

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**FEBRUARY 2024: No. 797**

**Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson**



We have two Sunday Morning Services and Douglas is continuing to broadcast the service 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).

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 4th February</b>  | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers                   |
| <b>Sunday 11th February</b> | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am  |
| <b>Sunday 18th February</b> | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am  |
| <b>Sunday 25th February</b> | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am  |
| <b>Sunday 3rd March</b>     | The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers |



**'We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.'**

**Psalm 33: 20-22**

## **Church Conference Report**

The conference was held in Crown Church with 48 delegates attending. Opening devotions were led by Pat Crippin who also played the piano.

The morning's business started with three presentations. Firstly, Rev Douglas Robertson drew attention to the word mission being a translation of service and that our combined efforts as a congregation make up the arms, legs and body of Christ.

Secondly, Eileen Ardern spoke about developing activities under the five marks of mission and allowing this to affect our attitudes as we work for all who come to our church. Each one of us being on a faith journey where we help others on that journey too.

Thirdly, Bob Forrest reminded us that the 20/20 project has motivated many and helped many to progress on their faith journeys while being involved, doing whatever they can and staying focused on mission.

The morning's activity for delegates was to go into discussion groups created for the day: Worship & Discipleship; Pastoral Care including Youth & Children; Community & Outreach; Environmental Issues; Communications and Fabric. Delegates broke into groups and discussed the following questions: (1) what will this group aim to do and how will it keep focused on mission? (2) Outline a remit? (3) Brainstorm ideas which this group could undertake in the next year or two? After discussion time each group then reported back in plenary session.

There was then a welcome break for soup & sandwiches followed by tea and cakes, served upstairs by helpers from the Olive Grove.

After lunch there was a short presentation given by Brian Macgill about getting missional. The afternoon's task was to consider two questions: (1) Where I am right now with regard to mission? and (2) Prepare a 'mission hat' profile for each member of your group?. The responses, reported back in plenary session, varied according to the interpretation of the instructions but in all was received well. There was time to answer remaining questions and complete other 'post-it' note suggestions. After which, Rev Douglas Robertson made some closing remarks.

Lastly, there was a short service of Communion led by Rev Morven Archer and the conference day brought to an end with a blessing.

**SBD Macgill**



## **Clèir Eilean Ì**

### **The Church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides**



Doug McRoberts, the Moderator of Clèir Eilean Ì, on the evening of the inauguration of Clèir Eilean Ì. He's showing the Moderatorial Stole gifted by Rev Liz Gibson, previously Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll.

The Moderatorial Stole was accepted on behalf of all nine uniting presbyteries and will be passed on to future moderators.



# SNAC

Saturday 3rd  
February  
5-7pm

Join us for a Taste of  
Scotland  
(stovies, shortbread  
an' a wee jig or twa)

All ages welcome

# *Prayer Diary*

## *February 2024*

**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**

### **Feb 4-10**

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. Pray for resolution and an end to the ongoing conflict particularly in the Middle East, and between Ukraine and Russia.

Loving God, we pray for leaders and governments, that they will acknowledge the needs of the people and to respond with generosity. Give them wisdom as they seek solutions to the rising challenges facing nations.

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.

Give thanks to God for guidance and strength; May we continue to work with hearts full of gratitude and worship for His love and provision; May each day be anchored by the peace of God that is beyond human understanding.

### **February 11-17**

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.

Loving God, please give us the strength to keep our focus and our eyes on you. To take all our feelings and fears to the foot of the cross. Bring Scripture to memory when we at times are feeling hopeless.

Bless us Lord with hope in you and the power to share this hope with those around us. We love you; we praise you, and we put our faith and hope in you, knowing that you and you alone have everything in the palm of your mighty hands.

Father God, we know that you are always at work for good in our world and in our lives. May we catch a glimpse of that truth this day, take it to heart and join in with you, for your name's sake. Amen

## **February 18-24**

Pray for each and every member of the congregation, that God's spirit continues to flow throughout their lives whatever their circumstances; Pray that each of us will place God at the centre of our lives and seek Him and His purpose in our lives.

Bless to us, O God, the moon that is above us, The earth that is beneath us, the friends who are around us, Your image deep within us, the rest which is before us. (A prayer from the Iona Community)

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 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'

## **February 25 – March 2**

Pray for those experiencing difficulties with their mental health; pray that they receive comfort from troubling symptoms; may they be shown kindness, compassion and understanding.

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.

Pray for those who are experiencing bereavement, Father of compassion, and God of all comfort, comfort them in their troubles, heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds.

Gracious God, Your unstoppable love reaches out to us in so many surprising ways, particularly in the care we receive from others and in the ways You help us pass on that care. Open our hearts to receive Your compassionate presence from all people, of all ages, at all times and in all places. Amen

**If you have particular prayer requests for March 2024 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)****



## **Lent Studies**

Lent begins on the 14th February. Our 6 week Lent Groups begin that week and this year discussions focus on the prayers of Jesus.

Hosting are:

Douglas and Alison Robertson - Monday evening

Doug and Lesley McRoberts - Tuesday morning

Jane Smith - Thursday evening

Colin and Lily Baillie - Friday afternoon

Morven Archer - Friday evening (by zoom)

Pat and David Crippin - Sunday evening

Do please join us, in person or by zoom. Let Morven or Pat know which group you would like to join

### **Pat Crippin & Morven Archer**

## **Lent Reflections**

While House Groups will be running throughout Lent, for 2024, we will focus our Lent Reflections, appearing on Crown Church and Old High St Stephens' websites & Facebook, in Holy Week itself.

Each Reflection will last 15 minutes, consisting of a reading, reflection/music and prayer.

### **Mairi Main**

## **Sources Of Help, Advice and Emergency Food in Inverness**

The Rotary Club of Inverness Riverside has produced two posters giving information on sources of help, advice and emergency food in Inverness. The posters are too detailed to include in the newsletter but you can view them in the Midmills corridor of the Church or download them using the QR Code below.





## **Daily Bible Readings for February**

### **Sunday, February 4, 2024, Mark 5:21-43 Jairus' Daughter Healed**

Monday, February 5, 2024, Psalm 131 Introductory Psalm

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Matthew 15:23-22 A Woman Healed

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, Luke 7:2-12 A Centurion Slave Healed

Thursday, February 8, 2024, Luke 8:40-52 Jairus' Daughter Healed

Friday, February 9, 2024, Luke 14:1-6 Healing on the Sabbath

Saturday, February 10, 2024, Luke 17:10-20 Jesus Heals

### **Sunday, February 11, 2024, Mark 8:27-9:8 Transfiguration**

Monday, February 12, 2024, Psalm 27:1-4 Introductory Psalm

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Mark 9:38-41 Another Exorcist

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Mark 9:30-37 Passion Prediction (Ash Wednesday)

Thursday, February 15, 2024, Mark 9:42-50 Temptations to Sin

Friday, February 16, 2024, Mark 10:1-12 Teaching about Divorce

Saturday, February 17, 2024, Mark 10:13-16 Jesus Blesses Little Children

### **Sunday, February 18, 2024, Mark 10:17-31 First Last and Last First**

Monday, February 19, 2024, Psalm 19:7-10 Introductory Psalm

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, Exodus 20:1-21 The Ten Commandments

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Deuteronomy 5:1-21 The Ten Commandments

Thursday, February 22, 2024, Psalm 52 Psalm

Friday, February 23, 2024, Psalm 62 Psalm

Saturday, February 24, 2024, Jeremiah 32:1-25 Jeremiah Buys a Field

### **Sunday, February 25, 2024, Mark 10:32-52 Bartimaeus Healed**

Monday, February 26, 2024, Psalm 34:11-14 Psalm

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Psalm 111 Psalm

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, Mark 11:12-14 Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

Thursday, February 29, 2024, Mark 11:15-19 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Friday, March 1, 2024, Mark 11:20-26 The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

Saturday, March 2, 2024, Mark 11:27-33 Jesus Authority Is Questioned



## **Sunday, March 3, 2024, Mark 12:1-12 Parable of the Tenants**

Monday, March 4, 2024, Psalm 86:8-13 Introductory Psalm

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, Mark 12:13-17 Taxes to Caesar

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, Mark 12:18-27 The Question about the Resurrection

Thursday, March 7, 2024, Isaiah 5:1-7 The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

Friday, March 8, 2024, Psalm 121 Psalm

Saturday, March 9, 2024, Hebrews 1:1-4 God Has Spoken by His Son



## **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 February.

There is a new flower chart for 2024 in the Midmills corridor. If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday please add your name to the list and Ruby will then be in touch with you to discuss what you would like.

**Ruby Coe (225467)**



## A Gift From Canada



*Photo Sheona MacKenzie*

The next time you are in the Olive Grove you will notice a new vibrant painting of an autumnal scene. This has kindly been donated to Crown Church by MusicInverness. We had hosted the Canadian Choir 'Chanteurs de Lorraine' last year and one of their members, a First Nation's lady, had painted this to be given in memory of their visit.



James Munro, Chair of MusicInverness, Andrew Stevenson, Old High St Stephen's Church, and Eileen Ardern Deputy Session Clerk Crown Church



Local chamber music promoters, musicinverness, will be bringing two renowned international ensembles to Crown Church to climax their 2023/2024 series of concerts.

On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** we welcome the popular Tim Kliphuis Trio, featuring Dutch jazz violinist Tim Kliphuis, guitarist Nigel Clark from Dublin and the double bass of Roy Percy from Edinburgh.

The Trio have been playing together for fifteen years and received international acclaim in March 2023 when they were invited to open the UN World Water Conference in the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The highlight of their musicinverness concert will be their own arrangement of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. More details to follow in the Crown Church March newsletter.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm** sees us welcoming one of the leading young string quartets in Europe.

The London based Fibonacci Quartet comprises violinists Luna De Mol from the Netherlands and Kryštof Kohout from Czechia; violist Elliot Kempton from Monmouthshire and cellist Findlay Spence who hails from the Black Isle. They will be playing quartets by Mozart and Bartok followed by Schubert's 'Death and the Maiden'. More information to follow in the Crown Church April Newsletter.

# THE LAUNCHPAD BOOKSALE

Have a clear-out of your bookshelves and help us to raise funds by donating books to us.

You can drop off books to the Midmills corridor on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm , or on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm.

We can collect  
if required –leave details in the  
church office before Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.



Then come back to buy **10.00am-3.30pm**  
**SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY**

Books for adults and children, fiction and non fiction.

£1 paperback /£2 hardback Cash Please

**Car Parking in Crown School.**

# Launchpad

In the Highlands of Inverness, a beacon shines so bright,  
Crown Church, a place of warmth and hope, where dreams take flight.  
Within its walls, a charity thrives, Launchpad, its noble name,  
Granting opportunities to those seeking a brand-new aim.  
Unemployed souls, with hearts that yearn for a chance,  
Find solace in this haven, where possibilities enhance.  
Through coffee mornings and concerts, funds are raised with care,  
Donations flow abundantly, a testament to love they share.  
Tools and equipment, for skills to be honed,  
Unleashing potential, no longer feeling alone.  
Rental or purchase, the choice is yours to make,  
Personal development, a path you now partake.  
Basic equipment, interview clothes, a means to prepare,  
Driving license regained, a step towards a future fair.  
With a helping hand, the return to work is near,  
Launchpad aids in overcoming obstacles, removing every fear.  
Group activities, a chance to bring people together,  
Start-up costs, no longer a daunting endeavor.  
Constructive purposes, a collective dream to pursue,  
In unity and support, a brighter future comes into view.  
Educational and recreational courses, a gateway to explore,  
Fees paid, when other funding closes every door.  
Two levels of learning, a promise to believe,  
Completion of the first, the next level they shall receive.  
Sporting activities, where passion takes its form,  
Sports equipment and clothing, a chance to perform.  
Membership subscriptions and entrance fees, no longer a worry,  
Course training fees, a journey to embrace in a hurry.  
Oh, Crown Church in the Highlands, a beacon shining bright,  
Your Launchpad charity, a guiding star in the night.  
With love and dedication, you uplift those in need,  
Bringing hope and opportunities, planting a fruitful seed.

**Written by one of the applicants to Launchpad as a 'thank you' for his grant**



## **The Guild**

Our first meeting of 2024 was very interesting. Gordon Scott, a volunteer with Blood Bikes told us about the charity. The volunteers on motor bikes, and occasionally, depending on the weather conditions, in cars, transport medical tests and medicines around the north of Scotland . They cover a huge area from Fort William in the west up to Thurso and Wick in the north. They are on call to get lifesaving tests to labs for vital results.

Cameron Macfarlane, the manager of the Victorian Market, showed us his enthusiasm by telling us all about his plans for the future of the popular visitor attraction. The number of customers over the door in the past year has been extremely encouraging. The food hall has a wide range of international foods on offer.

By the time you are reading this we will have held our coffee morning which we hope will be a success for our fundraising which supports our projects. On 6th February Douglas and Alison Robertson will give us a talk about their trip on Route 66 and on the 20th there is a wine and cheese evening. 5th March sees us meeting for afternoon tea at Fairways. We did this on a few occasions just after the pandemic and really enjoyed it.

**Dorothy Mein**

**Guild Correspondent**

### **Marie Law Pilates**

#### **Classes in Crown Church Halls**

**Commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

#### **Balance your body and posture**

**Mondays :** 9.30 - 10.30am Beginners  
10.45 - 11.45am Improvers  
4.45 - 5.45pm Back Care Class  
6.00 - 7.00pm Core Pilates  
7.15 - 8.15pm Beginners

**Max. 10-12 persons - 6-week blocks (£60)**

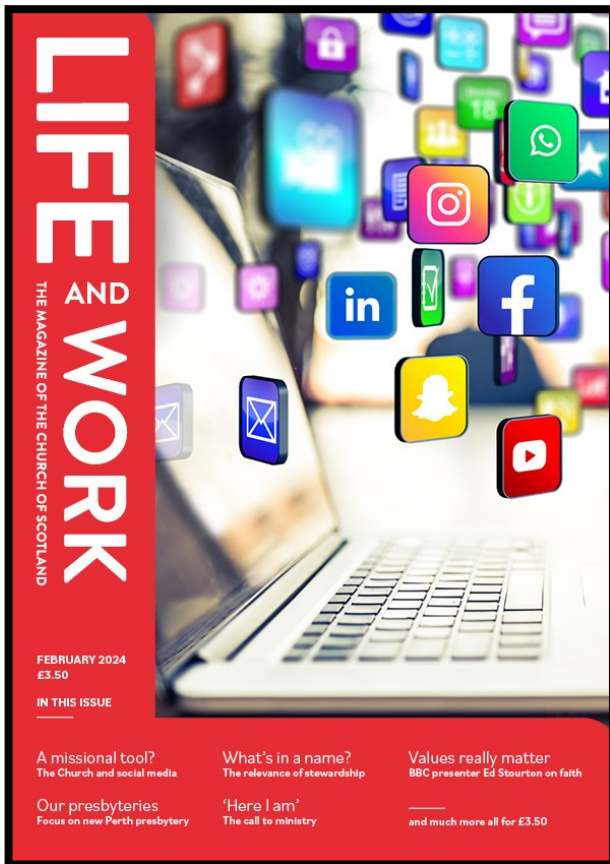
Wear comfortable clothes, bring your own mat.

**Please book by contacting : [Law4Pilates@gmail.com](mailto:Law4Pilates@gmail.com) / 07450052060**



# LIFE AND WORK

## FEBRUARY



### **A Missional Tool**

The Church and social media, 20 years on from the launch of Facebook

### **'Values Really Matter'**

BBC presenter Ed Stourton on faith and living with cancer

### **Our Presbyteries**

Focus on the new Presbytery of Perth

### **Journey With Love**

The Moderator reflects on Lent and Valentine's Day

### **What's in a Name?**

The relevance and riches of stewardship

### **Jordan and Faith**

A group of teenagers and youth leaders from Skye reflect on a trip to Jordan

### **Regulars**

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

My Church: Fiona Spooner, Boys' Brigade worker and member of Neilston Parish Church

View from the Pulpit: the Rev Justin Taylor

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## **Welcome Team**

<b>February 4th</b>	Boys Brigade, Pat Douglas, Jean Smith
<b>February 11th</b>	Boys Brigade, Pat Douglas, Alison Harbison
<b>February 18th</b>	Boys Brigade, Pat Douglas, Alison Harbison
<b>February 25th</b>	Boys Brigade, Pat Douglas, Alison Harbison

**As we enjoy 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>February 5th</b>	Heather Beck
<b>February 12th</b>	Gus Macgowan
<b>February 19th</b>	Irene Whyte
<b>February 26th</b>	Brian MacGill
<b>March 5th</b>	Communion

# **NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

## **Deaths**

Mr Robin Stewart, Crown Avenue, 4th December 2023

Mrs Jenny Kennedy, Meadowlark Care Home, 11th January 2024

**\*\*\*Items for the March newsletter by Sunday 26th February 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](mailto:drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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**Session Clerk** Bob Forrest: [sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk)

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