

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 2nd June	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers
Sunday 9th June	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am
Sunday 16th June	Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am
Sunday 23rd June	Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am
Sunday 30th June	Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am
Sunday 7th July	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

'Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart' Proverbs 3:3

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

Whenever I think of summer, the first few bars of that great Ella Fitzgerald classic come to mind: "Summertime and the livin' is easy". I remember hearing it on the radio when I was a wee laddie and the soft, soothing melody has always stayed with me. But it's only recently that I got to wondering about the lyrics, beyond the first two lines that I had long since memorised.

It's a simple little lullaby, the lyrics first written for a play called Porgy, and then put to music by George Gershwin for his opera Porgy and Bess. *Summertime* is the opening number, being sung to a baby by its loving mother. There



isn't much to the lyrics at all, just the promise of good times: the fish are jumpin', the cotton is high, daddy's rich and your ma's good lookin', so hush, little baby, don't you cry.

Yet the play / opera presents an entirely different story, of gambling, drugs, violence, abuse and murder. Meanwhile, mum does what she can to protect her little baby, with the promise expressed in the final line of the song, "there's nothin' can harm you, with daddy and mammy standing by".

It struck me as somewhat of a parable of life more broadly, for those of us of the Christian faith. We know that there's nothing can harm us because the Word of God has told us: *that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

Yet we still have to live in a world beset by sin. In the same letter we read that: *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23), and the author, in chapter 1, had already painted a rather stark picture of a society that sets aside faith in the creator God, a society not unlike the opening scene of Porky and Bess, torn apart by greed and hatred and anger and violence.

Summertime (the season) generally lifts the mood, when the days are long and the sun is high, but just because it's summertime doesn't mean all our troubles or challenges disappear. I know there are many in our congregation, or in your families, or the community around us who are hurting: bereavement, illness, addiction, depression, domestic violence, poverty, jobless, or trapped in a soulless job. These things affect us all, and as we face them it is important that we remember the promises of God, *who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life*. (John 3:16)

May God richly bless you,

Douglas

125th Anniversary of Crown Church

Plans are now in place to run an exhibition which will be open to the public during the fortnight around the 125^{th} anniversary of our church –from the 15^{th} to the 29^{th} September.

There will be some of the historical panels which were prepared for the centenary exhibition on show, and a selection of new ones, some of which we know are already being prepared by different groups within the congregation to highlight current activities and concerns. Appropriate card is available from the office.

If you personally, or a group to which you belong, are preparing a panel (usually a mix of photographs with short explanations), we would be grateful if these could be handed in to the office by the end of August in order for there to be time to have them laminated.

In addition we are particularly keen for people to think about their involvement in Crown Church during the past 25 years, and to ensure a panel is prepared for anything which might not still be happening but which was important at the time.





Garden Openings

The fine sunny weather on Sunday 18 April added to the enjoyment of visitors and hosts when nine gardens were open to members and friends. All agreed this was a most successful social experience. The excellent tea and cakes in the Church Hall were much appreciated. We look forward to the next occasions on Sunday 25 July and Sunday 22 August when more gardens will be open! Margaret Bigg

Car Boot Sale

The Social Badminton Club would like to thank all who supported and donated goods for the Car Boot Sale on Saturday 17 April. The sale was a great success and raised the sum of £316-16 for the Centenary Fund.

Olive Calder



Convener's Comments

We're now halfway through the Centenary Year and the variety of different events continues to delight us. It was very special to have Sarah Nicol back amongst us and we look forward to having two other former members, Lynne MacMurchie and Bill Niven, to preach in the next few weeks.

The past weekend saw glorious weather for the car boot sale and the garden openings. It is lovely to see nature renewing itself once again with some help from the gardeners. We were inspired by the Easter play in the church from a very talented company, and we had great enjoyment from the children's concert and from the men's coffee morning with bowling tuition. Grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to make these events a success.

There is now a new edition of mugs on sale, this time in black. We hope to have the centenary book published in May. The wall hanging is finished and the preparation for the exhibition is progressing very well. George Borland and the choir are putting in a lot of extra rehearsal time for the concert on 15 May. Ruby Coe and her team are busy preparing for the barn dance on 29 May. We are again most grateful to all the people involved with these activities.

The event which will involve the largest number of the congregation will be the bazaar on 19 June. I hope everyone in the congregation will support it in whatever way they can. Please discuss it with your neighbours and friends and invite them along on the day. We still need more people of all ages to help run the event. We hope some of you, and the children in particular, will enjoy dressing up in the Victorian style, but you will not be out of place in your contemporary clothes either. Pease speak to Beth Matheson or Ted Mackenzie or me if you can help and have not already been asked.

Richard Ardern

The Date Of The Centenary Bazaar Approaches-Saturday 19 June

535

May 99

Donations and proceeds from fund raising should be sent to Eddie Adie Dates of events should be given to Alec Grant by their organisers.

Rev

Nicol, daughter of Mr

and Mrs Allan Hamilton, was our

first guest preacher in the lead-up to the

Centenary.

Sarah

The

Music Through the Ages Saturday 15 May

Coming Events

The choir and organist will present a selection of

choral and organ music

from the 16th Century

to the present day.

Choral music by Farrant, Purcell, Mozart, Fauré, Dr Root, Wood, Kendrick and Nystrom.

Organ music by Clerambault, Buxtehude, Bach, Karg-Elert, Vaughan Williams, CS Lang & Flor Peters.

Donations in aid of the Centenary Fund

BARN DANCE AND BARBECUE

On Saturday 29 May between 5pm and 10pm the Centenary Committee are holding a Barn Dance and Barbecue at Saunders Campbell's farm at Docharty, Dingwall. David Bowen is arranging a special four to provide live music, and Irene Whyte will make sure we get the **dancing** right! Chairs and tables will be taken out from the church and it is hoped that, even if you don't want to dance, you will come along and enjoy **a** lovely meal and watch the dancing while enjoying the music.

To reduce the wear on farm land, transport is being arranged at an extra cost of £2 return fare and this will leave from the Church about 4.45pm. The cost for the evening will be £6 adults and £3 for OAP's and children. Tickets are on sale in the Lower Hall after morning service.

If you would like further information, ring Ruby at the office (tel 231140). This is an evening for ALL THE FAMILY. Please come along!! To Be Published In May A history of the Crown Church.

"Crown Church : 100 Years of Worship and Witness"

A book you must read!! Price £5 Illustrated with colour and black-and-white photos.

Centenary Bazaar Attractions!

A big fun day for all the family, a relaxing Coffee in marquee I or Lunch at the Barbeque! Visit the Guild Stall; the Fire Brigade for the young; our Promotion Stall about the Crown Church; try all the Victorian Games, then have your Afternoon Tea. Try your hand at the Lucky Dip or have a much-needed ice cream in marquee II - chat up the Victorian Photographer! Visit the Country Dancing Stall; see what the young ones of the Holiday Club have made. Our Flower & Fruit Stall will be a joy to behold. Visit the best Home-Made Item Stall in the North and purchase fresh goods from the Produce Stall. Listen to the Millburn Band, the Crown Church Band and the Tin Pan Alley Band. In Marquee II admire the art exhibition by Crown School. This will be an event you cannot miss!!

We're still 'knocking on doors' in our search for helpers. We appreciate the amount of time and effort members of the congregation already devote to the church but any contribution <u>you</u> can give in helping ensure the success of the bazaar will be much appreciated. Volunteers, please contact either **Beth Matheson** or **Ann Bowen** who will also be delighted to receive goods for sale !

5

		This Month
Sunday	2 May	Guest preacher - Rev Lynn MacMurchie
Saturday	15 May	Music Through The Ages
Saturday	29 May	Barn Dance
	a	nd, for Your Diary
Sunday	13 June	Guest preacher - Rev Bill Niven
Saturday	19 June	Centenary Bazaar
Sunday	25 July	Gardens Open
Saturday	31 July	Garden Party (Action Group)

FIRST COUPLE OF MONTHS AT YOUNG CROWN

Presently the major part of my outreach work is with toddlers on Wednesday and Thursday morning. This requires along with the volunteers setting up play equipment, crafts, making teas and coffees, chatting, and singing nursery rhymes with the children mums and dads. Most days at toddlers we have an average of 21 visitors, 10 parents and their children. We regularly have new mums and their babies which is a real blessing.

Since accepting this post I have become a Scripture Union Scotland Registered Team Leader. This required online training and a few meetings with Colin Carmichael, Regional Worker Highlands, Scripture Union Scotland. Colin has been very supportive, helping me getting to grips with Scripture Union Scotland online material, in particular One Big Story, a valuable resource based on games, bible stories and reflection. I am in contact with Mrs Macdonald, Head Teacher at Crown Primary, in the hope that we can plan some Scripture Union fun for the children.

I attend Monday Night Club at Kinmylies Church of Scotland, which is run by Anne Gunn a Youth Worker Leader with a wealth of experience. The Monday night Club has around 40 children in attendance and even has a waiting list! This is something I intend to pray for in the hope that a club in the evening can be established at Crown Church.

I have also attended Sweaty Church at Old High St Stephens, where there were around 30 Primary School children, many of whom I knew from working at Crown Corner Club. Stewart Robertson told the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. Kirsty and Jack who are PE instructors led the children in very active games and we then had Pizza and Snacks. The children thoroughly enjoyed it. Oh, and yes, they did go home sweaty!

Other events I have attended have been Gordon Camerons AED training session and SNAC. Gordon Cameron found time in his busy schedule to organise and run training on how to use an AED or automatic external defibrillator. I attended his training session along with others and found it very informative. A big thanks to Gordon for his time.

In May we had a space theme at Saturday Night At Crown (SNAC) because it happened to fall on the fourth of May, and one of the organisers, mentioning no names (GARY MCARA), said may the force be with you! The evening then grew to be very entertaining indeed with lots of space themed crafts stories and food!



This week some of the children from Crown Corner Club came to the garden and planted lots of bedding plants. They did a grand job and afterwards they were rewarded with a plant from Douglas and Jane Wilson who were overseeing the project. The children had a cold drink and a sweetie. Fiona the manager at Crown Corner Club said that they came back looking like they had fun.

Jackie MacKenzie

Youth and Family Co-ordinator for Young Crown



Daily Bible Readings for June

Sunday, June 2, 2024, Luke 11:2-4, The Lord's Prayer: The Holiness

Monday, June 3, 2024, Genesis 32:22-32 Jacob Asks for God's Name Tuesday, June 4, 2024, Exodus 3:13-15 God's Name Wednesday, June 5, 2024, Exodus 20:1-17 God's Name is Holy Thursday, June 6, 2024, Matthew 28:16-20 Baptize in God's Name Friday, June 7, 2024, John 16:16-24 Ask in God's Name Saturday, June 8, 2024, Philippians 2:5-11 At the Name of Jesus

Sunday, June 9, 2024, Luke 11:2-4, The Lord's Prayer: The Kingdom Monday, June 10, 2024, Psalm 9:7-10 God's Throne of Justice Tuesday, June 11, 2024, Psalm 24 The King of Glory Wednesday, June 12, 2024, Micah 4:1-5 God's Peace Thursday, June 13, 2024, Matthew 13:1-53 The Kingdom of Heaven is Like... Friday, June 14, 2024, John 18:33-38 My Kingdom is Not of this World Saturday, June 15, 2024, Revelation 21:1-7 The One Seated on the Throne

Sunday, June 16, 2024, Luke 11:2-4, *The Lord's Prayer: Our Needs* Monday, June 17, 2024, Exodus 16:1-36 Bread from Heaven Tuesday, June 18, 2024, Deuteronomy 8:1-20 God Sustains Wednesday, June 19, 2024, Matthew 4:1-11 Not Bread Alone Thursday, June 20, 2024, Matthew 6:25-34 Do Not Worry Friday, June 21, 2024, Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding the Five Thousand Saturday, June 22, 2024, Luke 24:13-35 Jesus Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread

Sunday, June 23, 2024, 1 John 1:1—2:2, Our Joy Can Be Complete Monday, June 24, 2024, 1 John 1:1-2 John's Declaration Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 1 John 1:3 Fellowship with Christ Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 1 John 1:4 Complete Joy Thursday, June 27, 2024, 1 John 1:5-7 Walking in the Light Friday, June 28, 2024, 1 John 1:8-10 Deceiving Ourselves Saturday, June 29, 2024, 1 John 2:1-2 An Advocate with the Father

Sunday, June 30, 2024, 1 John 3:1-7, See What Love the Father Has Given Us

Monday, July 1, 2024, 1 John 2:7-9 A New Commandment Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 1 John 2:15-17 Do Not Love the Things in the World Wednesday, July 3, 2024, 1 John 3:8-10 Children of the Devil Thursday, July 4, 2024, 1 John 3:11-12 We Must Not Be Like Cain Friday, July 5, 2024, 1 John 3:13-14 Do Not Be Astonished Saturday, July 6, 2024, 1 John 3:15 Hatred is the Same as Murder





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". It's 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

Our Organists

One of the features that has differentiated Crown Church organists in the last few years is whether they can see over the organ console or not. For instance Jonathan could see and be seen easily, being over 6ft 6" tall, and thereby gave some embodiment to the music emanating from the console. Neither of our two current organists, Iain McIntyre and Richard Cunningham, can claim quite that elevation above sea level. However in recent weeks there has at least been a development at the console such that the organists can now see what's going on by video link. No longer is it a matter of guesswork to know when to start playing the doxology after the offering has been brought forward. They can see us even if we can't see them.



So how well do we know our organists? Starting with Iain, he has connections all over the country. His father came from Inverness (Diriebught Road) while his mother hailed from Bonnybridge. He himself was born in north Wales. So obviously he'd have a strong Yorkshire accent, yes? The answer is of course that he was brought up and went to school in Yorkshire, in Northallerton and then at St Peter's School in York. There he learned to play the piano, still his first choice instrument, to Grade 8 standard.

Music led Iain to Edinburgh University where he graduated B.Mus. with Honours. That was followed by 15 years teaching piano and keyboard, not an easy way to make a living. Moving on, he did a couple of years as a youth worker for the local authority in Gloucester, an even harder way to make a living. He had a go at teaching and was employed as an assistant teacher, a role he enjoyed. Eventually he

assistant teacher, a role he enjoyed. Eventually he moved north to Inverness to look after his sick father before health issues forced Iain himself into effective retirement.

While at Edinburgh, he had what he describes as a conversion experience, which by accident of friendship led him into the Catholic Church. His faith has remained with him and remains important to him. When he is not playing the organ at Crown Church he attends St Mary's Church. He took up learning the organ shortly before he joined us and takes lessons from Adrian Marple. In what is an invaluable development for our choir, he has started accompanying rehearsals and Sunday introits when he is with us.

His plans for the future include making progress with the organ and looking into developing a recital series with friends.

By comparison with Iain, Richard has had no time to move around the country, having spent every waking minute, it would seem, playing and repairing organs in his native Edinburgh and now here in the Highlands.

Born and brought up in Edinburgh, Richard was educated at George Heriot's School and started piano lessons at the age of 7. He began classical organ studies at the age of 12 and soon became a frequent after-school visitor to the school's Assembly hall, where he practised for many long hours. When his music teacher left, Richard officiated at the organ for all school daily assemblies and end of term services and concerts. At the age of 14 he gained his first permanent post playing for Sunday services at Edinburgh's Muirhouse Parish Church, which had a small 2 manual pipe organ. Richard had subsequent posts at Candlish Parish Church, North Merchiston Church and Liberton Kirk. Further education involved music at both Edinburgh University and Napier College and he subsequently became a Lay Clerk at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral.

Having spent several years working and travelling in various parts of the Highlands, he eventually settled here, deputising at various churches including St Maelrubha's Episcopal Church in Poolewe, Inverness Methodist Church, Nairn Old Parish Church and St Clement's Church in Dingwall, before becoming assistant organist to George Borland here at Crown, and subsequently taking over as Organist and Choir Director when George left.

Richard left Crown in 2008 and moved back to Edinburgh for a while, but subsequently returned north. He has deputised in Dornoch Cathedral, and divided his remaining time between Tain Parish Church, Fodderty and Strathpeffer Parish Church and, for some time, one Sunday a month at Crown before resuming here on a more frequent basis.



Over his career Richard has played a great variety of pipe and digital organs, some two manual, some three. It is ironic that he is back playing a two manual organ because the third manual in the Crown organ is currently out of action!

He has always taken a keen interest in things mechanical and electrical and from an early age has repaired and experimented with all manner of electronic equipment. He has a major interest in Compton Electrone organs, and is very much committed to the restoration and preservation of these pioneering instruments. He has an extensive collection of them, including one of the big "Specials", the 3 manual, dual generator instrument built for Manchester's Free Trade Hall in 1952. He is also very much involved with more modern instruments, carrying out repair work in various churches and homes in the area when required (including keeping our own Makin digital organ in Crown going, for which we are grateful).

We are indeed blessed with our two organists and look forward to our musical future with anticipation.

David Crippin

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Dear Churches supporting Highland Foodbank,

As always, we're so grateful for donations from individuals and families from your church. Without this support we wouldn't be able to keep up with the demand for Foodbank in the Highlands.

I've attached our May/June list.

Last year we applied for funding for two years to employ a Food Insecurity Adviser within Citizen's Advice Bureau in Inverness. I'm delighted to say that we were successful with this bid, and a new Adviser took up post at the start of April. This will be a huge help for both Foodbank and CAB, in that the Food Insecurity Adviser will have specific remit for people contacting CAB due to food crisis, helping them to engage with appropriate services. With the positive gains this engagement will bring, it should help reduce the need for Foodbank referrals going forward. We're really excited about how this project will help some people move out of food insecurity.

Kindest regards,

Lorna

Lorna Dempster Foodbank Manager Blythswood Care

lorna.dempster@blythswood.org

01463 717630/ 07875 332696



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LIFE AND WORK

June

The True Measure of Fatherhood The fathers of the Bible

`We Genuinely Care About People' The Railway Mission

General Assembly 2024 Four pages of reports to the Assembly

Our Presbyteries North East and the Northern Isles

Letter from the Holy Land Update from the Church's mission partners

'Fundamental to Who He Was' A new book on the faith of Scottish physicist

James Clerk Maxwell

'This is Not About Worldly Success'

Artist Linda Hoskins and her connections with a Christian homelessness charity

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: Paul Riley of St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

Youth: Christian Aid prophetic activist Oluwatoyosi Baruwa. View from the Pulpit: the Rev Maggie Hunt, minister of a new union in Forfar

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<u>&</u> <u>PRESENTATION OF AWARDS</u>



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Welcome Team

- **June 9th** Pat Douglas, Sheena Ferguson, Margot Tuley, Helen Boynton
- June 16th Pat Douglas, Sheena Ferguson, 2 BBs
- June 23rd Pat Douglas, Sheena Ferguson, 2 BBs
- June 30th Pat Douglas, Sheena Ferguson, 2 BBs

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

- June 2nd Richard Ardern
- June 9th John Barbour
- June 16th David Crippin
- June 23rd Jimmy Gray
- June 30th Alistair Campbell
- July 7th Fiona Carter

Items for the July/August newsletter by Sunday 23rd June! ** *Please note our new email address_***

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

newsletter@crown-church.co.uk

Minister Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054 drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

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

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