving

Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 2nd October

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



'Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'

Matthew 9:38

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

The "Five Marks of Mission" have provided the core of our preaching programme at both the 9:30am and 11am Sunday services throughout the summer months, so I hope you are by now familiar with them. If you have been unable to attend any of our services either in person or online, then this little summary can be an introduction for you.

The "Five Marks of Mission" were formally adopted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May 2020. They are intended to help us focus on the calling and prompting of God, to reinvigorate our Christian mission to the world.



While each of the Five Marks is numbered, this is not an order of priority. All Five are equally important, and they should all become part of the normal life and activities of every congregation. Sometimes they are summarised in this way: TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM and TREASURE. This is an easy way to remember the essence of each Mark, but written out more fully they are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God;

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;

To respond to human need by loving service;

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

In addition to adopting this structure for the church's mission, many of you will also be aware that every Presbytery has been instructed by the General Assembly to make radical reductions in the number of paid ministry positions within our bounds, and to rationalise our buildings.

An earlier Assembly had already instructed Presbyteries and congregations to review all their buildings with a view to ensuring that they were "well equipped spaces in the right places." It was in light of that directive that Crown Church set up the 20/20 Group, to drive necessary developments to bring our buildings up to a modern standard in things like disability access, insulation, eco friendly, and so on, as well as to make them fit for meaningful community engagement.

The progress made in that project over the last 2½ years has placed Crown Church in a very good position in terms of the more radical rationalisation that is now being proposed, but we nevertheless share in the pain – often genuine and legitimate grief – that many congregations around Inverness and West Moray Presbytery face, with proposed closures of their buildings.

No doubt most of you will also have heard that a proposal to unite Crown Church with Old High St Stephen's (OHSS) will be put to the Presbytery at about the same time as this Newsletter will be published.

The Kirk Sessions of both congregations have broadly supported that plan and we have now been working more closely with our friends at OHSS on several mission and outreach projects. This will continue and grow until such times as the union is formally created. At the moment I am unclear about the exact process and timeframe for that to happen.

In all of this, it could be easy to feel overwhelmed, and I know many of my colleagues in ministry are certainly feeling that way, and they report having many members upset, disappointed, even angry, about some of the proposals across the country.

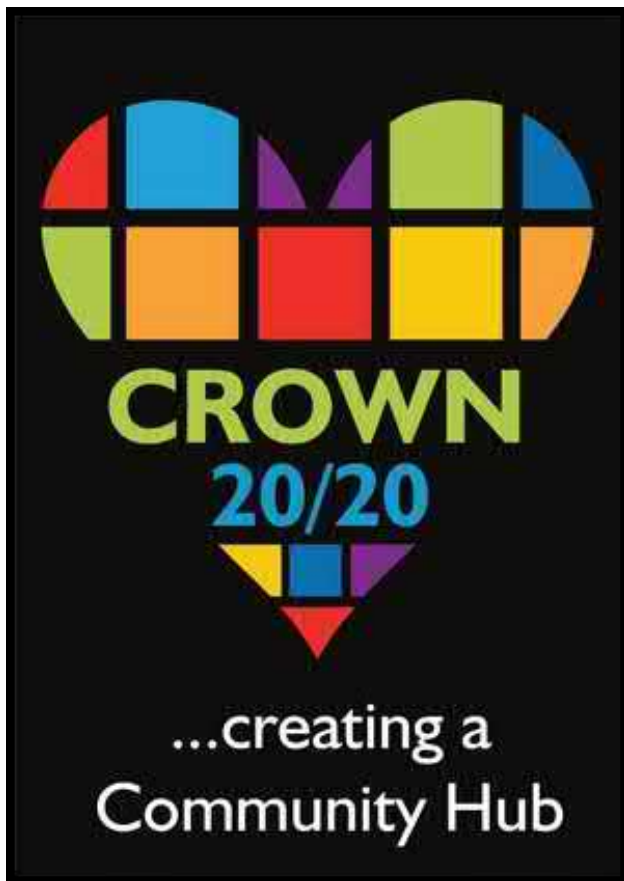
It is important that we hold onto the vision that underlies the Five Marks of Mission, which is that God is not done with us, he has not abandoned us, and he has a plan for us that he wants us to join, with full and enthusiastic faith in his abundant faithfulness and grace.

We might feel that the Church of Scotland in some sense has become a small remnant of what we used to be, but if we follow the stories of the Old Testament, especially after the days of King David, we will see that the entire nation of Israel was eventually reduced to a tiny remnant, a shadow of its former self. Yet it was into that remnant that God sent his Son Jesus Christ.

Now let us pray that God once more sends a new sense of the presence of Jesus in the church, the whole church, the body of Christ, not just the Church of Scotland. May his Holy Spirit imbue and so deeply infuse and inspire the church that we might once again proclaim the Kingdom of God and engage with our communities, with the confidence of Jesus' first generation of disciples.

And may God richly bless us all,

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

More Good News on the Church Upgrade from 20/20

20/20 are delighted to announce that we have had more good news on the grant aid front in as much as we have had further success with a 90% grant aid award for an upgrade to the lighting and PA systems in the church. Applications were made to the Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF) which is operated by Highland Council on behalf of the Scottish Government.

A contract has been awarded to RM Construction for £45,000 upgrade to the lighting in the Sanctuary of the Church. This will be funded through 90% grant, £40,500 and the remainder through the Church.

A further contract has been awarded to Media Pro for a £32,000 upgrade to the Public Address (P.A.) System in the church. Like the lighting this will be paid for by 90% grant, £28,880 and the remainder through the church.

The PBIF grant aid is specifically targeted at projects which are designed to maximise the use and sharing of space rather than using up additional land for new build. This not only reduces the land take but also has the potential to reduce energy and material consumption.

20/20 and many within the congregation were delighted last week to hear the voices of over 50 under 5 years of age echoing in the corridors of the church as they ate their lunch in the Early Learning Centre. Along with Young Crown they are the future as they too share the space of Crown Church.

Bye For Now

Struan's off to be a teacher
What will we do? He's been our preacher
At half past nine and through the week
He does so much our souls to keep

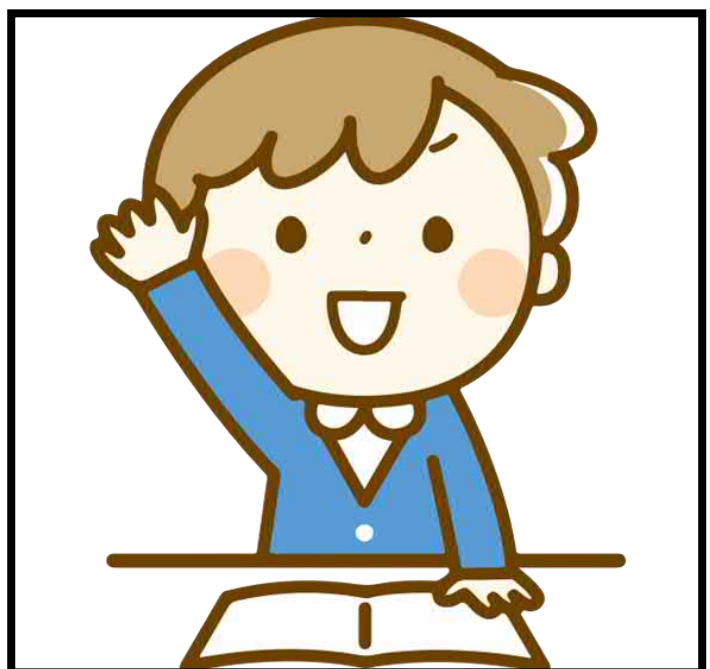
He welcomes wee ones and their parents
Big kids, small kids, many variants
He takes it all in his stride
With his smile a mile wide

Ask him where to find a verse
He'll always share, never terse
Ask him where to find the keys
He knows that too, just say please

We're holding on, please don't go
We need you still to help us, so
If you can give us still some hours
We'd love to keep you, you are ours!

We wish you blessings for coming days
Others will love your winning ways
Go with our love in the coming year
God's love and joy in your new career

ANON



SAVE THE DATE!



Please keep the evening of **Saturday 24th September** free as we are hoping to organise a Harvest Thanksgiving Supper.

Further details will be given in the Minister's email and on the church website.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the arrangements, so please speak to Marion Forrest or Lesley McRoberts if you'd like to help.

The Guild

The new Guild syllabus is almost finalised and includes many interesting evenings to look forward to. The first meeting of the new season will be **Tuesday 4th October**.

We usually begin at the end of September but this year we have an extra September meeting.

Inverness and Nairn Guild Together Committee is hosting an afternoon tea meeting in the Kingsmills Hotel on Thursday 15th September at 2pm. The cost is £15 which should be paid to our treasurer, Sheena Ferguson, by the 7th September. All Guild ladies are invited to attend.

The Guild is open to men and women in the congregation. We meet on Tuesday evenings roughly every fortnight throughout the year from October to March. Lifts can be arranged. A warm welcome is assured.

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent



Ecumenical Prayer for Peace



Living God,
Creator and giver of life to all people:
We ask that you would hear our prayer for peace amongst the nations
And for the ending of conflict in Ukraine.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Who shall judge between the nations:
We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace
And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Who has inspired faith across the ages:
Grant peace in the midst of war
And bring harmony to the commonwealth of nations.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Who gave his only Son that we might have life:
We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit
And inspire in us hope that peace will be renewed.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Scottish Church Leaders Forum

Daily Bible Readings for September

Sunday, September 4, 2022, Ruth 4 The Book of Ruth: Chapter 4

Monday, September 5, 2022, Ruth 4:1-4 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, Ruth 4:5-6 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, Ruth 4:7-10 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Thursday, September 8, 2022, Ruth 4:11-12 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Friday, September 9, 2022, Ruth 4:13-17 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Saturday, September 10, 2022, Ruth 4:18-22 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Sunday, September 11, 2022, Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 Flood and Promise

Monday, September 12, 2022, Genesis 9:18-28 Noah and His Sons

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Genesis 10:1-14 Nations Descended from Noah

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Genesis 10:15-32 Nations Descended from Noah

Thursday, September 15, 2022, Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel

Friday, September 16, 2022, Genesis 11:10-26 Descendants of Shem

Saturday, September 17, 2022, Genesis 11:27-32 Descendants of Terah

Sunday, September 18, 2022, Genesis 12:1-9 Call of Abraham

Monday, September 19, 2022, Genesis 15:1-6 God's Covenant with Abraham

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Genesis 21:1-7 The Birth of Isaac

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, Genesis 25:19-28 The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Thursday, September 22, 2022, Genesis 35:16-26 The Birth of Benjamin and Death of Rachel

Friday, September 23, 2022, Genesis 37:1-11 Joseph Dreams of Greatness

Saturday, September 24, 2022, Genesis 37:12-36 Joseph is Sold by His Brothers

Sunday, September 25, 2022, Genesis 39:1-23 Joseph in Prison

Monday, September 26, 2022, Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, Genesis 50:22-26 Joseph's Death

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, Exodus 1:1-22 Oppression of the Israelites

Thursday, September 29, 2022, Exodus 3:1-12 Moses at the Burning Bush

Friday, September 30, 2022, Exodus 12:29-32 The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

Saturday, October 1, 2022, Exodus 13:17-2 The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Sunday, October 2, 2022, Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29 Rescue at Sea

Monday, October 3, 2022, Exodus 15:1-21 Songs of Moses and Miriam

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Exodus 15:22-27 Bitter Water Made Sweet

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, Exodus 16:1-21 Bread from Heaven

Thursday, October 6, 2022, Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the Rock

Friday, October 7, 2022, Exodus 17:8-16 Amalek Attacks Israel and Is Defeated

Saturday, October 8, 2022, Exodus 18:13-27 Jethro's Advice



FLOWERS IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

We are grateful to the following for donating money so that we can arrange flowers for our Sunday Services in September:

4th September	Eleanor Ross
11th September	Stewart Robertson
18th September	Jessica Ely
25th September (Harvest)	Jean and Una Hamilton

If you would like to donate money for the church flowers you can add your name to the Flower Chart in the corridor on a date that is special to you.

Ruby Coe (225467) will then be in touch with you about your choice of flowers.



THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club starts up again on **Friday 2nd September at 2pm** in the Sanctuary.

The first meeting will simply be a time of fellowship and updating records as we enjoy catching up with each other over our afternoon cuppa .

At the 2nd meeting on 16th September Steve Walsh the chief executive officer for Highlife Highland is coming along to talk to us about the work of the organisation. The calendar for the rest of the Session is in the process of being put together as we wait for confirmation from one or two speakers.

Please come along - and if you need help with transport - please contact Stewart or Chrisanne Robertson or Elspeth Gibson.

Stewart 07753 824725
Chrisanne 07740 421035
Elspeth 07907000415

Also if there is anyone who can help with transport for those who wish to come but have no means could you also contact the above. The more help we get the more we can reach out to people.

Thanks

The Friendship Team

Dear Churches Supporting Highland Foodbank

HARVEST 2022

Harvest is a time of year when we remember God's goodness to us – and also reflect on our responsibility to express his love to those in our community and in our world who are in need. So it's not surprising that Harvest Thanksgiving continues to be the most significant time of year for giving to Foodbank from Highland Churches.

This year has, so far, been a difficult one for many. With the cost of living dramatically increasing, many people in our communities have struggled financially, and have had to resort to seeking referral to their local Foodbank.

We have been able to respond to the level of need only because of the continuing generosity of the public, and especially members and friends of churches in donating food to us. In the first six months of 2022 we helped 3,000 people across Highland.

I'm writing to ask if your church would consider supporting us at Harvest this year, thus helping to make a difference in people's lives in the weeks and months ahead.

I'm assigning seven products to each participating Church, including items of much needed toiletries/household products. The leaflet on the next page of the newsletter lists the products I'd like your congregation to consider donating, if your Church decides to support Highland Foodbank at this time.

Donations of used or new 'bags for life' would also be very welcome and much appreciated.

Many thanks for your support! Please just get in touch if you require any further information or help with collecting your donations following Harvest.

Blessings,

Lorna Dempster

Foodbank Manager





Harvest 2022

Support local people in crisis by donating an item from the list below:

Items we'd be grateful for

- Tins of potatoes/smash
- Jars of jam
- Packets of oatcakes
- Cartons of long life juice
- Tins of mince/stew
- Washing powder/deodorant

Highland Foodbank provides emergency food packages with enough food to make 3 meals over 3 days to people who would otherwise go hungry.

People in crisis are referred to Foodbank by a variety of different organisations including social work teams, schools and CAB.



"My partner and I are both working part-time jobs around looking after our three children. Money is always tight, and even although it's the summer and we don't need heating on, our monthly tariff has increased by £30! We need a car to get to and from work, and last month it was due its MOT and needed some work done to pass. We couldn't afford this and food that week. I don't know what we'd have done without help from Foodbank."

01463 717630

foodbank.admin@blythswood.org

Registered Charity in Scotland 048001

Company Number 583493



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING



Want to get fit, make friends, have fun and learn new skills. Then why not come Scottish Country Dancing ?

Introductory Class meets in the Crown Church Upper Hall on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm beginning **23rd September**.

No previous experience or partner needed, just a pair of soft shoes and a sense of humour!

Irene Whyte

SEWING AND CRAFT GROUP

The sewing and craft group has now restarted. We meet in the lounge in Crown Church ever Tuesday from 2-4pm.

New members welcome. Bring along your own project or maybe be inspired to try something new. Share your ideas and skills or just come along for a chat to see what we are doing and find out more.

Helen Taylor



HIGHLAND HOSPICE



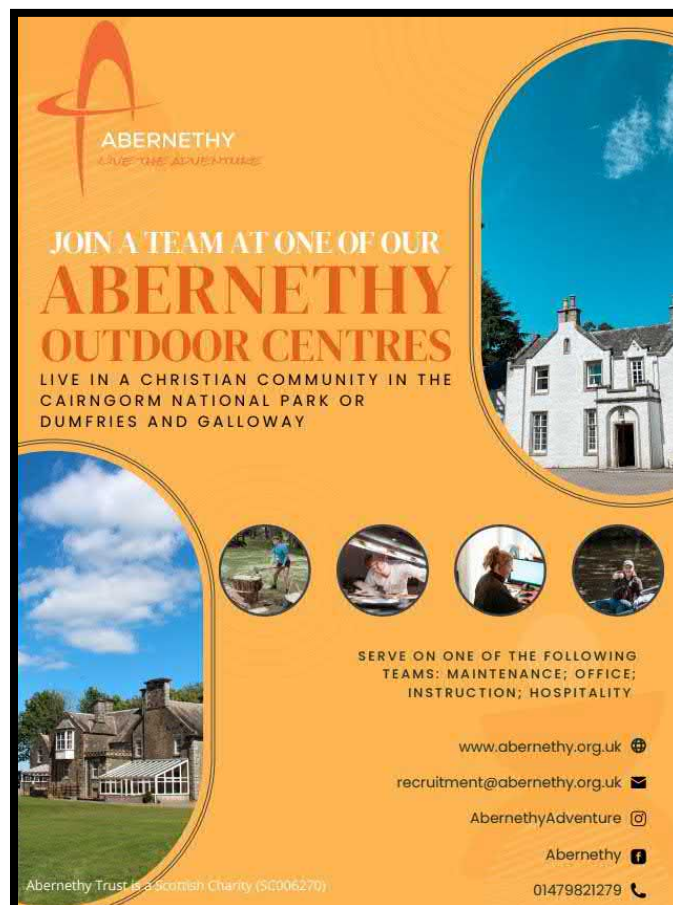
Highland Hospice established the Helping Hands Service in 2015. We have a team of volunteers who provide friendship/ carer respite to those living with a life limiting health condition.

We are urgently requiring volunteers in the Ross-shire and Inverness area. If you have a spare hour or two per week or fortnight please get in touch with us at Helpinghands@highlandhospice.org.uk or phone the hospice directly on 01463 243132 and ask to speak to one of the helping hands team for more information.

It is a fantastic opportunity to reach out and provide support in your local community and make a real difference in a person's life.

Carol Seaton

Helping Hand Coordinator, Highland Hospice



Abernethy is going from strength to strength post pandemic, but we really need more staff to be able to host full numbers again. If you are interested in working or training with us, please get in touch.

Ingrid Hutchison

GAP YEAR AT ABERNETHY OUTDOOR CENTRES

Live in a Christian community, serve on our hospitality team and be discipled through adventure in the Cairngorms!



UP MOUNTAINS



ON LOCHS



IN THE OCEAN



ON TRAILS



DOWN RIVERS

12TH SEPTEMBER 2022 – 10TH MARCH 2023 OR
20 MARCH 2023 – 1 SEPTEMBER 2023



ABERNETHY
LIVE THE ADVENTURE

Abernethy Trust is a Scottish Charity (SC096376)

www.abernethy.org.uk

recruitment@abernethy.org.uk

[AbernethyAdventure](#)

[Abernethy](#)

01479821279

OUTDOOR INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE



MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022 – 24TH FEBRUARY 2023
MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023 - FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2023

6-month pathway to becoming an Outdoor Instructor whilst living onsite in Christian community

Gain qualifications in paddlesports, rock climbing, mountain biking, 1st aid, archery and a personal performance ski week in the Alps

www.abernethy.org.uk

recruitment@abernethy.org.uk

[AbernethyAdventure](#)

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ABERNETHY
LIVE THE ADVENTURE

Abernethy Trust is a Scottish Charity (SC096376)



MOUNTAIN BIKING



PADDLING



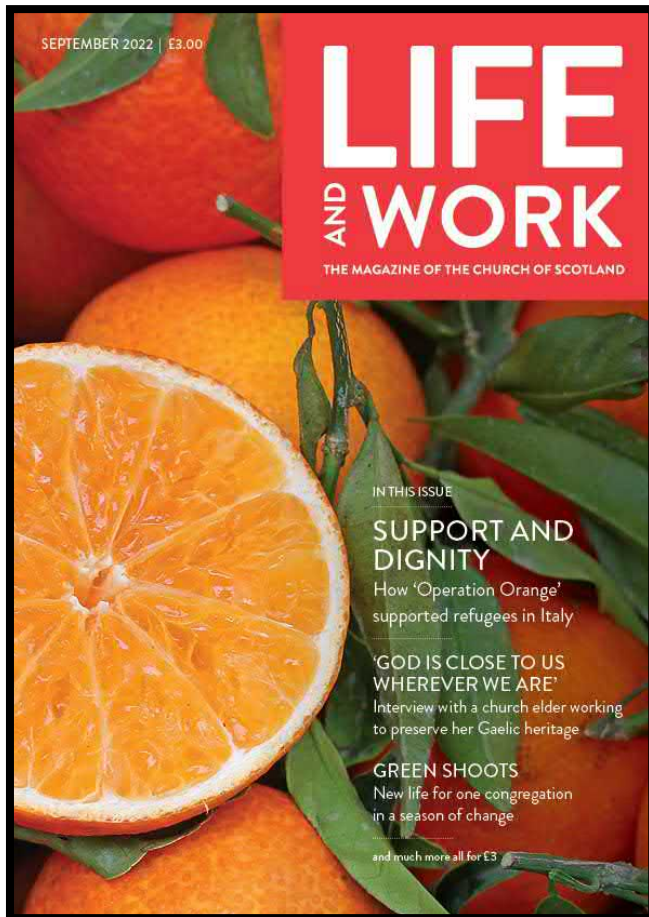
CLIMBING



AND SO MUCH MORE...

LIFE AND WORK

SEPTEMBER



Support and Dignity

The work of the Italian refugee charity behind last winter's 'Operation Orange'

'God is Good to Us Wherever We Are'

Jackie Macadam learns about Anna Mackinnon's upbringing on Lewis, and her work to preserve the island's Gaelic language and heritage

Green Shoots

The Rev Muriel Pearson reflects on the new life for one congregation which took a radical decision

A Source of Comfort

Nathan Hood argues that the Church has

historically faced, and overcome, similar problems to those it is facing now

Love and Unity

The Very Rev Albert Bogle argues that a spirit of generosity is the key to renewal in the Church of Scotland

Supporting the Agricultural Community

Celebrating the 125th anniversary of RSABI, a charity with major links to the Church

'Back to Normal'

In this month's youth column, Kirsty Hamilton describes how the Ukraine crisis has spurred her church into action

Faith in Action

Official monthly update from the Faith Action team

Plus

News, letters, readers' pictures, crosswords and registers

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

Online

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for more news, exclusive features and our FREE guide to the key decisions and speeches of this year's General Assembly.

You can also find us at [facebook.com/lifeandwork](https://www.facebook.com/lifeandwork) or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork and now on Instagram.

Welcome Team

4th September Sheena Ferguson, Ishbel & Roddy Lightbody, Evelyn Reid

11th September Elspeth Gibson, Evelyn Reid, Chrisanne Robertson, Georgine Suman

18th September Sheena Ferguson, Elspeth Gibson, Evelyn Reid, Chrisanne Robertson

25th September Sheena Ferguson, Elspeth Gibson, Evelyn Reid, Chrisanne Robertson

As we look forward to enjoying our newly refurbished premises, 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

September 4th Jude Madeleine

September 11th Gary McAra

September 18th Iain S. Fraser

September 25th John Barbour

October 2nd Mairi Mui

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Baptisms

Brodie Rigby, on Sunday 28th August 2022. Son of Julie and John Rigby and younger brother of Lachlan.

Deaths

Mrs Janella Young, Lovat Road, 29 June 2022

Ms Catherine (Katie) Grainge, Evanton, 7 July 2022

Mr Ewen Gabriel, Kingsmills Gardens, 2 August 2022

Items for the October newsletter by Sunday 25th September please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

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

Minister Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054

drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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