

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**MARCH 2024: No. 798**

**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).

**Sunday 3rd March**

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

**Sunday 10th March**

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 17th March**

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 24th March**

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Maundy Thursday 28th March**

Service at 7:30p.m with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Easter Sunday 31st March**

Morning Worship at 10.30 am

**Sunday 7th April**

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



**'The Lord has risen indeed'**

**Luke 24 15:34**

## Services for Easter at Crown Church



### **Palm Sunday 24th March**

Palm Sunday will be celebrated at the usual service times of 9.30 and 11.00am

### **Maundy Thursday 28th March**

A communal meal to be held in the upper hall at Crown Church at 6:30 p.m.

A Maundy Thursday service will be held in the sanctuary at Crown Church at 7:30p.m and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **Good Friday 29th March**

A contemporary Tenebrae service "We Remember Calvary" will be presented by the joint choirs of Old High St Stephens and Crown churches. This will take place in St Stephen's Church at 7 p.m.

### **Easter Sunday 31st March**

There will be a 'Sunrise Service' at the Ness Islands at 6.40am followed by breakfast served in Crown Church at 8.00am. Please note there will be **one** morning service in Crown Church at **10.30 a.m.**

## GORDON FYFE

A prestigious lifetime service achievement award was recently presented to church member Gordon Fyfe to recognise a media career spanning more than 50 years.

Gordon spent 20 years as a reporter on local newspapers in Inverness and 24 years as a media officer with The Highland Council and Highland Regional Council.

He recently stood down after a 32-year stint as chairman of the judging panel for the Highlands and Islands Media Awards.

He received the Barron Trophy in front of media colleagues at the annual Highlands and Islands Press Ball on February 2nd.

The Barron Trophy was donated by the late Evan Barron, editor/owner of the Inverness Courier, in 1950 to recognise the excellence of a local journalist 'at work and play'. It is now awarded to recognise long and distinguished service in the media industry.

Gordon is the first person to be awarded the trophy twice, having first received the honour in 1979.

Alongside his media career, he was a well-known Highland League player with Caledonian FC for whom he signed in 1970, the same year he joined the Inverness Courier as a reporter.



He spent four years at the Courier before joining the Press and Journal where he worked until 1990, latterly as North news editor. Gordon was then appointed as Highland Regional Council's first press and information officer. He was subsequently public relations manager of The Highland Council from its formation in 1996 until his retirement in 2014.

A career highlight was being given the Freedom of Eigg for the role he played in helping the islanders raise £1.5 million and buy the island in 1997.

He is a life member of the National Union of Journalists and has served as chairman, secretary, minute secretary and newsletter editor of the union's Highland branch.

On the establishment of the Highlands and Islands Media Awards in 1991, Gordon was made its first chairman, a position he held until last year.

He is now a director of Inverness Caledonian Thistle and joint chairman of the ICT Community Trust. He is also co-ordinator of the Inverness Football Memories Project and recently co-wrote a book, Inverness Football Remembered.

In addition, he was president of Inverness Golf Club in 2016-17 and a past captain and vice-president. He also served on the club's management council for eight years.

# *Prayer Diary*

*March 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**

## **March 3 - 9**

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.

Pray Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

**On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, International Women's Day**, Lord, Bless all women who daily strive to bring love, joy and peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares. We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities.

Pray Psalm 143:8 "Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I entrust my life".

## **March 10 - 16**

Give thanks for the period of Lent; Pray for the groups doing the Lent Bible study and other bible study groups, for prayer and thanksgiving, for the time and attention paid to personal examination and reflection on our relationship with God.

Dear God, we open our hearts to You this Lent. Help us to see ourselves and others as You see us: worthy, wonderful and full of potential. Lord, we open the door to let You in. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**A prayer for Mothering Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March;** Loving God, Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love; Let your love be present in every home; And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Lord open our eyes to all the small tangible signs of Your presence. The beauty of our surroundings, the love of family and communities. May we yield to You our wilderness questions and concerns, and trust and follow your presence.

## **March 17 - 23**

Pray for those who are persecuted and imprisoned because of their faith; give them courage to face their struggles, patience to bear the lies, and hope to see beyond the bars. May we do all we can to let them know that they are not forgotten.

Thank and praise God for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and the world. Ask that God will walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Pray for each and every member of our congregation and the parish; that God's blessings and grace be upon them and sustain them in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

## **March 24 – 30**

As we go through Palm Sunday and the Holy Week, we give thanks to God for His love, goodness and mercy; Praise God for the shining light in our lives, through the suffering and resurrection of Christ.

Praise God for sending Jesus! Praise Jesus for the hope we have because of His sacrifice, for the joy we have in knowing that we are free to live life to the full because we have the security of eternity. Pray that we won't ever take salvation for granted.

Pray for everyone going through hardship, bereavement or any other sadness, that God would show them that He is the light of the world, and nothing can ever put His light out.

Give thanks for all the flowers donated every Sunday for decorating and lightening up the Sanctuary. Pray for everyone who makes donations for the flowers, those helping with the flower arrangements, those helping with distribution of the flowers and pray for those who receive these flowers.

## **March 31 – April 6**

We pray O Lord that you would grant us a season of peace and joy at this time of Easter gladness. We thank You that Easter is not about a people but All people. That Your love and salvation are for all those who confess with voices, hearts and lives. Oh God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or alone. 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.



Pray for all elderly people in our community, for those living in their own homes or nursing homes and care homes. Pray for strength, resilience and peace among them, their families and staff who support and help look after them.

Pray and give thanks for SNAC (Saturday Night At Crown); Pray for all those who help with organising and supporting the event. Pray especially for Gary and Pamela for their consistent effort. Pray for all who come along and rejoice in sharing a meal, games, chat and fellowship.

**If you have particular prayer requests for April 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)**



Time and time again we are reminded how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world. That is not to say some people here do not have their problems to seek. There are many in our community who struggle to put food on the table and are desperately seeking help from others to feed themselves and their families. If you can, can you please leave a donation from the list below in the boxes at the doors.

Many thanks, **Liz Gray**

**Cartons of long life juice**

**Diluting juice (small)**

**Teabags**

**Jars of instant coffee**

**Oatcakes/crackers**

**Tins of ham/corned beef**

**UHT milk**

**Shower gel**

**Deodorant**

## Daily Bible Readings for March

### **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

### **Sunday, March 10, 2024, Mark 12:28-44, Great Commandment**

Monday, March 11, 2024, Psalm 89:1-4 Psalm

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Psalm 102:12-17 Psalm

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Psalm 121 Psalm

Thursday, March 14, 2024, Psalm 116:12-19 Psalm

Friday, March 15, 2024, Psalm 22:1-2, 14-21 Psalm

Saturday, March 16, 2024, Deuteronomy 6:1-9 The Great Commandment

### **Sunday, March 17, 2024, Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 , End of the Age**

Monday, March 18, 2024, Mark 13:9-13 Persecution Foretold

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Mark 13:14-23 The Desolating Sacrilege

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Mark 14:1-2 The Plot to Kill Jesus

Thursday, March 21, 2024, Mark 14:10-11 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Friday, March 22, 2024, Mark 15:1-5 Jesus before Pilate

Saturday, March 23, 2024, Mark 15:6-15 Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

### **Sunday, March 24, 2024, Mark 11:1-11, Triumphal Entry**

Monday, March 25, 2024, Mark 14:3-9 Woman Anoints Jesus

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Mark 14:43-65 The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, Mark 14:66-72 Peter Denies Jesus

Thursday, March 28, 2024, Mark 14:12-42 Lord's Supper

Friday, March 29, 2024, Mark 15:16-39 Crucifixion

Saturday, March 30, 2024, Mark 15:40-47 The Death and Burial of Jesus



## **Sunday, March 31, 2024, Mark 16:1-8, Resurrection**

Monday, April 1, 2024, Psalm 118:21-27 Psalm

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, Mark 16:8 The Shorter Ending of Mark

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, Mark 16:9-11 Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Thursday, April 4, 2024, Mark 16:12-13 Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

Friday, April 5, 2024, Mark 16:14-18 Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Saturday, April 6, 2024, Mark 16:19-20 The Ascension of Jesus

## **Sunday, April 7, 2024, Acts 1:1-14, You Shall Be My Witnesses**

Monday, April 8, 2024, Acts 1:15-26 Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, Acts 2:1-13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Acts 2:14-36 Peter Addresses the Crowd

Thursday, April 11, 2024, Acts 2:37-42 The First Converts

Friday, April 12, 2024, Acts 2:43-47 Life among the Believers

Saturday, April 13, 2024, Acts 3:11-26 Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico



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## **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 March.

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)**

## **NEW FLOWER CONVENER**

At the end of May, after many years, Ruby Coe will be standing down as Crown Church Flower Convener, and we are looking for someone to take on this post.

A flower team is in place so what is required is someone to administer things such as the rota, income and liaison between donors of monies and those arranging the flowers. This person need not necessarily be a flower arranger.

It is not an onerous position and is enjoyable, so it is hoped that someone will step up to take over.





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.

**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 Guild

The annual coffee morning was held on the 3rd of February in the upper hall. An added attraction was having the Ukelele band playing for us as we enjoyed coffee and home baking. Although the attendance was not as good as last year those who did come bought from the stalls and gave generously, meaning that we took in nearly £400 which will go towards our chosen projects. On the following Tuesday Douglas and Alison Robertson came along to tell us about their motorbike trip across America. They hired bikes in the States and with Alison on the pillion they set off on Route 66! With a group of friends they drove from east to west for two weeks. A very memorable experience and an interesting evening for us.

Last Tuesday, the 20th February we had a wine and cheese evening. After a quiz, testing our knowledge of both, we enjoyed cheeses supplied by Connage Dairy, near Ardersier, and both red and white wine. We want to thank the ladies who prepared this for us.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 5th March when we meet at Fairways for afternoon tea at 2:30pm. We have done this a few times in the past and enjoyed it tremendously. Then on the 19th is our AGM, unbelievably the last meeting of our year.

**Dorothy Mein, Guild Correspondent**

## Olive Grove Update



We know our bakers are brilliant but now we have proof. Our shortbread star **Dorothy Morrison** recently beat off stiff local competition to reach the final of the Highland Shortbread Showdown on 17th March. We still have some of her shortbread in stock but hurry!

For the next while, Dorothy will be busy preparing the 250 shortbread pieces needed for the final. It's at **Eden Court on Sunday 17th March 10.00am - 2.00pm** so do go along to support her.

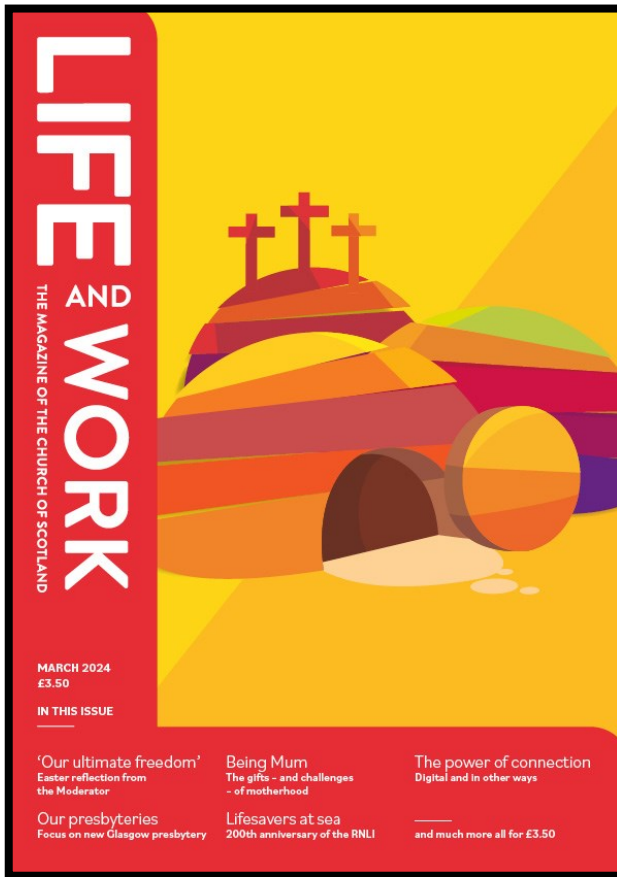
**Good luck Dorothy!!**

We've restarted our sale shelf in the cafe. £1 per book, or free if you bring one to exchange. Just now, we have Scandi noir, Scottish noir (a chilling murder around Crown by Margaret Kirk will have you looking over your shoulder!) or the gentler tones of Alexander McCall Smith's Scotland Street, or romance by weather presenter Carol Kirkwood if you'd rather relax.

**Mairi Main**

# LIFE AND WORK

## MARCH



### **'Our Ultimate Freedom'**

Easter reflection from the Moderator

### **Being Mum**

The gifts – and challenges – of motherhood

### **Lifesavers at Sea**

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RNLI

### **Cathedral Celebrations**

Milestone anniversaries for two of Scotland's historic cathedrals

### **Presbytery Focus**

The Presbytery of Glasgow

### **View from the Pulpit**

The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr describes the shoots of hope found at parish churches in Fife

### **'My Life Has Been Changed'**

An overseas student describes how he embraced faith while studying in Glasgow.

## **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

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Kirsty Thomson of Edinburgh: Holy Trinity Church.

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## **Welcome Team**

<b>March 3rd</b>	Richard and Eileen Ardern, Jimmy Gray, Eleanor Ross
<b>March 10th</b>	Richard and Eileen Ardern, Jimmy Gray, Eleanor Ross
<b>March 17th</b>	Richard and Eileen Ardern, Sheena Ferguson, Eleanor Ross
<b>March 24th</b>	Richard and Eileen Ardern, Jimmy Gray, Eleanor Ross
<b>March 31st</b>	Richard and Eileen Ardern, Jimmy Gray, Eleanor Ross

**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>March 3rd</b>	Communion
<b>March 10th</b>	Bob Forrest
<b>March 17th</b>	Sheena Ferguson
<b>March 24th</b>	Linda Moncur
<b>March 31st</b>	David MacKenzie



# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Deaths

Mrs Georgina Law, Kingsmills Nursing Home, 2 February 2024

Miss Rita Cameron, Daviot Care Home, 19 February 2024

**\*\*\*Items for the April newsletter by Sunday 31st March 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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**Session Clerk** Bob Forrest: [sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk)

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