

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**NOVEMBER 2023: No. 795**

**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 5th November** **BB Enrolment.** Morning Worship at 10.30am followed by special prayers.

**Sunday 12th November** **Remembrance Sunday** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am. **Please be seated by 10.50am**

**Sunday 19th November** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 26th November** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am  
**Service of Hope 3pm**

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



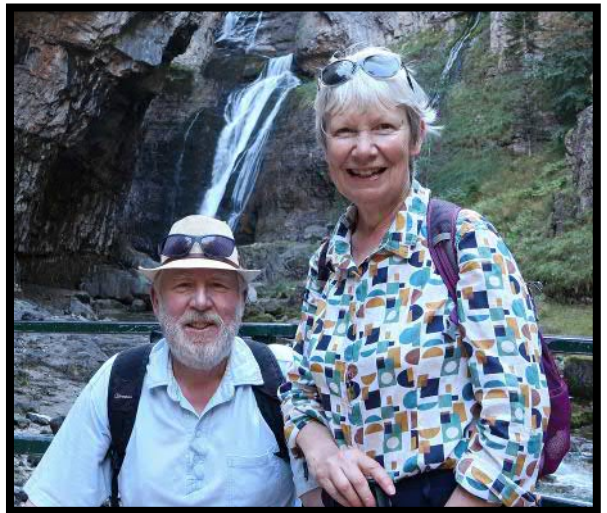
**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends**  
**John 15:13**

## From the Session Clerk

As most of you know, the minister and his wife, Alison, are currently enjoying spending time with their family on the other side of the world.

The Sunday services are, in the meantime, being taken by our own Reverend Doug McRoberts, his theme being the 4 Gospels.

He started with Matthew on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> and will be preaching in relation to the other 3 gospels (although not necessarily in the usual order) in the coming Sundays.



I am sure we will all be looking forward to that since Doug brings his own inimitable style to Sunday worship and, as your session clerk, I am extremely grateful to him for taking over in Douglas's absence. I am very sure that this sentiment will be echoed round the whole church.

The church is a very busy place at the moment. I would encourage everyone to use the Crown church website where you will find quite a bit of information. I would draw to your attention the "*Latest News*" section which contains details of some of the news and events which are taking place.

You might also find helpful the "*This Week*" section which you will find under the "*Church Life*" heading. This is updated every week and here you will find the detail of everything that is taking place within the church buildings in the coming week.

I will be putting out the usual Saturday email each week until Douglas returns. If anyone has anything they would like included, please let me have this by the Friday at the latest. If anyone who is not currently on the email list but would like to be included, please let me know and I shall make the necessary arrangements.

Every Blessing

**Bob Forrest**

**Session Clerk**

## **A PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND**

After the service this morning (29th October) a number of people asked me for a copy of the prayer I used for Gaza and Israel. So here it is. It was written by one of my fellow Holy Land Pilgrimage Leaders, Rev. Rhona Knight, a former GP and Trauma specialist who is now an ordained minister at Durham University.

**Loving God –**

**Praying for the Holy Land and its people,**

**Praying for your deep peace,**

**Praying that swords are turned to ploughshares,**

**We ask that your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven.**

**May those in power seek your heart.**

**May those suffering know your presence.**

**May those mourning be comforted.**

**May we, who watch at a distance, be open to seeing with your eyes of compassion and understanding and know how to pray and respond justly, mercifully and humbly.**

**In the name of Jesus we pray.**

**Amen.**

The prayer first appeared on the website of the organisation for which we have led visits to the Holy Land, McCabe Pilgrimages. For those wishing to find ways of helping people in both Israel and Gaza – particularly children – I can suggest giving to the McCabe Charitable Trust. Here's a link:

**[McCabe Educational Trust - McCabe Pilgrimages \(mccabe-travel.co.uk\)](http://mccabe-travel.co.uk)**

**Doug McRoberts.**

## **Service of Hope**

We will be holding our annual Service of Hope on Sunday 26th November at 3pm with light refreshments to follow. In Douglas's words, "We are offering this service as a time to remember and celebrate those who have passed from this life, yet whose memories continue to be very dear to those who mourn them...."

As we approach Christmas, which is a festival of great joy and hope, we are also aware that family gatherings and a plethora of parties might heighten a sense of loss and sadness. In our service we will express something of the Christian hope, that God has not forsaken us nor forgotten us and sends his Son Jesus to remind us of His love, which is eternal."

We have a list of names of the bereaved but this may not be complete and in any case, we would like to invite anyone in the congregation who would like someone (either from Inverness or from further afield) to be remembered during this service to come along.

It might be helpful to let Gloria in the church office know if you would like to come.

**David Crippin**

**You are warmly invited to a**

**PRESENTATION of FUTURE PLANS**

**for our church buildings**

**By our Architect, Billy Reynolds,**

**On Monday 6th November at 7.30pm**

**In the Sanctuary**

**Crown School Car Parking available**



### **New Life for Old (1)**

KSD Highlands for Ukraine have approached all churches in the Presbytery asking for help for those in Ukraine suffering in the on-going conflict but more specifically for those who lost everything in widespread flooding following the destruction of the Kakhova Dam this summer. A box will be left in the back corridor for requested items. Warm winter clothing for people of all ages tops the list, along with blankets, but tinned long life foods, including baby food are also included. The charity has a storage unit at Morris Leslie's yard in the Longman so we will be able to move donations there regularly. Full details will be on an accompanying poster.

### **New Life for Old (2)**

As many of you will be aware, since we moved to on screen technology, we have many spare pew Bibles, hymn books, Crown Praise books etc. While all Bibles or hymnals with a personal dedication, all large print hymn books and those at doors or in transept pews will be retained, it's intended to pass the rest to a charity called Books 2 Africa - <https://books2africa.org/> for shipping to Africa. This will give books a renewed use with Christian congregations there who are unlikely to have access to the same level of technology.

You can help if you have any spare (modern translation) Bibles. Also if you, or your family, have any fairly recent dictionaries or textbooks - a wide range of topics and books for all ages is accepted - in English or French; these are used in educational settings. There will be a box left out for any donations in the back corridor; we would wish to send these by the end of November.

**Mairi Main**



## **Christian Aid Libya Emergency Appeal**

I am very happy to report that the recent appeal for the Christian Aid Libya Flood Emergency Appeal raised £710.50. With Gift Aid the grand total is £866.75.

The Libyan floods seem so far in the past but they occurred only 7 weeks ago.

Already we are several natural and man-made disasters on from then but the need is very much still there in Libya so thanks to all the congregation for your generosity.

**David Crippin**

**Christian Aid Representative**

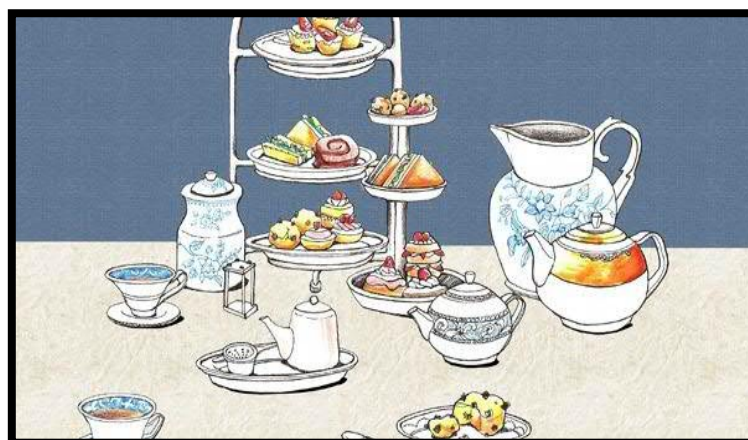
## **Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea**

The Leprosy Mission Scotland—Inverness Area Fundraising Group wish to thank Rev. Douglas Robertson for opening our recent Afternoon Tea and all those who supported our event.

Over £1200 has been raised with donations still coming in.

Thank you

**Marion Barbour**



## **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 November.



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, Old High 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](mailto:brian.macgill@outlook.com))

## **Daily Bible Readings for November**

### **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

### **Sunday, November 12, 2023, Hosea 11:1-9 Hosea**

Monday, November 13, 2023, Hosea 1:1-2:23 Israel's Infidelity

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Hosea 3:1-4:19 God's Love for and Condemnation of Israel

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Hosea 5:1-15 Judgment

Thursday, November 16, 2023, Hosea 6:1-7:16 A Call to Repent

Friday, November 17, 2023, Hosea 9:1-17 Punishment for Israel's Sin

Saturday, November 18, 2023, Hosea 10:1-15 Israel's Sin and Captivity

### **Sunday, November 19, 2023, Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 Isaiah's Vineyard Song**

Monday, November 20, 2023, Isaiah 1:1-20 The Wickedness of Judah

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Isaiah 2:1-4 The Future House of God

Wednesday, November 22, 2023, Isaiah 2:5-22 Judgment

Thursday, November 23, 2023, Isaiah 6:1-13 A Vision of God in the Temple

Friday, November 24, 2023, Isaiah 7:1-25 Isaiah Reassures King Ahaz

Saturday, November 25, 2023, Isaiah 9:1-7 The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

**Sunday, November 26, 2023, 2 Kings 22:1-10; 23:1-3 Josiah's Reform**

Monday, November 27, 2023, 2 Kings 22:11-13 Hilkiyah Finds the Book of the Law

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 2 Kings 22:14-20 Hilkiyah Finds the Book of the Law

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 2 Kings 23:4-14 Josiah's Reformation

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 2 Kings 23:15-20 Josiah's Reformation

Friday, December 1, 2023, 2 Kings 23:21-27 The Passover Celebrated

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 2 Kings 23:28-30 Josiah Dies in Battle

**Sunday, December 3, 2023, Jeremiah 33:14-18 Advent I: Promise of the Messiah**

Monday, December 4, 2023, Mark 8:27-29 Who Do You Say that I Am?

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Jeremiah 1:4-10 I Am Only a Boy

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, Jeremiah 1:11-19 Boiling Pot

Thursday, December 7, 2023, Jeremiah 2:1-8 Jeremiah Speaks

Friday, December 8, 2023, Jeremiah 33:19-26 Covenant with David

Saturday, December 9, 2023, Jeremiah 34:1-7 Promise of Salvation







Acclaim

at Christmas

Saturday 9th December 2023

7.30pm

Free North Church  
Bank Street, Inverness



INVERNESS CHORAL SOCIETY

*Conductor: Gordon Tocher*

# THE CREATION

*Joseph Haydn*

Sunday 19th November 7.30 pm

Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

*Book tickets: [www.invernesschoral.org.uk](http://www.invernesschoral.org.uk)  
(remainder at the door)*

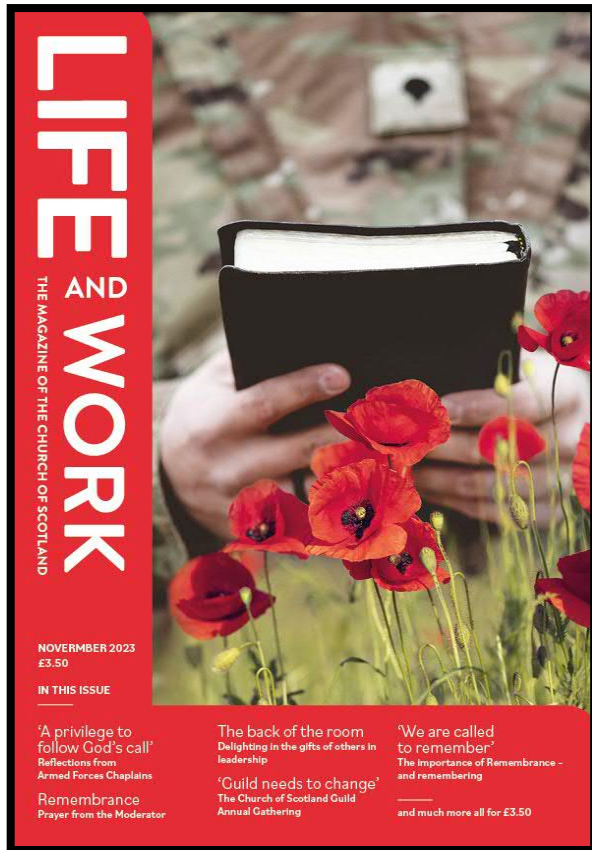
Inverness Choral Society present, with soloists and orchestra, a delayed performance of Haydn's greatest work 'The Creation' on **Sunday**, 19th November. This performance was scheduled for spring 2020, the hundredth anniversary of the Choral Society, but due to the Pandemic was cancelled.

The oratorio depicts and celebrates the Creation of the World as narrated in the Book of Genesis. Haydn composed 'The Creation' following a period spent in England where he heard and was impressed by the oratorios of Handel. Occasional passages of the oratorio are not unlike that of Handel.

Tickets available on-line and at the door on the evening of the performance. Searching the Choral Society Home page on [invernesschoral.org.uk](http://invernesschoral.org.uk) will lead you to the 'trybooking' link.

# LIFE AND WORK

November



## Remembrance

'A privilege to follow God's call': an insight into the lives of chaplains to the armed forces  
Remembrance prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

## 'Guild Needs to Change'

A report from the Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

## New Minister for Sanctuary First

A change of leadership at the Church's online worshipping community

## A Deeper Understanding

An Episcopalian priest reflects on his experience

working for the Church of Scotland in Fife

## 'Life is Still Good'

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the challenges of ageing.

## Whispering and Proclaiming

Ruth Harvey considers the messages of Matthew 10.

## View from the Pulpit

The Rev Scott Brown reflects on the value of rural ministry

## 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

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You can also find us at [facebook.com/leadwork](https://facebook.com/leadwork) or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork and now on Instagram.

## **Welcome Team**

<b>November 5th</b>	Liz and Jimmy Gray and Douglas and Jane Wilson
<b>November 12th</b>	Liz and Jimmy Gray and Douglas and Jane Wilson
<b>November 19th</b>	Liz and Jimmy Gray and Douglas and Jane Wilson
<b>November 26th</b>	Liz and Jimmy Gray and Douglas and Jane 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**

<b>November 5th</b>	Boys Brigade
<b>November 12th</b>	John Barbour
<b>November 19th</b>	Alan Nelson
<b>November 26th</b>	Margot Tuley
<b>December 3rd</b>	Iain Fraser
<b>December 10th</b>	Jean Smith
<b>December 17th</b>	Mairi Mtui

# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Deaths

Dr Gerald Wiener, Druim Park, 28th September 2023

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**Items for the December newsletter by Sunday 26th November 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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**The Church website is to be found at [www.crowns-church.co.uk](http://www.crowns-church.co.uk)**