

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

June 2025 : No. 811

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 June

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

Sunday 8th June

Morning Worship at 10.30am

Sunday 15th June

Morning Worship at 10.30am

Sunday 22nd June

Morning Worship at 9.30am and at 11.00am

Sunday 29th June

Morning Worship at 9.30am and at 11.00am

Sunday 6th July

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



'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them'

Acts 2:1-4

The Union with Old High St Stephens

Further to my article in the May newsletter, there have been further developments in relation to the forthcoming union. The 2 Kirk Sessions met on 7th May to discuss further progress in relation to the various matters which will require attention on the way to union.

We are in the process of agreeing a document known as the "Basis of Union". This sets out the basic fundamentals of the union and requires to be agreed, by not just the Kirk Sessions of both churches but also by the Presbytery. We hope to have its terms agreed over the summer.

In consultation with the Presbytery mission implementation committee, we have agreed that, providing the Basis of Union is agreed by both Kirk sessions, it will then be put to congregational meetings to be held in both churches on the same morning. We have identified Sunday 14th September as the date when this will be done. On the assumption that both congregations agree to the union, the 2 Kirk Sessions will then finalise the various arrangements which will be needed to allow "Midmills Parish Church" to come into existence on first January next year.

However, there has been another helpful development which affects this process. At the General Assembly last week, new legislation was passed setting out new rules for the manner in which all churches are to keep records of their membership. To cut a long story short (and anyone who wants a copy of the legislation will find it on the Church of Scotland's website or I will be happy to provide them with a copy) it simplifies the pre-existing rules.

This is very timely as one of the tasks which we have to undertake on the way to union is to revise our existing roll of members. This should be done regularly anyway but it is quite necessary to do so in advance of the union to allow the unified church to know exactly how many members it has.

To comply with the new rules, we will shortly be inviting everyone associated with Crown Church to sign a letter which permits us to keep a record of your name, address, email address and telephone number.

Most importantly, this does not apply just to those who are existing members. It applies also to those who, although they have never taken the vows of membership, like to come to worship at Crown Church and wish to be associated with the church in one way or another. The new legislation to which I refer above refers to this category of people as "adherents".

Why is this important now?

In general terms it is only members who are entitled to vote at congregational meetings. However, there are now 2 clear exceptions to this general rule.

The first is that those whose names are on the list of adherents have the right to be present and vote at a congregational meeting called in order to approve a union with another church. This is precisely what the meeting now scheduled for 14th September is about.

The other exception is that adherents have the right to vote at a congregational meeting called to agree the calling of a new minister.

Everyone in Crown Church will be, one way or another, presented with this letter and asked to sign it. The letter itself contains most of the explanations given in this article but anyone who would like any further information or wants to discuss the matter, is free to do so with their own elder, or with our minister, Douglas, or indeed with myself.

As a first step, we intend to have copies of the letter available after the both the 9:30 and 11 o'clock services starting Sunday 8th June.

Finally, and most importantly, we want to use this process as an opportunity to encourage as many people as possible into the life and work of the church. We live in interesting times!

**Bob Forrest
Session Clerk**

**Come and help us celebrate
On Sunday 15th June**

At 10.30 am

**All Age Service of Celebration of 50 years of Ministry
Led by Rev Doug McRoberts**

Rev Doug McRoberts will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday 15th June. There will be one joint service that day at 10.30 am which will be led by Doug and which will be followed by lunch in the upper hall. Please see the note below about booking for the lunch.

Lunch on Sunday 15th June

The celebration lunch on 15th June will be held in the upper hall at around 12 midday after the service that day. All are welcome but please let us know if you wish to come for lunch so that we know the number of folk we are catering for.

Please make sure to let us know ahead if you have any dietary requirements, for example, if you have any food allergy or intolerance, or if you are vegetarian. There will be a sheet in the sanctuary over the next 2 weeks for the names of those who want to attend. If you do not manage to add your name, please let Fiona in the Church Office or Chrisanne Robertson know that you wish to attend the lunch. We look forward to seeing you then.

The Socials Team

**PS There is an interesting article on the Church of Scotland website about
Doug's ministry under 'Bringing the threads together'**

Discerning Our Mission

Saturday 14th June

Venue: St Stephen's Church Hall

Purpose: To equip our congregation to develop a Mission Development Plan (MDP) that reflects our calling, place, and the Five Marks of Mission.

Overview of the Five Marks of Mission:

1. **Tell** – To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. **Teach** – To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. **Tend** – To respond to human need by loving service
4. **Transform** – To seek to transform unjust structures of society

Treasure – To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation

Programme Outline

11.00	Welcome and Introduction
11.15	Exploring the 5 marks of mission
12 noon	Our story/history
12.30	What's missing/needed
13.00	Lunch
13.30	Imagining the future
14.00	Shaping the plan
14.45	Closing

As it is a relatively late start, we will begin sharp at 11am, hopefully everyone will have had time for a coffee before they arrive. Car Parking is available at the Southside Dental Practice (28 Southside Road) and Accountants next to Crown Court Hotel. There will be limited parking at the church.

Christine MacKenzie
Session Clerk OHSS

Please confirm if you can attend by e-mailing Pat MacLeod on inverness-church@gmail.com or telephone 07934 285924. For catering purposes please confirm if you have any food allergies.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club finished for the Season on Friday 19th April with a fun afternoon. Sandra Gorman made a grand job (in Liz B's absence) of leading the Easter Bunny Drive and we all enjoyed a feast of Easter goodies. This had been preceded two weeks earlier by a wonderful lunch at the Redcliffe Hotel. It has been an amazing Season with an average attendance of 50 -60 members at each session. It is wonderful to see new friendships being made.

In September we celebrated the church's Anniversary by putting on a coffee morning and an afternoon tea and with the donations received we purchased some new tables for the Sanctuary and were able to give a donation to the 20/20 appeal. In October Danny came to tell us about his work with the Blythswood Boxes and the members responded by generously donating a tremendous amount of items for the shoeboxes.

We have had musical afternoons with Ramsay McGee, Perfect Harmony choir, and In Harmony quartet. We were all blown away at the Christmas party by young Jackson on the saxophone accompanied by his grandad on the Bodhran. Not forgetting the Nursery tots.

As well as music we have had illustrated talks on Old Inverness (always popular) and Spokes for Folks. We have had a flower arranging demonstration and a couple of Tai Chi sessions to aid our wellbeing. And also just a couple of " cuppa & chat " afternoons .

We celebrated a couple of big 0 birthdays, a Golden Wedding and of course the reinstatement of our Team member Dorothy as Shortbread Queen. We have had new knees, new hips and it was wonderful to see one of our members successfully going through a new treatment for Parkinsons.

A huge help has been the appearance of Paul the caretaker who has taken away the worry of setting up and clearing furniture and we extend a huge thanks to the choir for their help before Paul started his job.

With surplus funds after the lunch, the club have purchased 12 new cake stands for use by all church groups and also donated to the church flower fund.

Sadly Jane Wilson has retired from the Team and we will miss her very much but we welcome our new Team member Liz Munro with open arms. We welcomed many new members this session but sadly lost too many also. We remember them all with love and are grateful for their contributions to the club over the years .

So are you looking for something to do over the Winter - why not join us . Every second Friday 2-4 pm in the Sanctuary and if you want to join as a Team member that would be even better - extra help always appreciated so ... Remember, Remember the 5th of September- it's when we start up again. I'll leave you with quotes from some of our members.

"A lifeline "

" The best club I've ever joined "

" A welcome second to none "

" Such a warm and friendly welcome from everyone "

" Afternoon Tea, best in town "

Have a good Summer.

Chrisanne on behalf of the Team

Prayer Diary

June 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

June 1-7

As we celebrate Pentecost, pray and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit; for lifting, guiding and leading us in all the work of the Church; that the Holy Spirit will continue to move among us and renew us with a burning desire to grow in God's work, just as it happened for the apostles on that first Pentecost Day.

Lord, heal and bless our world. Bring comfort and hope as your light pierce the darkness. Amidst the doom-and-gloom reality we pray that Your love will illuminate and forge a path for all. Amen 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.

June 8-14

Pray Psalm 100:1-5

A Psalm for giving grateful praise

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.

It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His court with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

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.

June 15-21

Pray Psalms 31:24: 'Be strong, be courageous, all you that hope in the Lord.' Give thanks to God for all he does for us and the promises He gives in his word.

Give thanks that during difficulties and distress, others can lift us up before the throne of grace. Help us always to remember those in great need.

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.

Give thanks for the continuing progress and success with the ongoing work to develop the church facilities. Pray that the new facilities will provide a welcoming atmosphere for everyone using the facilities and for joyful worship and meeting. Pray for God's blessings over the Crown 20/20 group for their leadership and for all those contributing.

June 22-28

We pray for the people caught up in horrible conflicts throughout the world; pray particularly for Ukraine and Russia, the Middle East, Gaza, Israel and Palestine.

We pray for all those who are afraid and being tormented by these conflicts; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. We pray Lord knowing that only You have the power over life and death; We pray that all people can have the life you have given, and life in all its fullness. We pray for all those killed; for those having to flee their homes; and we give thanks the support and hospitality received. We pray for the leaders on the world stage; that they be inspired and strengthened by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, we pray for peace in the world. Pray John 1:5; "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"

Pray for peace in our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

June 29 – July 6

Pray for those who are struggling with loneliness and ill health. May the Lord be with them and bless them. Pray for God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

Bless us Lord with hope in you and the power to share this hope with those around us. We love you; we praise you, and we put our faith and hope in you, knowing that you and you alone have everything in the palm of your mighty hands. 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.

If you have particular prayer requests for July/August 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



Daily Bible Readings for June

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

Sunday, June 8, 2025, Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7 Pentecost; Fruits of the Spirit

Monday, June 9, 2025, Ephesians 1 Paul Greet the Ephesians

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Ephesians 2 One in Christ

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, Ephesians 3 Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

Thursday, June 12, 2025, Ephesians 4 New Life in Christ

Friday, June 13, 2025, Ephesians 5 On Being Christian

Saturday, June 14, 2025, Ephesians 6 Put on the Armor of God

Sunday, June 15, 2025, Jeremiah 1:1-10; 7:1-11, Jeremiah's Call and Temple Sermon

Monday, June 16, 2025, Jeremiah 3:6-4:4 A Call to Repent

Tuesday, June 17, 2025, Jeremiah 4:19-31 Sorrow for a Doomed Nation

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Jeremiah 8:18-9:16 The Prophet Mourns for the People

Thursday, June 19, 2025, Jeremiah 12:1-4 Jeremiah Complains to God

Friday, June 20, 2025, Jeremiah 12:5-17 God Replies to Jeremiah

Saturday, June 21, 2025, Jeremiah 16:14-21 God Will Restore Israel

Sunday, June 22, 2025, Jeremiah 18:1-11 Potter and the Clay

Monday, June 23, 2025, Jeremiah 18:18-23 A Plot against Jeremiah

Tuesday, June 24, 2025, Jeremiah 20:7-18 Jeremiah Denounces His Persecutors

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, Jeremiah 22:11-23 Message to the Sons of Josiah

Thursday, June 26, 2025, Jeremiah 23:1-7 Restoration after Exile

Friday, June 27, 2025, Jeremiah 23:23-40 False Prophets of Hope Denounced

Saturday, June 28, 2025, Jeremiah 25 The Babylonian Captivity Foretold

Sunday, June 29, 2025, Jer 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-31 Scroll Burned and Re-Written

Monday, June 30, 2025, Jeremiah 26 Jeremiah Prophecies in the Temple

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, Jeremiah 27 The Sign of the Yoke

Wednesday, July 2, 2025, Jeremiah 28 Hananiah Opposes Jeremiah and Dies

Thursday, July 3, 2025, Jeremiah 30:1-9 Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah

Friday, July 4, 2025, Jeremiah 30:10-17 Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah

Saturday, July 5, 2025, Jeremiah 30:18-24 Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah



Upper Hall

A Boys' Brigade & Guild Collaboration

Crown 2020 Fundraiser

Friday 6th JUNE 2025

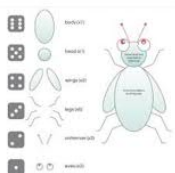
6.30pm Start



ENTRY: £2.00

EVERYBODY WELCOME!!

BEETLE DRIVE



QUIZ



REFRESHMENTS



LIFE AND WORK

June



Vital Volunteers

The value of the Church's unpaid helpers

Memories of Pope Francis

Former Moderators remember meetings with the late Pontiff

General Assembly 2025

Interview with Lady Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

Further summaries of this year's reports.

'God Has Guided My Journey'

Carol Finlay looks back on a 36-year career in the Church, in India, Malawi and Edinburgh

'A Weight of Responsibility'

Jackie Macadam meets the recently-elected Edinburgh MP Dr Scott Arthur

Pillars of Faith

Engaging with visitors at Glasgow Cathedral

A Revival of Grace

Final part of the series focusing on the Church's work in Priority Areas

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

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

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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

June 1st Helen Boynton, Jimmy Gray, Margot Tulley, Marion Barbour
June 8th Ruby Coe, Margot Tulley, John & Marion Barbour
June 15th Sheona, Brian & Isla MacKenzie, John Barbour
June 22nd Sheona, Brian & Isla MacKenzie, Margot Tulley
June 29th Sheona, Brian & Isla MacKenzie, Jimmy Gray

Readers

June 1st Mairi Main
June 8th Alan Nelson
June 15th Eileen Ardern
June 22nd Gary McAra
June 29th Marion Barbour
July 6th Ian Fraser

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 Jean Munro, Boswell Road, 5th May 2025

Mr David Livingstone, Towerhill Crescent, 8th May 2025

Congratulations



Congratulations to Mrs Jean McGowan who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 17th of May 2025

Golden Wedding



Congratulations to Derek and Joan Dancy on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 31st of May 2025

Items for the July/August newsletter by Sunday 29th June please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

newsletter@crown-church.co.uk

Minister Rev Douglas Robertson, 39 Southside Road, 07547976054

drrobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Session Clerk Bob Forrest: sessionclerk@crown-church.co.uk

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