

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

APRIL 2023: No. 789

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).

Sunday 2nd April Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

Maundy Thursday 6th April Service at 7:30p.m with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 9th April Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 16th April Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 23rd April Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 30th April Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 7th May Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



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

John 12 ;verse 13

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

Jesus Christ is risen today Allelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Allelujah!

Easter should be a season of what we might call mixed blessings.

Of course we look forward to our annual celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Some of the greatest music has been written to lift up Christian hearts and voices as we sing words such as those above, triumphant, rousing, grand and exciting.



But by “mixed blessing” I mean that the Easter stories in the Bible are also a stark reminder of the deepest depths of depravity of human nature. The religious leaders knew that Jesus was not a blasphemer, they saw with their own eyes the power of God manifest in him, yet out of pride, or jealousy, they wanted him gone. Under Roman rule they did not have the authority to put a man to death, so they turned him over to Pilate, with trumped up charges and false witnesses they’d paid for. Pilate too, knew that Jesus was innocent. He was no insurgent or terrorist, no risk to the Roman Empire, but Pilate allowed himself to be swayed by political concerns and put an innocent man to death.

If Easter invites us to celebrate the resurrection, first we must contemplate the crucifixion. We weren’t physically present, of course, but the Scriptures tell us that Jesus died not just because of the obvious and immediate sins of those who did this to him, but because of all of our sins.

So, particularly as we come to the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we need to be an open book to God, confess our sins, spiritually lay them before the foot of the cross, and remember again the mercy of God who forgives us.

Blessings

Douglas

Services for Easter at Old High St Stephens and Crown Churches



Palm Sunday 2nd April

Palm Sunday will be celebrated at the usual service times in each church

Maundy Thursday 6th April

A communal meal to be held in the upper hall at Crown church at 6:30 p.m.
A Maundy Thursday service will be held in the sanctuary at Crown church at 7:30p.m and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Good Friday 7th April

A contemporary Tenebrae service "We Remember Calvary" will be presented by the joint choirs of Old High St Stephens and Crown churches. This will take place in St Stephen's Church at 7 p.m.

Saturday 8th April

There will be an Easter vigil held in the sanctuary at Crown church between 8 p.m. and midnight. You can come and go as you please. There will be music, readings and prayer, and time for quiet contemplation.

Easter Sunday 9th April

Old High St Stephens will hold their Easter service at St Stephen's Church at 10:30 a.m.

Crown church will hold two services, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. There will be a breakfast served in the upper hall between these two services.

Union with Old High St Stephens

I thought it might be helpful to bring everyone up to speed with where we are in relation to the proposed union with Old High St Stephens (OHSS).

The 2 Kirk Sessions held a joint meeting in the sanctuary at Crown church at the beginning of March to discuss the way ahead. Both Kirk Sessions had already been given a draft (Basis of Union) from Presbytery. This details the basis upon which the proposed union is to take place.

The Kirk Session at Crown church are quite comfortable with the terms of the draft and the only remaining issue is the name of the new church.

Presbytery have given us guidance to the effect that we do need to find a new name for the united church and have advised that it would be best to avoid the existing names or using combinations of them.

Accordingly, both Kirk Sessions have been canvassed and the elders on the Kirk Sessions were asked to put forward suggested names. A list of the names which were put forward was then drawn up and issued to all the elders on both Kirk sessions on a voting paper.

By the time you are reading this, I will have met with Christine Mackenzie, the session clerk at OHSS, to count the votes as we have been tasked with doing so and identifying the most popular name.

Thereafter, both Kirk sessions will, quite independently, need to meet and agree that they are comfortable with the new name.

Once that has been done, both churches then require to hold a congregational meeting where the terms of the draft Basis of Union (including the new name) are put to the congregations for approval. As and when such approval is forthcoming, the Presbytery will be advised and steps will then be taken to implement the union.

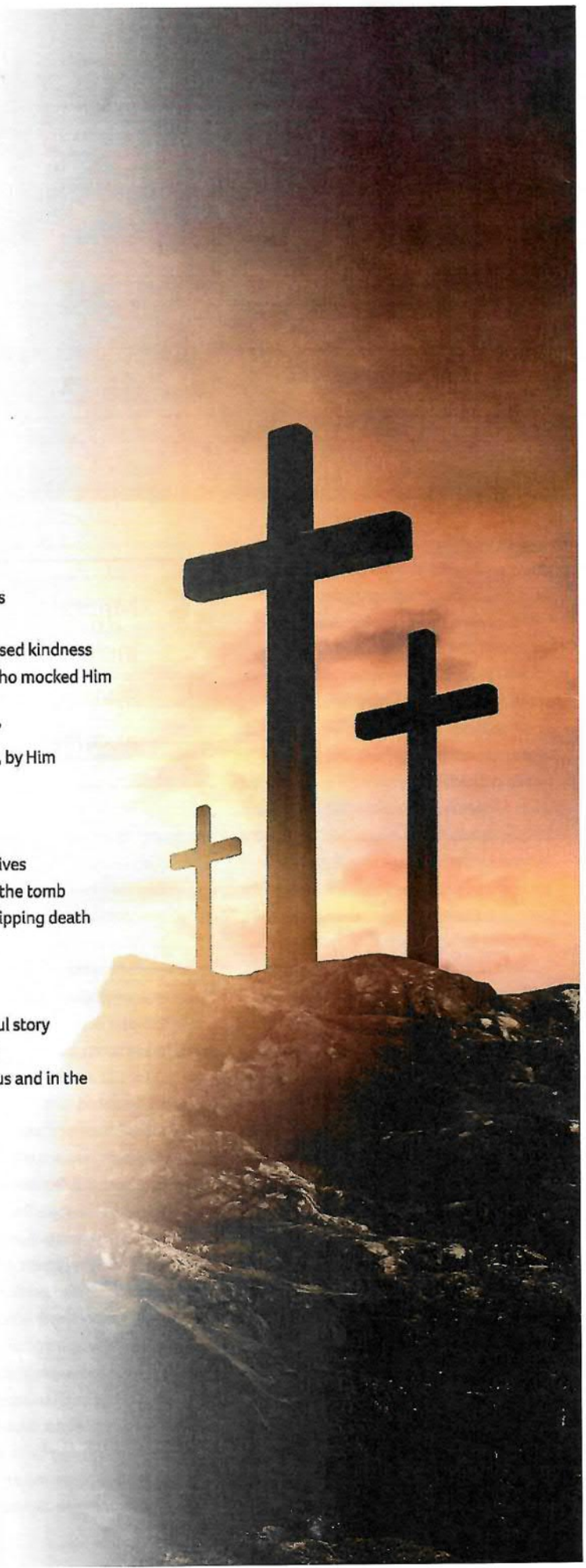
I will do my best to keep everyone informed how this is progressing through this newsletter and through our church website.

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk

Prayer

He was God's Chosen One
Our Volunteer
Our Saviour, Redeemer
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ
This Easter, once again we remember His remarkable love
His death on the Cross for our sins
His conquering of death in His resurrection
We remember His perfect life
His care and compassion for all people – even for His enemies
His grace shown towards all people
The confidence that we have in Him because of His unsurpassed kindness
We remember the crowds, the Romans, the Jewish leaders, who mocked Him
We hear these words:
"Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing!"
Yet we hear those same words spoken to the Father about us, by Him
We remember the disciples hiding in their fear
Abandoning Him, but not abandoned by you!
We think of our own fears and shame – our human frailty
Yet feel the touch of your present, unending grace, over our lives
We remember that glorious moment when He walked out of the tomb
No drama, just that quiet, confident, irresistible moment, stripping death
of its power
We hear the whisper of these words:
"Fear not!" and we are alive again
Help us in this season of Easter not just to hear this wonderful story
Enable us to be part of it – to grasp it by faith, and live again
And to you, always, is the glory, gracious Father, through Jesus and in the
power of the Spirit. Amen

*An Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly
of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields.*



Daily Bible Readings for April

Sunday, April 2, 2023, Matthew 21:1-17 Triumphal Entry

Monday, April 3, 2023, Psalm 118:26-29 Psalm

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, Matthew 26:31-75 Betrayal of Jesus

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, Matthew 27:1-26 Passion

Thursday, April 6, 2023, Matthew 26:17-30 Words of Institution

Friday, April 7, 2023, Matthew 27:27-61 Crucifixion

Saturday, April 8, 2023, Matthew 27:62-66 The Guard at the Tomb

Sunday, April 9, 2023, Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Monday, April 10, 2023, Psalm 118:19-24

Psalm Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Matthew 28:11-15 The Report of the Guard

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, Acts 1:12-26 Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Thursday, April 13, 2023, Acts 2:37-42 The First Converts

Friday, April 14, 2023, Acts 5:12-16 The Apostles Heal Many

Saturday, April 15, 2023, Acts 5:17-42 The Apostles are Persecuted

Sunday, April 16, 2023, Matthew 28:16-20 Great Commission

Monday, April 17, 2023, Psalm 40:9-10

Psalm Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Acts 7:54-8:1 Stoning of Stephen

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, Acts 8:4-25 Philip Preaches in Samaria

Thursday, April 20, 2023, Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Friday, April 21, 2023, Acts 9:1-19 The Conversion of Saul

Saturday, April 22, 2023, Acts 9:36-43 Peter in Lydda and Joppa

Sunday, April 23, 2023, Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 Peter's Vision

Monday, April 24, 2023, Acts 10:18-23 Peter's Vision

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Acts 10:24-33 Peter's Vision

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Acts 11:1-18 Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Thursday, April 27, 2023, Acts 11:19-30 The Church in Antioch

Friday, April 28, 2023, Acts 12:1-19 Peter in Prison

Saturday, April 29, 2023, Acts 12:20-25 The Death of Herod

Sunday, April 30, 2023, Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18 Paul's Mission

Monday, May 1, 2023, Acts 13:4-12 The Apostles Preach in Cyprus

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Acts 13:13-25 Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Acts 13:26-35 Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Thursday, May 4, 2023, Acts 13:36-52 Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Friday, May 5, 2023, Acts 14:1-7 Paul and Barnabas in Iconium

Saturday, May 6, 2023, Acts 14:8-20 Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe





CORONATION PARTY

**In the Upper Hall, Crown Church from 1 pm
On Monday 8th May 2023**

**Free admission by ticket
(from Dorothy Mein, Sheena Ferguson or Ruby Coe)**





The Guild

The Guild held our AGM on Tuesday 14th March. We were delighted to welcome Rosa MacDermid to the committee as she is a member of Old High St Stephens. We hope more ladies from there will join us in the future.

The Guilds Together AGM is to be held in St Ninians Church, Nairn on Wednesday 26th April at 2:30pm. This will be a similar format to last year with hymns and readings.

Other dates were agreed. Our summer outing is on the 31st May. It is proposed to go by coach to Fortrose to visit the Masonic Lodge and then go on to Cromarty for a meal in the Royal Hotel. The cost, £40, is payable to our treasurer, Sheena Ferguson, as soon as convenient.

Our summer coffee mornings will be held in the Olive Grove on 27th June, 25th July and 29th August.

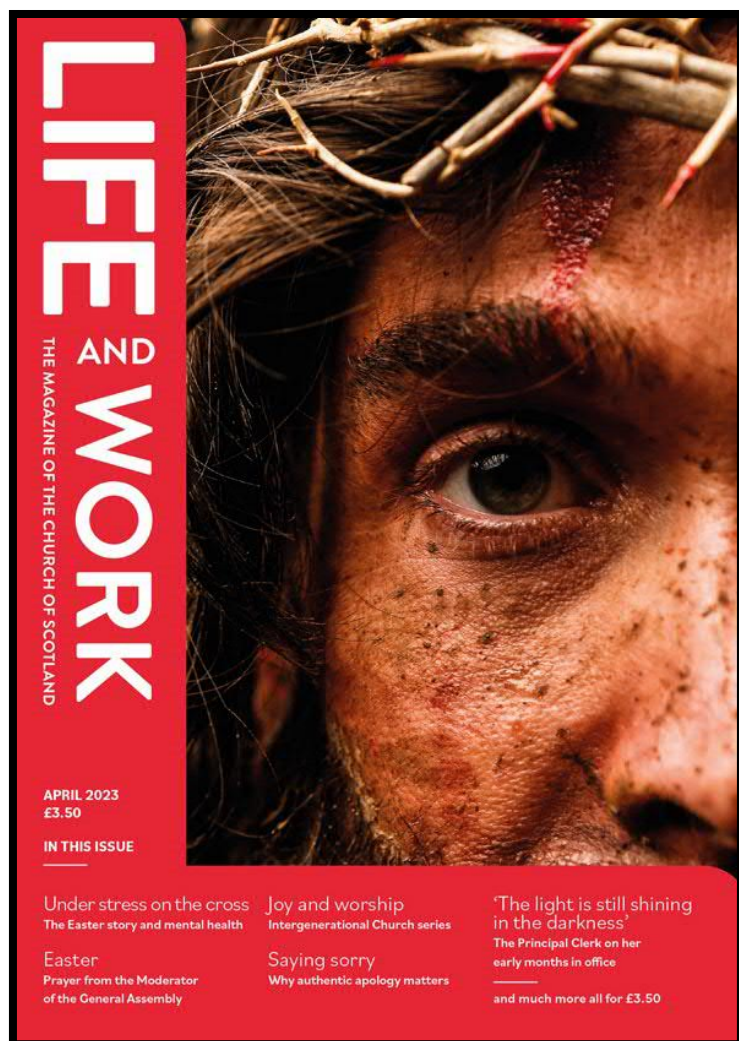
After the business meeting we had a very interesting talk from Mrs Liz Gray about her life as the Provost's wife during her husband, Jimmy's tenure as provost. The evening finished with a welcome cup of tea and plates of ice cream and jelly.

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent

LIFE AND WORK

APRIL



Under Stress on the Cross
Mental Health and the Easter Story

Easter Prayer
From the Moderator of the General Assembly

'The Light is Still Shining in the Darkness'
The Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, reflects on her first months in the post.

Intergenerational Church: Joy and Worship
In the fourth of the series, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip focus on core church activities

Keeping in Tune
John L Bell reflects on the history of singing

during worship in the Church of Scotland

A Lasting Impact

Emma Carmichael, a Young Adult Volunteer from the USA, describes the value and impact of her work in Dundee

The Potential to Go Viral

The Very Rev Albert Bogle looks at the potential – and some of the pitfalls – of the social media app TikTok

Entertaining Angels

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer explains how Christ can come to us in the guise of a stranger

Plus: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – 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

- April 2nd** Helen Boynton, Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Brian Macgill
April 9th Helen Boynton, Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Brian Macgill
April 16th Helen Boynton, Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Brian Macgill
April 23rd Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Brian Macgill, Irene Munro
April 30th Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Brian Macgill, Irene Munro

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

- April 2nd** Bob Shanks
April 9th Pat Douglas
April 16th Alastair Campbell
April 23rd Margot Tuley
April 30th Gus MacGowan
May 7th Alastair Macleod

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Joyce Collinson, Culduthel Road, 11th March 2023

Mrs Jessie Christie, Teasses, Fife, formerly Lovat Road, 21 March 2023

Items for the May newsletter by Sunday 30th April please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

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

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Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)

Registered charity SC 018159

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