

# ***Newsletter***

***Crown Church, Inverness***

**December 2024 and January 2025:  
No. 806**

**Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson**



## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

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

**Sunday 8th December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 15th December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Sunday 22nd December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

**Christmas Eve 6.30pm Christmas Family Service**

**11.30pm Watch Night Service**

**Christmas Day 10.30am The Celebration of Christmas**

**Sunday 29th December** Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

### **2025**

**Sunday 5th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

**Sunday 12th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 19th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 26th January** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

**Sunday 2nd February** Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



**“ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”**

**Luke 2 :11**

## From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Crown Church,

On Sunday (Nov 24) I mentioned that it was the last Sunday of the year.

We think of "years" in many different ways. The calendar year, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> is of course the most common, but sometimes we also think of the school year, the tax year, or the football season.

The Christian year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming celebrations of the birth of Jesus. When the year is set out in a lectionary, it follows a deliberately constructed cycle to ensure that in our public worship and private devotions we cover all the major events in the life and work of Jesus, with relevant connections to Old Testament stories and the New Testament letters, every year.

So in some ways, Advent is not just a time of preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but as the New Year commences it should encourage us to think of every week, every day even, as a time of preparation to meet afresh our Lord and Saviour and to be amazed at what he can do in the lives of ordinary people.

As the days and nights get colder, may our hearts grow warmer; and may the bright lights of Christmas shine constantly in our lives.

Blessings to you all this Advent / Christmas / New Year season,

**Douglas**



## **Christmas at Crown—Calendar of Events**

**Wednesday 4th December** Concert by Inverness Singers, in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm

**Saturday 7th December** S.N.A.C. (Saturday Night at Crown), A starry night walk from Fraser Park to the Church at 5pm

**Sunday 8th December** Crown Church Choir and The Perfect Harmony Choir Joint Concert, in the Sanctuary at 3pm, including congregational singing, followed by refreshments



**Tuesday 10th December** Guild Christmas meal, Beaufort Hotel at 6.30 pm

**Friday 13th December** The Friendship Club, Christmas Party in the Sanctuary at 2pm.

**Monday 16th to Friday 20th December** The sanctuary will be open from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. to provide a space for quiet reflection and prayer

**Thursday 19th December** Toddler's Christmas service, and Party in the Sanctuary at 10.00 am. All 0-3s and their carers welcome.

**Monday 23rd December** Carol Crawl organised by Ness Bank & the Cathedral Meet at Ness Bank at 5pm

**Tuesday 24th December** Christingle Service at St John's 10.30am

**Christmas Eve 6.30pm Christmas Family Service**

**11.30pm Watch Night Service**

**Christmas Day 10.30am The Celebration of Christmas**



## Thank you all - - - -

The Crown 20/20 group is very grateful for all your support and encouragement. The two Soup and Sandwich lunches and our share of the proceeds from the recent Tabletop Sale put just over £1300 into our funds. We are planning a 'Burns' Afternoon tea with entertainment to brighten up the winter on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Note the date in your diary now, and tickets will be available from the 11<sup>th</sup> January.



### **(Soup and Sandwich Lunch Photo by Liz Gray)**

Some applications for funding have already been sent, and others are in the pipeline, but it will be several months before we know the outcomes of these.

Meanwhile others are weighing in to help us. The Toddlers were the first group to run a fundraising event -a rather snowy sponsored 'toddle' in Inverness Botanics. Then we are looking forward to the afternoon of Christmas music being put on by Perfect Harmony Choir along with our Church Choir on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The account now stands at almost £5,000. While we are delighted with large donations, we are equally pleased if people take the trouble to send us small donations -maybe on a regular basis for a few months as and when you can afford it. Each one becomes another entry under 'income' and will give the large Funders an impression of the support for our plans.

A short video is in preparation and when finished will be posted on our website to give you a closer look at the plans.

While Mums with prams and maybe a toddler in tow, and wheelchair users, will be the ones to most appreciate the planned ramp access and new automatic doors, most of us will be glad to get rid of the wind tunnel effect at the garden door on a windy morning. Perhaps the greatest benefit will be the much improved perception of the church once we are no longer hiding behind our wooden doors but showing a welcoming reception area to those passing in the street or coming in for the first time. **We are on the way!**



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Charlie Forbes**

**On your award of honorary life  
membership of Scottish Athletics.  
Very well-deserved recognition for  
40 years of inspiring coaching and  
service.**

## **Christmas Open Doors**

In the week leading up to Christmas, the church will be open each afternoon & evening from 3-6pm. The Sanctuary will be open for anyone from church or community to stop by and spend some time.

We would like to offer a warm welcome, warm drinks and to share the true spirit of Christmas in our beautifully decorated surroundings.

There will be the opportunity for anyone coming in to sit quietly or have a chat and dedicate a Christmas tree bauble too.

We will need help to staff the proceedings and are asking for volunteers to take either a three-hour shift from 3-6pm, or just do a half shift if you prefer. There will always be at least two helpers present.

The sign up sheet will be available at church on Sunday mornings.

If this is something that appeals to you or you want to know more about what's involved, please speak to Lesley or Pat.



## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Perfect Harmony Choir & Crown Church Choir**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3pm**

Admission free. Donations to Crown 20/20

Refreshments

Parking: Crown Primary School





Join us for a  
**Starry Night SNAC**

**Saturday 7th December**

Meet at Walker Park at  
5pm for a starry stroll to  
church, carols in the  
garden and festive food  
upstairs afterwards.

Bring a torch.

# *Prayer Diary*

## *December 2024 and January 2025*

**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**

### **December 8 - 14**

Give thanks to God for the Advent season as we wait in anticipation with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the homeless and those cut off from their families, in particular during those long cold winter months, that practical help be made available to meet both their physical and spiritual needs.

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 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.

### **December 15 - 21**

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

Pray for those who live alone and are lonely. Pray also for people affected by mental illness, and ask that God will grant them strength and hope for the future.

Give thanks for the opportunities that God has provided for Crown Church to be involved in some of our local schools. Pray for our Youth and Community Worker Jackie and the work of Young Crown. Pray that this side of our work continues to flourish and grow, and touch young lives, providing healing and restoration so that they can enjoy their childhood, adolescence and harness hope for their future.

Remember those in prison and pray they may feel a sense of peace and purpose as they serve their sentence. Pray that they can maintain a positive relationship with their families, wherever possible, and remembering those who have no visitors.



## **December 22 - 28**

Pray Psalm 33: 20-22: "We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His Holy name. May Your unfailing love be with us Lord, even as we put our hope in You."

Pray for those who will find the coming festive season difficult; those who have lost loved ones recently and are facing the first Christmas without them or those who spend the festive period alone. Pray that God will be with them all and provide comfort.

We rejoice at the Christmas story and give thanks for the birth of Jesus, and knowing that He came on earth and died to save us. Pray that the real meaning of Christmas is not missed, and that the precious truth remains a reality in the hearts and lives of everyone.

Pray Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

## **December 29 – January 4**

Give thanks to God for the New Year ahead, and hope and pray that each day of the coming year be filled with joy, peace and love.

Pray for all who are in care or nursing homes and for their families, friends and relatives. Give thanks for the dedications of the staff who work hard together to ensure the well-being of all people in those homes.

Pray for the ongoing work of **Crown 20/20** and for everyone involved in the development of the church facilities for supporting mission and Christian outreach in our community; Pray for the much-needed resources, the generosity of our congregation and blessings for realisation of the project.

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

## **January 5 - 11**

Pray for our hospitals. Thank God for the medical staff at our local hospital. Praise Him for the NHS and ask Him to lift the burden of busy workloads and long hours and to give the staff strength, joy and stamina to work hard and deliver excellent care to their patients.

Lift up the emergency services today and pray for the people in our daily lives who we often take for granted. Thank God for the everyday heroes who risk so much for us so that we can live safe lives, and pray for opportunities to thank them ourselves.

Give thanks for the Street Pastors and pray for spiritual guidance and strength for the work they do in helping and supporting vulnerable people in our town late in the nights.

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.

## **January 12 - 18**

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

Pray for all those living with addictions; for assurance that there is a way forward and that they can lead strong and fulfilling lives.

Pray 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. 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.

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

## **January 19 - 25**

Pray for practical and political help for all those suffering from fuel poverty and for those most at risk in the cold. Ask God to open our eyes to neighbours or other people in our community who are perhaps struggling to heat their homes, and whether there's anything we can do to help.

Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia.

Lord Jesus, You come to us as Prince of Peace. Teach us to know Your reconciling way. Help us to be curious about others' stories. Give us the courage to be present. Inspire us to reimagine what's possible – finding hope by glimpsing You at work. Amen

Pray for people living in fear in their own homes to be able to ask for help. Ask God to provide help for healing of the physical and psychological wounds of those who are suffering domestic violence, and pray for health and social care services, and the police, to be able to keep vulnerable people safe.

## **January 26 – February 1**

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.

Lord, help us not to lean on our own understanding but in everything acknowledge You so that You can direct our words, thoughts and actions, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

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

### **January 29 – February 4**

Offer a prayer of personal thanks to God today: Lord, I thank You for prayer – that I can come before You and call You Father; that You listen to me and care about everything I bring before You. Today, above all else, I choose to give You thanks.

Pray for God's revival in our community and congregation. Ask God to open the eyes of the people around us, that they would see His unfailing love and sense His powerful presence and purpose for our lives. Pray for each and every member of the congregation, that God's spirit continues to flow throughout their lives whatever their circumstances; Pray that each of us will place God at the centre of our lives and seek Him and His purpose in our lives. Pray for our neighbours, for people who live alone, for people who are struggling with illness and for God's peace to fall on them. Pray for protection and safety over our neighbours' homes and families, and ask God to give us opportunities and courage to share His love with those around us.

**If you have particular prayer requests for February 2025 please do send them to our *church administrator, Fiona* who will pass them on, or e-mail **Jude Madeleine; [judedmond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judedmond@yahoo.co.uk)****



**At the 9.30am service on Remembrance Sunday we thought about parts of the world where there is conflict and loss of life.**

# Boys Brigade Christmas Fundraiser Friday 13th December



3<sup>rd</sup> Inverness Boys Brigade

Christmas Fundraiser

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Upper Hall

6.30pm Start

ENTRY: £2.00

"SNOWMAN" DRIVE



- HAT (1)
- SCARF (1)
- ARMS (2)
- BUTTONS (4)
- BODY (2)
- HEAD (1)

CHRISTMAS QUIZ



PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS



## CHRISTMAS GIFT OF POTMUMS



Christmas is coming and once again Crown Church will gift 'Potmums' to those unable to attend church. Dobbies Garden Centre at Inshes, have supplied and delivered the plants at a discount for the last 12 years. This branch of Dobbies is now closing, but special thanks are due to their staff throughout this time.

Stepping into the breach is Simpsons Garden Centre and it has been a pleasure to deal with their staff. The plants will be delivered to the Church on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> December ready to be picked up by Elders and delivered on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Those who are delivering are reminded that there will be little cards to be delivered with the plants and that a good idea is to arrive with sufficient poly bags to make carrying easier.

Thank you

**Ann Johnston**



## CHRISTMAS GREENERY


The flower arrangers plan to decorate the church on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10 am. They would be very grateful for donations of greenery, i.e. ivy, holly and conifer. Please leave them in the church either on the Friday or Saturday, or ring Ruby on 225467 and she will gladly collect.



# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH  
AND  
COMMUNITY CHOIRS

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER  
AND  
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER  
7.30PM

 ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH  
MUSICAL DIRECTORS:  
PAM MCCULLOCH  
AND  
ALYN ROSS



Old High St Stephen's  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## Daily Bible Readings for December and January

### **Sunday, December 1, 2024, Daniel 6:6-27 Daniel's Hope in God**

Monday, December 2, 2024, Daniel 2:1-49 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, Daniel 3:1-30 The Fiery Furnace

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Daniel 5:1-30 Belshazzar's Feast

Thursday, December 5, 2024, Daniel 7:1-28 Visions of Four Beasts

Friday, December 6, 2024, Daniel 9:20-27 Seventy Weeks

Saturday, December 7, 2024, Daniel 12:1-13 The Resurrection of the Dead

### **Sunday, December 8, 2024, Joel 2:12-13; 28-29 God's Promised Spirit**

Monday, December 9, 2024, Ezra 1:1-11 End of Babylonian Captivity

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, Joel 1:1-12 Lament over the Ruined Country

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Joel 1:13-20 Call to Repentance and God's Response

Thursday, December 12, 2024, Ezra 6:13-22 Dedication of the Temple

Friday, December 13, 2024, Nehemiah 8:1-12 Ezra Restores Torah as Law

Saturday, December 14, 2024, Nehemiah 12:27-47 Dedication of Jerusalem's Wall

### **Sunday, December 15, 2024, Isaiah 61:1-11 Spirit of the Lord upon Me**

Monday, December 16, 2024, Isaiah 63:7-14 God Is Gracious

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Isaiah 63:15-64:12 Prayer of Repentance

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, Isaiah 65:17-25 New Creation

Thursday, December 19, 2024, Obadiah 1:1-21 Edom's Betrayal and Israel's Restoration

Friday, December 20, 2024, Zechariah 12:1-13:1 Jerusalem's Victory

Saturday, December 21, 2024, Malachi 3:1-7

### **Sunday, December 22, 2024, Luke 1:26-45 [46-56] Jesus' Birth Announced**

Monday, December 23, 2024, Luke 1:1-4 Introduction to Luke

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Birth of Jesus (Christmas Eve)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024, Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds Visit (Christmas Day)

Thursday, December 26, 2024, Luke 1:5-25 An Angel Tells Zechariah of John's Birth

Friday, December 27, 2024, Luke 1:46-56 Mary's Song

Saturday, December 28, 2024, Luke 1:57-66 Birth of John the Baptist

**Sunday, December 29, 2024, Luke 2:21-38 Simeon and Anna**

Monday, December 30, 2024, Psalm 131 Psalm

Tuesday, December 31, 2024, Luke 2:39-40 Jesus Grew in Wisdom

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 2 Kings 19:20-34 Isaiah Brings an Answer to Hezekiah's Prayer

Thursday, January 2, 2025, Leviticus 12:1-8 Purification of a Woman after Childbirth

Friday, January 3, 2025, Exodus 13:1-16 The Law Concerning Dedication of Firstborns

Saturday, January 4, 2025, Numbers 3:40-51 Levites Become Substitutes for Firstborns

**Sunday, January 5, 2025, Luke 2:41-52 Boy in the Temple**

Monday, January 6, 2025, Psalm 2:7-8 The Son's Inheritance

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, Isaiah 42:1-9 God's Servant

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, Exodus 23:10-17 Laws Concerning Festivals

Thursday, January 9, 2025, Psalm 113 God the Helper of the Needy

Friday, January 10, 2025, Psalm 96 Praise to God Who Comes in Judgment

Saturday, January 11, 2025, Psalm 123 Supplication for Mercy

**Sunday, January 12, 2025, Luke 3:1-22 Jesus' Baptism (Baptism of Our Lord)**

Monday, January 13, 2025, Luke 3:23-38 Genealogy of Jesus

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Luke 4:1-13 Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, O Comfort My People

Thursday, January 16, 2025, Isaiah 52:1-12 God Will Restore Jerusalem

Friday, January 17, 2025, 1 Kings 19:1-9a Elijah's Flight

Saturday, January 18, 2025, Deuteronomy 6:4-15 Hear, O Israel

**Sunday, January 19, 2025, Luke 4:14-30 Sermon at Nazareth**

Monday, January 20, 2025, Luke 4:31-37 Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Luke 4:38-39 Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, Luke 4:40-44 Jesus Heals and Casts Out Demons

Thursday, January 23, 2025, Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord

Friday, January 24, 2025, 1 Kings 17:8-16 Elijah Helps a Widow

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 2 Kings 5:1-14 Elisha Heals Naaman



**Sunday, January 26, 2025, Luke 5:1-11 Fish for People**

Monday, January 27, 2025, Luke 5:12-16 Jesus Cleanses a Leper

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, Luke 5:17-26 Jesus Heals a Paralytic

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, Luke 5:27-32 Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew)

Thursday, January 30, 2025, Luke 5:33-39 The Question about Fasting

Friday, January 31, 2025, Isaiah 43:14-21 God Does a New Thing

Saturday, February 1, 2025, Isaiah 43:25--44:5 God Forgives Sins

**Sunday, February 2, 2025, Luke 6:1-16 Healing on the Sabbath**

Monday, February 3, 2025, Luke 6:17-26 Jesus Teaches and Heals

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Luke 6:27-30 Love for Enemies - Part I

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, Luke 6:31-38 Love for Enemies - Part II

Thursday, February 6, 2025, Luke 6:39-42 Love for Enemies - Part III

Friday, February 7, 2025, Luke 6:43-49 A Tree and Its Fruit

Saturday, February 8, 2025, Luke 8:1-3 Women Follow Jesus



## The Guild



Our first meeting in October had a good turnout of members. We welcomed Judith Macleod who came to tell us about her week in Iona. We saw lovely pictures of the island, the abbey and chapel and their visit to the nearby island of Staffa. We were delighted with the pictures of the puffins!

22nd October saw us at the Haven at Smithton. We were very impressed with the lovely building though we did not get a guided tour because there were some children there at the time. We did have a very welcome cup of coffee and sampled their home baking.

We enjoyed afternoon tea at Fairways on Tuesday 5th November. This is always a very popular outing as we get the chance to sit and chat in different surroundings. On the 11th of November Jill Meighan and Hilary Watt from Fairtrade came to tell us about the aims of Fairtrade and how we can all contribute to this very worthy initiative. The Co-op seems to be the supermarket that has most Fairtrade products on offer.

Christmas is coming and we will hold our Christmas meal out at the Beaufort Hotel on the 10th December at 6:30pm. A good turnout is assured.

After a New Year break, our first meeting of 2025 is a return to Fairways.

**Dorothy Mein**

## Crown Church Conference January 2024

The Church Conference will be held in January 2025. The date is yet to be finalised but will be in the weekly notices later this month.





The Church of Scotland

# STAMP APPEAL 2024-2025

**Firmly Planted  
- collect your  
stamps to support  
Malawi project.**



Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' Galatians 6:9

## **Firmly Planted: Agroforestry for Sustainability**

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. The initiative will resource individual groups to respond to the various challenges affecting Malawi today.

Agroforestry presents an opportunity to address challenges of food insecurity, deforestation, climate change and youth unemployment. Tree nurseries create employment opportunities, fruit trees improve nutrition and wider tree planting helps mitigate the impact of the climate crisis, in turn improving agricultural productivity.

Firmly Planted will provide community-based training tailored to the community's needs, ensuring woodlots are well maintained to have the greatest chance to thrive. The programme, through effective distribution, looks to attain large-scale tree planting of locally relevant woodlots – these could be linked to schools, churches, clinics and community groups. Having already established a pilot tree nursery, CCAP is looking to replicate this across the Synods by implementing Central Tree Nursery Hubs allowing each nursery to grow tree seedlings based on the needs of their communities.

Our mission partner, Gary Brough, is one of the project coordinators and is looking for opportunities to grow the project. You can keep up to date with Gary's work on the Mission Partner page of the website. The Guild is also involved in supporting this programme.

This year stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing the tree nurseries.

The Church is continuing to use the sale of stamps to fund its international work.

If you wish to support the Crown Church's contribution to this work please collect stamps from your mail and drop them into the collection boxes in the vestibules of the church. Please separate the stamps into different bags for UK and other countries.

**Liz Munro**

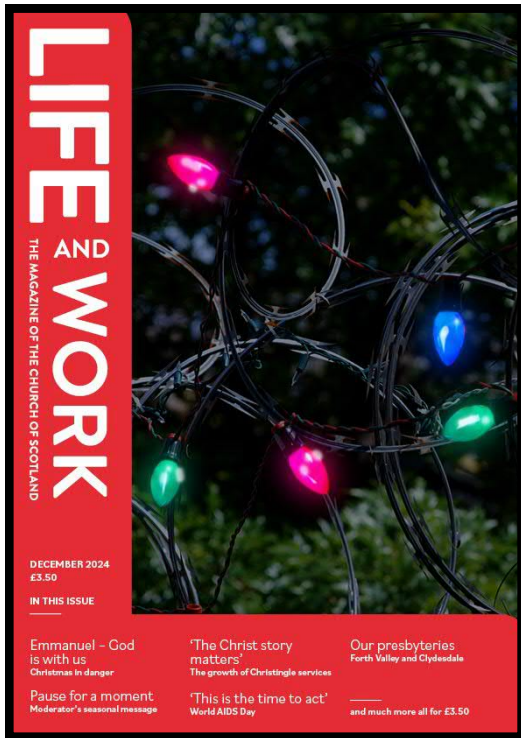
## **CHRISTMAS POST**

If you are planning to send Christmas Greetings to other members of the Congregation this year, you might like to leave them in the Church Pigeonholes, and save postage!



# LIFE AND WORK

## DECEMBER



### Christmas

How churches in the midst of conflict or danger are marking Christmas

Lynne McNeil learns about the growth of Christingle services

Seasonal message from the Moderator

### Time to Act

As World AIDS Day approaches, Carol Finlay highlights the need for vigilance

### Our Presbyteries

Forth Valley and Clydesdale

### Letter from the Holy Land

The Rev Dr Stewart Gillan emphasises the need to keep the light shining, 'piercing the darkness together'.

### A Trusted Friend

Walter Scott and Anira Phipon Lepcha reflect on the life and legacy of Walter's great, great, great aunt, Mary Scott, a missionary in the Eastern Indian Himalayas.

### Regulars

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: Connie Anderson of Duror Church, North Argyll

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## **Welcome Team**

<b>December 1st</b>	John & Marion Barbour, Helen Boynton, Brian MacGill
<b>December 8th</b>	John & Marion Barbour, Jane Wilson, Helen Boynton,
<b>December 15th</b>	John & Marion Barbour, Sheona & Brian MacKenzie
<b>December 22nd</b>	John & Marion Barbour, Sheona & Brian MacKenzie
<b>December 24th</b>	<b>6.30pm</b> Lynn Forbes, Jane Smith <b>11.30pm</b>
<b>December 25th</b>	Margot Tuley, Jane Smith
<b>December 29th</b>	Frank & Sally McCubbin, Lynn Forbes
<b>January 5th</b>	Jane Wilson, Helen Boynton, Jean Smith, Elspeth Gibson
<b>January 12th</b>	Helen B, Elspeth Gibson, Margot Tuley, Sheona Mackenzie
<b>January 19th</b>	Jane Wilson, Helen Boynton, Jean Smith, Elspeth Gibson
<b>January 26th</b>	Elspeth Gibson, Margot Tuley, Sheona & Brian Mackenzie

**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.**

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**Items for the February newsletter by Sunday 26th January  
please!**

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

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

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**Minister** Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054

drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Crown Church Office:** office@[crowns-church.co.uk](mailto:office@crowns-church.co.uk) 01463 231140

**Session Clerk** Bob Forrest: sessionclerk@[crowns-church.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@crowns-church.co.uk)

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