

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

FEBRUARY 2023: No. 787

Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



SUNDAY SERVICES

We are now back meeting regularly for our two Sunday Morning Services. Douglas is 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).

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| Sunday 5th February | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers |
| Sunday 12th February | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 19th February | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 26th February | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 5th March | The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers |

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds'

Hebrews 10 :24

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

Behold, I make all things new
(Revelation 21:5)

It seems too late in the year already to wish you all a "Happy New Year", but I do sincerely hope that 2023 is a good year for each of you and your families, and for Crown Church and our partners in the Gospel in Old High St Stephens Church.



New Year is traditionally a time when we think about personal renewal, ditching bad habits, developing good ones, becoming a better version of our self. It's great to have that regular annual reminder, but in Christ I think we all know that renewal, being remade in the image of God, is not a once-a-year event, or even a weekly event at church on Sunday, but it is something we ought to contemplate and seek day by day.

Many of you will remember the song "Day by Day", from the stage and screen musical Godspell in the early 1970s. Perhaps less well known is that the words for that song were taken almost directly from a prayer that is usually ascribed to Richard de Wych, Bishop of Chichester in the 13th century.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

There is still a lot of work to be done to give effect to the Presbytery's Mission Plan, including the formal union of Old High St Stephens Church with Crown Church, and there will be challenges along the way, unforeseen obstacles, emotional struggles, and for many people there will be a very real sense of grief.

All of this makes it vitally important that we remind ourselves regularly of the spiritual purpose for which the church is seeking renewal, to refocus on Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Gospel to people who do not yet know him that they might come to him, and to nurture the faith of those who do believe, so that we might all together know him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, day by day.

Douglas

Church Conference Report

The conference was held in Crown Church with 70 delegates attending from both Old High St Stephens and Crown churches. Opening devotions were led by Pat Crippin and Ruth Martin with Pam McCulloch playing the piano.

The morning's business started with three presentations: firstly Doug McRoberts talking about changes in the Church of Scotland focusing on the reorganization of presbyteries, uniting the presbyteries of Argyll, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Abernethy, Lochaber, Locharron-Skye, Uist and Lewis into a single Presbytery of the Highlands and Hebrides.

Secondly, Rev Douglas Robertson spoke about perspectives in ministry and underlined the importance of mission in the new church and seeing the way forward.

Thirdly, Brian Macgill delivered a presentation about planning a new church, contrasting the formalities of creating a new church with the actions of individual people who would become the new church, ending with a focus on Pastoral Care.

The morning's activity for delegates was to go into groups and discuss the two questions posed then script responses. The questions were: (1) What ensures good pastoral care? and (2) What are my top 10 priorities for the new church.

There was then a welcome break for a warming soup lunch, served upstairs by helpers from both Old High St. Stephens and Crown churches.

After lunch there was a brief summary given by Pat Crippin on the groups' morning feedback. The note from groups' feedback is on the following two pages of the newsletter. The next item was a presentation given by Christine Mackenzie on the outline of a process for finding a name for the new church. Both existing congregations are to be consulted and their respective Kirk Sessions to play their part: a process over several weeks with members invited to send name suggestions, in an envelope, to either of the Session Clerks.

Then Bob Forrest delivered a presentation about the process of transition (from two old churches to one new church) where creating a 'basis of union' (i.e. new name, buildings, place of worship, Kirk Session and parish boundaries) enables progress to be made and all to become clear. There was time to answer remaining questions and then Douglas Robertson was invited to make some closing remarks about the day.

Lastly, delegates went back upstairs for a short service of Communion led by Rev Morven Archer and the conference day brought to an end with a blessing.

SBD Macgill

Summary of feedback comments from discussion groups

Question - 1 - What ensures good pastoral care?

- Pastoral care is given in Christ's name which transforms acts of care.
- Diversity of worship/importance of bereavement follow-up after funerals.
- Pastoral care needed for all ages/overlaps with mission.
- Ranges from birth to death.
- Pastoral care should be motivated by concern rather than duty.
- Requires co-ordination and a structured approach to be effective or to improve.
- Pastoral care depends on effective and sensitive communications.
- Allow blurring at the edges between what is deemed Pastoral care/Mission/Worship.
- Use meeting together for meals e.g. district lunches. Get to know people better.
- Listen. Follow-up where necessary.
- Responsibility is wider than elders it extends to all.
- Mutual support - its easier to be supported by somebody you already know.

Question 2 - Top ten priorities for the new church?

- Develop a vision / share it/include the people in this vision/forward looking/ looking outwards. Importance of outreach to young/Young Crown is important/ younger people must take up the reins.
- All ideas to be supported and owned by the congregation.
- Communication(s) - all important. Needs to be effective and well organised.
- All present activities need to be up for discussion and review. Don't have to do things how they've always been done. Don't dive into the detail too early!
- Start by caring - be a welcoming community to each other. As well as to those in the streets and parish around us.
- Get to know each other through events, through good pastoral care, as well as socialising on a Sunday.
- Identify skills and encourage people to use their own skills. Find ways to overcome vulnerabilities and anxieties. Direct personal approach is key to matching people and tasks.
- Integration/not a takeover/new church is union of equals. Think beyond buildings. Think people.
- Use music as a form of outreach. Good way to bring people together. Look at the kinds of music we use.
- Look at what works well elsewhere/import good practice e.g. pros and cons of district eldership.
- Those who carry out the work at present in each area should suggest/ agree how to proceed.
- Demonstrate the benefits of outreach through retention of St. Stephens's building before the deadline.

The search for a new name is on!

The Church of Scotland guidance clearly states how important it is to have a strong name for the congregation going forward. The name will be that which is registered in all charitable communications, and that by which the new charge is known throughout the Church. The Law Department in 121 register the name of the congregation with OSCR – Scotland's Charity Regulator and that normally takes around 6 weeks to be finalised.

If we were a business and starting out with Public Relations and Marketing people round the table advising us they would emphasise the importance of a strong name for the company. That applies to churches as well.

How can we choose a name for the new united congregation?

Whilst the boundaries for the new congregation have still to be agreed we know roughly what our boundaries will be and should be looking at landmarks within the area, always remembering that Raigmore Estate and part of the Longman becomes part of our parish, or perhaps there might be a name in the bible which could describe our area and name for our congregation. The name for the Olive Grove came from an anonymous source and I am sure that there will be someone within our congregations who will have that 'lightbulb' moment of thinking of an appropriate name.

Let's look forward when thinking of a name and not take time looking back at the past. It's a new congregation and we need to look forward with our Mission.

How do we consult with the Congregations? We are asking you, the congregation for ideas on names, with these names being put in a sealed envelope addressed to the Session Clerk and you can add your name if you wish. Please place the envelopes in the offering bowl on Sunday morning or send by post to the address below. The closing date for replies will be 19 February and then the two Session Clerks can meet and check what has been submitted.

**Names can be sent by post to
Bob Forrest 6 Lovat Road, Inverness IV2 3NT**

Bob and Christine (our Session Clerks) both give the weekly announcements prior to the services and they will include this for 3/4 weeks to make sure we can include as many of the congregation as possible.

Thereafter, the names will be considered by both Kirk Sessions who will agree upon the best suggestion and include this within the draft basis of union. The draft basis of union will then be presented to both congregations for their approval.

Hopefully this is a clear procedure and we look forward to innovative names for our new congregation going forward.

**Bob Forrest and Christine MacKenzie
Session Clerks**

Prayer Diary

February 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

February 5-11

Pray for our neighbours, for people who live alone, for people who are struggling with illness and for God's peace to fall on them. Pray for protection and safety over our neighbours' homes and families, and ask God to give us opportunities and courage to share His love with those around us.

Thank and praise God for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and the world. Ask that God will walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Speak to us, gracious God, between rest and work, between work and sleep, between busyness and silence, between silence and words, between getting ready and going out, between coming home and settling down, that from these spaces in our lives we might grow into fullness of life, every moment of our days. Amen

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.

February 12-18

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.

Loving God, please give us the strength to fix our focus and our eyes on you. To take all our feelings and fears to the foot of the cross. Bring Scripture to memory when we at times are feeling hopeless. Guide us through this season of the coronavirus pandemic and all the changes happening around us.

Bless us Lord with hope in you and the power to share this hope with those around us. We love you; we praise you, and we put our faith and hope in you, knowing that you and you alone have everything in the palm of your mighty hands.

Father God, we know that you are always at work for good in our world and in our lives. May we catch a glimpse of that truth this day, take it to heart and join in with you, for your name's sake. Amen

February 19-25

Pray for those who are homeless and give thanks for those who offer financial and practical support. 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.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5). Today, pause to thank God that He can bring light into every situation. Praise Him for being the light of the world and ask Him to help you reflect that light into the communities around you.

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

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'.

February 26 – March 4

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.

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.

The health of loved ones has been a significant concern throughout this year. Thank God for His faithful presence in worrying as well as joyful times.

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

Gracious God, Your unstoppable love reaches out to us in so many surprising ways, particularly in the care we receive from others and in the ways You help us pass on that care. Open our hearts to receive Your compassionate presence from all people, of all ages, at all times and in all places. Amen

If you have particular prayer requests for March 2023 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 February

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

Sunday, February 12, 2023, Matthew 13:24-43 Parables of the Kingdom

Monday, February 13, 2023, Psalm 84:1-7 Psalm

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Matthew 10:16-25 Coming Persecutions

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Matthew 10:26-42 Coming Persecutions

Thursday, February 16, 2023, Matthew 11:1-19 John the Baptist Friday,

February 17, 2023, Matthew 11:20-30 Woes

Saturday, February 18, 2023, Matthew 12:1-8 Teachings of Jesus

Sunday, February 19, 2023, Matthew 16:24-- 17:8 Transfiguration Sunday

Monday, February 20, 2023, Psalm 41:7-10 Psalm

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, Matthew 13:47-53 Parables of Jesus

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Matthew 18:1-9 Who Is the Greatest?

Thursday, February 23, 2023, Psalm 146:7c-10 Psalm

Friday, February 24, 2023, Psalm 51:1-3 Psalm

Saturday, February 25, 2023, Matthew 13:54-58 Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

Sunday, February 26, 2023, Matthew 18:15-35 Forgiveness

Monday, February 27, 2023, Psalm 32:1-2 Psalm

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, Matthew 14:1-12 Death of John the Baptist

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Matthew 14:34--15:9 Teachings of Jesus

Thursday, March 2, 2023, Matthew 15:10-20 Teachings of Jesus

Friday, March 3, 2023, Matthew 15:21-28 Teachings of Jesus

Saturday, March 4, 2023, Matthew 15:29-39 Teachings of Jesus

Sunday, March 5, 2023, Matthew 20:1-16 Laborers in the Vineyard

Monday, March 6, 2023, Psalm 16:5-8 Psalm

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, Matthew 16:1-12 Teachings of Jesus

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Matthew 16:13-23 Jesus Foretells His Death

Thursday, March 9, 2023, Matthew 17:9-27 Teachings of Jesus

Friday, March 10, 2023, Matthew 18:10-14 Parables of Jesus

Saturday, March 11, 2023, Matthew 19:1-30 Teachings of Jesus



YOUNG CROWN

As some of you may be aware, our Children, Young People (CYP) and their families worker Struan McRoberts is moving on to pastures new and is undertaking a one year's postgraduate course in Primary Teaching. Struan is still currently working with us on a part time basis until the end of Summer when he will take up his probationary period.

Struan has worked tirelessly since taking up this post in 2015, creating stronger links in schools, setting up youth groups and toddlers which are all much needed resources for the future of the Church.

Young Crown is very committed to continue to build on the great work that Struan has done and will be seeking to identify funding to secure another CYP worker to build and develop what has already been achieved. With the imminent amalgamation of Old High and St Stephens, the Board of Young Crown now have representation from both Churches on the committee and are currently jointly putting together the necessary criteria to apply to various funding bodies.

We are also very grateful for the continued support throughout the last few years from our members and supporters and hope to encourage more to join and help progress this important area of development within our Church life. Please contact our treasurer Gary McAra gary@mcleodaitken.net if you need further details.

Charles Forbes - Chair

TODDLERS UPDATE

This term started again with a few hiccups with cancellations due to bad weather and the need to vacate the Sanctuary for a funeral. However, Toddlers is now back in full swing. The sessions are on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10am -11.30 am and are open to anyone with pre-school children. In the main it is parents with babies and toddlers who come along and there is a core group of regulars, both mums and dads. Sometimes grandparents, child minders and other carers join us too.

The group continues in Struan's absence but with his support and guidance. It can only succeed with the on-going commitment of 10 volunteers who are dedicated to, and enjoy building relationships with families in the community.

It was a pleasure to see some of the ex -Toddlers who had graduated to nursery coming back into the Sanctuary for their Christmas concert. The highlight over the festive period was of course, the very popular Toddlers' Nativity Service led by Struan. Some families even planned their travel arrangements to make sure they could take part.

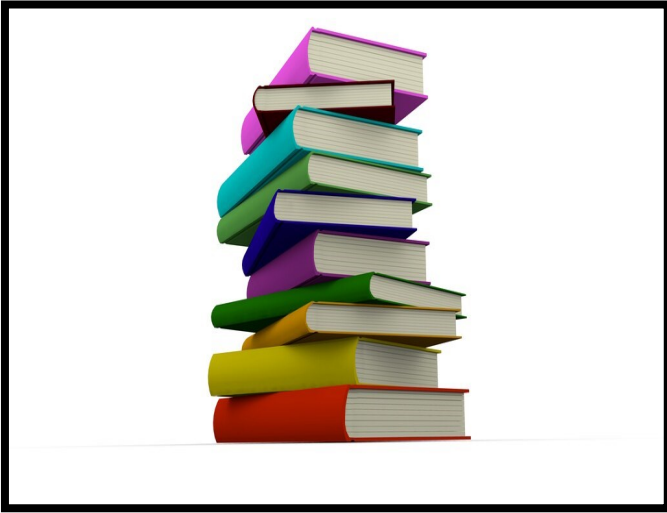
It's encouraging too to see the crossover between SNAC and the present and past Toddler families. Thanks to all who make this very important ministry possible.

Lesley McRoberts

The Toddlers' Group had its Christmas Service on Thursday 22nd December; it was great fun and told the Christmas story in an accessible and enjoyable way. Toddlers and grown-ups alike enjoyed the event.



The Big Book Sale – Launchpad



Spring is nearly around the corner, so in the spirit of seasonal house clearing and positive recycling, we're asking you to check your book shelves for any books you can pass on to raise funds for Launchpad.

Please drop off books to us in the sanctuary on Friday 24th February from 7-9pm. We can also collect your books earlier on Friday if that would be helpful to you. Just give your name to the church office.

Having made space for more books, we hope you'll come along on Saturday 25th from 10.30am – 3.30pm to buy from the wide selection on offer. Every book is a new adventure, fantastic **fiction**, sci-fi, romance, crime; our **non fiction** is likely to include brilliant biography, great gardening, mouthwatering cookery & much more. We'll also have a **children's** section, so plenty to fire young imaginations, too.

Prices are £1 per paperback, £2 hardback, cash only please. We plan to offer complimentary tea/ coffee as well, so you can chat with fellow book lovers over a cuppa.

Launchpad is a long established charity, attached to Crown Church. Its purpose is to provide small grants to long term unemployed individuals for purchases which may improve either their job finding prospects or enhance their life quality.



ACTION GROUP

Visits to the Kingsmills and Isobel Fraser Care Homes has started up again and we are always looking for new members to this small but worthy group. So, if you have 30 mins to spare at 2pm on either the 3rd or 4th Sunday each month do come along to the small services where we are always warmly received by the residents and staff for some Worship.

For further information contact Charlie Forbes 07951 900725



The Guild

Our first meeting did not happen as advertised in our syllabus. We were hoping to have a keep fit evening but instead we had a fellowship time with a quiz and a welcome cup of tea.

Our Burns Night was lead by Ramsay MacGee, a most entertaining visitor. To accompany the Scottish scenes on the screen he played relevant song tunes on his accordion as clues to the actual places. This really tested our knowledge of Scottish locations. Charlie Gallagher then entertained us with some well known Burns songs. A really lovely evening enjoyed by all.

Our fundraising coffee morning will be held in the upper hall on Saturday 4th February at 10:30am. We hope for a good attendance.

On the 7th of February a speaker will come from the Highland Hospice and on the 21st of February our minister Douglas Robertson will lead us in Bible Study.

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent



The Knitting and Craft Group have combined and are now meeting in the Lounge each Monday from 2 - 4pm and we extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining us.

Helen and Lena



MANY THANKS TO THE OLIVE GROVE, THE INVERNESS SINGERS AND DOBBIES

As happens in the run up to, and the aftermath of Christmas, thank you letters get delayed. It has happened yet again.

I am a group organiser for the charity that was called CONTACT THE ELDERLY and has now been rebranded as RE-ENGAGE. My volunteer job is to organise an outing on a monthly basis to someone or somewhere where my group of six elderly people can enjoy an afternoon tea. This is often provided by volunteers and it is a real privilege to enjoy hospitality in another home. The hosts cater for eight people, an amazing feat. Our group have become known to the volunteer hosts but a visit for the first time was a visit to a stranger. A stranger is indeed a friend we have yet to meet.

THE OLIVE GROVE CAFE, now situated in Crown Church, provided a most wonderful, warm and welcoming space for us to meet on Sunday the 3rd of December 2022. The little group of six, along with their volunteer drivers, were joined by a number of volunteer hosts. We had sixteen people to enjoy the wondrous fresh sandwiches, sausage rolls and home baking.

TO THE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE OLIVE GROVE WHO GAVE UP THEIR SUNDAY AFTERNOON TO PROVIDE WARMTH, FRIENDSHIP AND A GREAT AFTERNOON TEA
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



I would encourage others to approach the Olive Grove if you have a group of 20 in need of a private space and an afternoon tea. We were more than happy to pay the going rate and the quality of food and the service provided proved excellent value.

Another thank you is due to the INVERNESS SINGERS, practising for their concert the same day, they invited us into the church proper to enjoy their music. THANK YOU INVERNESS SINGERS.



Once again Dobbies provided, at discount, the pot plants we call potmums. This because many years ago the plants were chrysanthemums. Latterly we have chosen cyclamen in the hope they will last well over the Christmas period and may even be planted outdoors come the spring. As in previous years Dobbies has delivered the plants to the church. This year Richard delivered our "potmums" on time and in excellent condition. Thank you Richard and Dobbies.

Ann Johnston



L'Arche Highland is seeking a full-time House Leader for Rosie Lovat House, Inverness. Pay: £27,336 - £28,431 a year.

An SVQ Level 2 in Social Care is required as well as experience of supporting people with learning disabilities and some leadership experience.

L'Arche is a place where you can bring your faith to work! For further details please contact Shirley Bannister, HR Lead via shirley.bannister@larche.org.uk on 01463 239615.

Thank-you!

Chris

Chris Gehrke

Community Leader/Director

L'Arche Highland

13 Drummond Crescent | Inverness | IV2 4QR

M 07436121891

T 01463-239615



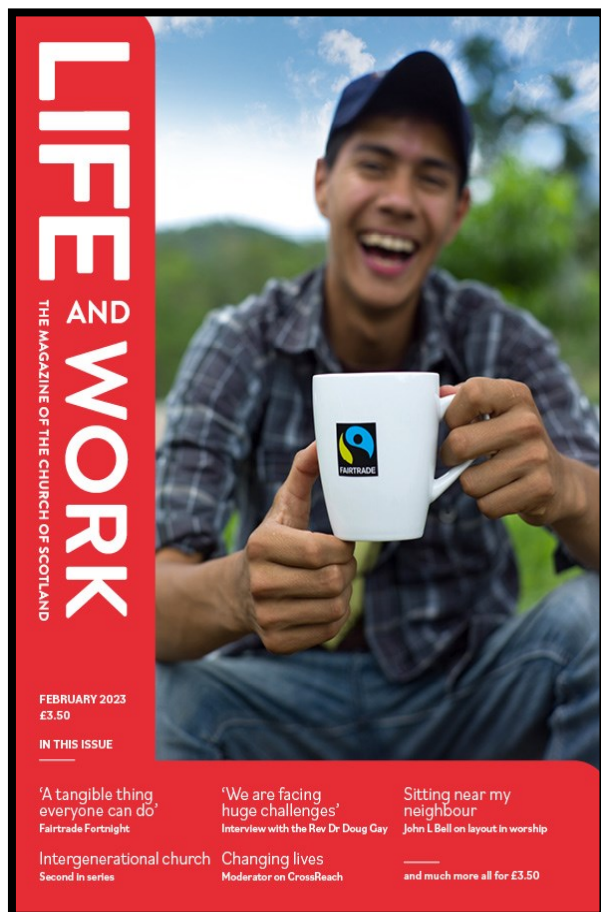
FLOWERS IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

We are currently looking for people to carry out flower delivery on Sundays. If you feel that you could help with this please contact Gloria at the church office.

01463 231140

LIFE AND WORK

FEBRUARY



'A Tangible Thing Everybody Can Do'

As Fairtrade Fortnight begins, how Fairtrade traders and campaigners in Scotland are facing the cost of living crisis.

'We Are Facing Huge Challenges'

The Rev Dr Doug Gay, author of *Reforming the Kirk*, tells of his journey from an upbringing in an Exclusive Plymouth Brethren Assembly to influential theologian – and where he feels the Church of Scotland is going wrong in its reforms.

Being Intergenerational Church

Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip continue their series on the importance of developing a Church which embraces all generations.

Sitting Near My Neighbour

John L Bell reflects on the impact of layout on worship.

Radical Reconciliation

Ruth Harvey considers the message of reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5.

A Good Host

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone reflects on the art of hosting as a vital leadership skill.

Pilgrim Journeys

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer reflects on the value and gifts of pilgrimage.

Plus: youth column, My Church, View from the Pulpit, official updates from the Faith Action Programme and Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters and reviews – all for £3.50.

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, and exclusive features.

You can also find us at facebook.com/leadwork or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork and now on Instagram.

Welcome Team

February 5th Jimmy and Liz Gray, Alison Harbison, Jean Smith
February 12th Lena Clarke, Jimmy and Liz Gray, Alison Harbison
February 19th Lena Clarke, Jimmy and Liz Gray, Alison Harbison
February 26th Robert MacKintosh, Jimmy & Liz Gray, Alison Harbison

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

February 5th Fiona Carter
February 12th Marion Barbour
February 19th John Barbour
February 26th Sheena Ferguson

March 5th Irene Whyte

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mr William (Bill) Morrison, Raigmore Avenue , 2nd December 2022

Mrs Vi Gollan, MacEwen Court, 18th December 2022

Mrs Maeve Grant, Lynemore Care Home, Grantown-on-Spey, 9th January 2023

Items for the March newsletter by Sunday 26th February 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 01463 231140

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

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