

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

May 2025 : No. 810

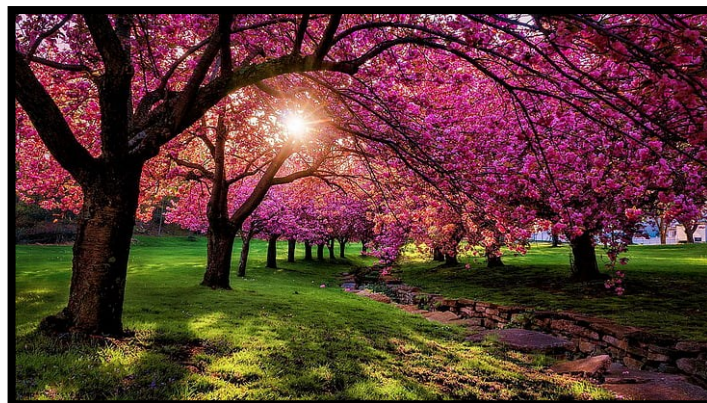
Parish Minister: Rev Douglas Robertson



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 4th May | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and at 11.00am followed by special prayers |
| Sunday 11th May | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and at 11.00am |
| Sunday 18h May | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and at 11.00am |
| Sunday 25th May | Morning Worship at 9.30 am and at 11.00am |
| Sunday 1st June | The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers |



'Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.'

Romans 15:13

From the Minister

Dear members and friends of Crown Church,
Jesus is alive, hallelujah!

Our annual commemoration of the crucifixion and celebration of the resurrection is now past; but every Sunday should be celebrated as "The Day of Resurrection", as one of the hymns we sung in church recently proclaimed.

It was a great pleasure to see so many join us on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, with children joining in and adding their own little bit of energy and fun.

I do want to say a very heart felt "Thank You" to so many people who put a lot of time and energy into making each of our services, and fellowship times together, warm and welcoming for all, and generous in the provision of refreshments and nourishments!

Over the last few months, a group of churches around the centre of Inverness have been looking at new ways we can co-operate in worship, ministry and mission. This includes Crown, OHSS, Ness Bank, St John's, St Mary's, the Cathedral, the Methodist church, the Salvation Army and Trinity Life Church. Our latest joint venture was a gathering of over 100 people in High Street on Good Friday for open air public worship and witness, singing hymns, joining in prayer and reading the whole story of the crucifixion of Jesus. And I am aware that later the same day, some of our members joined in the singing of Stainer's "Crucifixion" at the Cathedral.

It was also good to share with Old High St Stephens in our Maundy Thursday meal and communion service, and some members of Ness Bank joined us at 6am on the Islands, remembering the women who in the early morning went to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. This is all a useful reminder that really there is only one church of Jesus Christ. All who profess the risen Christ are one with each other, even if our regular habits and traditions in worship remain different. I've always thought that variety in worship and other church traditions is valuable, providing folk with options, to find a church they feel at home in, but we also need constant reminders of our unity in Christ.

Indeed, this desire for unity amongst all believers was of profound concern to Jesus. In what is sometimes called "The High Priestly Prayer" in John 17, at the end of the Passover meal, Jesus prays in this way:

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them [his apostles] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-- ²³ I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Wishing you every blessing, **Douglas**



The Union with Old High St Stephens

I am aware that, on the surface, not much seems to be happening, but like a graceful swan, there is a lot of activity going on underneath the surface.

A small group from both churches has been meeting quite regularly to discuss a number of issues and further meetings are planned in the near future.

As matters currently stand, the instructions from Presbytery are that the union will take place at the beginning of January 2026. Again, as matters stand, the union will be on the basis that the buildings at St Stephens will require to be sold.

However, there is a view in both churches that a better option might be to retain those buildings and use them for missional purposes. It is to this end that members from both churches have been meeting together to discuss how this can best be achieved and to put forward proposals to Presbytery to persuade Presbytery to change the present plan.

In addition, the 2 Kirk Sessions will meet again on Wednesday 7th May to discuss progress and take matters further forward. At our earlier meeting, there was broad agreement in relation to the general structure of the new church. We have already agreed following consultation with both congregations, that the new church will be called "Midmills Parish Church".

Both churches are in contact with the convener of the Presbytery Mission Implementation Team, Reverend Monika Redman, who will moderate the joint Kirk Session meeting.

While all of this is going on, the conveners of the Kirk Session committees in both churches are in contact with a view to integrating our resources.

In other words, significant progress towards union has already been made and both churches are striving to come together to ensure that the new church gets off to the best possible start.

I will provide further updates as matters develop.

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk

Young Crown—Celebrating Easter at Church



Cross decorated with wild broom to celebrate Christ Risen!

Easter Celebrations began with the Maundy Thursday Meal, then on Easter Friday a joint service with other church congregations held outdoors in Inverness City Centre. Easter Sunrise Service was led by Rev Doug McRoberts on the Islands at the River Ness. We then went on to the Sunday Easter Service led by Rev Douglas Robertson, which was well attended and where the children enjoyed an easter egg hunt, crafts and a wonderful story read by Pat Crippin which really expressed The Easter Story.

Easter Art Competition Winners! 2025

Family section winners Mather Lim and Christopher Lim's colourful scene depicting The Easter Story Garden of Gethsemmane. *"Beautiful models with lots of details. Love the disciples, jesus praying for all the world while he is alone, lots of details"* . Paul Harrington, Judge of the Competition and National Director for ACORN.





Adult section winner Angela MacPhail, inspired by the Bible Text John 3.16 to describe The Easter Story. *"Complex ideas, beautifully illustrated"*. Paul Harrington



Under 16 section won by Jessica Munro, 8 years, Crown Primary. *"Neat colouring, love the highlighted glow all around Jesus"*. Paul Harrington

A big thank you to all the other entrees to the competition. Paul was so impressed with all the art works which were all exhibited during Open Doors in church.

Prayer Diary

May 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

May 4-10

Heavenly Father – thank you for disciples who come to church every week to encourage one another and worship You. We pray for thriving communities in local churches, who know and love You and share Christ love with the people they meet. Amen.

Pray for peace and an end to wars in the various conflict areas of the world, including Russia, Ukraine, Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Syria and Sudan.

O God of all justice, mercy 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.

Lord God, grant us eyes to see and ears to hear and soul to love and mind to understand. Father God, open our eyes, stir our hearts and teach us how, 'to act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with you' Amen. (Micah 6:8)

May 11-17

Pray for and remember all those young people who are sitting examinations at schools, at colleges or at universities, and pray that their efforts will be justly rewarded and that they will achieve what is necessary to move forward along their chosen path.

Pray for Christian Aid week, 11-17 May. Give thanks to God for all the people making the generous donations that will go towards improving the lives of so many disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

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.

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 18-14

Almighty God and Father, thank you for Your everlasting love revealed in Jesus Christ, who did not consider equality with You something to be used to His own advantage, but emptied Himself and took on the nature of a servant and became human for us and our salvation.

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

Oh God of love and compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give thanks for the services, fellowship and outreach provided through 'The Olive Grove' for the community. Praise God for all those who give their time and support.

May 25 - 31

Give thanks to God for Ascension, for the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be with God.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Col. 3:1-4)

Give thanks for the summer sunshine that brightens the days during the summer months. Pray for safety, relaxation and happy times for everyone in our community.

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.

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.

If you have particular prayer requests for June 2025 please do send them to our *Church Administrator, Fiona Gordon* on e-mail: office@crowns-church.co.uk who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



Launchpad

For a second year running, and thanks to a grant from the Benefact Trust, we have continued to partner with Beechwood's residential recovery programme and have made many grants to applicants who are nearing completion of the programme and who find that they are in need of a small item which will allow them to continue to make progress in their recovery from addiction. Bikes and laptops continue to be much in demand, but we have also provided gardening equipment, camping gear, a metal detector and a sewing machine among other items. Once again we gave 21 awards during the past financial year.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 14th May in the Olive Grove at 7.30pm, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone in the congregation who is interested to hear more. We would also like to add one or two members to our Board. The work is not onerous but is interesting as we all share in carrying out interviews with applicants. This only involves an hour or two's work every three months. Our Administrator, Gus MacGowan has the references and application forms ready, and will have arranged timings for the applicants to attend. Awards made are purchased by Liz Forbes, our Treasurer.

Our Big Book Sale once again raised almost £1,000 and we will be running another next year, so please plan to recycle some of the books you have enjoyed this year by bringing them to us to sell. Then come along and choose another selection to keep you reading happily and inexpensively.

Eileen Ardern

Convener



I would like to thank all church members for their support after my recent operation and recovery period. Thank you for your messages, kind wishes, flowers, and indeed concern for my wellbeing. I am on the slow road to recovery and I am improving every day.

I feel very fortunate to have so many caring friends. It is very much appreciated to know that so many of you kept me in your thoughts and prayers.

I do miss being able to work in the garden or go to the golf. On the bright side, Jane has taken over my garden duties and to be fair she is doing a good job.

Best wishes,

Douglas (Wilson)



A Boys' Brigade & Guild Collaboration

Crown 2020 Fundraiser

Friday 6th JUNE 2025



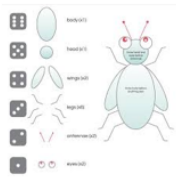
Upper Hall

6.30pm Start

ENTRY: £2.00

EVERYBODY WELCOME!!

BEETLE DRIVE



QUIZ



REFRESHMENTS



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 23rd May 2025 at 7pm

HALO

While we do mention haloes in church from time to time, this local HALO has a very specific meaning: Highland Action for Little Ones.

Imagine you're a young mum on your own with a two year old and few resources, when twins arrive. Stuck inside, unable to afford a double buggy for any outings, this is just one situation where HALO has been able to supply the necessary equipment to make a desperately difficult life just a little easier for parent and children.

How does it work? HALO is an Inverness-based charity supplying all the necessary equipment: formula milk, nappies for babies and clothing, footwear, toiletries, books & school essentials for children & young folk up to age 18. Families in need are usually identified & referred through professional support services, including education, who are best placed to identify their needs.

With 24% of Scottish children recorded as living in relative poverty, there are many clients in urgent need of help. Since starting in 2023, HALO, run by Inverness based Mel Thomson and her daughters plus a volunteer team, has supported 2,500 Highland children. They have bases both here at the Longman and in Alness.

How can we help? Parents & grandparents will be aware just how quickly clothing and footwear is outgrown well before being outworn. There are collection bins in the Eastgate Centre upper floor (above the Food Court) for clothing & shoes, books & school essentials and baby equipment, and another by the baby counter checkout in the Eastgate Boots (lower floor). It's a very effective and helpful form of recycling. New purchases and soft, cuddly toys are also very welcome.

Alternatively, those without youngsters in the relevant age range can simply donate via the Just Giving option or purchase through the Amazon Wish List both on HALO's website www.halohighlands.co.uk. To contact them for the uplift of larger items e.g. cots, email halohighlands@gmail.com.

Outreach Team

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Chancel Choir



The First Presbyterian Chancel Choir, featuring both professional musicians and dedicated amateurs has a nearly 80-year history of providing musical leadership in worship for the church's Sunday morning worship services. During this time, the group has only had two directors, John Williams from 1946-1991 and Holt Andrews from 1992 to the present day. This concert at the Crown Church of Scotland in Inverness is part of their long awaited 2025 tour of Scotland.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE

CROWN CHURCH of SCOTLAND

Kingsmills Road, Inverness, Highland IV2 3JT

Friday 30th May at 7:30pm

Free concert - all welcome

The choir sings a varied repertoire, from classical pieces to American composers and modern folk, jazz, gospel and traditional Scottish songs, such as:-

Laetatus sum, Rejoice in the Lord, The Lord is a Mighty God, I Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills, The Cloths of Heaven, David's Lamentation, Grace Before Sleep, Emerald Stream, The Times They are a Changin', Cornerstone, Gospel Mass, Ain't Got Time to Die, Skye Boat Song and My Prayers My God.



Please come and enjoy this wonderful choir, with a retiring collection for Young Crown, a charity run out of Crown Church for the benefit of children, families, schools and the community. Young Crown runs various outreach groups including toddler groups, Boys' Brigade, and out-of-school clubs helping local working parents with much needed child care.

Daily Bible Readings for May

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

Sunday, May 4, 2025, Acts 6:1--7:2a; 44-60 Stephen's Witness

Monday, May 5, 2025, Acts 8:1-25 Saul Persecutes the Church

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Acts 9:1-19a The Conversion of Saul

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, Acts 9:19b-31 Saul Preaches in Damascus

Thursday, May 8, 2025, Acts 10:1-33 Peter and Cornelius

Friday, May 9, 2025, Acts 10:34-48 Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

Saturday, May 10, 2025, Acts 12:1-19 Peter in Prison

Sunday, May 11, 2025, Acts 8:26-39 Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized

Monday, May 12, 2025, Acts 12:20-25 The Death of Herod

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Acts 13:1-3 Barnabas and Paul Commissioned

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Acts 13:4-12 The Apostles Preach in Cyprus

Thursday, May 15, 2025, Acts 14:1-7 Paul and Barnabas in Iconium

Friday, May 16, 2025, Acts 14:8-20 Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe

Saturday, May 17, 2025, Acts 14:21-28 Return to Antioch in Syria

Sunday, May 18, 2025, Acts 15:1-18 Council at Jerusalem

Monday, May 19, 2025, Acts 16:11-15 The Conversion of Lydia

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Acts 16:16-40 Paul and Silas in Prison

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, Acts 27:1-12 Paul Sails for Rome

Thursday, May 22, 2025, Acts 27:13-38 The Storm at Sea

Friday, May 23, 2025, Acts 27:39-28:16 The Shipwreck

Saturday, May 24, 2025, Acts 28:23-31 Paul Preaches in Rome

Sunday, May 25, 2025, Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21 Living by Faith

Monday, May 26, 2025, Galatians 1:1-12 Welcome to the Galatians

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, Galatians 1:18-24 Paul Defends His Apostleship

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, Galatians 2:1-10 Paul and the Other Apostles

Thursday, May 29, 2025, Galatians 3:10-18 God's Promise to Abraham

Friday, May 30, 2025, Galatians 3:19-22 The Purpose of the Law

Saturday, May 31, 2025, Galatians 4:8-20 Paul Reprimands the Galatians

Sunday, June 1, 2025, Galatians 3:1-9; 23-29 One in Christ

Monday, June 2, 2025, Galatians 4:21-5:1 Hagar and Sarah

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, Galatians 5:2-15 The Nature of Christian Freedom

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Galatians 5:16-21 Works of the Flesh

Thursday, June 5, 2025, Galatians 5:22-26 The Fruit of the Spirit

Friday, June 6, 2025, Galatians 6:1-10 Bear One Another's Burdens

Saturday, June 7, 2025, Galatians 6:11-18 Final Words and Blessing



© Ryk Neethling



We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Week 2025 – 11-17 May

This year the focus is on Christian Aid's work in Guatemala, Central America, where the climate crisis is causing the seasons to intensify and shift erratically. As a result, farming communities have to battle devastating floods and intense heatwaves, not to mention industrial scale plantations that feed a greedy First World while polluting waterways. Water sources are drying up and vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.

Amelia is a resourceful and determined 24-year-old farmer, and a mother of two, from the Alta Verapaz region. She said the situation is very worrying: 'In the past three years, we've been experiencing high heat and a lack of rain. One of the biggest issues is the lack of water ... my plantations have been dying ... and there is no food for my family.'



Amelia with her daughter, Yakelin, surveying their dying banana trees during an intense heatwave
Credit: A.Sheppey/Christian Aid

Despite the challenges families like Amelia's are facing, the unstoppable power of hope drives people to look for ways to push back.

With training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, Amelia's gaining the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's planning planting schedules that will deliver multiple harvests throughout the year, making her own organic fertiliser, and constructing rainwater collection systems.

Amelia is now a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food.

Christian Aid is all about fighting trade injustice; it's about developing resilience; it's about people realising their potential; it's about life in all its fullness; it's about Life Before Death.

David Crippin



We believe in life before death

Timeline for Christian Aid Week at Crown and nearby:

Saturday 10th May, 10am – 12 noon. Coffee morning, baking stalls and plant sale. St Stephen's Church.

Christian Aid Week 11th –17th May: delivery of donation envelopes to every household in our parish. I'll be needing 22 volunteers, please. Your packs will be available in church on the 11th. Various ways in which people can donate will be detailed on the envelopes but please note that we are not asking our volunteers to go back to collect money, just to deliver envelopes.

Sunday 11th May: there will be donation envelopes on the seats.

Saturday 17th May, 12 noon – 2pm. Soup and sandwich lunch, Ardersier Church.

Anytime from now on: you can donate online using our e-envelope. As well as giving you an exceptionally easy way to donate and Gift Aid your donation, it will let you follow progress of Crown's and Inverness's online collection.

333k Steps in May. Once again I will be attempting the Steps in May challenge, this time upping the step count to 333k. Inflation hits 10%!

The links and QR codes for these are:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/crown-inverness>



<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/300k-steps-may>



We believe in life before death

Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

The total raised by Crown Church for this appeal has now reached £932. Again grateful thanks to all who have given so generously.

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

LIFE AND WORK

May

General Assembly 2025

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Rosie Frew

Reports to the Assembly
Assembly Timetable

'We Are All Connected'

Christian Aid Week

Honorary Glaswegians

WW2 bonds between Guernsey and Glasgow

Hope for the Future

Touching Lives in Scotland's Poorest Places

A Day in the Life

New Series Focussing 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 www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, or speak to your church's Life and Work promoter.

Online

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for more news, and exclusive features.

You can also find us at facebook.com/leadwork or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork and now on Instagram.

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Welcome Team

- May 4th** Frank and Sally McCubbin, 2 Boys Brigade
May 11th Frank and Sally McCubbin, 2 Boys Brigade
May 18th Frank and Sally McCubbin, Helen Boynton, 1 Boys Brigade
May 25th Brian MacGill, 2 Boys Brigade

Readers

- May 4th** Irene Whyte
May 11th Andrew Forgie
May 18th Jane Smith
May 25th Jimmy Gray
- June 1st** Mairi Main

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

Mrs Greta Ross, Hilton Crescent , 11th April 2025.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Mrs Joyce Beattie who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 26th of April 2025

Items for the June newsletter by Sunday 25th May 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)

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

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