

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).

11.00am followed by special prayers

Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 1st September Sunday 8th September Sunday 15th September

Sunday 22nd September

125th All Age Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at 10.30am

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and

Sunday 29th September Sunday 6th October Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



' Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' Hebrews 13:8

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

September will be a busy month, celebrating 125 years of Christian faith, worship, prayer and service since the formation of Crown Church. You can read elsewhere in this publication of all the activities that I hope you will come along to and perhaps be inspired in your own faith, worship, prayer and service by the stories of folk who have gone before us in this place.

For many years now I have enjoyed reading history, sometimes historical fiction, sometimes non-fiction, sometimes old books written centuries ago, sometimes church history, or Scottish history, or ancient Roman history.



One thing that reading history does is help us to understand our own experiences in a much broader context. For example, many of the classic novels written in 18th and 19th century Britain will give you an insight into church life and Christian faith in that period, and you might be surprised by what you find. Lamenting a younger generation having little or no desire to frequent the church is not new! Nor is being worried about the future viability of the church as attendance is dropping. In other words, they often struggled with many of the same issues that we face.

The point is that sometimes we see the past through rose tinted spectacles, as if all was well with the world and the church, perhaps especially in the Victorian era, during which Crown Church was established. But the truth is that it has seldom been easy to live and proclaim true faith in Jesus Christ, even in a country that prided itself on its Christian character. Every generation of the church has had its struggles with secularism, indifference and opposition in the society around it, as well as often within its own members and ministers too.

I say this to give you hope. The struggles that the Church of Scotland is currently facing today are not new, and throughout history God has in every generation raised up a new cloud of witnesses to testify that Jesus is Lord, God is faithful and the Spirit will revive and refresh us in the challenges we face.

As we pray for the future of Crown Church and Christian witness in Scotland, give thanks to God for the generations who have already served faithfully, and who with courage faced the very real challenges of each successive generation.

May God bless you all,

Douglas

CROWN AND OLD HIGH ST STEPHEN'S PARISH GROUPING

The Presbytery of Clèir Eilean Ì (CIE) have agreed a parish grouping for Crown and Old High St Stephen's (OHSS) as part of the wider Presbytery Mission Plan and to work together to achieve a union of the two congregations by December 2025.

A copy of the document, sent by Rev Monika Redman, Convener of the Presbytery Mission Planning Group had been circulated to both Ministers and Session Clerks. This document is the first stage to bring the two congregations together with the final union being achieved by December 2025.

There is a need to document what we do together and ensure that the process to union is not protracted.

To achieve this going forward a joint meeting of the Crown and OHSS Leadership Groups was held on Tuesday 6 August. Considerable progress was made at this meeting. The Parish Grouping document was tabled and populated at the meeting and the following draft prepared:

BASIS OF PARISH GROUPING

The congregation of Inverness Crown (SC0108159) and the congregation of Old High St Stephen's (SC0035073) (shall form a Parish Grouping for a period of up to 18 months from the XXXX day of _____XXXX______, and that on the following terms and conditions:

Name: The name of the Parish Grouping shall be Midmills Church Parish Grouping.

- **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the Parish Grouping shall be as already advised by the Presbytery of Inverness and West Moray now part of CIE or as the Presbytery may determine.
- **Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property and funds of each congregation as at present.
- **Kirk Sessions:** The Moderator of the Crown Church Kirk Session is Rev Douglas Robertson. The Moderator of the OHSS Kirk Session is Rev James Bissett. The two Kirk Sessions will come together to discuss specific issues as and when required. Currently Crown meet 6 times per year and OHSS 8 times per year. A joint meeting of the two Kirk Sessions has been arranged for November 2024 and will continue quarterly if required.
- **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of each congregation shall be administered as at present.

Ministry Team: The Ministry Team shall be

Crown – Rev Douglas Robertson

OHSS – Rev James Bissett

Jackie MacKenzie – Youth Worker – note that Jackie is locally funded by Young Crown which is operated as a separate charity.

Ministry Team Support: The stipend of the minister(s) shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scheme.

Manse(s):

The Crown manse is currently occupied by Rev Douglas Robertson and his wife. The OHSS manse is currently rented out.

Areas of Co-operation: The following areas are currently shared:

-		
А	Sweaty Church (OHSS) meets every two months	
В	SNAC (Crown) meets monthly	
С	Friendship Club (Crown) meets fortnightly	
D	Memorable Melodies (OHSS) – meets monthly	
E	Alpha – to meet in September	
F	Fit as a Fiddle – meets fortnightly	
G	Advent/Lent Calendars/Parish Newsletter	
Н	Other charities such as Blythswood, 1668 cafe, Giving trees at Christmas	
I	Young Crown – set up as separate charity but Trustees from both congregations	
J	Launchpad – set up as separate charity but Trus- tees from both congregations.	

Going forward it may be possible to combine both newsletters.

Crown have contact with North Street Church, Kingston, Jamaica and an invitation to visit Jamaica is likely to be given in 2025 with a reciprocal visit to the UK in 2026.

Power to Adjust:

While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Parish Grouping for the congregations now agreeing, the congregations shall be free, like any other congregation, to adjust arrangements under the authority of the Presbytery as need may arise.

Going forward the procedure is as follows:

It was agreed that a small group with representatives chosen from Crown and OHSS chosen by the Session Clerks should meet to prepare a Business Plan for Midmills Parish Church. They will bring back to the joint group a consideration of possible options determined by considering the state of the properties, the finances of both congregations, and the current activities which are carried out by both churches, making a case for which should and can be retained. The group should consider if a missional case can be made for the retention of St Stephen's church and hall (and Old High hall) In the interest of moving swiftly towards union, the group should also consider the promotion of meetings between people with defined roles in each church (e.g. Flower arrangers, socials teams, those organising rotas etc,) and between similar groups - e.g. The Guild, the choirs , the Care Home services.

This **DRAFT** Parish Grouping document has been sent to Rev Monika Redman who will consult with the Legal Department at 121 and then confirm if the contents are acceptable and thereafter each Kirk Session requires to approve the document and then members of each congregation will be required to approve the document.

There is considerable work to be done going forward, especially by those looking at the cost and use of all properties held by both congregations and this will take some time but we will keep you informed of developments and ask for your prayers for those doing so much to bring us together.

Christine MacKenzie and Bob Forrest, Session Clerks

Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Crown Church On Sunday 22nd September

At 10.30am

ALL-AGE SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

Led by Rev Douglas Robertson and Rev Peter Donald Followed by lunch in the upper hall (Please see separate notice below re booking)

<u>125 Celebration Lunch on 22nd September</u>

As part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Crown Church, there will be a special lunch on Sunday 22nd September at around 12 midday after the service that day.

The lunch will be served in the upper hall. All are welcome but you must have a ticket as we can only cater for 100 upstairs and we need to know the numbers we are providing for. Tickets will be available from the Church Office or from any member of the Socials Team. Please make sure to let us know ahead if you have any dietary requirements – food allergy or intolerance or if you are vegetarian – so that we can cater for you.

There will be no charge for the tickets but any donations by cash or card to the Church would be welcome on the day.

We are looking forward to seeing you then.

Socials Team (Liz Munro, Liz Benzie, Lesley McRoberts, Dorothy Morrison and Marion Forrest)

125th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION In the Sanctuary

The Exhibition of the posters celebrating the life and witness of Crown Church will be displayed from the 14th–28th September all round the Sanctuary. Public opening times will be advertised on our website, Facebook page and notice boards both inside and out.

A Big Sing



In fact, a really big sing! Music Through the Decades.

Saturday 21st September at 3pm

Come along and join the Church Choir and the Perfect Harmony Choir as we sing our way through the years. Music to listen to. Music to join in with. All ages welcome.

Prayer Diary

September 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

September 1 - 7

Prayer dedication for resources and effort for protection of our world from climate change.

God of all creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen

Father God, we love You and we care for the world You have made. Direct us as we seek to be good stewards of creation. Amen.

Pray for all those in different parts of the world whose lives and livelihood have been affected by natural disasters, such as forest fires, floods and storms. Pray for support to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Pray for people who have been displaced due to conflicts and natural disasters; Give thanks for those who have been able to travel to safety and pray for support for them to adjust to a new life.

September 8 - 14

Pray for all the children in our local schools as they settle in a new school year and give thanks that the chaplaincy team is there to support them if needed. Pray for peace in the Middle East.

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may flourish in faith, hope and love, through the power of the Holy Spirit. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shelter your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

September 15 - 21

On the 21st September, the International Day of Peace, when the UN hope to strengthen the ideals of peace within all nations and peoples. Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and pray that more people will encounter His peace, which surpasses all understanding and can reach into every situation.

Pray for unity among all people and for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. We ask for wisdom for our leaders that they make appropriate decisions on behalf of all of us.

Pray for all those who would be attending the Alpha course; Pray that people will feel at ease and confident to share some of the questions they may have. Pray that the Holy Spirit would prompt questions in people's mind that would help them consider the person of Jesus Christ; for better understanding of the family and the body of Christ. Give thanks for all the Leaders and those helping to run the course.

September 22 - 28

For persecuted Christians

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.

May Your church in this land reflect Your humility, forgiveness and love,

And so act as a signpost to the possibility of a different way of life.

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 an end to human trafficking. *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*" *Isaiah 58:6*

<u>September 29 – October 5</u>

Lift up people who have a difficult relationship with their family, and pray that God will touch their hearts and minds for help with mending broken relationships.

Remember and pray for those who are experiencing everyday life challenges with great difficulties and whose spirits are weakened; may they find support and comfort through relationships and appreciation of life's daily triumph.

Pray for those who are struggling with loneliness and ill health, asking for His healing care and comfort. May the Lord be with them and bless them.

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. Thank you, Lord that You draw near to the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds. (Psalm 34:18)

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



What's been happening with me at Young Crown over the past months.

In the run up to the school summer holidays I continued to attend Kinmylies Church of Scotland Monday club, where I was given a warm welcome and assisted the leaders and children with fun games and crafts based on stories from the bible.

Crown Primary teacher Mrs Pauline Gray requested the use of the church sanctuary to facilitate the Primary seven school leavers ceremony. For this I had to learn to how to use the sound system and how to connect the system to the overhead visual displays. The P7 children had 6 practice sessions before the big event. On the big day the sanctuary was bursting at the seams as the whole school attended and the parents of P7 children.

It was interesting to note that during a song that the class primary 7 sang, ten children greeted the parents in the language of their country of origin. This reflects the diverse community of Crown and is a sign of the times!

It was confirmed with Mrs Macdonald, Head Teacher Crown Primary that I can do a lunch time scripture union session with the children. This will start when the children go back to school in the Autumn term. At the moment I am still having training with Colin Carmichael, Scripture Union Regional Worker to the Highlands and planning my work with the children.



Teddy Bears Picnic at Bellfield Park

At Little Crown the toddlers started summer term with a teddy bears picnic, it was great to see everyone having fun playing with the parachute and having cake and tea with the teddies. Our amazing team of volunteers have kept toddlers running during term time and summer this year and I cannot thank them enough for their time and commitment. Mums and Dads have been very appreciative of having somewhere to go when schools out. This week at toddlers we welcomed a set of wee girl twins and at 1 month of age are our newest bright little stars. This for me testifies that new Mums find Crown Church a safe space where they and their children can come to meet others, have a cuppa, a chat and reflect.

Doors open at Church

We saw lots of foreign visitors and families when the church doors were open. We created a lost coin treasure hunt in the sanctuary based on *The parable of the lost coin, Luke 15 8-10.* The children pieced together the story to work out how many coins are in the story, then they had to find them hidden in the sanctuary to win some chocolate coins.

One week we came to the rescue of five French scouts who were doing their Explorers Belt and who found themselves looking for an extra tent and a safe place to sleep. Alison and Douglas kindly hosted them in their garden and Chrisanne and Stewart Robertson donated a new tent to the boys. Thank you so much Alison, Douglas, Stuart and Chrisanne for coming to the rescue.



Lesley McRoberts opening the church.



The scouts putting up the tent.

Jackie Mackenzie, Young Crown Children and Families Worker



Saturday Night At Crown (SNAC)

SNAC begins again after a summer break, on Saturday 7th September from 5 - 7pm.

We are celebrating by having a party, with a cold buffet. The theme is Jesus makes a difference (to a party). SNAC is our outreach to families with children and families without children. Young ones and older ones are all welcome.

Come along and find out what it's like. Let Pat, Pamela or Gary know if you'll be there and your help with food would be much appreciated. See you on the 7th!

Pat Crippin



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 September.

The flower chart for 2024 is in the Midmills corridor. If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday please add your name to the list.

Daily Bible Readings for September

Sunday, September 1, 2024, Daniel 12:1-3; 5-13 The End of Days

Monday, September 2, 2024, Daniel 12:1 Written in the Book Tuesday, September 3, 2024, Daniel 12:2-3 Resurrection Wednesday, September 4, 2024, Daniel 12:4 Daniel's Directive Thursday, September 5, 2024, Daniel 12:5-7 The Timing of the End Friday, September 6, 2024, Daniel 12:8-10 The Wise Shall Understand Saturday, September 7, 2024, Daniel 12:11-13 You Shall Rise for Your Reward

Sunday, Sept 8, 2024, Gen 2:4b-7; 15-17; 3:1-8 Creation and Fall

Monday, September 9, 2024, Genesis 4:1-16 Cain and Abel Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Genesis 6:11-22 Noah Wednesday, September 11, 2024, Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel Thursday, September 12, 2024, Genesis 12:1-9 God Calls Abram Friday, September 13, 2024, Genesis 12:10-13:1 Abram Lies to Pharaoh about Sarai Saturday, September 14, 2024, Genesis 13:2-18 Abram and Lot Part Ways

Sunday, September 15, 2024, Genesis 15:1-6 God's Promise to Abraham

Monday, September 16, 2024, Genesis 22:1-19 Abraham's Sacrifice Tuesday, September 17, 2024, Genesis 24:1-67 Isaac and Rebekah Wednesday, September 18, 2024, Genesis 27:1-29 Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing Thursday, September 19, 2024, Genesis 29:9-30 Jacob Marries Leah, then Rachel Friday, September 20, 2024, Genesis 32:22-32 Jacob Wrestles an Angel Saturday, September 21, 2024, Genesis 34:1-31 The Rape of Dinah

Sunday, September 22, 2024, Genesis 37:3-8; 17b-22; 26-34; 50:15-21 God Works Through Joseph

Monday, September 23, 2024, Exodus 1:1-22 Egyptian Midwives Save Hebrew Babies

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Exodus 2:1-25 Birth and Youth of Moses

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, Exodus 3:1-15 God Calls Moses

Thursday, September 26, 2024, Exodus 7:1-8:19 Plagues 1-3

Friday, September 27, 2024, Exodus 7:20-9:12 Plagues 4-6

Saturday, September 28, 2024, Exodus 9:13-10:29 Plagues 7-9

Sunday, Sept 29, 2024, Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8 The Promise of Passover

Monday, September 30, 2024, Exodus 13:17-22 Pillars of Cloud and Fire Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Exodus 14:1-31 Crossing the Red Sea Wednesday, October 2, 2024, Exodus 15:1-21 Songs of Moses and Miriam Thursday, October 3, 2024, Exodus 16:1-36 Manna and Quail Friday, October 4, 2024, Exodus 18:1-27 Jethro Advises Moses Concerning Leadership Saturday, October 5, 2024, Exodus 20:1-21 The Ten Commandments



sounds Familian





for People with Dementia, their Family Members and Carers

Do Come and join ns We look forward to welcoming you

For more information Audrey Whyte 07706383251 Alison Ramsay 01463 230803 or email soundsfamiliarmusic@aol.co.uk We are a voluntary group of singers and musicians who recognise the benefits of singing together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

Stimulating memories Singing favourite songs Scottish songs Songs from the Shows Some modern classics Socialising over tea/coffee



- WHEN: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month 2.30pm — 4.00pm
- WHERE: Craigmonie Hotel Annfield Rd, Inverness
- WHO: People with dementia, accompanied by family members or carers
- COST: £2.50 per person towards venue and tea or coffee



Something interesting to share?

Here's how to let people in the Crown Church know about an activity or event !

Website Crown Church of Scotland (crown-church.co.uk)

Email information to Bob Forrest <u>sessionclerk@crown-church.co.uk</u>. Either give the wording you wish or an explanation of what is proposed. Preferably say where in the website you would wish it to appear.

Newsletter

Our Newsletter is produced monthly and you can see copies on the website. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to Fiona Carter, the editor, at <u>newsletter@crown-church.co.uk</u>

Facebook

Items to go on our Facebook page should be sent to:- Stewart Robertson

sjhro@icloud.com

Wayside Pulpit

If you have not previously placed material in the wayside pulpit, please discuss first with Charlie Gallacher tel 234982. He will be pleased to advise and can also help by putting up notices. Notices should be at least A3 size in order to be visible from the street – we can print this size in the Church Office. Please do not remove or cover up other notices unless clearly out of date. Charlie puts up posters with religious texts etc. If there is no other space for a notice of an event or activity, then his posters can be taken down and should be put safely in the Church Office.

Banners

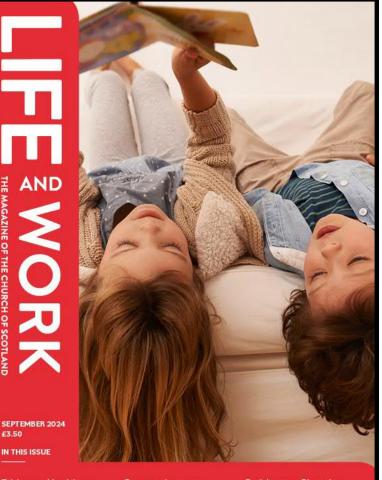
Banners can be displayed on the outside of the church building. There are design, cost and practical implications. If you wish to consider a banner please contact Fiona Gordon the Church Administrator.

office@crown-church.co.uk

Out of Date Material

Once an event has passed, please remove the publicity from the Wayside Pulpit, Website etc. Consider a report or news item in the Newsletter, website and/or Facebook page with photos if appropriate.

LIFE AND WORK September



Bibles and buildings artner projects

A time to reflect

ofEngland

Our presbyteries Shining a light on the pres

Building on Christ's foundations sage from the M

30 years of Fairtrade d much more all for £3.50 **Bibles and Buildings**

The Guild's new partner projects

A Time to Reflect The season of Creation Time

30 Years of Fairtrade

In the month of Fairtrade Fortnight, how the movement is celebrating a major anniversary

'The Gospel of Grace'

Emmanuel Murangia, Tearfund Director for Rwanda, on the work of reconciliation after the genocide of the 1990s - and how a 12-year-old's act of forgiveness made him think differently about his faith

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands

The Pilgrim Way

The Rev John Carswell describes his experience travelling Scotland's newest pilgrim route.

Regulars

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

£3.50

The Moderator says the Church needs to keep reaching out Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton 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: Stephanie Fraser of Baldernock Parish Church

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Welcome Team

September 1st	2 Boys Brigade, Sheona and Brian MacKenzie
September 8th	2 Boys Brigade, Sheona and Brian MacKenzie
September 15th	2 Boys Brigade, Sheona and Brian MacKenzie
September 22nd	2 Boys Brigade, Sheona and Brian MacKenzie
September 29th	2 Boys Brigade, Sheona and Brian MacKenzie
October 6th	2 Boys Brigade, Frank and Sally McCubbin

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

September 1st	Gary McAra
September 8th	Gus McGowan
September 15th	Alison Robertson
September 22nd	Brian MacGill
September 29th	Linda Moncur
October 6th	Mairi Main

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Muriel Anderson, Kingsmills Nursing Home, 10 June, 2024 Mr David Ross, Drumossie Avenue, 30th June 2024 Mr Alan MacDonald, Hebron House Nairn, formerly of Argyle Court, July 2024 Mrs Jessie MacLennan, Damfield Road, 2nd August 2024

***Items for the October newsletter by Sunday 29th September please! ***

*** 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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The Church website is to be found at www.crown-church.co.uk