

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

MAY 2024: No. 800

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 5th May

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

Sunday 12th May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 19th May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 26th May

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 2nd June

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



'To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it'

Deuteronomy 10:14

The Crown Church Hundreds: Newsletters over the Years

Reaching 800 is a fine tribute to the Crown Church and its Newsletter Editors.

Our first magazine before WW2 was known as the Crown Church Messenger.

The present Crown Church Newsletter started life in May 1947 by resolution of the Deacons Court. We are told that the offerings seventy seven years ago from 1 January to 20 April 1947 amounted to £311 14s 7d. The Newsletter was to be four pages long with ten issues per year excluding July and August and each copy cost 3d.

Today's "Crown Church Newsletter", though sometimes running to as many as 16 pages, is much cheaper to produce, no longer contracted to be finished by a commercial printer.

In the **200th edition** in 1968 there was a request from the Police for us not to park for Sunday morning and evening services on Midmills and Kingsmills Roads as this was causing a traffic hazard. Already by then we had the use of the Crown School grounds, although the parking area was probably not as extensive as now.

By the **400th edition** in 1987 the Newsletter, edited for many years by Harold Forsyth and then by Eleanor Mackenzie was appearing eleven times annually. Morag Russell was President of the Guild that year. Prayer Partners John and Sheila Phillips had been home on furlough from Lilongwe Hospital in Malawi and reported that their blood donor programme was affected by a drop in the number of donors. This was thought to be due to an irrational fear of **knowing** they had AIDS rather than a fear of the virus itself.

By the **500th edition** in March 1996, the 8 page Newsletter was being edited by the Minister, the Revd Robert Logan. When he took over, production was carried out in-house with editing, printing, collating and stapling at the Church Office. Mrs Ruby Coe was Church Secretary by then.

Mr Logan, in congratulating the Congregational Board for providing the machinery for such a mammoth exercise, had no regrets about upgrading (as and when necessary) Crown's computer software and hardware facilities. Under the bold headline WHY SHOULD THE DEVIL...? He went on "With modems, the "internet" and the CD-Rom, whole new worlds are opening up to us thankfully in the field of religious communication too."

Also in that issue there is a news item entitled "97 and Counting!" which states "We have formed our Crown Church Centenary Steering Committee!!... The Centenary falls on Sunday 19 September 1999." Forward planning par excellence, don't you think? The 500th edition was certainly looking forward to the future.

Mr Logan was called to a new charge before the Centenary Year began in earnest and Bill Mein took over as Editor from issue 520 in January 1998. All the many and varied events of the Centenary were documented in full with the full proceeds over £20,000 shared between Chogoria Hospital in Kenya and Launchpad. Bill continued as Editor right through until issue 600 in April 2005 when he handed over to Richard and Eileen Ardern.

Issue 600 in April 2005 had 16 pages and was at the time when we had three ministers. Rev Dr Peter Donald as Parish Minister, Rev Dr Willis Jones as Minister for Outreach and Education and Rev Stewart Frizzell as Pastoral Assistant.

Stewart, who was celebrating his golden wedding, was invited by Peter to write the pastoral letter and chose the example of the thief who personally claimed forgiveness from Jesus hanging on the next cross. Willis wrote about the group from Crown who had spent some time supporting St Columba's Church in Budapest; and we were told the number of communicants on our roll had increased by 16 to 820, with 516 adherents and 211 children under the age of 18.

Crown Youth Group (CYGNET) had been holding a Jumble Sale and a Fashion Show. They were also discussing a collaborative youth group initiative with St John's, St Stephen's, and St Ninian's.

Issue 700, also 16 pages, came out in August 2014. Richard and Eileen handed over to Bob and Marion Forrest as new editors. In the Minister's letter, Peter Donald was talking about world peace and the countries mentioned, even then, were Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. And an article about Crown Church during the Great War was extracted from Bill and Dorothy Mein's book "Crown Church, 100 Years of Worship and Witness".

Our Olive Grove tearoom was advertising for volunteers to join one of the teams who ran the café six days a week. Reay Macgill and Chrisanne Robertson had written a two page article about their latest visit to Malawi to encourage and support the various projects there: widows' houses; an additional nursery school building; food and fertilizer for an orphans' settlement; a junior school classroom block; drilling a well for water; and hands on help [literally] for Mzuzu General Hospital and a mobile clinic. What they have helped to achieve over many years is both amazing and humbling.

Fiona Carter took over as our new Editor in 2021 for edition 768 and in this **800th issue** I have attempted to give you a flavour of the breadth of some of the work and witness by the congregation of the Crown Church over the past 77 years. We owe a great deal of debt to the editors and contributors and also to all the lady visitors who have delivered many of the copies to members and adherents each month.

Richard Ardern

Saturday Night At Crown (SNAC)



Saturday Night At Crown

May the 4th (be with you!)

Join us for our Galaxy SNAC

5 - 7 pm

Everyone welcome

Saturday, May the 4th (...be with you!), is a Galaxy evening. Join us as we celebrate the Planets, the Stars and Star Wars. 5-7pm. All welcome! Lots of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Let Pat, Gary or Pamela know that you'll be there. Or just come along anyway!

Prayer Diary

May 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

May 5-11

Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

Almighty God and Father, thank you for Your everlasting love revealed in Jesus Christ, who did not consider equality with You something to be used to His own advantage, but emptied Himself and took on the nature of a servant and became human for us and our salvation.

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

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting examinations at schools, at colleges or at universities, and pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path.

May 12-18

Pray for Christian Aid week, 12-18 May. Give thanks to God for all the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

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. Bring hope for those who feel helpless, healing for those who have been wounded, and safety for all those who feel afraid. Amen

Pray for those who are grieving, those whose lives have changed through loss, that they will know the peace of God that passes all understanding. May they know that they are held in the palm of God's hand.

May 19-25

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'.

Pray for the wellbeing of all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses; that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

Thank God for the staff and volunteers working for the many charities serving communities and making a difference in the big and small things that they do.

Pray for refugees and migrants all around the world. Lord, we pray for protection over people who are especially vulnerable, please protect them from exploitation and abuse. Pray for safety and provision of their needs.

May 26-June 1

Give thanks for the summer sunshine that brightens the days during the summer months. Pray for safety, relaxation and happy times for everyone in our community.

Pray for love, peace and hope in every home and family. Pray that God's presence be felt in the lives of our families, friends and neighbours; that His guidance be the driving force in our decisions and choices we make.

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 decisions about the future of the country and the well-being of the people.

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

If you have particular prayer requests for June 2024 please do send them to our *church administrator, Fiona* who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



FRIENDSHIP CLUB



On 29th March we had a fun Easter themed afternoon to bring Session 23/24 of the Friendship Club to a close. We closed with 67 members on our register.



The week before, we enjoyed a lunch together at the Redcliffe Hotel - everyone agreeing that it was altogether splendid.



We have had a wonderful season with talks, musical entertainment, armchair exercises, parties and just fun & games afternoons. Talks about Lion Tamers, Old Inverness, the Castle project, war memorabilia, energy saving and lots more besides. The Accidentals music group went down a treat as did Val Rose and her armchair exercises. The nursery came to entertain us at the Christmas Party, little Erin gave a display of Highland Dancing and James Martin gave us all goosebumps with his rendition of Holy Night. Pat Crippin and Amy MacLeod also added to the entertainment that day. And no Christmas Party is complete without a visit from Santa.





The team has provided goodies beyond description every meeting and Dorothy Morrison provided shortbread ranging from woolly jumpers for our energy saving talk, to a Castle model for the Castle project, a poppy for Remembrance Friday along with many more. It was wonderful then to celebrate her success at the 'Shortbread Showdown'.

Friendship Club is well named. Old friends meet up and new friends are made. We remembered fondly and gave thanks for Rita Cameron who passed away in February. Rita was the one with the vision and a Founder Member of this now thriving club. When it started it was a smallish number in what is now the Olive Grove. In 2018 we moved into the small hall and we were at capacity there. How wonderful that we now have the Sanctuary to accommodate our ever growing numbers. Friendship Club gives so much pleasure to so many people, not least the Team members and we look forward to being altogether again come September. Why not join us if you have not already done so. You won't regret it.

Best wishes for a good Summer to you all.

Chrisanne & the Friendship Club Team



We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Week 2024 – 12-18 May
Seven days, so many ways to make a difference

Christian Aid Week runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa.

In the April newsletter we read about thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora who is now the chairperson of a Village Savings and Loan Association which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline had escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay. Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so that one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

Of course, Christian Aid is about fighting trade injustice; it's about developing resilience; it's about people realising their potential; it's about life in all its fullness; it's about Life Before Death.



This Christian Aid Week – from 12-18 May – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

David Crippin

Daily Bible Readings for May

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Faith, Hope, and Love

Monday, May 6, 2024, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 The True Wisdom of God

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 1 Corinthians 3:1-23 On Divisions in the Church

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Spiritual Gifts

Friday, May 10, 2024, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 One Body with Many Members

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues

Sunday, May 12, 2024, 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57 Death Swallowed in Life

Monday, May 13, 2024, 2 Corinthians 4:1-15 Treasure in Clay Jars

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 Living by Faith

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13 The Ministry of Reconciliation

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Encouragement to Be Generous

Friday, May 17, 2024, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 Paul Defends His Ministry

Sunday, May 19, 2024, Acts 2:1-4 Gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost)

Monday, May 20, 2024, 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 Gifts of the Spirit

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Acts 10:1-33 Peter and Cornelius

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, Acts 10:34-43 Gentiles Hear the Good News

Thursday, May 23, 2024, Acts 10:44-48 Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

Friday, May 24, 2024, Acts 16:6-10 Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

Saturday, May 25, 2024, Acts 16:11-15 The Conversion of Lydia

Sunday, May 26 2024, Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7, Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord

Monday, Acts 3:11-16, Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

Tuesday, Acts 3:17-26, Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

Wednesday, Acts 4:1-12, Peter and John before the Council

Thursday, Acts 4:13-22, Peter and John before the Council

Friday, Acts 4:23-31, The Believers Pray for Boldness

Saturday, Acts 4:32-37, The Believers Share Their Possessions



We are planning to run an Alpha course in the Autumn, jointly with OHSS.

The Alpha course is evangelistic and seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". Its delivered over an 11-week period and in

doing so can create a space, in our church, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God.

A team of volunteers is required. We need a team with a good mix of skills and we would encourage anyone in the church who has experience of this or similar type of event to consider joining us. The target start date is Monday 23rd September 2024 but the organising team will convene in the next month or so to discuss the latest developments in the content, advertising and delivery of an Alpha course.

Please contact Brian Macgill in the first instance brian.macgill@outlook.com

Brian Macgill



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 May.

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.





On 19th March, after devotions we began our AGM. Dorothy led the meeting. It was reported that Ruby Coe was resigning as Secretary after many years. Patrona Waddell is coming off the committee and Dorothy Mein is giving up as Convener. We have two new members of committee, namely Alison Robertson and Liz Benzie.

Dorothy reported on the events of the last year. We had so many interesting speakers, Christmas lunch out and coffee at Fairways. Hopefully next year's syllabus will be just as interesting.

Over the summer we will have coffee mornings on the last Tuesdays of June, July and August. A reminder will be sent out at a later date.

We will get together on Tuesday 14th May at 2:30pm when we go to Cameron House for a sing-a-long with the residents. It is hoped that as many ladies will attend as possible.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy summer.

Dorothy Mein

Guild Correspondent

LAUNCHPAD

You are invited to the Launchpad AGM on Wednesday 8th May

At 7.30pm in the Sanctuary.

This has been a particularly busy year for Launchpad, and we have approved 21 applications.



Acclaim in Concert

Saturday 18th May 2024
7.30pm
Free North Church
Bank Street, Inverness

Inverness Festival of Gospel Male Voice Praise



Choirs from Scotland & Northern Ireland

Free Admission ~ All Welcome



Saturday
1st June 7pm
Inshes East Church

Speaker: **Rev. Kenny Ross**

Guest Artists: **Takavada Family
& Community Hymn Sing**

Collection for



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care

Highland Older People's Champion

I am one of three Highland Older People's Champions, (HOPC), which I brought to the Highland Council as a new role. An Older People's Champion is an ambassadorial role, held by an elected Councillor. Their job is to be a link between the council and older people in the local area. Older People's Champions identify the issues impacting people locally and I hope to network and communicate on behalf of the older population, learning what is happening across the Highlands and Island, raising any queries or issues in the council chamber.

I wanted to bring to your attention a particular group here in Highlands, which may already be known to some of you, **The Highland Senior Citizen Network Group, HSCN**. They have a free membership, monthly meetings and a newsletter.

HSCN which is chaired by Dr Ian McNamara has been successfully campaigning on issues that impact senior citizens for almost 30 years. It is an independent, informed, Highland-wide network of local voices representing the interests of more than 92,000 people in the Highlands aged 55 and over.

The membership of some 350 Individuals and 100 older people's groups come from across the Highlands and further afield. The organisation is regularly in touch with more than 3000 older people across Highland and its co-ordinators support older people's involvement and engagement by providing information, arranging events, and facilitating consultations.

The work of the Network includes:

- The provision of a collective advocacy service, enabling the voice of older people to be heard, by raising issues at both a local and national level.
- Celebrating the contribution of older people.
- The production of a regular New-sheet, sharing relevant news and activities, and offering good connections for older people.
- Weekly virtual Tea-breaks on Thursday mornings at 11am: social time with an invited guest to give us a focus. Monthly Radio Coffee Mornings on Nevis Radio, on the first Friday of each month from 11 - 1.
- Hosting local area Get-togethers, bringing together older people, the services they use and other opportunities in their communities.
- Raising funding through grant applications and participation in events such as the Great Wilderness Challenge.

If you would like more information, please do contact HSCN or myself.

HSCN contact details:

Online webpage: <https://www.hscn.co.uk/>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/HighlandSeniorCitizensNetwork>

X: <https://twitter.com/@SeniorHighland>

Email: hscn@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 07716 884989

Isabelle MacKenzie (Councillor)

Spring 2024

North of Scotland Fundraising Newsletter



I am Neill Prentice the new Fundraising Manager- North of Scotland. I grew up hearing all about the work of Blythswood, and have been blessed with the opportunity to visit many of the projects and partners in Eastern Europe and India. So when the opportunity to apply for the position of Fundraising Manager arose, I had no doubt that it was with a charity I believed in. To be part of an organisation that spreads the good news of God's love, and salvation through Jesus is a humbling and exciting prospect. I look forward to meeting and working with many of you reading this. If you would like to say hello, arrange a talk, or discuss how you or your church can further support us, then please do get in touch!



This April saw the launch of our exciting new *Do You Love Me?* appeal. Jesus asked this simple but important question to Simon Peter three times and each time Jesus issued Simon Peter with a challenge; **"Feed My sheep"**, **"Tend My sheep"**, and **"Feed My lambs"**. Focusing on these challenges the *Do You Love Me?* campaign gives you the opportunity to show your love by committing to a monthly giving to a specific outreach. With our Disaster Relief we look to feed His sheep by giving much needed food and shelter to those effected by disaster, like the devastating war in Ukraine that has taken so much from the Ukrainian people. Or help the shepherds tend to the sheep with our Pastor Support, as we aid those in the ministry as they spread the Gospel and do God's work in their communities. Through education we look to feed His lambs, as we support gospel centred educational outreaches and programmes that make lasting impacts to vulnerable communities- such as Cornerstone in Mumbai, India. Providing additional educational and humanitarian support, Cornerstone works with women sold into sex work and their children as they look to find opportunities in life that otherwise would not be achievable. To sign up or to find more information about each of these outreaches, visit doyouloveme.world. This faithful and committed giving is important in allowing us to continue our gospel centred outreach into desperate communities.



"Feed my sheep."



"Tend my sheep."



"Feed my lambs."

Spring Fling 2024

This Spring has been an exciting time for us here at Blythswood Care. March 22nd was our first ever Spring Fling Ball, which was a fantastic success. A night full fun, bidding, and dancing! The Live Auction was expertly hosted by our Chief Executive Jeremy Ross, and we heard updates from our partners and projects in Romania, India, Kenya, Ukraine, and the Highland Foodbank.



It was a great opportunity to share the work of Blythswood with so many familiar and unfamiliar faces, and to share the news of God's love. Overall we raised a **£27,000**, and we are so grateful to all those that contributed to the organizing and success of the evening.

Spring Harvest

This year we attended Spring Harvest in Skegness. Thousands of Christians from all over England and beyond attend, with an array of talks, seminars, shows, and worship sessions available. Elma and I could be found in the Exhibitors Hall at our stall which asked the question "Do You Love Me?". It was great to be able to talk to attendees about the challenges Jesus gave Simon Peter- and us- and how we as a charity are responding to those challenges. We were blessed with some great conversations and we can't wait to see what God will do as a result of them.



Summer Conventions

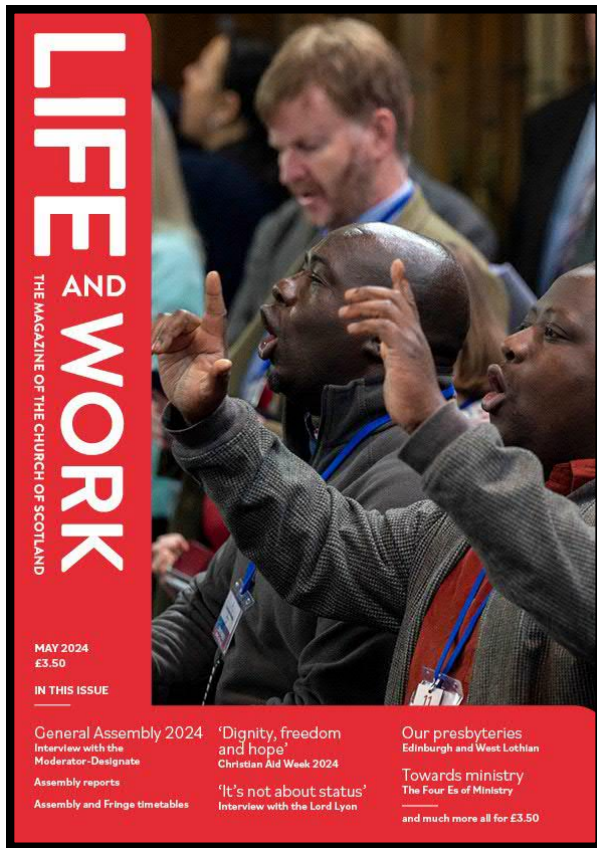
This Summer, Elma and I will be attending more conventions including the Cairngorm Convention in June and Keswick. Excitingly, this year for the first time Blythswood Care will have a stall for all 3 weeks of the Keswick Convention! We are really looking forward to spending time sharing the work of Blythswood with Christians from all over the world. If you are attending this year make sure to come by and say hello, and if you would like to volunteer some time to help then please get in touch with myself or Elma.

Church Reps

What is a Blythswood Rep? Well they act as our main point of contact within their local church. With the support of the church leadership, they're an ambassador for us in their church community. They encourage individuals and the church, to respond to those in need by supporting Blythswood's work through giving, praying, and doing. If you or someone you know has a passion for the local church, a heart for the work of Blythswood, and are able to motivate others to action, then please get in touch.

LIFE AND WORK

May



General Assembly 2024

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Shaw Paterson

Reports to the Assembly
Timetables

'It's Not About Status': the Lord Lyon, Joe Morrow, discusses his role in the Assembly ceremonials

'Dignity, Freedom and Hope'

Christian Aid Week 2024

A Gift to the Church

The editors of a new supplement to the Church Hymnary reflect on how the book took shape.

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

'My Eyes Have Been Opened'

Rebekka Read, a Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York, reflects on her experience

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Neil Glover on the challenges of rural ministry and how 'God always gives enough'.

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

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: Elizabeth Pennykid, Session Clerk of Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church

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Welcome Team

- May 5th** Elspeth Gibson, Frank & Sally McCubbin, Helen Boynton
May 12th Elspeth Gibson, Frank & Sally McCubbin, Alison Harbison
May 19th Elspeth Gibson, Frank & Sally McCubbin, Margot Tuley
May 26th Elspeth Gibson, Frank & Sally McCubbin, Margot Tuley

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 Fiona at the Church Office.

Readers

- May 5th** Jackie MacKenzie
May 12th Liz Forbes
May 19th Pat Douglas
May 26th Jane Smith
June 2nd Richard Ardern

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Diamond Wedding



Congratulations to Jacky and Kay MacDonald, on the occasion of their 60th
Wedding Anniversary, April 2024

*****Items for the June newsletter by Sunday 26th May please!**

*****Please note our new email address*****

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

newsletter@[crow-church.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@crow-church.co.uk)

Minister Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054

drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Crown Church Office: office@crow-church.co.uk 01463 231140

Session Clerk Bob Forrest: sessionclerk@crow-church.co.uk

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