

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**SEPTEMBER 2023: No. 793**

**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 3rd September** The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

**Sunday 10th September** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 17th September** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 24th September** **Harvest Thanksgiving**  
Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

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



**'Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'**

**Matthew 9:38**

## From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

Ireneus was a profoundly influential Christian leader in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and it is thought that he was the first to give the name "The Acts of the Apostles" to the second volume of Luke's written work, a name that has stuck now for about 1850 years.



We've been reflecting on this record of the early church's faith and actions throughout the summer in our 11am service and I have to say the title "The Acts of the Apostles" seems to me to be a little bit unfair – though I'm a bit nervous about picking a fight with someone who was considered to be amongst the founding fathers of the church. So let me explain:

Some of the apostles play very significant parts in the book, but my point is simply that so do many others who are not called apostles.

In some ways the principal character – other than Jesus, of course – is Paul, who considers himself to be an apostle because he met with the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, but even Paul would have failed the test that was used in chapter 1 to replace Judas and restore the number of apostles to 12. *"It is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."*

Luke, who wrote the book was not called an apostle, nor was Theophilus who he was writing to. Stephen (chapter 6 & 7) and Philip (chapter 8) were deacons, not apostles. Simeon, Lucius and Manaen (13:1) were prophets or teachers in Antioch, but not apostles. John Mark, who travelled with Paul and Barnabus on their missionary journeys (chapters 12-15) and wrote the Gospel of Mark, was not called an apostle. James the brother of Jesus, was a noted leader, probably the first bishop of Jerusalem (chapter 15), but not an apostle.

Barnabus is of interest, because although he was not one of the 12 who were designated apostles at the start of the book, in chapter 14, along with Paul, they are both specifically called apostles. Perhaps with the progress of time, the use of the title became a little bit looser, which in some senses makes my point for me: we who by the grace of God are called Christian, are surely all apostles!

The word "apostle" comes from ancient Greek, and it means an emissary, or envoy, sent out by his master to carry the master's message to its destination. We are all sent out by God to proclaim the Good News of his son Jesus Christ.

So, while I started by wanting to challenge Ireneaus' designation of the book "The Acts of the Apostles", because there are many more wonderful servants of God in there than just the 12 who were officially appointed as apostles, perhaps now I realise that the title is nevertheless right, because everyone who goes out in the name of Jesus, is doing the work of an apostle, even if we don't have the formal title.

Blessings,

**Douglas**

## **Special Services**

We have a number of special services coming up over the next few months. These are detailed below and further information will be available in due course.

<b>24th September</b>	Harvest Thanksgiving
<b>1st October</b>	Guild Enrolment
<b>8th October</b>	BB Battalion Service
<b>5th November</b>	BB Enrolment
<b>12th November</b>	Remembrance Day
<b>26th November</b>	Service of Hope

## **Provisional Dates for your Diary**

We hope to hold two meetings on the evening of Wednesday 13th September in the Sanctuary.

At 7pm a congregational meeting to approve the accounts.

To be followed at approximately 7.30pm by a congregational meeting where feedback will be invited after a presentation of Crown 20/20 's plans for the new entrance and other improvements.

A similar opportunity will also be offered during an afternoon meeting on Monday 18th September.

Confirmation of these dates will be notified in the Saturday email, in the notices and on the church website.

**Eileen Ardern**



## Farewell to Young Crown Co-ordinator

The congregation of Crown Church of Scotland, Inverness, has bid a fond farewell to Struan McRoberts, who has served as youth and children's co-ordinator of Young Crown for the past eight years.

A special service was held on Sunday 6 August to recognise the outstanding contribution Struan has made in working with the young members of the Crown community to wish him and his family well for the future.



Struan has qualified as a primary school teacher and begins a probationary year at South Lodge Primary School, Invergordon, at the start of the new school session on Tuesday 15 August.

Charlie Forbes, Chair of Young Crown, paid tribute to Struan's service, recalling his appointment as the first youth and children's co-ordinator of Young Crown in December 2015. Struan, he said, had immediately established a strong partnership with the neighbouring Crown Primary School and Millburn Academy and organised many activities and events for the young in the community.

Outwith his youth remit, Struan had been part of the Youth and Children's Team of the Crown Church Kirk Session and often led the 9.30am Sunday service. He also chaired the Nomination Committee for the appointment of Crown minister the Rev Douglas Robertson.

Mr Forbes said: "We cannot thank Struan enough for his huge commitment to our congregation and the young people of our community and beyond. He has done an outstanding job. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish him and his family every good wish for the future." Mr Forbes said that Young Crown was committed to continuing Struan's work and would be applying for funding to advertise for a successor.

**Caption: Struan (right) is pictured with Charlie Forbes (left) and the Rev Douglas Robertson**

# *Prayer Diary*

## *September 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**

### **September 3-9**

Pray for the work of the Eco-Congregation Scotland. Praise God today for the earth that He has gifted to us, and all the beautiful plants and animals He has created for us to enjoy. Commit to caring for every part of God's creation, and ask Him to prompt you to be a good steward of the earth.

Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen

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.

Pray for people who have been displaced due to conflicts and natural disasters; Give thanks for those who have been able to travel to safety and pray for support for them to adjust to a new life.

### **September 10-16**

Pray for all the children in our local schools as they settle in a new school year and give thanks that the chaplaincy team is there to support them if needed.

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.

Remember those who are ill or in pain, and those supporting loved ones who are hurting; may they be surrounded by God's peace and comfort.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may flourish in faith, hope and love, through the power of the Holy Spirit. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shelter your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



## **September 17-23**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace, when the UN hope to strengthen the ideals of peace within all nations and peoples. Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and pray that more people will encounter His peace, which surpasses all understanding and can reach into every situation.

Pray for unity among all people and 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.

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.

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.

## **September 24-30**

For persecuted Christians

Father God, we lift up Sudan and pray for stability in the region. May those who covet power and those who seek to fight choose to walk the path of peace.

Bring justice and healing to this divided land, we pray.

Out of this darkness, we pray that light will come.

We pray for a government that respects equality and religious freedom.

May Your church in this land reflect Your humility, forgiveness and love,

And so act as a signpost to the possibility of a different way of life.

Bring hope for those who feel helpless,

Healing for those who have been wounded,

And safety for all those who feel afraid.

Amen

Lord Jesus,

You know what it is to face injustice and hate,

To hide from those who would attack You,

And to keep silent in front of Your accusers.

Be with Your followers in Afghanistan, and with all in the world who must keep hidden.

Protect them from discovery,

Reassure them that their lives are hidden in You.

May we speak up for those who have no voice,

And use our freedom to provide for those in need.

Let us not be silent, Lord.

In Your name we pray,

**Amen**

If you have particular prayer requests for the month of October 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)

## **FLOWERS IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY**

We are very grateful to those who have donated money so that we can arrange flowers for our Sunday Services in September.



If you would like to donate money for church flowers please contact Ruby Coe (225467)

**Ruby Coe**

## **COUNTRY DANCING**



Want to get fit, make new friends and have fun? Then why not come along to Scottish Country Dancing ?

Introductory Class meets in Crown Church Upper Hall on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm commencing 27<sup>th</sup> September.

No previous experience or partner needed, just a pair of soft shoes and a sense of humour.

**Irene Whyte**

## Daily Bible Readings for September

### **Sunday, September 3, 2023, Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11 Sabbath for Community**

Monday, September 4, 2023, Exodus 23:6-16 Rest for Land and Livestock

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Joshua 11:18-23 Rest from War

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, Judges 5:26-31 Land Had Rest

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 2 Chronicles 14:1-6 Rest from Strife

Friday, September 8, 2023, Isaiah 14:1-7 Rest from Pain

Saturday, September 9, 2023, Nehemiah 13:19 Rest for Servants

### **Sunday, September 10, 2023, Genesis 2:4b-25, The Garden of Eden**

Monday, September 11, 2023, Genesis 1:1-4a First Creation Story

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, Genesis 3:1-24 Sin and Punishment

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, Genesis 4:1-16 Cain and Abel

Thursday, September 14, 2023, Genesis 4:17-26 Beginnings of Civilization

Friday, September 15, 2023, Genesis 6:1-8 Human Wickedness

Saturday, September 16, 2023, Genesis 6:9-22 Noah Pleases God

### **Sunday, September 17, 2023, Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 Isaac Born to Sarah**

Monday, September 18, 2023, Genesis 16:1-16 The Birth of Ishmael

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Genesis 17:1-27 God's Covenant with Abraham

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, Genesis 21:1-21 The Birth of Isaac

Thursday, September 21, 2023, Genesis 24:1-67 The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Friday, September 22, 2023, Genesis 25:19-24 The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Saturday, September 23, 2023, Genesis 27:1-46 Isaac Blesses Jacob



**Sunday, September 24, 2023, Genesis 32:22-30 Jacob Wrestles God**

Monday, September 25, 2023, Genesis 32:3-21 Jacob Sends Gifts to Esau

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Genesis 33:1-20 Jacob and Esau Meet

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Genesis 37:1-11 Jacob's Son, Joseph

Thursday, September 28, 2023, Genesis 37:12-36 Joseph is Sold by His Brothers

Friday, September 29, 2023, Genesis 41:37-57 Joseph's Rise to Power

Saturday, September 30, 2023, Genesis 46:1-27 Joseph Brings the Israelites to Egypt

**Sunday, October 1, 2023, Exodus 1:8-14 [15-2:10]; 3:1-10 Moses and God's Name**

Monday, October 2, 2023, Exodus 7:14-8:15 First Two Plagues

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Exodus 8:16-32 Two More Plagues

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Exodus 9:1-12 Two More Plagues

Thursday, October 5, 2023, Exodus 9:13-10:20 Two More Plagues

Friday, October 6, 2023, Ex 10:21-11:10, 12:29-32 Final Plagues

Saturday, October 7, 2023, Exodus 12:33-42 The Exodus from Rameses to Succoth



## HIGHLAND FOODBANK - HARVEST 2023

Harvest is a time of year when we remember God's goodness to us – and also reflect on our responsibility to express his love to those in our community and in our world who are in need. So it's not surprising that Harvest Thanksgiving continues to be the most significant time of year for giving to Foodbank from Highland Churches.

This year has, so far, been a difficult one for many. With the cost of living dramatically increasing, many people in our communities have struggled financially, and have had to resort to seeking referral to their local Foodbank. We've also noticed with the increased costs for households that this has had an effect on donations, and between January and July we've given out 31% more food than we've had donated. So far this year across our 5 Foodbank Centres we've provided a three day emergency food parcel to 3645 people!

I'm writing to ask if you would consider supporting us at Harvest this year, thus helping to make a difference in people's lives in the weeks and months ahead.

I'm assigning six products to each participating Church. The flyer attached lists the products we'd like your congregation to consider donating, if your Church decides to support Highland Foodbank at this time. Please get in touch if you'd like paper copies posted out to you.

Donations of used or new 'bags for life' would also be very welcome and much appreciated.

Many thanks for your support! Please just get in touch if you require any further information or help with collecting your donations following Harvest.

Kind regards,

**Lorna Dempster Foodbank Manager Blythswood Care**

**[lorna.dempster@blythswood.org](mailto:lorna.dempster@blythswood.org)**



# Harvest 2023

Support local people in crisis by donating an item from the list below:

Items we'd be grateful for

- Tins of corned beef
- Jars of pasta sauce
- UHT semi-skimmed milk
- Tins of tomatoes
- Tins of mince/meatballs
- Toilet rolls

Highland Foodbank provides emergency food packages with enough food to make 3 meals over 3 days to people who would otherwise go hungry.

People in crisis are referred to Foodbank by a variety of different organisations including social work teams, schools and CAB.



"The shop I worked in closed earlier this year. I got another job in May, but it's only a 20 hour contract. With a top up of Universal Credit I only just manage to pay my rent, bills and buy food. My earnings are much lower than when I worked full-time, so there's nothing left for emergencies. Last month my cooker broke. I managed to buy a second hand one, but that left me short for buying food. I was so grateful to get a food parcel from Foodbank to see me through."

01463 717630  
[foodbank.admin@blythswood.org](mailto:foodbank.admin@blythswood.org)  
Registered Charity in Scotland 048001  
Company Number 583493





### **Afternoon Team for Cameron House**

The joint Pastoral Care Teams of Old High St Stephen's and Crown wish to say a big thank you to all the helpers, the bakers, the sandwich makers, the tablet makers, the crafters and Christine for her lovely hamper.

Grateful thanks to everyone who braved the rain and came to support the fund-raiser and spent so generously. Thanks also for donations received.

The wonderful sum of £2,000+ has been raised which has exceeded all expectations, we are blessed by such support.

**Val Cantlay and Brian Macgill**

### **Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club resumes on Friday 1st September at 2pm and will run on a fortnightly basis up till Easter. The first session will be just chatting and catching up with each other after the long break and we look forward to welcoming you all back.

New members are always welcome so if you haven't been before - why not give it a try. If you are a regular bring a pal.

We have a varied programme of speakers and activities lined up for this session and as someone said at the Easter Lunch "one of the best decisions I made was to come along".

**The Friendship Team**



## The Guild

The Guild will commence its new session with the Dedication Service in Church on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October when long-service certificates for 50 years' service will be presented to Adrienne Adie, Isobel Ewing, Janet Fraser, Linda Moncur, Marjorie Mackenzie and Morag Russell.

We will then meet on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the Sanctuary at 7.30 pm. Our opening meeting will be a fellowship night; a chance to catch up with absent friends. This will be followed on the 17<sup>th</sup> October with a conversation with Lesley McRoberts about her personal experience as a Street Pastor in Inverness.

Both men and women are very welcome at any of our meetings – so please come along!

## One Hundred and Twenty Five Years of Worship and Witness

*Our Centenary Year begins this month!!!*

*First Main Event*

**Dedication Service**  
on Sunday  
20 September 1998  
at 11 am

Worship involving members across the aspects  
of our Church's life and witness

**WANTED!!  
FOR THE  
EXHIBITION!!**

PHOTOGRAPHS  
- of Crown Church  
- any subject  
- any age

especially  
WEDDINGS  
(which do not need to  
have been in Crown  
Church, as long as  
they are of Crown  
Church folk!)

Also any old  
PUBLICATIONS  
to do with the Church  
- annual reports  
- newspaper cuttings  
etc

ALL will be safely  
returned to you!

Contact  
Dorothy Mein  
(238617)

*A Sample Of Some Of The Greats  
Already Discovered*



**A  
Centenary  
Calendar**  
designed by  
Ian MacDiarmid  
including his photographs  
of aspects of Crown  
Church  
will be on sale in good  
time for Christmas

3

As many of you will recall in 1999 we celebrated 100 years of Worship and Witness at Crown Church. A number of special events were held including Services, a Centenary Exhibition and a Flower Festival.

As we prepare to celebrate 125 years in 2024, once again we will be planning a number of special events. More details to follow in the coming months.

## **Down Memory Lane for Charlie Forbes**

Church member, Charlie Forbes, has been recalling taking part in an international football tournament that took place half a century ago. Charlie was a member of a group of elite young Inverness footballers who travelled to twin town Augsburg in Bavaria in June 1973.

Charlie is pictured with a trophy for the team's fair play during the 8-team competition held at the home of Augsburg FC, who now play in the top flight of German football.

He is also pictured with the goalkeeper of FC Bourges, France, Fabian Trunelle.

A towering central defender who played for Nairn County and a number of Welfare League sides in Inverness, Charlie was given the trophy by the late Councillor Alistair Milne, who accompanied the party to Augsburg. He has now given it to the Inverness Football Memories Project for future displays of football memorabilia.



**Dave Milroy (left) Charlie Forbes and Colin Cumming with the Fair Play Trophy**

Charlie recalled: "The standard of competition was exceptional with the likes of West Bromwich Albion, Dynamo Kiev and the Turkish national Under 19 team taking part. We ended up with one win and securing 7th place and, in such distinguished company, were happy to settle for the fair play award. The story brings back so many fond memories."

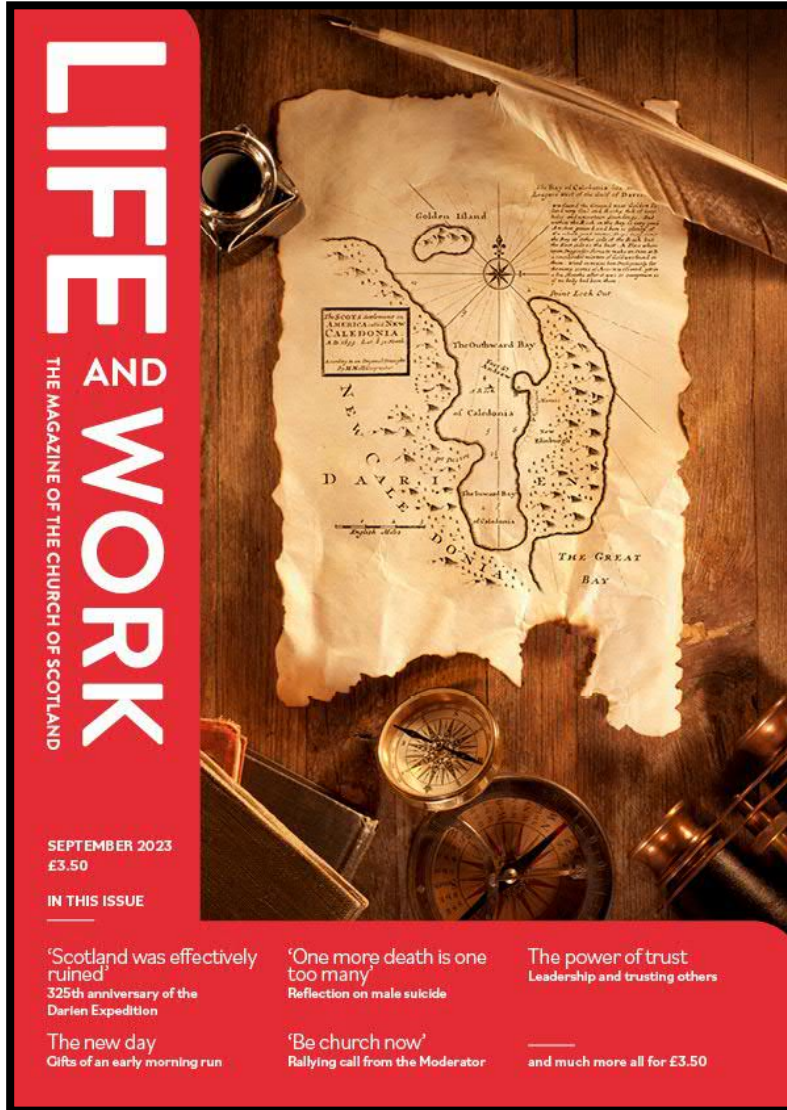
Charlie is High Life Highland's Disability Sport Development Officer and a Director of Inverness Caledonian Thistle's Community Trust.

**Charlie Forbes (left) with FC Bourges goalkeeper Fabian Trunelle**



# LIFE AND WORK

September



## 'Scotland was Effectively Ruined'

The 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Darien Expedition

## Letter from the Holy Land

The Rev Dr Stewart Gillan reflects on the hope of presence

## 'One More Death is One Too Many'

John Gibson and Murdo Macdonald on a Christian understanding of suicide

## The New Day

The Rev Ruth Halley offers a reflection on her morning run

## Beacons of Light

The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton challenges readers to 'be church now'

## Enriched by the Glory of God

Amy Tanner, Children and Family worker at New Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock, describes her faith journey

## View from the Pulpit

The Rev Josh Milton highlights the journey of a newly-united congregation in embracing challenge

## Regulars

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible Study by Ruth Harvey

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## **Welcome Team**

<b>September 3rd</b>	Marion & John Barbour, Helen Boynton, Sheena Ferguson
<b>September 10th</b>	Marion & John Barbour, Helen Boynton, Sheena Ferguson
<b>September 17th</b>	Marion & John Barbour, Sheena Ferguson, Margot Tuley
<b>September 24th</b>	Marion & John Barbour, Sheena Ferguson, Margot Tuley

**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>September 3rd</b>	Communion
<b>September 10th</b>	Eileen Ardern
<b>September 17th</b>	Douglas Taylor
<b>September 24th</b>	Irene Whyte
<b>October 1st</b>	Jim Munro



# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Birthdays

Mr John Beattie, Drumossie Avenue , 90th Birthday, 11th July 2023

Mrs Georgina Law, Kingsmills Nursing Home, 104th Birthday, 10th August 2023



## Deaths

Mrs Evelyn Devlin, Torbreck Road, 17th July 2023

Mr Kenneth MacKenzie, Raasay Road, 15th August 2023

Mrs Kay Murchison, Meallmore Nursing Home, 22nd August 2023

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**Items for the October newsletter by Sunday 24th September 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)**

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drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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