

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

September 2025 : No. 813

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).

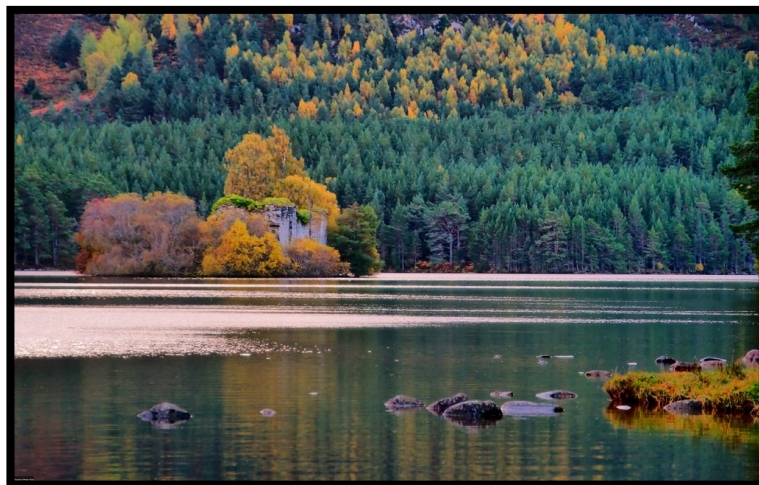
Sunday 7th September The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 14th September Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 21st September Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 28th September Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 5th October Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers



'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'

Romans 15 :5-6

The State of the Union

The Kirk Sessions of both Old High St Stephens (OHSS) and Crown met separately in the last week of August. Both Kirk Sessions have now approved the draft basis of union. The full text of the draft appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Both churches have agreed to hold congregational meetings following Sunday worship on Sunday 14th September. The meeting at Crown will be held immediately after the 11 o'clock service. Both meetings will be moderated by a member of the Presbytery Mission implementation team. Mr Markus Meier from that team will take the meeting at Crown.

There is an excellent article which appears in the September edition of the OHSS newsletter. If you have not already accessed a copy, you can do so via the Crown church website. I do not want to repeat everything that is said in that article but I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise a few important points.

Firstly, the fact that our minister, the Reverend Douglas Robertson, has decided to demit office at the end of this year is a very important development which changes the landscape somewhat.

In particular, it means that the new, united church, which we have already agreed will be called "Midmills Parish Church" will be in vacancy from the outset. The consequence is that, even if either or both congregations were to vote against the union, the union would nevertheless take place, as the Presbytery would then simply enact the existing Presbytery plan which provides for the union of both churches.

My main reason for writing this article is therefore to address the obvious question: "If the union is going ahead anyway, why are we bothering with a vote?"

The technical answer to that question is that church law dictates that we must go through this process. However, there is another, perhaps more important, answer which is that, if both congregations vote in favour of the union at our meetings in September, work can begin immediately to smooth the process of union so that, when the new church comes into being on first January next year, we will be able to "hit the ground running" as it has been put in the article in the OHSS newsletter. That is extremely important as there is a lot to do. The 2 Kirk Sessions require to come together. The new Kirk Session will need to, from the start, appoint new office bearers, committee conveners et cetera. There are lots of issues around both buildings and finance. One or other of the manses will require to be sold. A case requires to be made to the Presbytery for the retention of the St Stephen's buildings to be used for the purpose of mission going forward. The position of the employees of the 2 churches requires to be confirmed. These are not minor considerations. Any delay in their resolution is likely to be damaging.

I would also like to take the opportunity of echoing the sentiments expressed in the OHSS newsletter. We all know the direction of travel. The General Assembly directed this course several years ago. We know that there are too many churches and not enough ministers. Having churches located very close to each other simply does not make much sense in present circumstances.

The original Presbytery plan, which made a number of very significant changes affecting most other churches, stated quite clearly that there was to be a union between OHSS and Crown. This decision was made by the old Inverness Presbytery but it has subsequently been confirmed by the new Presbytery, Clèir Eilean Ì.

Most of us recognise the sadness and disappointment which many members of OHSS feel as they will no longer be able to have Sunday worship at St Stephen's Church. That is entirely understandable and we would doubtless have felt the same had the roles been reversed.

However, this union represents a wonderful opportunity to take the new church forward and to reinvigorate the work of mission in our own community.

The union will bring together talented, resourceful people from both churches and the new church will have a property and financial portfolio which will be the envy of many other churches in the country. In other words, we will start with the human and substantive resources to enable us to really make a difference in our own community in spreading the word of the gospel.

In the final analysis, what we are all being asked to do is to come together and work harmoniously with a group of fellow Christians to bring that last objective to fruition. What's not to like about that?

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk



SC001424

**DRAFT BASIS OF UNION AND FORMATION OF
MIDMILLS PARISH**

The congregations of Old High St Stephen's Church of Scotland, Inverness (SC035073) and Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland) (SC018159) Churches shall be united on 1st January 2026 or from a date to be determined by Presbytery, and that on the following terms and conditions:

Name: The name of the united charge shall be Midmills Parish Church, Inverness, Church of Scotland (SC018159).

Property and Funds: The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of both Inverness Old High St Stephen's and Inverness Crown congregations shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge/congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.

Places of worship: The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Inverness Crown shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The church at present used by the congregation of Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall be reviewed in **2026** in accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan. The decision of Presbytery shall be binding on all parties. Following that review, any building not being retained shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5 2024) , be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held, and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

Manse: Upon review by Presbytery, the manse of the congregations of either Inverness Crown or Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall either serve as the manse of the united charge, or else shall be sold to enable another property to be purchased which will then serve as the said manse. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments)

Act (Act 5, 2024), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

Territorial Responsibility: The bounds to be served by the united congregation shall be those as the Presbytery shall determine. The parish boundaries will incorporate Inverness Crown Church boundaries and some of the Inverness Old High St Stephen's parish, with the addition of the Raigmore and the east side of the northern Longman estate.

Kirk Session: The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.

Congregational Management: The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.

Ministerial Support: Following the demission of *The Rev Douglas R Robertson* (currently minister at Inverness Crown) 31st December 2025 and therefore both charges being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Call, Election and Appointment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament Act (Act 11, 2025). The minister shall be called on the basis of a seven-year Reviewable Charge in terms of section 9.1.1 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).

Power to Adjust: While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

Summer Family Fun

Summer Family Fun was running Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the month of July. The weather was mostly glorious which meant families were outside every day making good use of the outside nursery area and an average of 24 people attended each day. Parents and relatives felt they were being looked after and that coming along gave them an opportunity to make new friends. Other comments were that they felt staff and volunteers made them feel at home and included. This year we had an extra helper 14 year old Isla Mackenzie who aims to work in childcare. A big thank you to all who made Summer Family Fun successful.



Outside in the Nursery Garden with new baby Jessica and a few others

The children at Crown Corner Club at the newly named Scripture Union Garden at Crown Primary School

The Scripture Union Garden, a name adopted by Crown Primary School pupils has produced potatoes and strawberries and lots of flowers to keep the bees and birds happy. Some of the children at Crown Corner Club picked and brought potatoes home.



Picking potatoes



Sunflowers, Nasturtiums, Montbretia



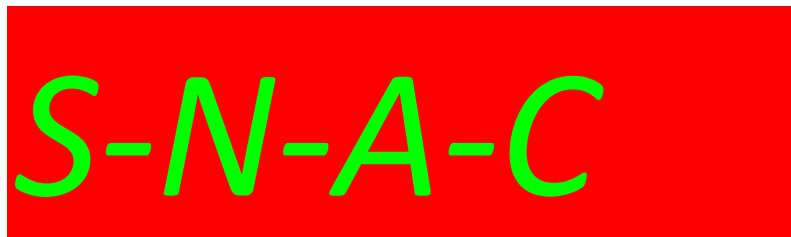
Young Crown

The work of Young Crown continues, and the focus of all its work is on looking for ways to spread the Gospel and build a church not just for tomorrow, but very much for today.

So we employ a Youth and Families worker (Jackie MacKenzie), we run Toddler groups, we work in Crown Primary and Millburn Academy, we run SNAC and we take part in the 9.30 services.

We can't do this without your continuing financial support. Please help us by donating to Young Crown. Cash, cheque, bank transfer, standing order - all welcome. Forms are available from the Church Office and at the doors. Your interest and support are much appreciated.

Thank you.
Pat Crippin



SNAC

Saturday Night At Crown (SNAC) is back on Saturday 6th September from 5-7pm.

Our first get together after the summer is going to be a pasta night. Pasta in any form. For those who don't know, SNAC is our outreach to families, some of whom have no church connection. We meet upstairs for a meal, a Gospel message and some fun and games. Babies, children and grown ups are all welcome.

Most important is just sharing time together. Please pray for the success of this new form of church. And do feel welcome to come along and see what it's like.

Pat Crippin

Prayer Diary

September 2025

This prayer diary has been prepared by the Discipleship Team. We hope that you will find it useful and inspiring in your daily prayer life. You may like to detach it from the newsletter and use it to pray for our church and community.

September 7-13

Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen

Pray for parents to feel encouraged as they try to teach their children about God. Praise God for the gift of children. Pray for loving relationships between parents and children.

Thank and praise God for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and the world. Ask that God will walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Father we lift up the leaders of our country and all those that You have set up in places of authority and leadership to lead and govern our nation; for wisdom and guidance in making decision about the future of the country and well-being of all people.

September 14-20

Pray for all the children in our local schools as they settle in a new school year and give thanks that the chaplaincy team is there to support them if needed.

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.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name Amen

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

September 21-27

On the 21st September, the International Day of Peace, when the UN hope to strengthen the ideals of peace within all nations and peoples. Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and pray that more people will encounter His peace, which surpasses all understanding and can reach into every situation.

Loving God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God in unity, God in community,
we pray for our world.
Where there is war between nations or within nations
we pray for peace.
Where tensions are building
we pray for calm.
Where there is judgement and prejudice
we pray for dignity and respect.
Where there is a break-down in relationship
we pray for openness and understanding.
Where human hearts are breaking
we pray for care and compassion.
Where there is sorrow and loss
we pray for comfort and healing.
We pray for our world, one world,
God's world, enfolded in love,
living in unity and community,
this day and all days.
Amen.

(Church of Scotland)

September 28 – October 4

For persecuted Christians
Father God, we lift up Sudan and pray for stability in the region.
May those who covet power and those who seek to fight choose to walk the
path of peace.
Bring justice and healing to this divided land, we pray.
Out of this darkness, we pray that light will come.
We pray for a government that respects equality and religious freedom.
May Your church in this land reflect Your humility, forgiveness and love,
And so act as a signpost to the possibility of a different way of life.
Bring hope for those who feel helpless,
Healing for those who have been wounded,
And safety for all those who feel afraid.
Amen
Pray for an end to human trafficking.

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and
untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"*
Isaiah 58:6

Lift up people who have a difficult relationship with their family, and pray that God
will touch their hearts and minds for help with mending broken relationships.

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



SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

IN AID OF
LAUNCHPAD



SUNDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER
CROWN CHURCH
UPPER HALL

LAUNCHPAD

Over the past two years, Launchpad has given out 40 grants. We have been working much of the time in conjunction with Crossreach, whose 14 week residential course for those battling with substance misuse has been given many plaudits.

The staff have encouraged those whom they know will make good use of a grant to apply and have helped with references. We have been very impressed with many of these applicants and with their determination to turn their lives around. Some who have completed the course go on to study at UHI, and need a laptop or chrome book.

Others opt for a bicycle to save on transport costs. Those not ready for work are encouraged to apply for an item which will give them an opportunity to become involved in an absorbing hobby such as painting, sewing, fishing or photography, or take up a sport.

The amount of money needed for any of these items might seem small. In fact we keep all grants to under £300. But that is a sum that is very difficult to obtain when you have been living on benefits for some time.

Launchpad was given a grant of £5,000 over two years ago by the Benefact Trust, but unfortunately that particular award stream has been shut down, and they can no longer give funding to us for passing on to others. Many of the funding trusts operate under the same principle.

We are very grateful for the support from the congregation that has enabled Launchpad to keep operating for almost 40 years.

We invite you all to help us out by making a donation for a Soup and Sandwich lunch on Sunday 14th September.

The lunch will be served after the congregational meeting at which we will be asked to vote on the basis of union with OHSS. The result of both our vote and that of OHSS will be brought to us during lunch.

Daily Bible Readings for September

Sunday, August 31, 2025, Rev 21:1-6; 22:1-5 The New Heaven and the New Jerusalem

Monday, September 1, 2025, Revelation 14 The Lamb and the 144,000

Tuesday, September 2, 2025, Revelation 15 The Angels with the Last Seven Plagues

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Revelation 18 The Fall of Babylon

Thursday, September 4, 2025, Revelation 19 Rejoicing in Heaven

Friday, September 5, 2025, Revelation 20 The Thousand Years

Saturday, September 6, 2025, Revelation 22 Epilogue and Benediction

Sunday, September 7, 2025, Genesis 1:1—2:4a Creation by the Word

Monday, September 8, 2025, Genesis 2:4b-25 A Second Account of Creation

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, Genesis 3:1-13 The First Sin

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, Genesis 3:14-24 Punishment

Thursday, September 11, 2025, Genesis 4:1-16 Cain Murders Abel

Friday, September 12, 2025, Genesis 4:17-26 Beginnings of Civilization

Saturday, September 13, 2025, Genesis 18:1-15 A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

Sunday, Sept 14, 2025, Gen 21:1-3; 22:1-14 Binding of Isaac

Monday, September 15, 2025, Genesis 24:1-27 Choosing of Rebekah

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, Genesis 24:28-49 Choosing of Rebekah

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Gen 24:50-67 Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Thursday, September 18, 2025, Genesis 25:19-28 The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Friday, September 19, 2025, Genesis 25:29-34 Esau Sells His Birthright

Saturday, September 20, 2025, Genesis 26:1-33 Isaac and Abimelech

Sun, Sept 21, 2025, Gen 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17 Jacob's Dream

Monday, September 22, 2025, Genesis 27:30-40 Esau's Lost Blessing

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, Genesis 27:41-28:5 Jacob Escapes

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, Genesis 28:6-9 Esau Marries Ishmael's Daughter

Thursday, September 25, 2025, Genesis 29:1-14 Jacob Meets Rachel

Friday, September 26, 2025, Genesis 29:15-35 Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters

Saturday, September 27, 2025, Genesis 30:1-24 Rachel's Jealousy

Sunday, September 28, 2025, Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17 God's Name Is Revealed

Monday, September 29, 2025, Exodus 6:28-7:7 Moses and Aaron Obey God's Commands

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, Exodus 12:1-13 The First Passover

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, Exodus 12:29-42 Death of the Firstborn

Thursday, October 2, 2025, Exodus 13:17-22 The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Friday, October 3, 2025, Exodus 14:1-25 Crossing the Red Sea

Saturday, October 4, 2025, Exodus 14:26-31 Pursuers Drowned





BREAKING NEWS

Looking for Volunteers



Join us!



Highland BlindCraft Sensory Services, a charity based in Inverness who support people with visual impairments throughout Highland and the Western Isles, are looking for people interested in volunteering as readers for a talking newspapers service we are hoping to launch soon.

For more details call 01463 210558 or email volunteer.coordinator@highlandsensory.org.uk

HIGHLAND FOODBANK - HARVEST 2025

Dear Churches Supporting Highland Foodbank,

Harvest is a time of year when we remember God's goodness to us – and also reflect on our responsibility to express his love to those in our community and in our world who are in need. So it's not surprising that Harvest Thanksgiving continues to be the most significant time of year for giving to Food Bank from Highland Churches.

Nobody in the Highlands of Scotland should need to use a food bank, but the reality is that many do because unavoidable situations leave people in crisis.

I'm writing to ask if you would consider supporting us at Harvest this year, thus helping to make a difference in people's lives in the weeks and months ahead.

I'm assigning seven products to each participating Church. The flyer attached lists the products we'd like your congregation to consider donating, if your Church decides to support Highland Foodbank this Harvest season. Please get in touch if you'd like paper copies posted out to you.

Donations of used or new 'bags for life' would also be very welcome and much appreciated.

Many thanks for your support! Please just get in touch if you require any further Information or help with collecting your donations following Harvest.

With kindest regards,

Lorna Dempster



Harvest 2025

Can you help by donating an item or two from the list below?

- **Tins of corned beef**
- **Jars of pasta sauce**
- **Long life juice/diluting**
- **Small jars of coffee**
- **Tins of potatoes**
- **Tins of tomatoes**
- **Toothpaste/deodorant**



"My wife recently gave birth to our daughter, very prematurely. My employer wasn't able to give me extended time off work to support my young family through many hospital visits, so I had to give up my job as we have no local family support. Navigating the benefit system was new to me, and quite complicated, resulting in me not getting a payment until three weeks after my last pay from work. I don't know how we would have managed without food bank."

01463 717630
foodbank.admin@blythswood.org

Registered Charity in Scotland 048001
Company Number 583493



Welcome Team

September 7th Eleanor Ross, Margot Tuley, Helen Boynton, Brian Macgill

September 14th Eleanor Ross, Margot Tuley, John and Marion Barbour

September 21st Eleanor Ross, Margot Tuley, John and Marion Barbour

September 28th Eleanor Ross, Margot Tuley, John and Marion Barbour

Readers

September 7th Fiona Carter

September 14th Margot Tuley

September 21st Fiona MacNeil

September 28th John Barbour

**It is so 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 Simon Forsyth, Erracht Road, 12th August, 2025

In August Mark and Yvonne Falconer visited the Church. Mark is the nephew of Ella Low. He was christened in Crown Church and he and his wife Yvonne were married in Crown Church in December of 1995. The photo below was taken on that happy day and Mark and Yvonne took another photo last month in that same spot!



Items for the October newsletter by Sunday 28th September 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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The Church website is to be found at www.crown-church.co.uk