

## Crown Church, Inverness

April 2025 : No. 809

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 6th April	Morning Worship at 9.30 am and at 11.00am followed by special prayers
Palm Sunday 13th April	Morning Worship at 10.30am (Procession from Fraser Park at 10.00am)
Maundy Thursday 17th April Service at 7:30p m with the Sacrament of Holy	

aundy Thursday 17th April Service at 7:30p.m with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 20th April Morning Worship at 10.30 am

Sunday 27th April Sunday 4th May Morning Worship at 9.30am and at 11.00am

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



'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead' 1 Peter 1:3

#### **From the Minister**

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,

Springtime has sprung and the clocks have jumped forward an hour so "British Summer Time" is now official. This is a beautiful time of year, when flowers flower, the sun glows warmer, the days are getting longer and lambs will soon be cavorting in the fields.

We are also fast approached Easter. I've always enjoyed the coming together of signs and symbols of new life, representing a new beginning, a fresh start as love arises out of human sin and conquers the winter of guilt and judgment with the springtime of mercy, forgiveness and grace.



And yet, Easter, in its truest sense, is not dependent on the season of the year. Rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus is not an annual event for those of us who believe, nor is it a weekly event on Sunday, it ought to be an everyday, every moment attitude of prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Philippians 2:5-11 captures very well, and very succinctly, the essence of both Christmas and Easter, the humility and sacrifice of Jesus, and the triumph of God's power over sin and death.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Wherever the birds are migrating to, whether the flowers are just seeds in the ground or open petals, whether the sun is shining or a storm is raging, whatever season we are in and whatever day of the week it is, this must be our Christian ambition: to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Wishing you every blessing,

#### Douglas

#### **Crown Church Conference**

The half-day conference took place as planned on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The theme of the conference was "*Care for the Planet*" and provided a really useful opportunity to discuss a wide range of environmental issues, both personal and relating to the work of the church. Members from both Crown Church and Old High St Stephens participated.

The morning was opened by the minister who provided a very thoughtful insight into the biblical background which encourages us to "*care for the planet*".

This was followed by 2 very informative and thought provoking short talks taking us round a range of issues. The first of these was provided by Elkie Kammer and the second by the Reverend Judith MacLeod.

The conference then broke up into small groups to discuss essentially 2 questions:

Question 1. What can we do as individuals to care for the planet? and;

Question 2. What can we do as a church to care for the planet?

We then had a plenary session where the thoughts of the groups were shared by the conference generally.

This was followed by a short communion service led by the Reverend Morven Archer.

Many thanks to those who attended and made it such a valuable morning. Particular thanks are due to Brian Macgill who organised the conference and, of course, to the speakers.

I have placed the materials which were used for the conference on the Crown church website and they will also appear on the Crown church Facebook page. You can read, at your leisure, not just the materials which were used for the short talks but also the conclusions which the conference reached.

Well done everyone!

#### **Bob Forrest**

#### **Services for Easter at Crown Church**



#### Palm Sunday 13th April

There will be **one** morning service in Crown Church at **10.30 a.m.** 

Prior to the Service there will be a Palm Sunday Procession from Fraser Park to the Church. Meet at the park at 10am. Bring something to wave.

#### Maundy Thursday 17th April

A communal meal to be held in the Sanctuary at Crown Church at 6:30 p.m followed by a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30p.m which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

#### **Good Friday 18th April**

In conjunction with other Churches in Inverness there will be a joint service outside the Town House. Congregations to gather at their own Church at 10.30am and make their way to the Town House.

#### Easter Sunday 20th April

There will be a 'Sunrise Service' at the Ness Islands at 6.00am followed by breakfast served in Crown Church at 7.30am. Please note there will be **one** morning service in Crown Church at **10.30 a.m.** 

## **OPEN DOORS**

## The Sanctuary will be open during Holy Week from 12noon until 5pm



Doug and Lesley McRoberts, together with their Bible Study Group, will once again be leading an Easter Sunrise celebration service at Ness Islands, and anyone in the area on Easter Sunday is welcome to join them. There will be singing, Easter readings and prayers, and a sharing of bread. The date, of course, is 20<sup>th</sup> April, and it will start at 6.00am – just a few minutes after official sunrise which is at 05.53am!

Ness Islands (postcode IV2 4QN) can be accessed from the west side of the River Ness from Bught Avenue, approaching past Inverness Leisure Centre, where parking is easily available, or from Island Bank Road on the east side.

Afterwards, there will be the option of breakfast at Crown Church from 7.30 am, with bacon rolls and other good stuff.

If you'd like to come to the breakfast, please let Doug or Lesley know so that those catering can ensure there's enough for everyone!



## Prayer Diary April 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

#### <u>April 6-12</u>

Pray for all those affected by the severe earthquake impacting Myanmar, Thailand and China, with so many are feared dead or injured.

Pray for the rescue and emergency services, for international aid and support for all those affected.

For the people of Myanmar who have already been affected by the civil war. They have already experienced the coup, some have been displaced, there has been economic hardship and now a natural disaster.

Pray for peace and provision of aid and basic need, that they are able to experience God's goodness and remember that God does not abandon them.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday and go through Holy Week, we give thanks to God for his love, goodness and mercy; Praise God for the shining light in our lives, through the suffering and resurrection of Christ.

#### April 13-19

Give thanks to God for the new season, for brighter weather and the reminder of renewal and fresh life; For all the goodness and beauty of His creation.

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.

As we celebrate a blessed and joy-filled Easter, pray to God to sharpen our visions and brighten our views of the world with renewed hope for the coming of his Kingdom.

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.

Give thanks that each of us are made in God's image and are of great value to him.

#### April 20-26

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.

In times of stress, hardship and pain may those who offer comfort be blessed with the Lord's guidance, taking strength from knowing that they do His work: bringing hope, charity and love to all they meet.

Pray Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced 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".

On this day 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Earth Day, praise God today for the earth that He has gifted to us, and all the beautiful plants and animals He has created for us to enjoy. Commit to caring for every part of God's creation, and ask Him to prompt us to be a good steward of the earth. Pray for the advancement of conservation and renewable energy and that our governments will prioritise looking after our earth.

### April 27 – May 3

Gracious God, when the clouds hide Your light, and the darkness unsteadies our faith with fear, help us to hold on to You by the thread of one thankful prayer at a time: thankful for air to breathe, for memories of goodness, for people who care, for the promises You have made and for the plans You have for us to give us a future and a hope. Amen

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. May they know that they are helped in the palm of God's hand.

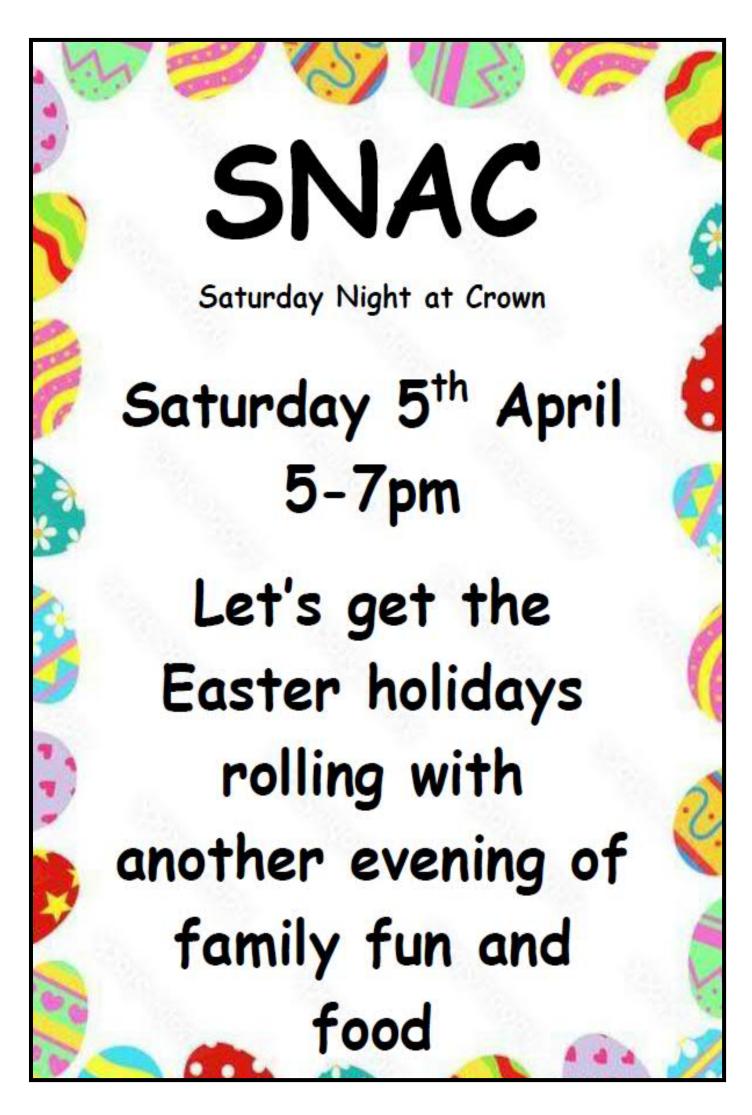
Pray for those who are suffering from stigma and discrimination; may they be shown compassion and understanding.

Pray for those who are suffering from the effects of alcohol and substance abuse; may God guide them to the right support and services for healing and recovery. Pray for their families who are also affected.

If you have particular prayer requests for May 2025 please do send them to our *Church Administrator,* Fiona Gordon on

e-mail:office@crown-church.co.uk who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk







An exhibition of original design work in Crown Church

> Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 12 - 5 pm

Prizes for Best In Section: Under 16

Adult

Family / Group

Photos, drawing, painting, poetry, needlework, models, garden in a shoebox ...and more welcome!



Entries to Jackie at Crown Church Office by Sunday 13th April



#### SAVE THE DATE !

It's that time of year again – the BB company are on the final stretches to our end of year display and parents' night!!

## Display Night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 7pm

#### **Daily Bible Readings for April**

#### 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

## Sunday, April 13, 2025, Luke 19:29-44 Triumphal Entry (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Monday, April 14, 2025, Luke 22:28-46 Journey to the Cross - Part I Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Luke 22:47-71 Journey to the Cross - Part II Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Luke 23:1-31 Journey to the Cross - Part III Thursday, April 17, 2025, Luke 22:1-27 Last Supper (Holy Thursday) Friday, April 18, 2025, Luke 23:32-47 Crucifixion (Good Friday) Saturday, April 19, 2025, Luke 23:48-56 Burial of Jesus

#### Sunday, April 20, 2025, Luke 24:1-12 Empty Tomb (Easter)

Monday, April 21, 2025, Luke 24:36-53 Jesus Appears to His Disciples Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Acts 1:12-26 Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Acts 2:1-13 The Holy Spirit Thursday, April 24, 2025, Acts 2:14-47 Early Christians Friday, April 25, 2025, Acts 3:1-10 Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar Saturday, April 26, 2025, Acts 3:11-26 Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

#### Sunday, April 27, 2025, Luke 24:13-35 Emmaus Road

Monday, April 28, 2025, Acts 4:1-22 Peter and John before the Council Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Acts 4:23-31 Believers Pray Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Acts 4:32-37 Believers Share Thursday, May 1, 2025, Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira Friday, May 2, 2025, Acts 5:12-16 The Apostles Heal Saturday, May 3, 2025, Acts 5:17-42 The Apostles Are Persecuted



#### **Prayer Request News**

Everyone needs a prayer at some time or another.

We all hope for good health and wellbeing. Many do, but not all the time. Some people experience long periods of distress and yearn for better days.

#### Crown Church cares about you now, today!

Prayer is powerful and inclusive. That means you or your friend or your family member. We believe in the power of prayer. There is no-one and nothing beyond the love of God. This is the good news for everybody. People ask for prayers for all sorts of things: health both mental and physical, bereavement, job difficulties, family difficulties, financial difficulties. As well as doubts of faith, dedication and love.

Prayer Request cards are available at the doors around the church. Do fill out a card and post in the 'Prayer Request Box' in the Midmills church corridor.

Please feel free to request contact from any of the Pastoral Care Team in confidence. Team members are: John Barbour, Marion Forrest, Brian Macgill, Stewart Robertson and Helen Taylor.



Dear Churches supporting Highland Foodbank,

I do hope this email finds you well. It's lovely to see some small signs of spring, a reminder that the colder weather will soon be behind us.

For many people in the Highland's it has felt like a long winter, with the decision to stay warm or buy food a daily choice.

One mum of two children who works full-time was referred to us recently having been hit by the cost of child care during the mid-term break. With a budget not stretching far enough to cover heating costs, food costs and child care, the Food Bank was able to help bridge that gap a little. We are all too aware that we can only help people like this mum because of the support that we receive from churches across the Highlands, so a massive thank you to people in your congregation who are able to donate food items and finance to the Food Bank.

Please find attached a copy of the items we are lower on. We'd be really grateful for donations of anything on the list.

Blessings,

Lorna Demspter

Food Bank Manager





## Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Myanmar, one of the world's lowest-income countries, has been hit by a 7.7 magnitude earthquake, followed by a 6.4 magnitude aftershock.

The earthquake that struck central Myanmar has destroyed homes and left people in urgent need of drinking water, food and shelter. Even before these heartbreaking earthquakes, we know conflict and displacement has left so many people in Myanmar in real need.

Specifically, Christian Aid has just heard from partners and colleagues in the region, with whom it has been working for decades, that the Kyaukse Kinta Dam has burst in Mandalay, with water levels rising in the lowland areas around. They are working closely with our partners and networks to identify the extent of the damage and the risk to communities there.

Please give what you can to help those affected by this crisis:

- There will be envelopes in the sanctuary on Sundays 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April.
- There will be a card reader available there also.
- Alternatively you can donate online on the Christian Aid website using the link or the equivalent QR code below:

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/myanmar-earthquake-appeal





#### A Prayer for those Affected by the Myanmar Earthquake

God, our strength and our refuge,

We pray to you for the people of Myanmar.

We hold in mind those who are injured or have been bereaved.

We ask your protection for everyone awaiting rescue.

May those who have lost homes and belongings be comforted.

May emergency workers and medical staff be safe as they pour their energy Into saving the lives of others.

May the international community respond quickly to support those affected.

God, our strength and our refuge,

Be with our global neighbours today.

Amen

There will be a coffee morning in St Stephen's Church hall on Saturday 10 May from 10-12 noon for Christian Aid.

The plant stall is one of the most popular on the day and if you have any cuttings from plants etc please bring them along on the day.

#### Christine MacKenzie



# COME & SING The Crucifixion? by John Stainer

Inverness Cathedral Choir Nicholas Nicol - Tenor Andrew Green - Bass Gordon Tocher - *Organ* Adrian Marple - *Conductor* 

with

# Friday 18th April

Free admission & participation Retiring Collection for Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza Appeal (Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association)

> Cathedral Music Trust 2pm Register & Rehearsal



More details from : music@invernesscathedral.org











As most of you are aware I entered the above competition again this year.

Exciting time on Saturday 8th March in the One Touch Theatre at Eden Court. 16 different entries from various areas of Scotland competed for a win with either traditional shortbread or flavoured shortbread or in some cases an entry for both.

I am delighted to announce that with my traditional shortbread entry I again won the People's Choice. I was rewarded with a huge cheer from all my supporters; family, particularly my cousin Gordon and son Allan who are my sponsor (R MacDonald and Son, Ventilation, Heating & Sheet Metal Engineers) friends, and those whom I met last year and came along again this year to give their support.

Thank you especially to yourselves, our Crown Church Family, who encouraged and supported me all the way.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers received recently to celebrate my achievement.

The picture shows myself, my daughter Christina and grand daughter Sophie who wore her tartan skirt purposefully to support her Granny. They were both an invaluable help at my table.

Beat wishes to you all

Dorothy



Family Support Worker Hilton Family Support Inverness 35 hours per week £28,500 per annum



Hilton Family Support is a charity established to serve all families who are in need of support and who live within the Hilton area.

We are seeking a caring and dedicated Family Support Worker to join our team. The successful person will provide a range of support to families, including parenting education, practical assistance, and emotional support.

For more information or to request an application pack contact the project administrator on 07395 053977 or admin@hiltonfamily.support

Closing date for applications: 25th April 2025

Hilton Family Support is an independent charity registered in Scotland (SC048719) Hilton Lighthouse, 4 Tomatin Road, Inverness, IV2 4UA

## **BROWNIES AND GUIDES**



The Brownies and Guides held a joint fundraiser for the church on Tuesday 25th March - a coffee evening with baking stalls, competitions etc.

I'm delighted to say we raised £383.60!

Anne O'Neill, Leader, 7th Inverness (Crown) Guides





Prospects Across Scotland are holding a special 'Easter for All' celebration at Culduthel Christian Centre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 11.30-12.30. This will be a very accessible and welcoming service that adults with learning disabilities will be able to understand, join in and participate with their God-given gifts.

'Prospects Inverness' meets every month at CCC for worship, prayer, exploring the Bible and friendship. It's a lively, enthusiastic and growing group. For some adults with learning disabilities, this is their only opportunity to access church. Our group will be joined by folks from similar groups in Dingwall and Buckie, as well as a number of volunteers and friends. This service is part of a bigger event to make some very special memories together.

We would love it if people from your church in Inverness would like to join us for our Easter celebration. Just to be clear – this is a service for *everyone*, it's very special when people with and without learning disabilities come together in praise. It will be joyful, enthusiastic and we hope will bring honour to Jesus, our King.

#### **Hilary Lacroix**

#### Mission Development Coordinator, Prospects Across Scotland

# INVERNESS CHORAL SOCIETY

# "In Every Corner Sing

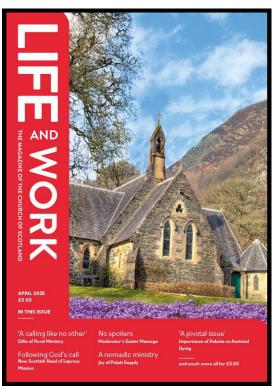
**A Colourful Journey across Continents** 

Vaughan Williams: 5 Mystical Songs **Bernstein: West Side Story Medley** Johnston: I Landed with Seven Men (Jacobite song arrangements) Schubert: Mass in G

Sunday 13th April 2025 7.30 pm Drumossie Hotel, Inverness Tickets £15 (under 16s free) <u>www.invernesschoral.org.uk</u>

SCO15219

## LIFE AND WORK APRIL



**'A Calling Like No Other'** The challenges of rural mission

#### **No Spoilers**

Easter Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly

**Following God's Call** 

Interview with Steven McLeish, poet, mental health and dyslexia advocate, and new Scotland Head for Leprosy Mission

**A Nomadic Ministry** The Joys of Pulpit Supply

**'The Hills Are Alive'** The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Sound of Music

**A Day in the Life** New series focusing on chaplaincy

#### Regulars

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: Karen Mathers of Prestwick South Parish Church

**Plus**: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50.

# Buy or subscribe, in print or digital, at <u>www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe</u>, or speak to your church's Life and Work promoter.

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## Welcome Team

- **April 6th** Sheena Ferguson, Douglas & Jane Wilson, John/Marion Barbour
- April 13th Douglas & Jane Wilson, John & Marion Barbour
- April 20th Sheena Ferguson, Douglas & Jane Wilson, John/Marion Barbour
- April 27th Sheena Ferguson, Douglas & Jane Wilson, Helen Boynton

## **Readers**

- April 6th Lesley McRoberts
- April 13th Gordon Cameron
- April 20th Pat Crippin
- April 27th Jude Madeleine
- May 4th Irene Whyte

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 Tom MacClenaghan, Cradlehall Park, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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## Items for the May newsletter by Sunday 27th April please! \*\*\*<u>Please note our new email address</u> \*\*\*

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

#### newsletter@crown-church.co.uk

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

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

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