



April 2023 Newsletter

Old High St Stephen's

Church of Scotland

## OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

Are recorded and are available via our [website](#) on our [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#). So you can enjoy these services at a time suitable to you, links are sent to our e-mail list. To go on our e-mail list, please contact our [Church Administrator](#).

## SERVICES AT ST STEPHEN'S

Following the closure of the Old High Church for Sunday Worship, all Sunday services are now held at St Stephen's Church at 10.30am

## CONTACT US

Church Administrator:  
(079 342 85924)  
[invernesschurch@gmail.com](mailto:invernesschurch@gmail.com)



**If you would like us to keep in touch – please send us your up-to-date e-mail and address details**

Registered Charity No.  
SC035073

## THOUGHTS FROM REV JAMES

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

In this edition of the newsletter you'll find the basis of union for the linked charge. So I should probably pause here, let you go forward a couple of pages and wait for you to come back...

So what do you think?

I wish the United congregation well for the future. Now is the time to decide what you will do and how you will serve the Lord and the community around you. You can find new ways to help, carry on with those that are doing well, and possibly prune back on the things which have served their time.

A lot of the focus of the discussions we have had over coffee and in private have centred around the love we have for buildings. St Stephens and Crown are lovely buildings and I can understand the attachment people have for them. Understandable as our major life events, baptisms, weddings and funerals of friends and family have all taken place there. However I'd encourage you to view the buildings not as the place where we come to church, but instead as a base to take church out into the community. Our parish is changing shape, and so we need to explore the needs of people in the community, especially those who can't make a service on a Sunday morning.

I think it's best to also let you know what I'm doing. My wife is Minister for Killearnan and Knockbain in Ross Presbytery. This linkage is being split and the two parishes are merging with their neighbours. It's very unlikely that Susan and I will be in the area next year. Regrettably I don't see myself being part of the new charge after the date of the union as I don't see myself living nearby. However I've had a great time with you and I wish Douglas every blessing in his extended role as the Minister for the united charge.

What I do know is that the United parish has a deep bedrock of faith to build up from. Yes, this is an uncertain time, and we don't know how the changes will play out, however I know you will do well. There should be no them and us. It's just us with Christ.

So, start asking the questions about how you can help take the church to the community, rather than how to get the community to the church. Don't be stifled by those who might say "we've never done that before" or when asked why we do something they just shrug and say "it's aye been". And in the words of inspiration given to me by a friend at my ordination, "May God give you the power to do outrageous things."

**UNION WITH CROWN - CONGREGATIONAL VOTE** Arrangements are in hand for the congregational vote to be held on Sunday 14 May after the morning service. Crown Church will vote on the same day. Only those present will be permitted to vote. Further information will be available nearer the time. The vote will be overseen by our Interim Moderator, Rev Duncan MacPherson. Christine MacKenzie, Session Clerk

### **DRAFT BASIS OF UNION AND FORMATION OF CROWN AND RAIGMORE PARISH**

The congregations of Inverness Old High St Stephen's (SC035073) and Inverness Crown (SC018159) Churches shall be united as from a date to be determined by the Presbytery under their Mission Plan implementation for Mission District B-Inverness South and East, subject to agreement by Rev Douglas R Robertson, the incumbent minister, and that on the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Name:** The name of the united charge shall be Midmills Parish Church, Church of Scotland (SC018159).
- 2. Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of both Inverness Old High St Stephen's and Inverness Crown congregations shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge/congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.
- 3. Buildings and Land:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Inverness Crown shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The church at present used by the congregation of Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall be used, sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of Act VII 1995, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held, and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.
- 4. Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Inverness Crown shall be the manse of the united charge. The manse of the congregation of Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which it is held, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, of the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of Act VII 1995, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held, and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.
- 5. Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united congregation shall be those as the Presbytery shall determine. The parish boundaries will incorporate Inverness Crown Church boundaries and some of the Inverness Old High St Stephen's parish, with the addition of Raigmore and the east side of the northern Longman estate.
- 6. Kirk Session:** The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.
- 7. Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.
- 8. Ministerial Support:** The Rev Douglas R Robertson currently minister at Inverness Crown shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of Section 8.2 of Act 8, 2021, as amended.
- 9. Power to Adjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

### **NOTES ON DRAFT BASIS OF UNION**

Both Kirk Session have now agreed the Draft Basis of Union. At their meeting on Tuesday 18 April the Kirk Session of OHSS agreed the Draft by 17 votes to 4 with one abstention. The following points should be read in conjunction with the Draft Basis of Union.

#### **1 Church Name**

Both Kirk Sessions were issued with a voting paper with over 50 proposed names for the new Union. Members were asked to choose five names and rank them 1 - 5 with 5 being their first choice. The result of the ballot was unfortunately, a dead heat between the 2 front-runners - "Southside Church" (62 points) and "Midmills Parish Church" (62 points). "The Cornerstone Church" came a rather distant 3rd with 45 points

Both Session Clerks discussed this result and, in order to separate the joint leaders, we looked at the number of people who had put "Midmills Parish Church" down as their first preference (giving it 5 points) when compared with those voting for "Southside Church".

A total of 7 people gave "Midmills Parish Church" 5 points but only 2 gave "Southside Church" 5 points. On this basis, in our view, "Midmills Parish Church" should be declared the winner.

The next step will be to bring the Draft Basis of Union to each Congregation for them to vote on acceptance. This should be done sometime in May and can be done at the end of a Sunday morning service. The details of the voting arrangements will need to be agreed and adequate notice, together with a final copy of the Draft Basis of Union, given to members of the congregation.

It should be noted that our elders would continue to visit their current districts whether or not they remain a member of the Kirk Session.

## **2 Buildings**

Both Kirk Sessions have expressed their desire to keep St Stephen's Church for future Mission. Once the new Kirk Session has been formed the work on this will begin. It would certainly be hoped to be able to retain the building for weddings and funerals. It would not, however, be used for Sunday worship. St Stephens hall will continue to be rented out to community groups which church members will continue to link up with eg Toddlers group

## **3 Manse**

The OHSS manse is currently rented through a factoring company. The current tenant has given notice that the family will vacate the Manse on 1 May 2023. The factors will advise us of any work which is required within the property before it is offered for rental. The Kirk Session agreed on 18 April that we should continue to rent the Manse.

## **4 Territorial Responsibility**

A copy of the new boundary is within this newsletter. (Back Page)

## **5 Voting Against the Proposed Union**

Whilst this is everyone's right it should be noted that if a sufficient majority was not attained we would go into a deferred union with Crown which would then be implemented when the current Minister demits or retires. We would not be permitted to call a Minister. The Presbytery reserve the right to impose the Union if they so wish.

## **NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION**

**PRESENTATION TO REV SCOTT POLWORTH** As already indicated Rev Scott Polworth has stood down as our Interim Moderator after 2.5 years. During that time Scott has been a great support to the Kirk Session and Members of the Congregation. Scott will join us on Sunday 30 April at the end of the Service to receive his gift on behalf of the Congregation. He will then join everyone for coffee and cake. I hope you can attend; we will do the presentation at the end of the service before the end of the streaming so that those at home can be part of it. Christine MacKenzie, Session Clerk

**CAFE 1668** There will be an opportunity to support the work of Cafe 1668 on Sunday 30 April. As usual they are looking for cleaning materials, tins of ready meals, tins of cold meat, cereal etc. Please bear in mind that many of their clients have little or no cooking facilities. The Cafe are very appreciative of the support we are able to provide to them.

**THANK YOU** I was delighted to again be the lucky recipient of the beautiful church flowers after the service on Sunday 16th April, so I wish to convey thanks to the floral team whose members faithfully arrange flowers for us every week of the year. I'm glad to have "escaped" from hospital after 3 months so I hope to be able to join you all on Sundays soon. As always, Ardyn Scott-Brown

**CORONATION SUPPER SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023** In order to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla, we are holding a Coronation Supper at St Stephen's. Everyone is invited to join us for a Buffet Supper with tea/coffee and drinks on Saturday 6 May at 7pm. This will be an evening of fine food and fun entertainment and is an event too good to miss! Cost is £15 per head. Book now by phone, email or at the next Sunday service. Closing date is Sunday 30 April. Val Cantlay (0146)3 231298 [val.cantlay@btinternet.com](mailto:val.cantlay@btinternet.com)



**SWEATY CHURCH 20TH MAY 2023 4-6PM ST STEPHEN'S HALL** The next Sweaty Church is planned for the 20th May. The theme will be 'David and Goliath' - how we deal with pressure and fear. As usual there will be a bible story, games on the theme and a short discussion and prayer at the end of the session lead by Stewart Robertson. Then pizza, sandwiches and fruit. Children of all ages and parents, grandparents, carers all welcome. Please spread the word and let me know if you would like to be involved with the games or catering. Deborah Macrae [deb.macrae.10@gmail.com](mailto:deb.macrae.10@gmail.com)

**SPRINGFEST: MUSIC INVERNESS, APRIL 2023**  
**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH** will be home to a series of recitals during the second half of April: a varied programme of music that will hopefully include something that appeals to everyone. We shall be welcoming both local musicians and performers from around the UK and beyond. The details are as follows:  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm: Trotovsek Trio** (violin, flute, piano) playing Ravel, Prokofiev and Schubert.  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm: Christina Lawrie** (piano). Programme still to be announced.  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1pm: Duo Chaimbeul.** Music for pipes, accordion and guitar.  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 4pm: Mahler Players Wind Quintet.** Comprising the principal wind players from the Highland-based orchestra. Programme t.b.a.  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm: Fyrish String Quartet.** Programme t.b.a.  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm: Trio Doyenne** (violin, cello, piano) return after their splendid concert last year to round off the festival with Beethoven and Kreisler. Suggested donation of £10 at the door for daytime recitals to cover costs. Further details: Andrew Stevenson (242767) or [stevenson.ata@btinternet.com](mailto:stevenson.ata@btinternet.com)

#### OTHER NEWS



#### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Coffee morning** with Plant, Baking and Craft Stalls May 13th 10am -12pm. Donations of plants and baking can be left at the church on Friday evening 7-8pm or 9am Saturday morning. Entry is by donation. Hope you can come along. Volunteers to help on the day please contact Deborah Macrae or Val Cantlay

**Door to Door Delivery of Envelopes** - A team of volunteers is required to deliver envelopes in our parish. The envelopes are then to be dropped back to a central point the details of which will be included with the envelopes. Please email Pat Macleod or speak to Deborah Macrae 07842889734 if you can help.

## Online Giving - E-envelope

### [OHSS E-envelope.](#)

#### How your donation helps

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help people around the world secure a safer, happier future for their children and grandchildren. We are united by hope. And together, we hope every family will have the joy of living a dignified life, free from poverty. Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can make dreams come true.

#### WEDDINGS AT ST STEPHEN'S

Here is a lovely photo following the marriage of Sara Joanna Campbell to Jason James King, which was held at St Stephen's Church on Friday 31 March 2023.



**RECYCLING AT SUPERMARKETS** Looking after our environment. You can now recycle soft plastics like biscuit wrappers, crisp packets and bread bags at your local supermarkets. It doesn't matter where you bought

them. Just pop your soft plastics into their recycling units. Go into Tesco or Co-op website to find out more, [www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics](http://www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics) or <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/tesco-expands-soft-plastic-collection-scheme> Items must be clean.

#### TIMES REMEMBERED

Willie Morrison has kindly sent over these photos from times past ...

Here are a few pics from the Diamond Jubilee Tea held at St Stephen's on 2nd June 2012. It was all an enjoyable little bash, so I hope the Coronation event next month will prove equally successful. Willie Morrison



# CROWN AND RAIGMORE PARISH

Updated Boundary Map

