

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

MAY 2023: No. 790

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 7th May

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

Sunday 14th May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 21st May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 28th May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 4th June

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



'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness'

Timothy 2;verses 1-2

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

Many years ago, when I was a theology student at Aberdeen University, a team of students plus a couple of our lecturers headed to Crimond for a week-long mission in partnership with the parish minister and kirk session. Together with 3 other students I was billeted in the home of a dear lady called Mrs Russell.

Over one of her very fine meals she told us that her house had at one time been the manse of the parish, and that it was in this house that the tune "Crimond" was composed by Jessie Seymour Irvine, whose father was at the time the minister.

In the old Scottish tradition of metrical Psalms, Crimond could just as easily be used to sing any other Psalm in Common Metre, but it has of course become most commonly associated with Psalm 23, a combination which is surely one of the best known and most loved Christian hymns of all time.

This is on my mind as I write, because I am preparing worship for the last Sunday in April, the 4th Sunday in the Season of Easter. In one of our faith's less well known traditions, this is sometimes designated "Good Shepherd Sunday". The New Testament reading is from John's Gospel chapter 10 and includes Jesus saying, "I am the Good Shepherd."

As a dyed-in-the-wool (pun intended) city slicker, I have to rely on other folk to help me understand what makes a good shepherd, but over the years I think I've gleaned some of the answers: patience, trustworthiness, perseverance, tolerance for uncomfortable situations, strength, specialist knowledge of places, risks and food, forethought and preparation, he is both a guide and a protector of his sheep.

Space doesn't allow me to expand on each of these points, suffice to say that the coming of Jesus was planned in God's mind from the very earliest days when sin entered the world, to protect us from his own righteous judgment, to guide us through life in a world that is inevitably tainted by sin, and to deliver us to the place where our souls can be nourished both here and through eternity.

It's all there in Psalm 23. May the Good Shepherd be the voice you respond to and follow, all the days of your life, and may God richly bless you.

Douglas



Union with Old High St Stephens An Update

Further to my article in the April newsletter, I am pleased to report that matters have moved forward quite considerably.

Both Kirk Sessions have met following the voting on the new name. As I think appears elsewhere in this newsletter, the new name which has been chosen for the unified church is "Midmills Parish Church."

Both Kirk Sessions have now agreed all of the terms of the basis of union, including the name.

However, the final say in the matter rests with each congregation and we have arranged that both congregations will meet separately after Sunday worship on Sunday 14th May when a vote will be taken, hopefully to agree the terms of the union.

If both congregations vote in favour of the union, the matter is then referred to Presbytery who will fix a date when the union will be formalised.

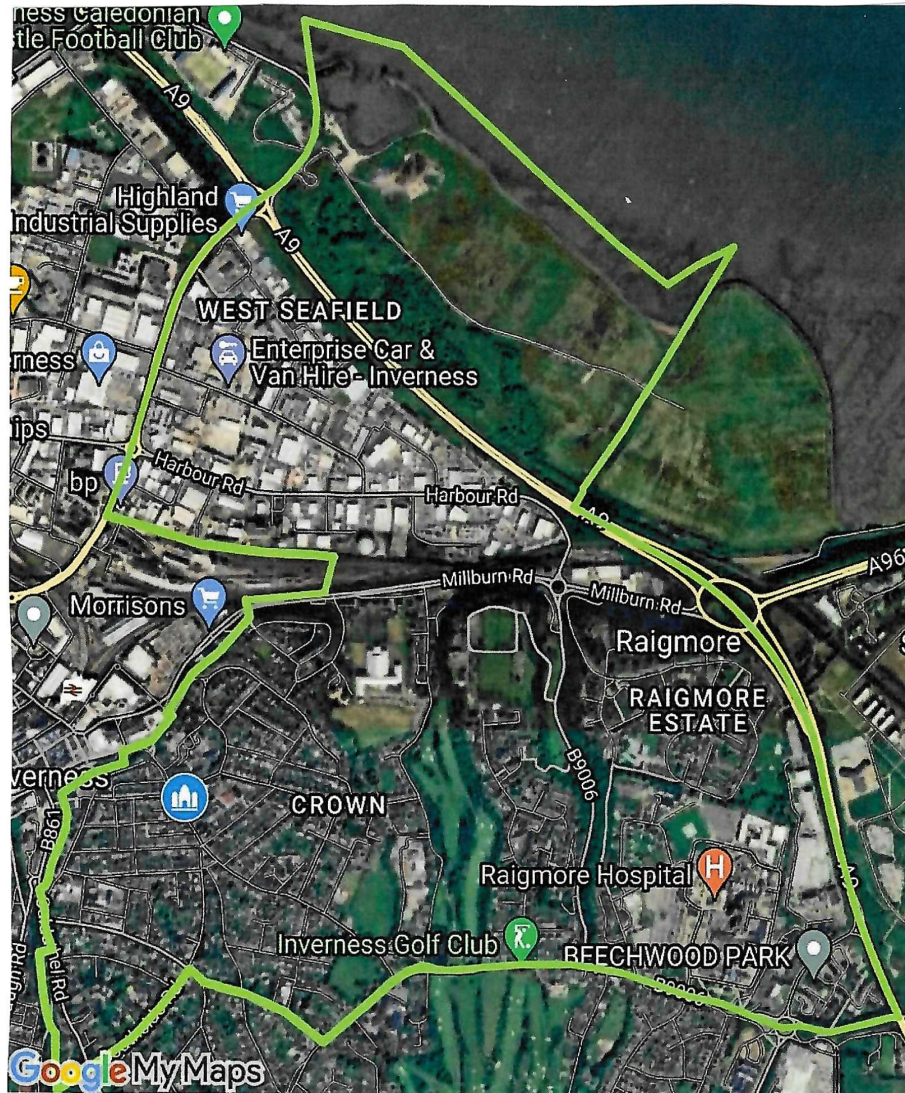
I have been corresponding with and meeting Christine Mackenzie, the session clerk at Old High St Stephens (OHSS) for some time now and we are in the process of arranging a meeting between our Elders' Council and the Leadership Forum at OHSS.

On the assumption that both congregations agree to proceed with the union, there will then be a great deal to do to put in place all the arrangements which will be needed to ensure the efficient functioning of the new church and, in particular, to ensure that we provide the appropriate leadership to take the mission of the new church forward into the rest of the 21st century.

Watch this space!

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk

Crown and Raigmore Parish Boundary



S-N-A-C Time

Easter SNAC (Saturday Night At Crown)

Easter SNAC was a huge success. We told the Easter story and decorated Easter hats, along with enjoying a 'pot luck' meal and doing a slightly early Easter egg hunt. Some of us even got out our Easter bonnets for the Palm Sunday service the next day!

The next SNAC is on Coronation Saturday. Like Charles and Camilla we'll be having quiche. Get in touch with Pat, Pamela or Gary if you'd like to be there.

pamelamcara@btinternet.com pcrippin@gmail.com

Everyone Welcome





Prayer Diary

May 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.

May 7 - 13

Prayer dedication for India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

We give thanks for the diversity of peoples in these countries: their cultures, values and spirituality; for the resilience of minority religious groups and those on the margins of society such as indigenous communities, Dalits, women, youth, the disabled and sexual minorities, amid discrimination and persecution; for efforts to forge inter-religious solidarity for the sake of the common good.

We pray for those who struggle to overcome grinding poverty; for Christians and others who selflessly work in the community, their efforts at ensuring the rights of all citizens, and their collaborative work; for leaders to keep priority on the wellbeing of the people and the earth itself amid demands for economic growth (from World Council of Churches).

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting public examinations at schools, at colleges or at universities, and pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path and future.

Pray 1 Peter 3:8; 'Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.' Lift up our friends, neighbours and families in our daily prayer.

May 14 - 20

A Prayer for the people of Sudan who has been caught up in the conflict and those who have fled to safety.

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression.

Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace, Please Lord come and find Your way in Your world, May Your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven.

May Your peace reign. Now and always. We lift this prayer to You, our God who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine.

In the name of Christ our saviour, Amen.

Pray for an end to the killing and an end to the conflict; for peace between all nations.

Pray for Christian Aid week, 14-20 May. Give thanks to God for all the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

Pray for the people and farmers in Malawi, that they will be able to plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

On this day, Thursday 18th May, Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

May 21 - 27

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'

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

Heavenly Father, You have welcomed us into Your kingdom and Your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself. Grant us clear eyes to see people as you see them, sensitive feet to stand in their shoes, and warm smiles to welcome them in Your name. Give us generous hearts that our church becomes a foretaste of heaven where every soul You send us finds their loving home in the community of Your son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

May 28 – June 3

Pray for parents to feel encouraged as they try to teach their children about God. Praise God for the gift of children. Pray for loving relationships between parents and children.

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.

Ask God to give older generations opportunities to graciously share their experience and wisdom. Thank God that you are part of His global family, and ask Him to inspire you with ways to encourage other Christians.

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.

If you have particular prayer requests for June 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 May

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

Sunday, May 7, 2023, Romans 1:1-17 Gospel as Salvation

Monday, May 8, 2023, Matthew 9:10-13 Call of Matthew

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Romans 2:17--3:8 The Jews and the Law

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Romans 3:9-20 None Is Righteous

Thursday, May 11, 2023, Romans 3:21-31 Righteousness through Faith

Friday, May 12, 2023, Romans 4:1-12 The Example of Abraham

Saturday, May 13, 2023, Romans 4:13-25 God's Promise Realized through Faith

Sunday, May 14, 2023, Romans [3:28-30]; 5:1-11 God's Love Poured Out

Monday, May 15, 2023, Romans 5:12-21 Adam and Christ

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Romans 6:15-23 Slaves of Righteousness

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, Romans 7:1-6 An Analogy of Marriage

Thursday, May 18, 2023, Romans 7:7-25 The Law and Sin

Friday, May 19, 2023, Romans 8:1-17 Life in the Spirit

Saturday, May 20, 2023, Romans 9:1-18 God's Election of Israel

Sunday, May 21, 2023, Romans 6:1-14 Hope of Resurrection

Monday, May 22, 2023, Romans 9:19-29 God's Wrath and Mercy

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Romans 9:30-33 Israel's Unbelief

Wednesday, May 24, 2023, Romans 10:1-21 Salvation for All

Thursday, May 25, 2023, Romans 12:1-8 The New Life in Christ

Friday, May 26, 2023, Romans 12:9-21 Marks of the True Christian

Saturday, May 27, 2023, Romans 13:1-14 Love for One Another

Sunday, May 28, 2023, Acts 2:1-4, Romans 8:18-39 Nothing Can Separate Us (Pentecost)

Monday, May 29, 2023, Romans 8:18-39 Pentecost

Tuesday, May 30, 2023, Romans 14:1-12 Do Not Judge Another

Wednesday, May 31, 2023, Romans 14:13-23 Do Not Make Another Stumble

Thursday, June 1, 2023, Romans 15:1-13 Gospel for All

Friday, June 2, 2023, Romans 15:14-21 Paul's Reason for Writing So Boldly

Saturday, June 3, 2023, Romans 15:22-33 Paul's Plan to Visit Rome





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)**



Christian Aid Week 2023

For 10 years, Esther grew pigeon peas (similar to our yellow split peas) on her farm in Malawi, but she could never secure a fair price for her crop.

But when she joined a pigeon pea programme run by Christian Aid's local partner - **Nandolo Farmers Association** - and started selling as part of a cooperative, she was able to earn more.

'I was able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price with a better market,' she explains. 'It provided financial stability.'



Then earlier this year cyclone Freddy devastated the land, not for a day or two as is usual but for 34 days, the longest lasting tropical cyclone since records began. Floods washed away crops during the critical growing season. But as Luke Theu, Christian Aid's Country Director for Malawi said: 'The pigeon pea is a crop that can bounce back and support people. Unlike other crops, which can't be planted in these flood conditions, pigeon peas can.'" Even more importantly, the pigeon pea is a tough plant, able to withstand drought conditions much better than other crops such as maize.

Thanks to the climate crisis, which no one can seriously doubt, the rainfall is unreliable with increasing duration of drought but also more storms, flooding and stronger winds. But the pigeon pea cooperative, developed by Christian Aid's partners in Malawi, has increased the resilience of the farming economy.

Of course, Christian Aid is not just about pigeon peas, it's not just about Malawi; it's not just about disaster relief. It's also about fighting trade injustice; it's about developing resilience; it's about people realising their potential; it's about life in all its fullness; it's about Life Before Death.

David Crippin



Timeline for Christian Aid Week at Crown and nearby:

Saturday 13th May, 10am – 12 noon. Coffee morning, baking stalls and plant sale. St Stephen's Church.

14th –20th May: delivery of donation envelopes to every household in our parish. I'll be needing 22 volunteers, please. Packs will be available in church on the 14th. Various ways in which people can donate will be detailed on the envelopes but please note that we are not asking our volunteers to go back to collect money.

Sunday 14th May: in both services there will be donation envelopes on the seats. The 9:30 service will be devoted entirely to Christian Aid

Sunday 14th May, 12:30pm. Pea soup and bread lunch, Upper Hall.

Saturday 20th May, 12 noon – 2:30pm. Soup and sandwich lunch, Ardersier Church.

Anytime from now on: you can donate online using our e-envelope, produced using Christian Aid's own version of Just Giving. As well as giving you an exceptionally easy way to donate and Gift Aid your donation, it will let you follow progress of our online collection.

I will once again be attempting the 300k steps in May challenge. I've got a little out of the way of walking this Spring and so will indeed find it a challenge this time.

The links and QR codes for these are:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/crown-church>



<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/300k-steps-may>

Coffee Morning at St Stephen's for Christian Aid



Coffee morning with Plant, Baking and Craft Stalls
on Saturday May 13th 10am -12pm at S Stephen's Church.

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.



can you help?

Items we're shorter of

May/June 2023

- Tins of mince/meatballs
- Tins of ham
- Tins of corned beef
- Tins of fruit
- Oatcakes/crackers
- Tins of tomatoes
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Long life juice
- Washing up liquid
- Deodorant
- Used or new bags for life

Emergency Food for local people in crisis.

Please donate an item or two from the list

Thank You!

01463 717630
foodbank.admin@blythswood.org
Registered Charity in Scotland 048001
Company Number 583493



Highland Foodbank have seen a steady increase in footfall over the past 4 months. The main reason for referrals has been unsurprisingly low income. It's shocking to know so many in our community are in need of help.

I would really appreciate if you could bring a little something from the list above each week and leave in the boxes provided at each Sanctuary door.

Many thanks,

Liz Gray
07845067501



Thanksgiving Concert

with the Acclaim choir and other
Christian singers and musicians

Sunday 18th June 2023

Eden Court Theatre

7:30pm



**Tickets, priced £10.50, are available from Eden
Court**

LIFE AND WORK

MAY



The Coronation Stone

Ian Bradley reflects on the Scottish influence on the King's coronation

General Assembly 2023

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton
Reports to the Assembly
Assembly and Fringe timetables

Christian Aid Week

Interview with the chair of a Malawian farming co-operative supported by Christian Aid

What is the Will of God?

Continuing the series on Intergenerational Church, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip highlight the importance of being led by God in finding the balance between tradition and innovation

Deepening Faith

A group of young people from a Falkirk church share their reflections of a trip to Israel and Palestine

My Church

Sheena MacFarlane OBE says there is 'growing optimism' around Port Glasgow New Parish Church

Regulars

The Rev Dr Martin Johnston on leadership
The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church
John L Bell on worship
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer
View from the Pulpit: the Rev Gillean MacLean

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

May 7th	Chrisanne & Stewart Robertson, Jane & Douglas Wilson
May 14th	Chrisanne & Stewart Robertson, Jane & Douglas Wilson
May 21st	Chrisanne & Stewart Robertson, Jane & Douglas Wilson
May 28th	Chrisanne & Stewart Robertson, Jane & Douglas Wilson

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

May 7th	Alastair Macleod
May 14th	Gordon Cameron
May 21st	David Crippin
May 28th	Charles Forbes
June 4th	Mairi Mtui

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mr Kevin John Reid, son of Beatrice and the late William Reid, 29th March 2023
Mrs Mary MacLean, Castlehill Care Home, formerly of Miller Street., 3rd April, 2023

Items for the June newsletter by Sunday 28th May 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)

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

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