

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**DECEMBER 2022: No. 786**

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

**Sunday 11th December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 11th December** Service of Comfort and Hope at 3pm

**Sunday 18th December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Christmas Eve 6.30pm Christmas Family Service**

**11.30pm Watch Night Service**

**Christmas Day 10.30am The Celebration of Christmas**

## **2023**

**Sunday 1st January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

**Sunday 8th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 15th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 22nd January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 29th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 5th February** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



**“When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy ”**

**Matthew 2 :10**


## From the Minister


Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

I was recently a bit of a fly on the wall, observing an online conversation about the use of Xmas as an abbreviation for Christmas. I don't know if any of you use it, and perhaps I risk offending you if you do, so please bear in mind that for the sake of brevity and simplicity I've been known to use it myself.

Some people in the conversation argued that it is not only legitimate, but profoundly meaningful, because X is the first letter of Christ in Greek - χριστος.

In the early days of the Christian church persecution was very real and often brutal. In order to protect themselves, Christians developed a series of signs they could use, so that followers of Jesus might recognise each other, without it becoming obvious to other people.

In our modern times, the most well known of these ancient signs would be a simple fish often just scraped into the ground . The meaning behind this is that the word fish in Greek is an acronym for Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour. Of course, the symbol is so well known now that if someone puts a fish sticker on their car they are boldly proclaiming their faith to everybody, not just to other believers. Other symbols would include a simple cross signifying the crucifixion, or just the letter X, standing for Christ.

Another symbol that became common in the 4<sup>th</sup> century is usually called "Chi Rho",  because chi and rho are the first two letters of Christ in Greek, though in the symbol they are usually written a wee bit funny. This wasn't a covert code for persecuted Christians, but was in fact adopted by Constantine, Emperor of Rome, following his own conversion to Christ. You will often see a chi rho symbol on something like a pulpit fall.

So in keeping with this long history of the Christian church using symbols, acronyms and abbreviations, using Xmas is perfectly reasonable, provided we remember that the X is an abbreviation of Christ in the Greek.

But when I was growing up, I remember my Mum expressing with some exasperation, her disappointment that so many people were using Xmas. In her mind they were taking Christ out of Christmas, and she pointed out that the letter X is used in maths as a symbol of the unknown. "But we know the one we celebrate at Christmas", she would say.

I imagine my Mum is not alone. She had no background in theological studies, no knowledge of the Greek language or the history of the church and its use of signs and symbols. This has always made me think that even if there is a rich history and theological depth behind the use of Xmas, which is why I really have no objection to people using it, yet I do wonder what it communicates to people outside of the church. Do they think, as my mother did, that we are taking Christ out of Christmas and replacing him with an unknown? Is this why so many commercial organisations prefer the abbreviation?



Perhaps, while we are still able to be open about our faith, unlike our brothers and sisters in the early church, and indeed in many parts of the world even today, we should be cautious about using an abbreviation which will only really be understood at its most profound level by "insiders". Let's continue to use the name of Christ openly, and especially in this season when we get more opportunities to proclaim his name in front of the world.

*Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!*

(from hymn 475 in our church hymnary)

Christmas greeting to you all and your families,

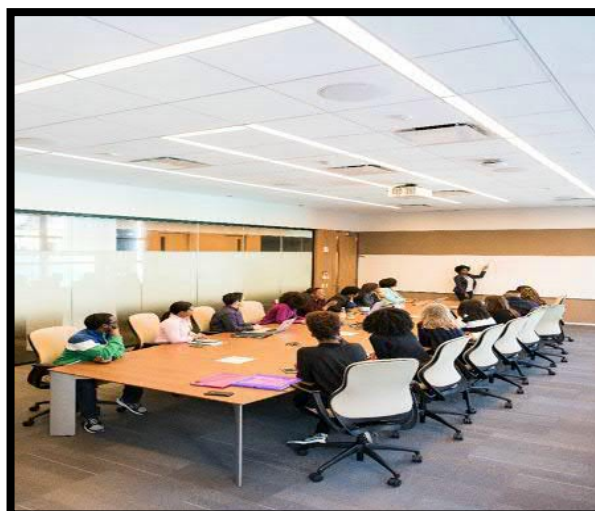
**Douglas**

## **Crown Church Conference**

It has been agreed that we will hold a church conference on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. It will be held in the church. The programme has still to be finalised but is likely to take the form of an opening session with a speaker, followed by small groups in the morning. We will then have lunch in the upper hall and this will be followed by a short afternoon session. The day will then be closed with a brief service of communion.

The event is open to all members and adherents of Crown Church. In addition, we have invited the members and adherents of Old High St Stephens to join us since we are now looking forward to the union between our 2 churches.

Further details will appear on the Crown Church website and will be intimated, as appropriate, at both the 9:30 and 11 o'clock services.



## Christmas at Crown—Calendar of Events

- Saturday 3rd December** S.N.A.C. (Saturday Night at Crown), In the upper Hall, 5 pm to 7 pm
- Sunday 4th December** Contact the Elderly afternoon tea, in the Olive Grove, at 2 p.m (followed by concert rehearsal in the Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 7th December** Concert by Inverness Singers, in the Sanctuary, 7:30pm
- Friday 9th December** The Friendship Club, in the Sanctuary at 2pm
- Saturday 10th December** Starry Night Walk, starting at Walker Park at 6 p.m. finishing at the church garden for carols and refreshments
- Sunday 11th December** Service of Comfort and Hope, in the Sanctuary at 3 pm, followed by refreshments
- Tuesday 13th December** Guild high tea
- Friday 16th December** Friendship Club Christmas Party, in the Sanctuary, 2pm
- Saturday 17th December** Quiet Day, in the Sanctuary between 12 noon and 4 pm
- Sun 18th to Sat 24<sup>th</sup>** The sanctuary will be open from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. to provide a space for quiet reflection and prayer
- Sunday 18th December** Crown Church Choir and Band Joint Concert, in the Sanctuary at 3 pm, Including congregational singing, followed by refreshments



- Wednesday 21st December** Toddler Christmas party, in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am
- Thursday 22nd December** Crown Primary School assembly, in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday 22nd December** Christmas event for nursery schoolchildren and their families in the Sanctuary at 2:15p.m.
- Friday 23rd December** Toddler Christmas service, in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

- Christmas Eve 6.00pm Christmas Family Service**  
**11.30pm Watch Night Service**  
**Christmas Day 10.30am The Celebration of Christmas**



## **The Church's Finances**

Following the stated annual general meeting and approval of the church accounts which took place in November, now might be a good time to take stock of the church's financial position.

Whilst there is no cause for alarm, the net income of the church has decreased over the last 2 years whilst our expenditure has, and will inevitably, rise since the church is not immune from the cost of living crisis, quite the reverse!

In part at least, the decline in income has been due to the effects of the pandemic but, happily, we are now well on the way to emerging from the pandemic and returning to something resembling normality. However, things will never be quite the same as they were and we must look together towards a different future.

As a result of Covid, we have abandoned the former practice of taking the collection during the course of the service. Instead, collection bowls are being left at the 4 entrances into the sanctuary and worshippers are being asked to make their contributions on the way into the services.

We have now reinstated the dedication of the offering during the 11 o'clock service.

However, it is appropriate to bring to everyone's attention that the need for continuing financial support is still there and that need is now greater than ever. For those of you who have been contributing regularly, your contributions are really appreciated but perhaps, given the increased costs the church is facing, you might consider increasing your contribution in this coming year. For others, perhaps you might consider making a regular financial contribution towards the work of the church either by way of standing order or by using the freewill offering envelopes.

If you are uncertain how to do this, please speak to either myself, either of the deputy treasurers (Liz Forbes and Liz Gray), or the freewill offering treasurer, Robert Hendry.

Our church really does need your support!

**Bob Forrest**  
**Session Clerk**

# *Prayer Diary*

## *December 2022 and January 2023*

**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 4 - 10**

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 11 - 17**

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

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

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

### **December 18 - 24**

Pray Psalm 33: 20-22: " We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His Holy name. May Your unfailing love be with us Lord, even as we put our hope in You."

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.

Lord, heal and bless our world. Bring comfort and hope as your light pierces the darkness. Amidst the doom-and-gloom reality we pray that Your love will illuminate and forge a path for all. Amen

### **December 25 - 31**

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.

Pray Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

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.

### **January 1 - 7**

Pray for our hospitals. Thank God for the medical staff at our local hospital. Praise Him for the NHS and ask Him to lift the burden of busy workloads and long hours and to give the staff strength, joy and stamina to work hard and deliver excellent care to their patients.

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.

Give thanks for the Street Pastors and pray for spiritual guidance and strength for the work they do in helping and supporting vulnerable people in our town late in the nights.

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.

### **January 8 - 14**

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."

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 15 - 21**

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 22 - 28**

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.

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 29 – February 4**

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.

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.

**If you have particular prayer requests for February 2023 please do send them to our *church secretary, Gloria* who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; [judedmond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judedmond@yahoo.co.uk)**



## **Quiet Day Saturday 17 December**

The church will be open on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, noon to 4pm, for a Quiet Day. This is an opportunity for peaceful personal reflection in the beautifully decorated and candlelit Sanctuary, a warm haven from the bustle outside. Drop in for a minute or stay for an hour. Whatever suits you on the day.

**David Crippin**

### **Open Doors**

In the week leading up to Christmas, the church will be open each afternoon & evening from 3- 7pm. Following on from the peaceful and contemplative ambiance of the Quiet Day, the Sanctuary will be held available for anyone from church or community to stop by and spend some time.

We would like to offer a warm welcome, warm drinks and to share the true spirit of Christmas in our beautifully decorated surroundings.

There will be the opportunity for anyone coming in to sit quietly or have a chat and dedicate a Christmas tree bauble too.

We will need help to staff the proceedings and are asking for volunteers to take two-hour shifts from 3-5pm or 5-7pm. There will always be at least two helpers present. Some slots are already taken so don't delay! The sign up sheet will be available at church on Sunday mornings.

If this is something that appeals to you or you want to know more about what's involved, please speak to Lesley or Chrisanne.



## Christmas Trees

We have Celebrated the first Sunday of Advent and yes Christmas is on its way.

This year we are hoping to have two trees at the church and we are hoping to add a personal touch to our decorations.

We are asking for people to dedicate an ornament to a loved one. It could be in memory of, or in appreciation of someone dear to you and your family.

You may wish to bring your own or you may wish to use one of the many that are

available here in the church. Tags will be available for you to write your message and attach to the ornament.

We are hoping that as many people as possible will take part. If it's something you wish to do but are not able to get to church we can arrange it for you.

Please get in touch with:

Lesley 07895 195035  
Chrisanne 07740421035  
Stewart 07753 824725

Chrisanne Robertson



## Starry Night Walk



*For all ages and stages*

Come to Walker Park for **6pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** and you will be welcome to join the procession of happy wanderers. We will make our way to the church for carol singing in the garden and warm refreshments in the church.

Remember to wrap up warmly and bring a lamp or a torch! Dressing as a Christmas character is optional but adds immensely to the sense of fun and occasion.

Of course, the journey is every bit as important as the arrival. Last year the weather seemed disappointing - misty and damp. Not a star could be seen in the sky, but as one of our littlest travellers announced "It doesn't matter because we all have our own stars". Each person had been greeted with a star on a stick to carry along the way.



**Come along to the "Star Factory" at SNAC on 3rd December where we will be stocking up again. *Please let Pat or Pam know you are coming.***

It was indeed a gloomy evening - we were still under Covid restrictions. We wandered through the strangely quiet streets and came across a family who were out walking. They declined our invitation to join in, as a young family member was shielding. What they said next has stayed with me "Seeing this tonight has made our Christmas!"

Carols in the garden to follow. Last time we were joined by some visitors from India and Germany who stopped and enjoyed the singing as they passed by. Doug has invested in a new mini amplifier so we will hear his guitar music loud and clear.

Hospitality next - warm, spiced fruit punch, hot chocolate and mince pies and the pleasure of being in company before heading home again. Let's come together and do our bit to share the Christmas story with each other and our community again this year. Just as the wise men, centuries ago, you never know who you might meet and how lives might be changed, even if only in the moment.



## Mince Pies

We will need mince pies to serve at the Starry Night event. If you would like to make a contribution, would you kindly bring them to church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December and give them to Lesley or Chrisanne or leave them in the Olive Grove. On this occasion, shop bought is preferable.

Many thanks, **Lesley McRoberts.**

## **Daily Bible Readings for December and January**

### **Sunday, December 4, 2022, Esther 4:1-17 Advent II: Esther**

Monday, December 5, 2022, Esther 1:1-22 King Ahasuerus Deposits Queen Vashti

Tuesday, December 6, 2022, Esther 2:1-23 Esther Becomes Queen

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, Esther 3:1-15 Haman Undertakes to Destroy the Jews

Thursday, December 8, 2022, Esther 5:1-14 Esther's Banquet, Haman's Plans

Friday, December 9, 2022, Esther 6:1-14 The King Honors Mordecai

Saturday, December 10, 2022, Esther 7:1—8:17 Esther Saves the Jews

### **Sunday, December 11, 2022, Isaiah 42:1-9 Advent III: Light to the Nations**

Monday, December 12, 2022, Isaiah 42:10-20 A Hymn of Praise

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, Isaiah 42:21-25 Israel's Disobedience

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Isaiah 43:1-7 Restoration and Protection Promised

Thursday, December 15, 2022, Isaiah 43:8-21 Restoration and Protection Promised

Friday, December 16, 2022, Isaiah 43:22-28 Restoration and Protection Promised

Saturday, December 17, 2022, Isaiah 44:1-8 God's Blessing on Israel

### **Sunday, December 18, 2022, Matthew 1:18-25 Advent IV: Jesus as Immanuel**

Monday, December 19, 2022, Genesis 15:1-21 God's Covenant with Abram

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, Isaiah 7:10-17 A Sign of Immanuel

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, Isaiah 7:18-25 A Sign of Immanuel

Thursday, December 22, 2022, Isaiah 9:6-7 A Child Has been Born to Us

Friday, December 23, 2022, Acts 13:38-39 Jesus Frees

### **Saturday, December 24, 2022, Luke 2:1-14, [15-20] Christmas Eve: Birth of Jesus**

### **Sunday, December 25, 2022, Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds Visit**

Monday, December 26, 2022, Luke 1:5-25 Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

Tuesday, December 27, 2022, Luke 1:26-38 Birth of Jesus Foretold

Wednesday, December 28, 2022, Luke 1:39-45 Mary Visits Elizabeth

Thursday, December 29, 2022, Luke 1:46-55 Mary's Song of Praise

Friday, December 30, 2022, Luke 1:57-66 Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday, December 31, 2022, Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's Prophecy

### **Sunday, January 1, 2023, Matthew 1:1-17 Genealogy of Jesus**

Monday, January 2, 2023, Genesis 25:1-34 Abraham's Descendants

Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Psalm 132:1-18 David's Heir

Wednesday, January 4, 2023, Isaiah 11:1-9 The Branch from Jesse

Thursday, January 5, 2023, Ruth 4:13-22 Ruth Enters the Davidic Line

Friday, January 6, 2023, Genesis 21:1-7 Birth of Isaac

Saturday, January 7, 2023, Genesis 38:24-30 Tamar Births Perez and Zerah

### **Sunday, January 8, 2023, Matthew 3:1-17 Jesus' Baptism**

Monday, January 9, 2023, Psalm 2:7-8 Psalm

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, Judges 13:1-7 The Birth of Samson

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, Isaiah 11:1-9 God's Peaceful Kingdom

Thursday, January 12, 2023, Zechariah 3:1-10 Joshua and Satan

Friday, January 13, 2023, Numbers 31:21-24 Cleansing by Fire

Saturday, January 14, 2023, Isaiah 40:1-11 A Voice in the Wilderness

### **Sunday, January 15, 2023, Matthew 4:1-17 Tempted in the Wilderness**

Monday, January 16, 2023, Psalm 91:9-12 Psalm

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Genesis 1:26-27 Creation of Humanity

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, Genesis 3:1-7 Temptation in the Garden of Eden

Thursday, January 19, 2023, Deuteronomy 8:1-10 A Warning from God

Friday, January 20, 2023, Matthew 4:18-22 Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Saturday, January 21, 2023, Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

**Sunday, January 22, 2023, Matthew 5:1-20 Beatitudes**

Monday, January 23, 2023, Psalm 1:1-3 Psalm

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Matthew 5:21-26 Concerning Anger

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, Matthew 5:27-32 Concerning Adultery and Divorce

Thursday, January 26, 2023, Matthew 5:33-42 Concerning Oaths and Retaliation

Friday, January 27, 2023, Matthew 5:43-48 Love for Enemies

Saturday, January 28, 2023, Matthew 6:1-6 Concerning Almsgiving

**Sunday, January 29, 2023, Matthew 6:7-21, [25-34] Treasure in Heaven**

Monday, January 30, 2023, Psalm 20:7 Psalm

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Matthew 6:22-24 Teachings of Jesus

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Matthew 6:25-34 Teachings of Jesus

Thursday, February 2, 2023, Matthew 7:15-20 Teachings of Jesus

Friday, February 3, 2023, Matthew 7:21-23 Teachings of Jesus

Saturday, February 4, 2023, Matthew 8:1-17 Healings of Jesus

**Sunday, February 5, 2023, Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 The Golden Rule**

Monday, February 6, 2023, Psalm 37:16-18 Psalm

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Matthew 9:9-17 Call of Matthew

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Matthew 8:18-27 Miracles of Jesus

Thursday, February 9, 2023, Matthew 8:28--9:8 Healings of Jesus

Friday, February 10, 2023, Matthew 9:18-39 Healings of Jesus

Saturday, February 11, 2023, Matthew 10:1-15 The Twelve Apostles



# S-N-A-C Time

SNAC (*Saturday Night At Crown*) has been running now since March, with a break over the summer. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 5-7pm in the upper hall for food, chat and play.

The evening takes the same informal format with time to play, a short message often with a little video clip followed by some food and then back to table tennis, jenga, crafts or just sitting chatting. The time just seems to disappear!

Over the months we have welcomed a number of new families to the group and subsequently to the 9.30 service. Our main outreach has been through Boy's Brigade and Toddlers although we now have plans to extend the invitation to the Old High St Stephens congregation.

Numbers have been quite steady at 60, although October was mega busy with 80 folk at our pizza night. We wanted to share some pictures from our November event where everyone had great fun outside with sparklers (the children as well of course).

All photos have been given permission for use.

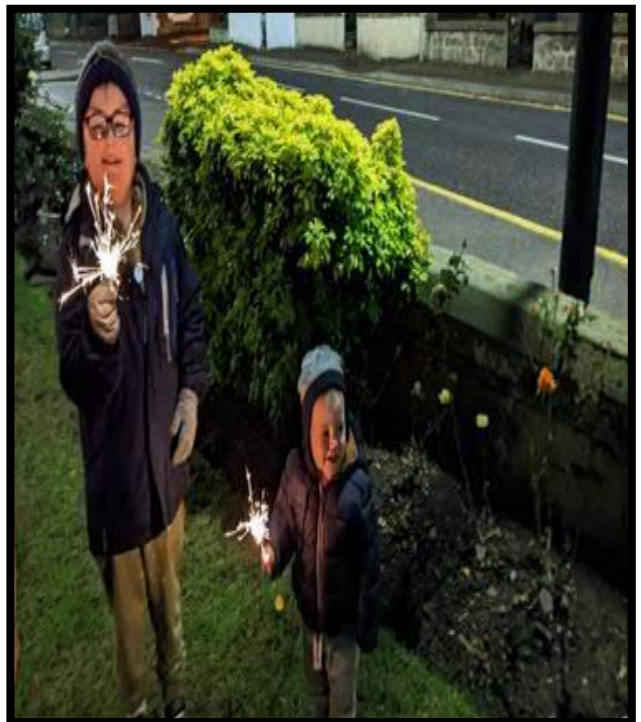
Please feel free to join us at any future SNACs – everyone is welcome!

**Next one will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> 5-7pm.**

Contact Pamela, Gary or Pat if you want to find out more.







# 3<sup>rd</sup> Inverness Boys' Brigade

## Enrolment Service

A bit later than usual, but we're holding our Enrolment Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## National Competitions

The boys are through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Masterteam quiz competition, having won their heat in Scone. Round 2 is on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023...



We also took part in the table tennis and the new FIFA competition – unfortunately, the teams were beaten by 12<sup>th</sup> Inverness and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Fraserburgh respectively.



## **Battalion Competitions**

The Battalion 10-pin bowling competition took place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at Roller Bowl and it was great to see 33 boys from across the area take part. We had 4 boys from the 3<sup>rd</sup> there on the night.





## **The Guild**

The Guild held two meetings in November. The first one, on Tuesday 8th, was on the subject of one of the Guild projects namely the Vine Trust. The speaker was Alastair Munro who has been associated with the charity for many years. He told us about the progress there has been in the building of Kazunu Village in Tanzania. Work has gone well and many families are now in residence.

Our second meeting was organised by Heather Beck and was an introduction to the Christmas season. Very enjoyable and followed by tea and mincemeat pies.

Our annual Christmas outing is on Tuesday December 13th to the Redcliffe Hotel for high tea.

We wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a good and healthy new year.

**Dorothy Mein**

**Guild Correspondent**



The Leprosy Mission Area Fundraising Group wish to thank all who supported our recent Coffee Morning. Over £1400 has been raised with donations still coming in.

Thank you

**Marion Barbour**

## Used Stamps for Church of Scotland Charity Stamp Appeal



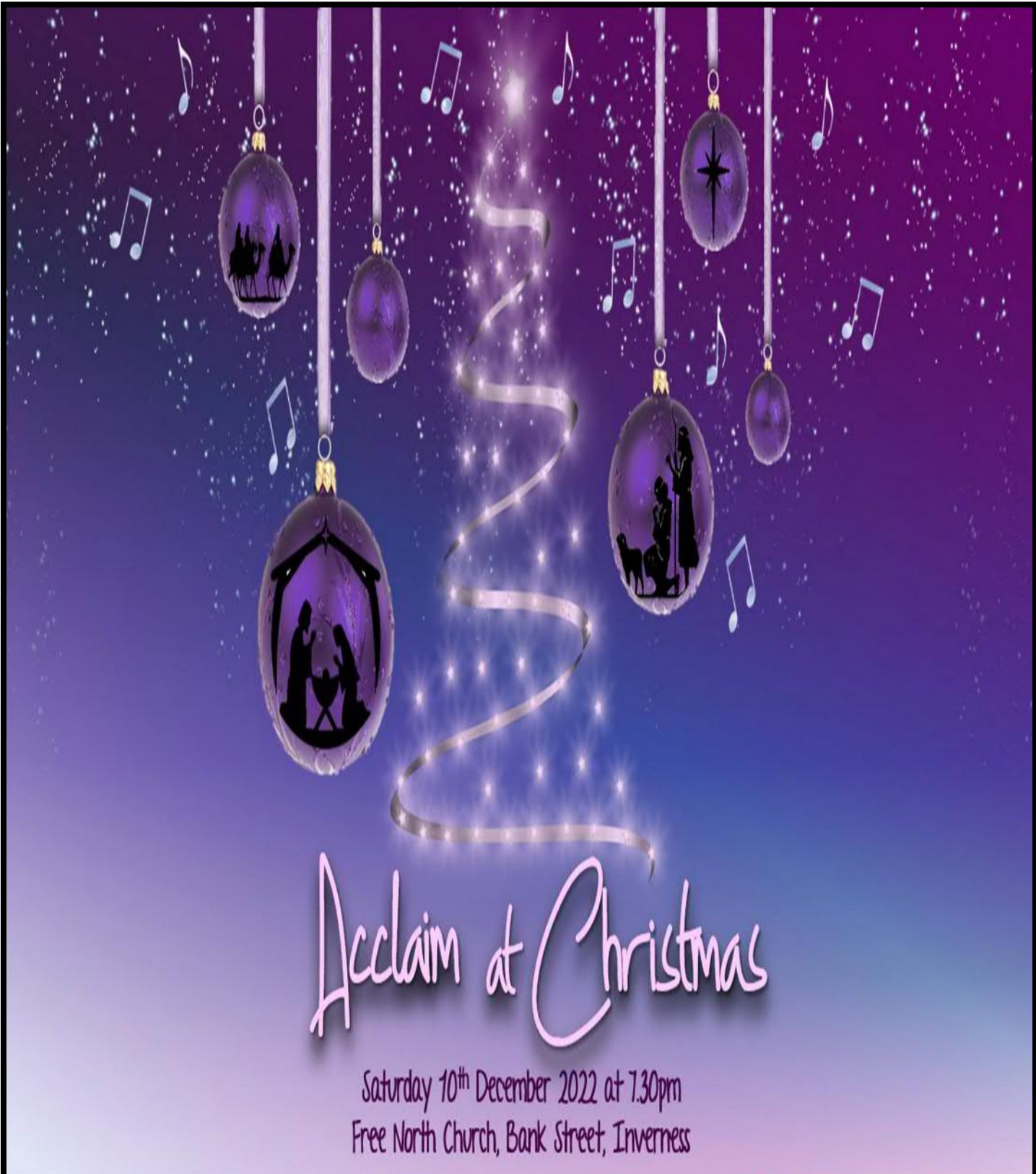
Crown Church is once again participating in the collection of used stamps to raise funds for its support of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon.

In September the Church's collection of 14lbs of used stamps was delivered to the Church Office collection point in Glasgow. These were sold to add to funds for the Women's Development project in Sri Lanka.

The Church is continuing to use the sale of stamps to fund its international work.

If you wish to support the Crown Church's contribution to this work please collect stamps from your mail and drop them into the collection boxes in the vestibules of the church. Please separate the stamps into different bags for UK and other countries.

**Liz Munro**



# Acclaim at Christmas

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm  
Free North Church, Bank Street, Inverness

**ACCLAIM**   
*in whole-hearted worship*

Free admission with an opportunity to give to The Haven Centre  
during the course of the evening.  
Tickets available from Choir Members or email [acclaimchoir@yahoo.com](mailto:acclaimchoir@yahoo.com).



## **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 December:

4th December	Mrs Jean McGowan
11th December	Mrs Isobel Ewing
18th December	Mrs Joyce Collinson
25th September (Harvest)	Mrs Ruby Coe

A new flower chart will be put up in the corridor - please add your name if you would like to donate money for church flowers - and contact me if you would like to arrange them yourself. Would love to have more volunteers for this.

Ruby Coe (225467)

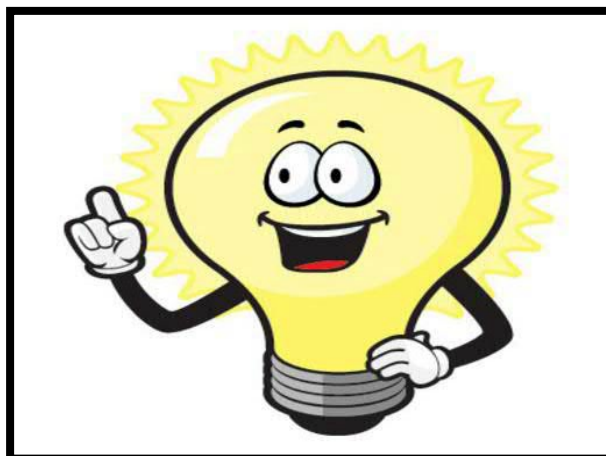


## **Candles for Christmas**

We still have some of the lovely Church Window candles. They are available now for Christmas shopping. They depict both the McGilp and the Rose window and are available in the medium size at £12 and small size at £10.

All proceeds in support of Young Crown.





Following the replacement of the lighting system in the Church Sanctuary we now have a number of LED light bulbs which are no longer required. The bulbs are rated at 10W LED (100W on the older type of bulb). The bulbs have been tested and are working though we are unable to determine how long they were in service. The bulbs will be available to the congregation at after-church coffee.

(A small donation to church funds would be appreciated)

## Life and Work

With the January edition of Life and Work, the monthly magazine will have a new emphasis. It will be repositioning itself to connect, support, engage and resource the people of the Church of Scotland and beyond as the whole church embarks upon a period of unprecedented change.

If you have not previously subscribed to Life and Work, this is a good time to try it out, particularly with the discount offered below. For those of you who read it regularly there will be much to look forward to. Don't forget to renew your subscription for either a digital or paper copy.

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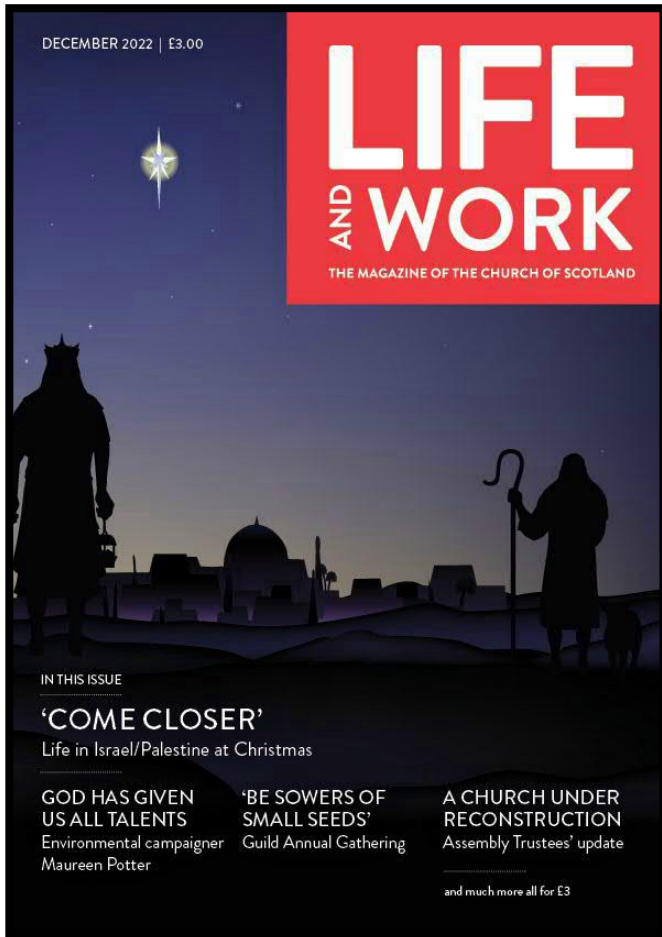
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Please send to Church of Scotland (Life and Work), 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN



# LIFE AND WORK

## DECEMBER



### **'Come Closer'**

Life in Israel/Palestine as Christmas approaches

### **'God Has Given Us All Talents'**

The life and faith of award-winning environmental campaigner Maureen Potter

### **Small Seeds**

The Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

### **At the Heart of Scotland's Christian Heritage**

In his final article of the series, John R Hume reflects on the history of Christianity at Whithorn, Wigtownshire.

### **Christian Living Starts at Home**

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why Christian life begins with those closest.

### **Where God Has Gone Before**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers emphasises the importance of transforming the Church of Scotland for the future.

### **Plus**

News, letters, readers' pictures, crosswords and registers

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

## **Welcome Team**

<b>December 4th</b>	Marion /John Barbour, Sheena Ferguson, Jean Smith
<b>December 11th</b>	Marion /John Barbour, Sheena Ferguson, Jean Smith
<b>December 18th</b>	Marion /John Barbour, Sheena Ferguson, Roddy Lightbody
<b>December 25th</b>	Marion /John Barbour,
<b>January 1st</b>	Douglas & Jane Wilson, Margot Tuley,
<b>January 8th</b>	Douglas & Jane Wilson, Margot Tuley, Jean Smith
<b>January 15th</b>	Douglas & Jane Wilson, Margot Tuley, Helen Boynton
<b>January 22nd</b>	Douglas & Jane Wilson, Jean Smith
<b>January 29th</b>	Douglas & Jane Wilson, Helen Boynton

**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**

<b>December 4th</b>	Jean Smith
<b>December 11th</b>	John Barbour
<b>December 18th</b>	Eileen Ardern
<b>December 25th</b>	TBA
<b>January 1st</b>	Heather Beck
<b>January 8th</b>	Jean Smith
<b>January 15th</b>	Sheena Ferguson
<b>January 22nd</b>	Mairi Main
<b>January 29th</b>	Bob Forrest
<b>February 5th</b>	Fiona Carter

# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Baptism

Sapargul 'Sappie' Crowley, daughter of Eilidh & Ben Crowley, 6th November 2022



## Congratulations

To Bob and Ann Shanks who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 11th November.



## Deaths

Mrs Joan Broadley, Morvich Way, 13 October 2022

Mrs Margaret Sutherland, Culduthel Care Home, 23rd October, 2022

Mr James MacHattie, Ardness Place, 27th October 2022

Mr Graeme MacDonald, Elm Park , 31st October 2022

Mr John & Mrs Alison Jeorrett, Forbes Place, 8th November 2022

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**Items for the February newsletter by Sunday 29th January  
please!**

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

**newsletter@crow-church.co.uk**

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**Minister** Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054

drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Crown Church Office:** office@crow-church.co.uk 01463 231140

**Session Clerk** Bob Forrest: sessionclerk@crow-church.co.uk

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