

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

OCTOBER 2023: No. 794

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 1st October | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers. Guild Enrolment Service |
| Sunday 8th October | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am. BB Battalion Service. |
| Sunday 15th October | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 22nd October | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 29th October | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 5th November | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers. BB Enrolment. |



'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ'

Galatians 6:2

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

We have recently had our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service. So many people made a tremendous effort, to decorate the church, to bring contributions for the Blythwood food bank, to prepare and participate in the service, to clean up afterwards and to deliver extra bunches of flowers to some of our congregation who need cheering up. I am grateful to them all.

I'm not a country boy, I've always been a townie, but in some ways even I find it a little bit sad that so many of us have lost any meaningful connection to the seasons of the year. We go about our daily business without any direct involvement in tilling the soil, planting the seeds, protecting the crop and finally harvesting it. And I am the worst of all, as I have never even had much inclination to tend a garden. Yet I do hope that each of us, in our own way, take a moment regularly, it should be every day, to thank the Creator who set all of this in motion and who continues to breathe life into all that lives and provide for our daily needs.

The theme of the service was "fairness", and in the light of recent disasters in both Morocco and Libya, I think the challenge for us is to find meaningful and practical ways to share something of our daily blessings with people whose lives have so dramatically and unexpectedly been shattered. Charities like Christian Aid do an enormous amount of work, in a sense redistributing the wealth of the world to those who are most in need, whether these are long-term systemic needs or the result of sudden catastrophic disasters.

As this Newsletter goes into publication, David Crippin will be raising the profile of Christian Aid, specifically in an appeal for relief work in Libya, but I would encourage you to check their website regularly, and other similar charities, to look for ways in which each of us might be able to contribute. And even when we don't feel able to contribute financially, our prayers can be more informed.

One of the most challenging passages of Scripture, I believe, is the parable of the sheep and the goats that Jesus told in Matthew chapter 25, from which I quote verses 35, 36 and 40:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

The fruits of the harvest are and always have been intended by God for the blessing of all nations. May God continue to richly bless us all,

Douglas



Harvest Thanksgiving Service



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.

1st October	Guild Enrolment
8th October	BB Battalion Service
5th November	BB Enrolment
12th November	Remembrance Day
26th November	Service of Hope

Elders Induction Service

On Sunday 17th September, two new elders were inducted, Fiona Carter and Gordon Cameron. It was 25 years since Douglas our Minister last inducted an elder into the Church of Scotland! Fiona and Gordon wish to express their thanks to all the elders who attended and extended such a warm welcome to them.





Christian Aid Libya Emergency Appeal

On Sunday 10 September, Storm Daniel hit Libya. More than 11,300 people are known to have died after the catastrophic Mediterranean storm burst two dams and flooded the eastern port city of Derna.

People are without the basics such as access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities to prevent the risk of diseases. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster. By joining us, you can help people in need rebuild their lives.

Christian Aid is working with [Dan Church Aid](#), our Act Alliance partner who have a long-established presence in Libya, to send emergency supplies for the most pressing needs, such as:

- Medical assistance, supplies and pharmaceuticals
- Emergency shelter
- Sanitation and hygiene kits
- Food

Longer term, Dan Church Aid will look to contribute rubble clearance and reconstruction efforts, using their mechanical equipment resources. Rescue teams have arrived from countries including Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, Spain and Turkey to work alongside the local authorities.

You can help local responders make a huge difference to so many people who have lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

We will hold a collection for this appeal on Sunday 1st October. There will be envelopes on the seats or you can give online using:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/libya-floods-appeal>



Thank you for thinking of our brothers and sisters in such distress.

David Crippin
Christian Aid Representative

Prayer Diary

October 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

October 1 - 7

Pray for so many parts of the world affected by conflicts and natural disasters; Remember especially those affected by floods in Libya, earthquake in Morocco, floods in China, Atlantic Hurricane season.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we get things wrong. Lead us into right thinking and right living. As you loved us when we didn't deserve it, help us to love one another and so show we are your followers. Amen

May God watch over you and be your shade and shelter, so that the sun may not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. May God guard you from all harm, and watch over you all the days of your life, both now and forever more.

Lord of all time, as we inch our way along the ruler of our lives, help us to remember that you hold each end in love. You are the one who is above, below, around and beyond our earthly life span, and so we trust you, because you know the end from the beginning, the meaning beyond our understanding. Thank you that our times are in your hands. Amen

October 8 - 14

On this day, 10th October World Mental Health Day, remember all those who are struggling with mental health and emotional illnesses, pray for them and their families; pray for the church to prioritise people with mental health issues and to be recognised in the community as a loving and supportive environment.

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that they continue to receive the help and support.

Pray for peace for every person experiencing the challenges and concerns arising from a diagnosis of dementia. Pray that those with poor mental health will find encouragement and solace in places and people as they travel through their journey to recovery.

Heavenly Father, we lift up to you all the displaced people in the world and pray that they'll find safe homes and new lives away from war. We pray for the practicalities of starting a new life in a new country and for their mental health and wellbeing.

October 15 - 21

Lord our God, Father of all, You guard us under the shadow of Your wings and search into the depths of our hearts. Reveal the prejudices that cloud our vision so that we can see. Shake the apathy from our soul so that we can pray, speak, and work for Your justice today. And relieve the fear that would hide us from Your sight. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Oh God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

God Our Father, grant us stillness to pray; to acknowledge your presence with us as we travel through this life journey.

October 22 - 28

Whether in the heights or depths, light or darkness; may you never forget God's unending love for you. Rom 8:39

Remember those in prison and pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence. Pray that they can maintain a positive relationship with their families, wherever possible, and remembering those who have no visitors.

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.

Heavenly Father – thank you for disciples who come to church every week to encourage one another and worship You. We pray for thriving communities in local churches, who know and love You and share Christ love with the people they meet. Amen

October 29 – November 4

Loving 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.

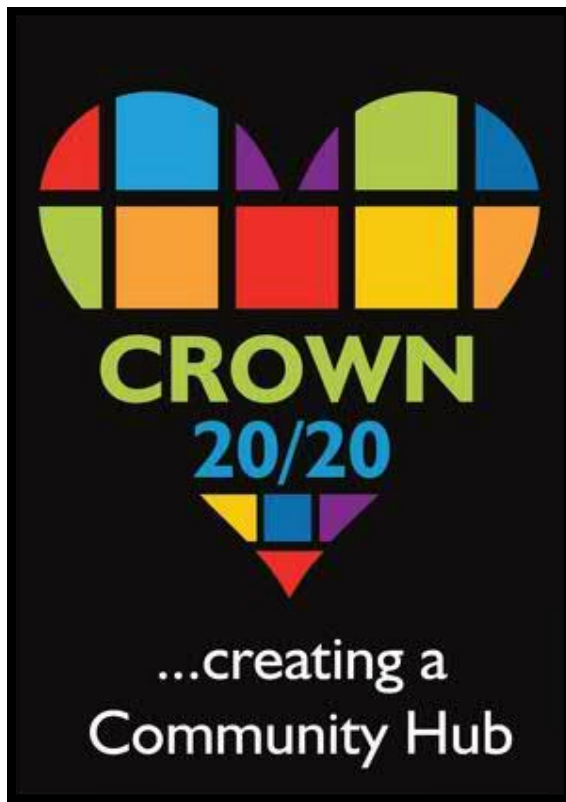
Give thanks for the Lord's promise that says when we are weak He makes us strong and that when we are weary and heavy burdened we can go to Him and He will make us strong and give us peace.

Father, thank You for sending Jesus into the world so that we could have a relationship with You. Help me to be part of sharing the gospel with the world. Amen

Father God – We pray for all those in authority and leadership to know you. Yours is the ultimate authority and we pray that your divine order will be reflected in the decisions of leaders in international relations. We pray for supernatural encounters for those who don't yet know Christ. Amen.

If you have particular prayer requests for the month of November 2023 please do send them to our **Church Secretary Gloria** who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk





Update from Crown 20/20 Group

“Crown Church aims to invest in a major upgrade of our church buildings to provide a warm and welcoming home for worship, equip us with modern and accessible Facilities to support Christian outreach into our community and to help our church meet the needs of that community.”

As you will know, Crown 20/20 has been consulting over their proposed plans to make a modern accessible entrance to the church premises. This article will outline what has been talked about, and give reasons for the decisions which will form the basis for the next meeting when we will ask our Architect to come and talk to the congregation about the plans. There has been no controversy about the decision to keep the Chancel area and all its furnishings as it is currently.

Until the time comes to carry out the work (which will not be until the money is raised and all necessary permissions received), we will keep the pews in the transepts. The pews in the south transept will of necessity have to be removed, and the floor levelled to allow us to walk straight through to the new foyer when work begins. There was little appetite for keeping pews in the north transept once this happens as it would make the Sanctuary look lop-sided, and the proposal is to remove them at the same time, level the floor, and with the folding glass doors open under the gallery this area can be used for over-flow accommodation for services. During the week with the doors shut this could be a lounge area. We are also considering providing a small 'quiet area' which will always be available. There is a proposal to turn the area behind the AV desk into storage for large items such as toddlers cars and slide etc, but this is still under consideration as enlarged cupboards in the front porches might be sufficient if our Architect thinks they are feasible. It is proposed to keep the galleries as they are meantime to give us longer to assess how much we may need to use them.



The front entrance doors at the top of the steps will be retained as fire doors. Quotes are awaited from two specialist joiners who would be able to keep the oak and the shape of the doors, but also to insert glass panels which would allow us to have welcoming lights during the winter. Both porches will however be used to store chairs as is done presently.

The Small Hall has been redesignated as the Meeting Room. We lease it for Nursery use until 3pm each schoolday, but it was never much required for church use in the mornings anyway. Thought is being given to the easy provision of tables and chairs for our use there. The downstairs kitchen is similarly used for the provision of lunches to the nursery children between 11am and 1.30pm at the latest and can otherwise be booked as required. The wooden stairs, small toilet and vestry are to be retained.

The Olive Grove and office building will undergo a transformation with the new automatic double doors bringing you in to the foyer through what are now the office windows, and with the doors being glass newcomers to the church will be able to see in before they enter as is commonplace now for public buildings. The double doors will be designed to cut out draught.

It is also important that those requiring disabled access are given the courtesy of being able to enter by the same door as everyone else.



Simulation showing proposed ramp. We envisage a much improved garden design with seating, flowers and bushes.

There was much talk about how wheelchairs could access the new doors. The idea of a small platform lift to raise them to the required level has been rejected as it would require ongoing maintenance, and as it would be rendered out of action in a fire we would need to provide a refuge area in the foyer which is space we do not have. The main reason alternatives to the idea of a ramp for wheelchairs round the garden were sought is because the garden is such a source of delight to everyone.

However, it has to be realised that the garden will be destroyed during the building process, and can be redesigned, keeping the seats and flowers to continue to be welcoming to all who pass by. It has however been recognised that there needs also to be a wheelchair ramp at the Midmills door, particularly for those parking in our side car park, and that is being explored.

The Midmills entrance is the main access for users of the upper hall, and will be improved and provided with easy communication to the main entrance.

The suggestion of a two-storey build to replace the current office is not being taken forward. Firstly, we have to be careful that the architecture of the new build does not detract from that of the church itself. Planning permission might not even be forthcoming. The design of the new foyer is based on as much light as possible coming in through the roof to light up that area which would not be possible with a floor above. And lastly access from the upper hall to a first floor office would hit problems with floor levels.

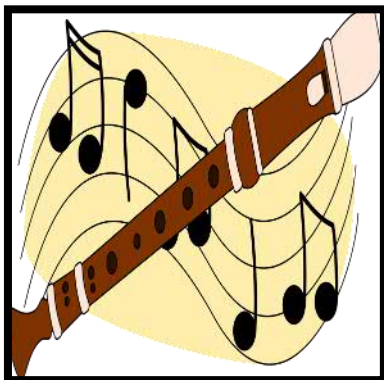
Questions were raised about the suitability of the office space for a Secretary, Young Crown Coordinator, and Minister. Given there will be a reception desk, and a desk in the back office which can be used for working without interruption as well as the vestry, those wishing space to work on their laptop should be able to find it. Storage for equipment is a separate matter and all our storage requirements are currently under review in order to be able to have further cupboards added at the design stage.

The security of expensive equipment and the safety of anyone working in the building on their own is being kept under consideration.

Crown 20/20 will be delighted to hear further observations and answer any questions during October, and these should be sent to the church office in the first instance.

Crown 20/20 Group

Crown Church Band



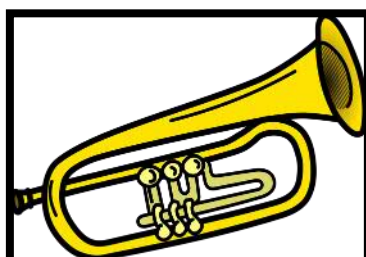
Crown Church Band is a Wind Band and plays religious, classical and folk music as well as marches, jazz, mild rock and music from the shows. The first aim of the Band is to play music together for enjoyment.

We are sorry that our conductor, Jo Hazell, is moving on after many years with the Band as a flautist and latterly as conductor. We are now looking for another conductor.

New members, experienced and learners are always welcome including a drummer and guitarist.

Band Practice is held on Monday night from 7.00pm until 9.00pm in the Crown Church Sanctuary.

For more information please contact the Church Secretary at office@crown-church.co.uk or the Band Secretary **Tel. No. 01463 236738**.



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 October.



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

Ruby Coe

Just Rice 90kg Challenge

This is being organised by Just Trading Scotland and the National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi.



Selling 90kg of the 'Kilombero rice' generates enough income for a farmer in Malawi to re-invest in their farm, feed and clothe their families and most importantly enables them to provide secondary education for their children.

Crown, St Stephens and Hilton Churches are aiming to sell another 30kg per church to meet the '90kg challenge'. Please consider supporting this challenge

by buying a 1kg bag of Malawi white or brown rice priced £4 each, which will be on sale after the church services or reserve a bag by contacting Brian Macgill (brian.macgill@outlook.com)

Daily Bible Readings for October

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

Sunday, October 8, 2023, Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-6 Hear, O Israel

Monday, October 9, 2023, Exodus 12:43-13:2 Directions for the Passover

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, Exodus 13:3-10 Festival of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Exodus 13:11-16 The Consecration of the Firstborn

Thursday, October 12, 2023, Exodus 13:17-22 Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Friday, October 13, 2023, Exodus 14:1-31 Crossing the Red Sea

Saturday, October 14, 2023, Exodus 20:1-21 The Ten Commandments

Sunday, October 15, 2023, Ruth 1:1-17 Ruth

Monday, October 16, 2023, Ruth 1:18-22 Ruth and Naomi

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Ruth 2:1-13 Ruth Meets Boaz

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, Ruth 2:14-23 Ruth Meets Boaz

Thursday, October 19, 2023, Ruth 3:1-18 Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

Friday, October 20, 2023, Ruth 4:1-12 The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

Saturday, October 21, 2023, Ruth 4:13-22 The Genealogy of David

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5 David Anointed King

Monday, October 23, 2023, Psalm 150 Praise Psalm

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 2 Samuel 5:6-16 Jerusalem, the Capital of a Kingdom United

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 2 Samuel 6:6-11 The Ark Comes to Jerusalem

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 2 Samuel 6:12-23 The Ark Comes to Jerusalem

Friday, October 27, 2023, 2 Samuel 7:1-17 God's Covenant with David

Saturday, October 28, 2023, 2 Samuel 7:18-29 David's Prayer

Sunday, October 29, 2023, 1 Kings 12:1-17 The Kingdom Divided

Monday, October 30, 2023, 1 Kings 12:18-24 Jeroboam Reigns over Israel

Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 1 Kings 12:25-33 Jeroboam's Golden Calves

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 1 Kings 13:1-34 A Man of God from Judah

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 1 Kings 14:1-20 Judgment on the House of Jeroboam

Friday, November 3, 2023, 1 Kings 14:21-31 Rehoboam Reigns over Judah

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 1 Kings 16:24-34 Ahab Reigns

Sunday, November 5, 2023, 1 Kings 18:20-39 Elijah at Mount Carmel

Monday, November 6, 2023, 1 Kings 17:1-7 Elijah Predicts a Drought

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 1 Kings 18:1-19 Elijah's Message to Ahab

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 1 Kings 18:41-46 The Drought Ends

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 1 Kings 19:1-10 Elijah Flees from Jezebel

Friday, November 10, 2023, 1 Kings 19:11-18 Elijah Meets God at Horeb

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 2 Kings 9:30-37 Jezebel's Violent Death



OLIVE GROVE

Crown Church Kingsmills Road

We welcome you back to our Cafe

The Olive Grove

which is now within Crown Church



Open Wednesday & Thursday
10am - 3pm

Coffee, Teas & Light Lunches

Come along to enjoy friendly chat and tasty home
baking in warm cosy surroundings.

Enter by the Garden Door. Easy Access

Having revamped the Lounge in early summer 2022, team Olive Grove have now been operating as a cafe every Wednesday & Thursday for 15 months. We've been thrilled to welcome back some of our pre-Covid customers, meet new customers, toddler mums, callers to open church, and passing tourists in summer some very interesting people among them.

We also provide refreshments for a choir using church premises, have done one 'one off' Sunday afternoon tea for a small group and have potential for quite a few other ideas to offer hospitality as outreach.

But we do need to keep growing our team of volunteers. So, if you enjoy meeting people, like being part of a fun team and could offer to cover three hours once a fortnight, please speak to Eileen Ardern, Liz Gray or Mairi Main or email mairi.main@gmail.com. Bakers too are always in demand. We'll be delighted to welcome you to team Olive Grove.



The Guild

Now that we are approaching Autumn it is time to think of the new session for the Guild. We have produced what we feel is an interesting and varied syllabus for 2023/24. We hear about Street Pastors, the wickedest women in the Bible, planning your garden, Blood Bikes, the Victorian Market, a trip on Route 66 and working on the buses, among other events.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday 3rd October, when we will have a fellowship evening with chat and a quiz!

The first Sunday in October is the Dedication Service when we, as members of the Guild, promise to uphold the aims of the Guild and remember 'whose we are and whom we serve'.

At this service the following members will be presented with certificates to mark 50 years as members, Adrienne Adie, Isobel Ewing, Janet Fraser, Linda Moncur, Marjorie Mackenzie and Morag Russell.

We issue a warm welcome to anyone in the congregation to join us.

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent

Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea

The Leprosy Mission Scotland - Inverness Area Fundraising Group annual event this year will take the form of an Afternoon Tea to be held in our upstairs hall on Saturday 21st October from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

Donations for the Bring and Buy Stall welcome. Please contact Marion Barbour for uplift, if necessary.

Tickets £3 from Marion or pay at the door.

All welcome.

Marion Barbour



Sunday 8th October

Autumn Outing arranged by Old High St Stephen's



We are arranging the last outing of the Summer and plan something local with a walk at the Ness Islands-Riverside and an early evening meal. I have provisionally booked the Glenmoriston/Contrast. A 2 course dinner is £25 and a non-refundable deposit of £10 is required. You can check out the current menu (look at Sunday lunch) on their website although this may change before then.

As previously non walkers are welcome. If you would like to come, please contact one of the organisers, listed below.

We will aim to meet at the hotel for 2.00pm and have the meal about 4.00pm.

If you would like to come but don't have transport, please let one of us know.

Malcolm Steven mmsteven1@btinternet.com 07773 017928

Derick Robertson roderick43r@btinternet.com 01463 790372

Iain Russell iainrussell01@gmail.com 01463 239344

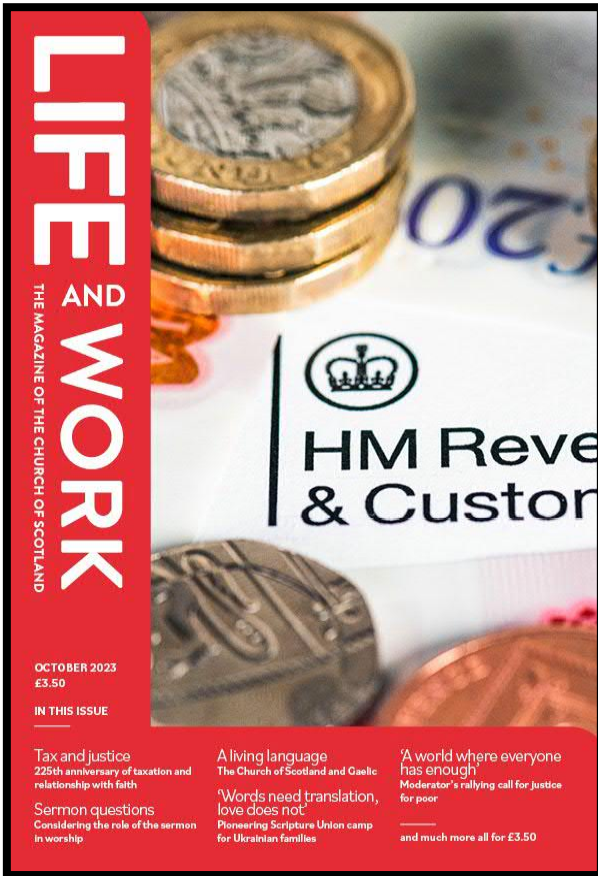
Green Ideas

Our near neighbour Velocity Cafe has started a book group focusing on Climate Fiction or 'Ci Fi'. The next monthly meeting is Monday October 16th @ 6.30pm, discussing 'Weather' by Jenny Offill.

Anyone interested should email HCWP@velocitylove.co.uk or check out Velocity Cafe's website under 'Climate'. Suggested books are available via Inverness Library.

LIFE AND WORK

October



Tax and Justice

On a milestone anniversary for income tax, looking at what the Church has to say on the relationship between faith, money and justice.

A Living Language

How the Church of Scotland is keeping Gaelic alive in worship

'Words need translation, love does not'

A pioneering Scripture Union camp for Ukrainian families in Scotland

Making Ends Meet

The work of Community Pantries in local churches

'As a witness, it's traumatic'

Church volunteers working with refugees arriving in Italy

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Rosie Frew on the influence of pilgrimage and walking outdoors

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

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

October 1st	Anne Bowen, Ruby Coe, Alex and Heather Grant
October 8th	Ruby Coe, Alex & Heather Grant, Eleanor Ross
October 15th	Ruby Coe, Alex & Heather Grant, Eleanor Ross
October 22nd	Ruby Coe, 1 BB, Alex and Heather Grant
October 29th	Ruby Coe, 1 BB, Alex and Heather Grant

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

October 1st	Jim Munro
October 8th	Lynn Forbes
October 15th	Gus MacGowan
October 22nd	Jude Madeleine
October 29th	Pat Douglas
November 5th	Margot Tuley

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Diamond Wedding



Congratulations to Alex and Heather Grant, on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, 27th September 2023

Deaths

David Merchant, Castlehill Gardens, 30th August 2023

Items for the November newsletter by Sunday 29th October 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

Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)

Registered charity SC 018159

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