

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

November 2024: No. 805

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 November **BB Enrolment.** Morning Worship at **10.30am** followed by special prayers.

Sunday 10th November **Remembrance Sunday** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am. **Please be seated by 10.50am**

Sunday 17th November Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 24th November Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am
Service of Hope 3pm

Sunday 1st December The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone'

Romans 12: 18

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

November is the month of solemn Remembrance. While it has been established this way because World War I officially ended with Armistice at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, it is perhaps fitting that it also comes as we head into the winter season. Days become shorter, the sky is more often overcast, and maybe it just helps us in some small way to remember the bleakness and horror of war; a memorial that comes with a heart felt plea – *please God, never again.*

While we give thanks to God for the relative peace of our own nation in the years since the end of World War II, let us never forget that there are many nations in the world still embroiled in warfare: Myanmar civil war; Israel / Palestine / Lebanon; Ukraine / Russia; Sudanese civil war; and it may surprise you to learn that the infighting of drug cartels in Mexico has resulted in sufficient casualties for it to be classed as a “major war”.

A major theme of our prayer life, both public and private, ought therefore to be peace. When the Apostle Paul urges Timothy to pray for “kings and all those in authority”, the substance of his prayer is, “that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (1 Timothy 2:2)

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God.” We may sometimes feel that there is not much we can do for world peace, but we can certainly do something about localised peace – good, positive, productive relationships with all people within our sphere of influence. And we should never underestimate the power of prayer and genuine trust in God, when it comes to things that are beyond us personally.

Jesus also said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5).

I once read that the single most revolutionary invention ever made, in the sense of radically changing the way we live our lives, was the light bulb. It meant that our day was no longer governed only by the rising and setting of the sun. Indeed, as I sit here writing after dark I can do so only thanks to the humble light bulb, which is much more effective than any number of candles.

Jesus is an eternal light in the darkness of human sin, and wherever we speak his name, proclaim his gospel, then trust God to transform hearts and minds, we have made our own small but significant contribution to peace, the peace of Christ which is beyond our understanding.

May God richly bless you all,



Douglas

CARETAKER POST

We are delighted to announce that the Church has finally managed to secure the services of Paul Davidson in the post of a part time caretaker.

Paul is well known in the Church and currently is a regular figure assisting with the AV and streaming of the services on Sundays. The photograph shows Paul after he was baptised by our former minister Rev Dr Peter Donald. He has also been involved with the Alpha Courses over the years and is currently helping in group discussions on Mondays at this year's course.

Locally Paul is well known in Sporting circles and was team captain for the Scotland U19 para football team during his school days before embarking on a successful athletics career where he competed for Great Britain in Turkey, Italy and London. He passes that experience on at the local athletics club where he helps coach junior athletes.

Paul also has a part time role with High Life Highland as a sports coach where he visits schools and clubs offering his vast knowledge and experience for children with additional support needs ensuring they do not miss out on any sports and leisure activities.

He will be a welcome addition to the Crown Church staff with his drive, friendly nature and enthusiasm and we wish him well in this new church role.



Many thanks to Charlie Forbes with whom Paul works in his HighLife Highland post for sharing this article and photograph.

Prayer Diary

November 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

November 3-9

Give thanks to God for the beautiful autumn days. Father, we praise You for the beauty of the world You have created, and we thank You for the mountains, rivers, seas, fields and animals You have given to us to enjoy. We are sorry for when we take creation for granted, and thank You today for the amazing earth. Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pray for those facing personal challenges or who may be experiencing ill health. May they know the peace and love of God's presence in their lives.

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia. Pray for opportunities, resources, and new and renewed relationships which help and support people with mental health challenges in healthier ways.

November 10-16

On Remembrance Day, pray for all the lives lost in conflicts and the impact on loved ones. Pray for peace, hope and healing for all those affected by conflicts.

Pray today for people who have recently suffered bereavement – particularly those who are mourning a family member. Ask God to give them His comfort, strength and hope as they grieve, and to know He is their comforter.

A prayer for World peace,

O God of all nations, as we look to that day when You will gather people from north, south, east and west, into the unity of Your peaceable Kingdom, guide with Your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel for the nations of the world; that all Your people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace, though Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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.

Pray for unity among our political leaders and our nation. Almighty God, we bring before you the elected representatives of the UK Assemblies and parliaments, and members of the House of Lords. Please enable them to work together honourably for the highest interests of each of our nations and be guided by the truth of Your Word.

November 17-23

Pray Psalm 139:1-2; Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:

Open our eyes to Your wonders,

That we may serve You with reverence

And know your peace at our lives' end

Though Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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'.

God Our Father, grant us stillness to pray; to acknowledge Your presence with us as we travel through this life journey.

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.

November 24 -30

Give thanks for the Advent season; for hope as we look forward to the birthday of Christ, for the experience in the joy of salvation and celebrate the feast with love and thanksgiving.

Loving God, we ask for your healing over every part of our lives – physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. We pray that you would make us strong and resilient for the days ahead. We know that you have great purpose for those who believe in your name. Help us not to allow the distractions and struggles of our days, wear us down to the point of exhaustion.

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 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

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

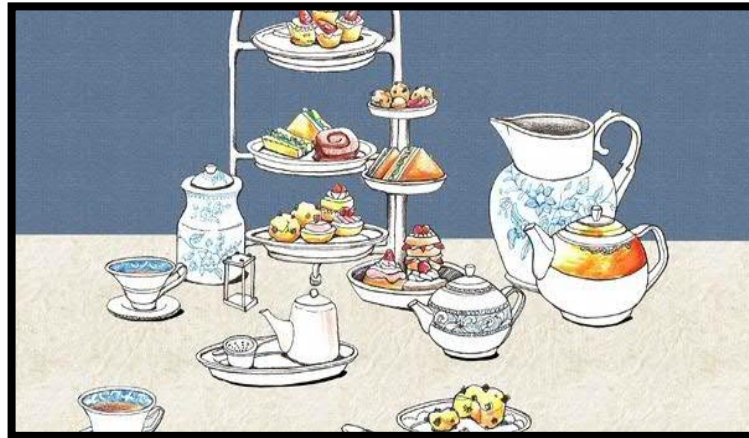


Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea

The Leprosy Mission Scotland - Inverness Area Fundraising Group wish to thank everyone who supported our recent Afternoon Tea. We are very grateful to all who attended and helped us raise over £1400 with donations still coming in .

Thank you.

Marion Barbour



Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Don't miss the next delicious Soup and Sandwich Lunch in the Upper Hall on Sunday 10th November after the 10.50am service

(It's Remembrance Sunday)

This is being run as a fund-raiser towards our new entrance doors, and there will be a bring and buy Baking Stall.



Daily Bible Readings for November

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24] God's Care for the Widow

Monday, November 4, 2024, 1 Kings 19:11-18; 2 Kings 9:30-37 Elijah Meets God

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 2 Kings 2:1-18 Elijah Ascends to Heaven and Elisha Succeeds Elijah

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 2 Kings 5:1-19 Elisha Heals Naaman

Thursday, November 7, 2024, Amos 5:18-24 Amos Prophecies Against Israel

Friday, November 8, 2024, Hosea 2:1-13 Hosea Prophecies Against Israel

Saturday, November 9, 2024, Micah 6:1-8 Micah Prophecies to Both Kingdoms

Sunday, Nov 10, 2024, Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11] Jonah and God's Mercy

Monday, November 11, 2024, Zephaniah 1:14-18 Zephaniah Prophecies Against the Kingdoms

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Nahum 1:1-11 Nahum Prophecies of God's Wrath

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, Habakkuk 3:1-19 Habakkuk Prophecies and Prays

Thursday, November 14, 2024, Jeremiah 1:1-19 God Calls Jeremiah

Friday, November 15, 2024, Ezekiel 1:1-28 Ezekiel Sees a Vision

Saturday, November 16, 2024, Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones

Sunday, November 17, 2024, Isaiah 6:1-8 God Calls Isaiah

Monday, November 18, 2024, Isaiah 11:1-10 The Peaceful Kingdom

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Isaiah 24:1-23 Impending Judgment on the Earth

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Isaiah 40:1-31 God's People Are Comforted

Thursday, November 21, 2024, Isaiah 42:10-20 A Hymn of Praise

Friday, November 22, 2024, Isaiah 52:13-53:12 The Suffering Servant

Saturday, November 23, 2024, Isaiah 55:1-13 A Promise of Abundant Life

Sunday, Nov 24, 2024, Jer 36:1-8; 21-23; 27-28; 31:31-34 God Promises a New Covenant (Reign of Christ)

Monday, November 25, 2024, Jeremiah 3:1-5; 4:1-4 Israel Is Like an Unfaithful Spouse

Tuesday, November 26, 2024, Jeremiah 8:18-9:3 Mourning for the People

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Jeremiah 16:14-21 God Will Restore Israel

Thursday, November 28, 2024, Jeremiah 18:1-11 The Potter and the Clay

Friday, November 29, 2024, Lamentations 1:1-22 Lamenting a Fallen City

Saturday, November 30, 2024, Jeremiah 30:1-24 God Will Restore Israel and Judah



Safeguarding Online Training

This training is available through the Church of Scotland website, sign up via the website under Safeguarding Service and Training. Anyone trained in 2019 or before will need to attend this training. Safeguarding Training dates will all be on Zoom.

Lynn Forbes , Safeguarding Coordinator &Trainer

Dates and the two trainers who will be delivering the training are detailed below. Where it says Trustee this was Kirk Session Training previously.

Monday 4 November	Trustee	7.00pm	Irene and Roy
Wednesday 6 November	Trustee	2.00pm	Mike and Roy
Tuesday 12 November	Advanced	7.00pm	Annette and Roy
Wednesday 13 November	Introductory	7.00pm	Annette and Irene

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 November.

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.



Puccini : Messa di Gloria

with works by
Mozart, Bruckner
& Rossini

Inverness Choral Society

CONDUCTOR Gordon Tocher

SC015219

SOLOISTS Rowan Gillard, Seamus Brady

with INVERNESS CHORAL SINFONIA and Adrian Marple

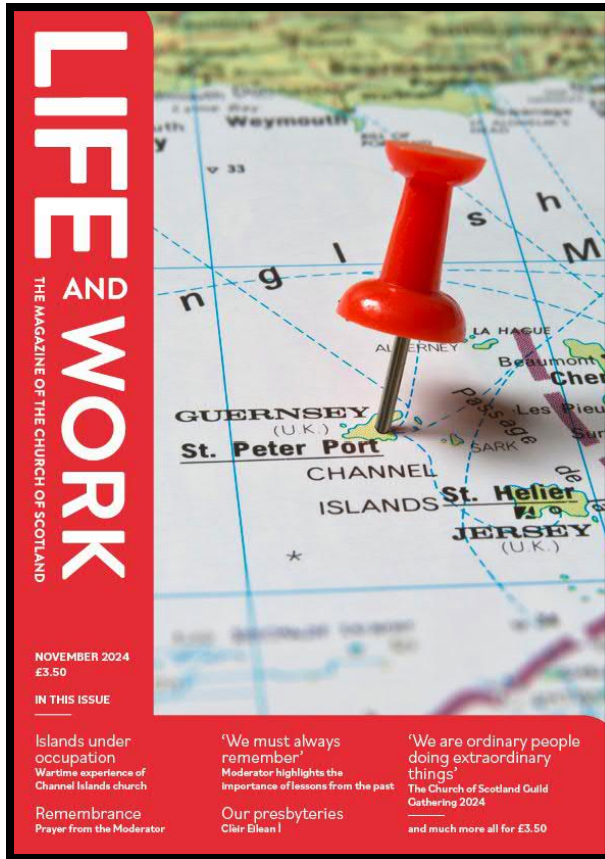
INVERNESS CATHEDRAL

Saturday 16 November 2024 at 7.30 pm

£15 (under 16 free) www.invernesschoral.org.uk or at door

LIFE AND WORK

November 2024



Remembrance

Islands Under Occupation: the wartime experience of a Channel Islands church
Remembrance Prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'

The Guild's Annual Gathering

Presbytery Focus

Clèir Eilean I, the Presbytery of the Highlands and Hebrides

Care for Buildings

The Rev Scott Rennie of the General Trustees offers some tips on care for buildings in winter.

Walking the Camino

Anne Edwards describes the experience and lessons of a Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage.

'No Room for Comfort and Joy'

The Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

Regulars

The Moderator of the General Assembly on Remembrance

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 Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Gillian McLean of Corby, Northamptonshire

Youth: Joe Liddall looks back on his experience as a summer intern at an Edinburgh church

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Welcome Team

November 3rd	Eleanor Ross, Sheena Ferguson, Alex & Heather Grant
November 10th	Eleanor Ross, Sheena Ferguson, Alex & Heather Grant
November 17th	Eleanor Ross, Sheena Ferguson, Alex & Heather Grant
November 24th	Eleanor Ross, Sheena Ferguson, Alex & Heather Grant

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

November 3rd	BB Enrolement
November 10th	David MacKenzie
November 17th	Jane Smith
November 24th	Margot Tuley

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mrs Faye Anderson, Highview Nursing Home, 20th September 2024
Mrs Pauline Lesley Rider, Tower Brae South, 17 October, 2024

*****Items for the December newsletter by Sunday 24th
November 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
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Crown Church Office: office@crow-church.co.uk 01463 231140

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

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