

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

March 2025: No. 808

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 2nd March

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

Sunday 9th March

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 16th March

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 23rd March

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 30th March

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 6th April

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



'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity'

Psalm 133:1



Young Crown Update

S.N.A.C.

Saturday night at Crown resumed after the summer break in September 2024. Over the winter months we had a Party theme night, a Sausage Sizzler, and Halloween crafts with sparklers. Each night was well attended with lots of tasty food donations from those attending. SNAC is a great night where the community get together for stories, games, crafts and conversation over food. We finished 2024 with a Starry Night Walk, then pasta and sweets in the upper hall and games in the Sanctuary. To start 2025 we had a Burns inspired night of 'haggis an stovies' and this month we look forward to an Oriental evening.

Toddlers

Our Toddler group continues to run on a Wednesday and Thursday morning. Last year we remained open through the summer and autumn holidays which was much appreciated by the families. The parents say that they like to come to Crown Church Toddlers because it's a good space, not too overcrowded with a calm atmosphere.



In November last year I arranged a Toddler fund raiser in aid of the 20/20 fund where parents gathered sponsors for and walked around the Islands. There was a total of £190.00 raised which was really great as it was the first day of our winter snow and not many attended. It has been suggested that we could do another this year in the Spring.

In the run up to Christmas we had a snowy/Christmas theme with snowballs, winter animals and Christmas themed carols, nursery rhymes, and crafts. We have many young babies who loved crawling on the snow mat and playing with the snowballs. There was a joint Christmas Service for the Toddlers and Crown Primary Nursery with a Nativity theme and crafts. Lots of donkey, star and angel headbands were made by the children who took part by delivering a candle to the crib in the nativity scene. Afterwards Toddlers had a Christmas party with Santa, party food and presents. Parents took along homemade snowman sweets and oranges filled with jelly which were delicious. A big thanks to Bob Shanks for being Santa, the children really enjoyed it.

Christmas Pop up Nativity at the Church

There were many visitors who attended the 6.30pm Christmas Eve service where a Pop up Nativity was played out by children who played kings and angels and adults. Liz and Charlie Forbes played Shepherds. The nativity story was planned by Pat

Crippin, Rev Douglas Robertson and myself. On the evening Crown Church was very atmospheric with special lighting by Gordon Cameron. It was a special night with a short talk and prayers lead by Rev Douglas Robertson.

Santa at Toddlers



Christmas Eve 6.30pm Service



Millburn Hot Chocolate Lunchtime Club

The club runs each Thursday at Millburn Academy and it is well attended by the children at school. The children are served hot chocolate and are given the opportunity to share a prayer in a prayer box or we are there to chat. There is a rota of helpers who belong to various denominations and we all take it in turn to assist. There has recently been interest shown by the school to run 'Chaplaincy led assemblies' and as far as I am aware this is in the planning. There was a Christmas message recorded and downloaded to watch at assembly by the staff who run the Hot Chocolate Club which went well.

Scripture Union Friday Lunchtime Club

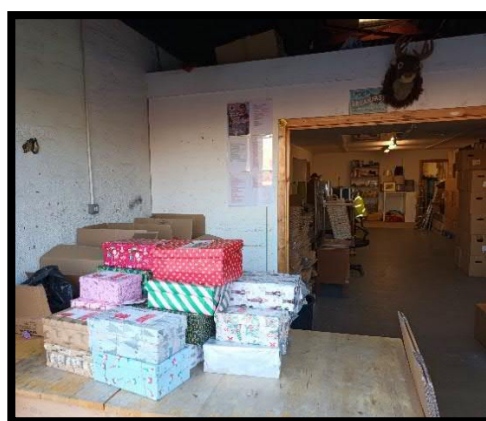
Every Friday during school term I run a Scripture Union Club at Crown Primary. I have 15 children who have registered to attend and there are about 8 on average who attend regularly. I follow material 'The Beginning' and each week we are moving through key stories such as Creation, Sin, The Flood. Presently we are working our way through the ancient family tree of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and now at Joseph's coat of many colours. It has been a journey for me with the children



who are always engaged and enthusiastic. As part of my time at Crown Primary the children have planted propagators with a variety of seeds. Many thanks to Irene Munro, Bob Forrest and Douglas Wilson who donated the propagators. The seeds are already beginning to grow and take over and will be moved to the outside green house with the intention of planting out to the school's raised beds. The children are all very keen gardeners.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Mrs Miriam MacDonald the Head teacher at Crown Primary was keen to get the children and families to collect everyday essentials to send to Eastern Europe in shoe boxes with Blythswood. I arranged an assembly, and a Blythswood member came to talk to the children about the role of Blythswood. I collected around 20 boxes which were delivered to the depot with assistance from the children.



Children packing boxes on way to Eastern Europe

Visit to Cameron Barracks, Inverness to talk to the Afghanistan refugee families in October 2024

I was made aware by one of the Mums at toddlers of the arrival of Afghanistan refugee families who were housed at Cameron Barracks. I planned to invite the families to toddlers, the main reason being to extend the hand of friendship and with the thought that we might through communication help the children with their English.

I contacted LT COL (Rtd) Brian Ross and I was invited to speak to the ladies at their weekly meeting with army representatives and an Afghan translator. I took along a short power point presentation of the church and toddler group so the families might better understand. There were 6 adults, all ladies and up to 10 children. The children and I learned an autumn nursery rhyme and I made felt leaves which the children were keen to keep. The ladies were very interested and asked lots of questions through their interpreter. There were no children under 3 years old in attendance and a couple of the woman had families of 5/6 children. The ladies wanted to know if the older children at primary school age could attend, and I advised them that the group is geared towards 0-3years but that they were all welcome to come along in the October holidays to see the group and the church. Their welfare is largely covered by government/army who made a commitment to protect the Afghan people who worked for the British Army during the Afghan war. Since the removal of British army the Taliban have taken control and many Afghan people fear for their life and are living in Britain for their protection.

At our meeting the ladies hoped they might attend Crown Church Toddlers but I suspect they did not come due to not having children under 3 years old and they appeared apprehensive.

Monday Club at Kinmyles Church of Scotland

I assist most Mondays Term Time at the Monday Club at Kinmylies, Church of Scotland. There are 40 children from primary 1-7 who attend this club, so it is well attended and it has a long waiting list! Anne Gunn is the family's worker there and is glad of the help. It is good experience for me which I find very rewarding.

Youth Alpha at Crown.

This year 2025, there will be a Youth Alpha course running at Crown Church we are planning for a Sunday Evening, starting 2nd March. This course is designed to give young people space to explore their questions about life, faith and purpose.

Sweaty Church

'In the Beginning' was the theme for the first Sweaty Church of 2025 at Old High St Stephen's Church. The event was run by Christine, Sylvia, Jack and myself and all the ladies who provided food. 25 children were there including some new faces. The children listened to a story about creation, had a craft activity and played sport games, and then had pizza, sandwiches, fruit, crisps and juice.

Jackie Mackenzie

Young Crown Children and Families Play worker

Saturday Night At Crown on Saturday 1st March will have a touch of the Orient about it. We're travelling to China (in our minds!) and the food will have a Chinese / Thai / Far Eastern flavour. Using chopsticks optional!

Do come and join us. Everyone welcome. 5-7pm.



SNAC

Saturday Night At Crown

Saturday 1st

March

5-7pm

**Join us on a trip
to the Orient**

**Children bring
your parents!**

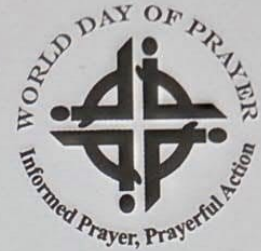
World Day of Prayer Service
Friday 7th March
Crown Church at 10.30am

Prepared this year by a group from the Cook Islands. Look them up! In There will be an offering taken during the service. Please stay on for teas/coffees afterwards.

All Welcome

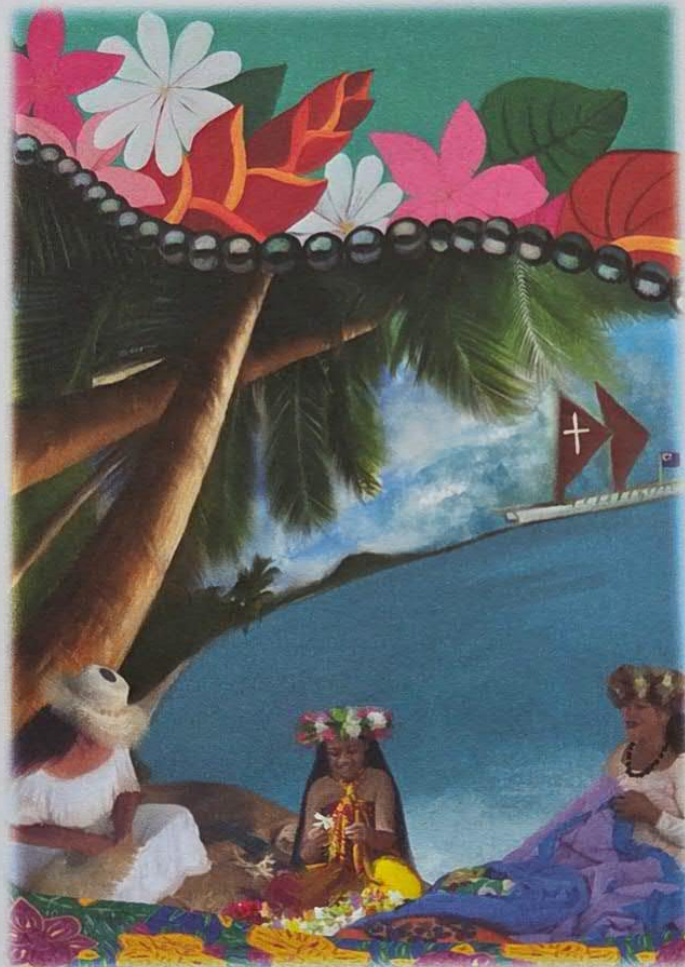
World Day of Prayer

March 7th, 2025



“I Made You Wonderful”

Psalm 139 : 14



Worship Service

Prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands

Daily Bible Readings for March

Sunday, March 2, 2025, Luke 9:28-45 Transfiguration

Monday, March 3, 2025, Luke 9:46-48 Who Is Greatest

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, Luke 9:49-50 Whoever Is Not Against You Is For You

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, Luke 9:51-62 The Challenge of Following (Ash Wednesday)

Thursday, March 6, 2025, Luke 10:1-12 Mission of the Seventy

Friday, March 7, 2025, Luke 10:13-16 Woes to Unrepentant Cities

Saturday, March 8, 2025, Luke 10:17-24 Seventy Return and Jesus Rejoices

Sunday, March 9, 2025, Luke 10:25-42 Good Samaritan

Monday, March 10, 2025, Luke 11:1-26 The Lord's Prayer and Persistence in Prayer

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Luke 11:27-54 Jesus Criticizes Pharisees and Lawyers

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Luke 12:1-21 Parable of the Rich Fool

Thursday, March 13, 2025, Luke 12:22-34 Do Not Worry

Friday, March 14, 2025, Luke 12:35-48 Be Alert

Saturday, March 15, 2025, Luke 12:49-59 Jesus the Cause of Division

Sunday, March 16, 2025, Luke 13:1-9; 31-35 Lament over Jerusalem

Monday, March 17, 2025, Luke 13:10-17 Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, Luke 13:18-30 Parables

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Luke 14:1-6 Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

Thursday, March 20, 2025, Luke 14:7-14 Parable of a Wedding Banquet

Friday, March 21, 2025, Luke 14:15-24 Parable of a Great Dinner

Saturday, March 22, 2025, Luke 14:25-35 The Cost of Discipleship

Sunday, March 23, 2025, Luke 15:1-32 Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

Monday, March 24, 2025, Deuteronomy 21:15-17 The Law of the Firstborn's Inheritance

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Deuteronomy 21:18-21 Stoning a Rebellious Son

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, Psalm 51 Penitent's Psalm

Thursday, March 27, 2025, Proverbs 21:1-5 A Righteous Heart

Friday, March 28, 2025, Luke 16:1-13 The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

Saturday, March 29, 2025, Luke 16:14-18 The Kingdom of God

Sunday, March 30, 2025, Luke 16:19-31 Rich Man and Lazarus

Monday, March 31, 2025, Luke 17:1-10 Sayings of Jesus

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, Luke 17:11-19 Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, Luke 17:20-37 The Coming of the Kingdom

Thursday, April 3, 2025, Luke 18:1-8 The Widow and the Unjust Judge

Friday, April 4, 2025, Luke 18:9-17 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Saturday, April 5, 2025, Luke 18:18-30 The Rich Ruler

Sunday, April 6, 2025, Luke 18:31—19:10 Zacchaeus

Monday, April 7, 2025, Luke 19:11-28 Parable of the Ten Pounds

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Luke 19:45- 20:8 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Luke 20:9-19 Parable of Wicked Tenants

Thursday, April 10, 2025, Luke 20:20-47 Jesus is Questioned

Friday, April 11, 2025, Luke 21:1-19 The Widow's Offering

Saturday, April 12, 2025, Luke 21:20-38 Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold



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THE LAUNCHPAD BIG BOOKSALE

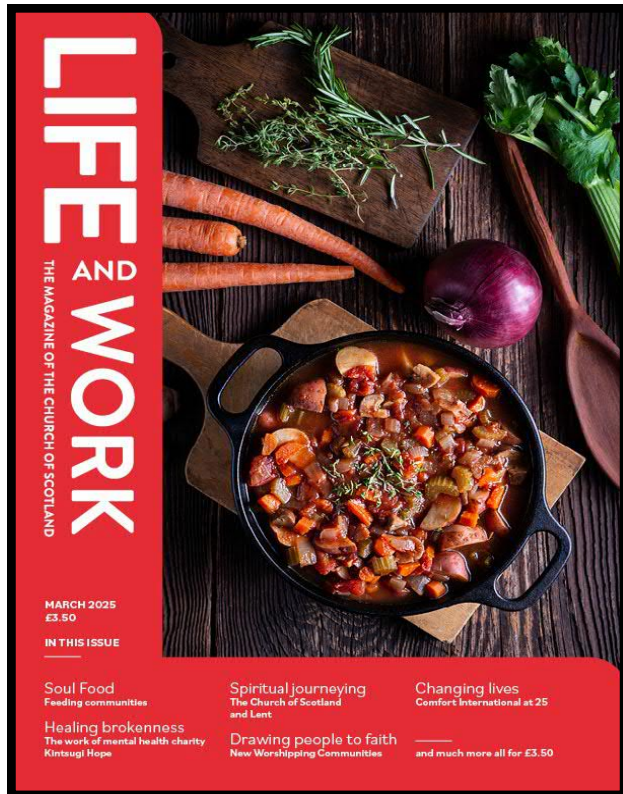
A huge thank you to everyone who donated books for the Big Booksale. The total taken is just over £1000!

This year, instead of giving most of the leftover books to the Hospice, and/or Blythwood, we are donating many of the novels to Crown 20/20, who have been offered the charity shelves in the Boots' Pharmacy at Kingsmills to sell second hand books. Many of the unsold non fiction books went to Munloch Animal Aid, and some to the Hospice.



LIFE AND WORK

MARCH



Served with Soul

A partnership between a West Lothian church and a charity offering companionship and meals to the local community.

Healing Brokenness

The work of mental health charity Kintsugi Hope.

Spiritual Journeying

The Church of Scotland and Lent.

Drawing People to Faith

Two more of the Church of Scotland's New Worshipping Communities.

Shining the Light of God's Love

The story of a life transformed by one of the Church's Priority Area congregations.

Supporting Religious Education

A milestone for a Scottish Christian education charity.

Changing Lives

The work of Comfort International, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

Regulars

The Moderator reflects on how God can be found in unlikely places

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Rachel McWilliam, an elder at Edinburgh: Greenbank

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Welcome Team

March 2nd Brian Macgill, Margot Tuley, Marcus Welsh (BB), Julie Welsh

March 9th Brian Macgill, Brian & Sheona MacKenzie, Jimmy Gray

March 16th Brian Macgill, Val Little, John & Marion Barbour

March 23rd Brian Macgill, Brian & Sheona MacKenzie, Val Little

March 30th Brian Macgill, Val Little

April 6th Sheena Ferguson, Douglas & Jane Wilson, John/Marion Barbour

Readers

March 2nd Brian Macgill

March 9th Isabelle MacKenzie

March 16th Richard Ardern

March 23rd Ella Low

March 30th David Crippin

March 2nd Lesley McRoberts

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.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Mr John Finlayson, St Olaf Care Home Nairn, formerly of Drummond Road, 28th January 2025

Mr Bill Mein, Beaufort Road, 15th February 2025

Mrs Marline MacKenzie, Castlehill Care Home, formerly of Diriebught Road, 20th February 2025

Congratulations



Congratulations to Mrs Greta Ross who celebrates her 97th Birthday on the 25th of February 2025

Items for the April newsletter by Sunday 30th March please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

newsletter@crown-church.co.uk

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