



May 2025  
Newsletter

# Old High St Stephen's Church of Scotland

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Following the closure of the Old High Church for Sunday Worship, all Sunday services are now held at St Stephen's Church at 10.30am. Services are recorded and are available via:

OHSS website:

[www.oldhighststephens.com](http://www.oldhighststephens.com)

Youtube:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (type in Old High St Stephens)

OHSS Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/oldhighststephens](http://www.facebook.com/oldhighststephens)

Links are also sent to our e-mail list following the service.

To go on our e-mail list, please contact our [Church Administrator](#).

## CONTACT US

Church Administrator:

(079 342 85924)

[invernesschurch@gmail.com](mailto:invernesschurch@gmail.com)



**If you would like us to keep in touch – please send us your up-to-date e-mail and address details**

Registered Charity No.  
SC035073

## THOUGHTS FROM REV JAMES

So I'm writing this on Tuesday 29th, just after what is known in the church as Low Sunday.

Low Sunday refers to the second Sunday of Easter, the Sunday immediately following Easter Sunday. It's often called Low Sunday because attendance is typically lower than on Easter Sunday, and the celebration may be considered less intense or "low-key" compared to the high festival of Easter. It's the time of year where you can't move at the Crieff Hydro without bumping into a Minister trying to get a weekend away, and it's traditionally hard to get pulpit supply.

For Susan and I, it was a high, as we hit the pavements of London for the marathon. We survived the heat and while we would have preferred a slightly faster time, the heat was unbearable. But we persevered over the finish line. And for thousands of others like us who took to the streets of London and Manchester this weekend we got the high of the crowds cheering us along. Thanks to everyone who supported us. We've now raised just shy of £8,000 for the work of Maggie's.

When it comes to church though, I don't really feel comfortable calling any Sunday "low". We are still in the season of Easter, and still should be celebrating the glorious resurrection as Jesus left the tomb and left death behind for all of us. There's nothing low about that.

Happy Easter. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to stretch.

## NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** The morning service on Sunday 25 May will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion, led by Rev James Bissett.

**SERVICE AT SOUTHSIDE NURSING HOME** there will be a short service in Southside Nursing Home on Sunday 4 May after our morning service. All welcome to attend. The following service will be held on Sunday 1 June.

## PULPIT SUPPLY FOR MAY AND JUNE

### Sunday 11 May

Sacrament of Baptism at Morning Service

2.30pm Informal Communion Service for members unable to attend on Sunday mornings

**Sunday 18 May** Worship Group (James and Session Clerk at General Assembly)

**Sunday 25 May** Sacrament of Holy Communion included in the Service

**Sunday 8 June** Rev Susan Cord

**Sunday 15 June** Rev Tommy MacGregor

**DEPUTY SESSION CLERK** Six months ago Deborah MacRae stepped down from being Deputy Session Clerk and the post has been vacant since then. The Kirk Session thank Deborah for her work.



I am pleased to advise that, at the Kirk Session held on 29 April 2025, Rachel Hutcheson has agreed to take on this role. Rachel is a former Youth Assembly Moderator and has been an elder at OHSS for a number of years. She is currently Head Teacher at Resolis Primary School in the Black Isle.

The Kirk Session welcome Rachel to this new appointment and look forward to working with her. Christine MacKenzie, Session Clerk

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS** It was agreed at the Kirk Session Meeting on Tuesday 29 April that the weekly announcements, which are read out at the start of the Service each Sunday, will be circulated to members on e-mail with the link to the weekly service. The order of service will also be included at the end of the announcements. Christine MacKenzie, Session Clerk.

### ST STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT ST

**STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT** We are grateful to Pam McCulloch, Alyn Ross and the Community Choir for the excellent Variety Concert they held in the Church on Saturday 26 April. There was a wide variety of music including favourites including Somewhere Over the Rainbow, One Short Day, Viva Tonight, Razzle Dazzle and lots more. Supporting Pam and Alyn was Susie Simpson on the Accordion and Julie Keen who sang Songbird and

Adelaide's Lament. The audience had the opportunity to join in singing two great favourites - Caledonia and Thank you for the Music.

Thank you to all who assisted setting up the church, serving the tea and cake. A lovely afternoon of music and fellowship (and cake!) only achieved by considerable hard work.



The amazing sum of £1,448 was raised for the Men's Shed. The local Men's Shed fitted the pew ends in St Stephen's - these had previously been removed to allow wheelchair access, and they have done a very professional job.

## MEMORABLE MELODIES



### Memorable Melodies

Why not come along to our singing and music afternoon.

This is an opportunity to meet others, join a sing-a-long and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee together.

Join Us on  
Friday 30th May  
at 2pm

in  
St Stephen's Church Hall  
For further information contact  
Joan Darcy 241042 or Val Cantlay 231298



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024

**11-17 MAY** The red 'door to door' envelopes this year again are for delivery only. Then they are to be dropped off by the recipient at the Drawing Room, or at St Stephen's Church and they can also give

online. If you are able to deliver some envelopes this year that would be great, please let Pat Macleod or myself know. We will also have envelopes in pews.

We will have an internet giving page again for those who are comfortable with the convenience of online giving. Please click on the link below which will take you to our Christian Aid Online Giving Page:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/ohss-church-inverness>

For more information about envelope distribution please contact me [deb.macrae.10@gmail.com](mailto:deb.macrae.10@gmail.com) Deborah Macrae



**Saturday 10 May  
10am to 12 noon**

There will be a **Coffee and Cake morning with baking and plant stalls at St Stephen's**

**church.** Plants and baking can be donated by leaving at the hall door on Friday evening 7-8pm or Saturday morning from 9am.

To volunteer to help at the Coffee and Cake morning contact Val Cantlay (01463) 231298

[val.cantlay@btinternet.com](mailto:val.cantlay@btinternet.com)

**BEE CRAFTY** The next meeting is on Wednesday, 30 April at 2pm.



**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH GARDEN** Do you have a spare hour or two once/week/fortnight to help with the Church Garden? No grass cutting! If so, please contact Joan Darcy (01463) 241042 or Jill Russell (239344).

The Garden is much admired by members of the local community.

We are very grateful to Jean Harper for her many years of service and sorry that she is no longer able to help.

**OHSS JUNE WALK** The next outing will take place on Sunday 15 June at Reelig Glen, followed by afternoon tea at the home of Stuart and Ruth MacKenzie.

It would be helpful to have a note of numbers, so please let one of us know if you can come. Non-walkers welcome as always, and transport and car sharing will be available.

Malcolm Steven [mmsteven1@btinternet.com](mailto:mmsteven1@btinternet.com)  
07773017928

Derick Robertson [roderick43r@btinternet.com](mailto:roderick43r@btinternet.com)  
01463790372

Iain Russell [iainrussell01@gmail.com](mailto:iainrussell01@gmail.com) 01463 239344

**LIFE AND WORK** When each month's edition of Life and Work arrives, I always turn first to the excellent, thought-provoking Meditations by Rev Dr Richard Frazer.

In his thoughts for May, he quotes Tim Dearborn, a writer about mission, who said: "It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a church in the world".

Maybe that shift in perspective can encourage us when we may feel daunted about the way forward? Andrew Stevenson

**SWEATY CHURCH** The next date is Saturday 28 June from 5pm to 7pm and is outdoors at Crown School with a BBQ. There will be activities for all ages and the hope is that this will be a family event and Crown church members will also join in. All are welcome so please put the date in your diary and if you can help with serving food or some traybakes let me know. Deborah Macrae 07842 889734

### DEFIBRILLATOR AT ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Just a reminder that St Stephen's Church has a defibrillator for community use. It is clearly visible at the gable end of Southside Road. Here is a link to the BHF video on CPR and using a defibrillator.



[BHF Video on CPR](#)

### COLLABORATION WITH CROWN

#### CONCERT IN AID OF YOUNG CROWN

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CROWN CHURCH GUILD** are collecting buttons, zips and threads to send to Malawi. If you wish to make a contribution please contact Rosa McDiarmid (01463) 229947.

### OTHER NEWS

Hosted by the City Churches of the Scottish Episcopal Church



**When: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm**

**Where: Cathedral Hall, Kenneth Street, IV3 5NR**

**What: An Evening of Fun Quizzing with Refreshments**

**Cost: £5 per person/£20 per team of max. 4 people**

**All Warmly Welcome & Invited**

**In aid of**

# christian aid

BOOK NOW

Inverness Cathedral | SC015830  
St John the Evangelist Church | SC025272  
St Michael and All Angels Church | SC010352

