

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

July & August 2025 : No. 812

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

Sunday 13th July Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 20th July Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 27th July Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 3rd August Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers

Sunday 10th August Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 17th August Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 24th August Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

Sunday 31st August Morning Worship at 9.30 am and 11.00am

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

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever.'

Ephesians 6:20-21

Don't Look Back

'No-one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.' These words from Jesus challenge us to examine how our past can shape—or hinder—our spiritual journey.

Reflecting on the past is a universal human experience. Sharing nostalgic stories with friends around the dinner table brings warmth and connection. However, when looking back becomes a barrier, fostering guilt, regret, or an unhealthy attachment to "the good old days," it can impede our growth.

Consider guilt. Sometimes, past mistakes linger, haunting us despite seeking forgiveness. Yet, Scripture reassures us: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us."* God's grace is boundless, offering renewal without the need for repeated confessions. Visualise tossing a stone—representing your sin—into a river. A sign reads, *"NO FISHING."* Once forgiven, there's no need to dredge it back up.

Failures, too, can shackle us. Walt Disney faced rejection and bankruptcy before his dreams materialised. His perseverance exemplifies the biblical truth: *"Though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him."* Past defeats need not define us; instead, they can be stepping stones to growth.

Romanticising a "Golden Age" is another trap. The Israelites, nostalgic for Egypt despite their suffering there, illustrate how distorted memories can cloud judgment. Ecclesiastes cautions: *"Do not say, 'Why were the old days better than these?' For it is not wise to ask such questions."* Our minds often embellish the past, creating illusions rather than accurate reflections.

Old wounds can also resurface, masking as unresolved conflicts. Forgiveness doesn't erase scars, but dwelling on them reopens emotional wounds. Scripture advises: *"Rid yourselves of all malice and deceit,"* urging us to release bitterness and embrace healing.

Even spiritual complacency can stem from past victories. Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, urged believers to *"forget what is behind and strain towards what is ahead."* Faith is a continuous journey, not a destination marked by past achievements.

Church communities aren't immune to nostalgia's pull. Recalling bustling congregations and traditional rituals may evoke fondness, but societal shifts demand adaptability. Celebrating history is valuable, yet clinging to it can stifle progress. As Hebrews reminds us: *"Let us throw off everything that hinders... and run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus."*

Honouring the past doesn't mean living in it. Our traditions are foundations, not cages. God is dynamic, always doing new things. When we trust in His guidance, we can confidently proclaim: *"The best is yet to be."* Let's embrace the future, not as a departure from our roots, but as a continuation of our faith's evolving story.

Stewart Robertson

EDWARD "EDDIE" ADIE (1940-2025): A LIFE OF FAITH, FAMILY, AND SERVICE

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Edward "Eddie" George Adie, who died peacefully on 7th June 2025, at Raigmore Hospital, surrounded by Adrienne and his loving family. He was 84.

Born on December 22, 1940, in Torry, Aberdeen, Eddie was a proud "Torry Loon" from the very start. After the early loss of his father at age 11, Eddie's resilience shone through. He attended Robert Gordon's College on a bursary before beginning his career as an office boy at an accountancy firm at 16. This was the first step in what would become a remarkable career with the NHS, where he rose through the ranks to become the Director of Finance for the Highland Health Board before retiring in 1994.

Eddie's life was forever changed at a dance at the Douglas Hotel, Aberdeen, where he met his future wife, Adrienne (a Torry Quine). Their shared love for The Boys' Brigade sparked a romance that led to their engagement in 1960 and marriage in 1962. A quiet only son, Eddie found himself welcomed into a lively household as "brother number five" to Adrienne's four younger brothers. Together, Eddie and Adrienne raised three sons, Edward, Kenneth, and Nicol.

A man of deep and gentle faith, Eddie's love for Christ was the cornerstone of his life. This faith fuelled his lifelong, unwavering dedication to The Boys' Brigade, which his son Nicol affectionately described as "Dad was the Boys' Brigade, and the Boys' Brigade was Dad." From joining as a boy in 1949 to retiring as the Captain of the 3rd Inverness Company in 1998, his leadership shaped the lives of countless young people.

Beyond his family and The Boys' Brigade, Eddie was a cornerstone of his community. A devoted member of Crown Church, he served in different roles, most notably as an elder. He regularly sang in the choir.

A passionate football fan, he was also the first treasurer of the Inverness Caledonian Thistle Supporters Trust, where he was remembered as "a true gentleman" and "the voice of reason."

In retirement, Eddie pursued new passions, including singing in a choir, playing golf, and joining the "Tuesday Night Chappers" dominoes group at The Fluke. True to his servant heart, he found immense joy in his role as a driver for The Mackenzie Centre, calling it "the best job I ever had."

In his final years, Eddie faced the challenges of macular degeneration and a dementia diagnosis with courage. He is survived by his beloved wife, Adrienne, his three sons, Edward, Kenneth, and Nicol, and a legacy of love, service, and unwavering faith. Drawing on words penned by the apostle, Paul, Eddie fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith. He has his peace. He will be dearly missed.

Stewart Robertson

A Specially Joyful Celebration

Fifty years to the day after his ordination in East Kilbride, Rev Doug McRoberts took a celebratory morning service in Crown Church. We don't throw paper aeroplanes around the church every Sunday but Jane Smith remembers Doug doing just that when she was a child, which was reason enough for Doug to make more memories for those at our service this Pentecost, with his 'Flight School'. The message? Like a squadron of 12, follow the Master. "Come follow me," says Jesus "and I'll teach you - how to live, how love works."

The celebration continued after the service with the cutting of the cake with its inscription "Rev Doug McRoberts -Still Sharing the light", followed by a delicious lunch for 100 people which included Lesley and Doug's sons Scott and Struan and their families. More cause for celebration when it was revealed that Alastair and Anne MacLeod were that day celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary! Over coffee and cake, Stewart Robertson shared with us some of his memories from when he and Doug had crossed paths before both ended up in Crown. Gifts from the congregation were presented to Lesley and Doug.

The story of Doug's perhaps unconventional but very fruitful ministry can be read on the Church of Scotland website under the 'Talking Ministry' heading. Find out why the cake refers to 'still sharing the light'; what he did when the family were in Inverness between 1978 and 1985; how he became the first PR Director of British Energy plc while still preaching every week – some of the time in Methodist churches; how his various careers and wide-ranging skills all pulled together when after a return to parish ministry in Keith, he and Lesley moved to Malta. There they found themselves in the middle of a refugee crisis after the Arab spring uprisings in 2011, which led to the development of the project 'Out of Africa' which became one of the Guild's sponsored projects. And up to the present with the preparatory work and the forming of Cleir Eilean I, the largest presbytery in the Church of Scotland, which Doug went on to serve as their first Moderator.

Eileen Ardern





Photographs Alison Roberston



THANK YOU!

We both just want to say a big "Thank You!" to everyone at Crown who made the 50th anniversary celebrations of Doug's ordination such a happy and special occasion.

We just had such a great time... the service celebrated all that brought us to the day, including places and people we hold so dear – some no longer with us, but whose impact on our lives we continue to celebrate. And the lunch, of course, made the day itself so memorable as we celebrated together.

And then there were the cards, and the special greetings, and the unexpected gift of book tokens which has given us a treat to look forward to as well. So, to each and everyone involved, please know how much we have appreciated all of this.

It came just the weekend before Doug handed over the Moderator's responsibilities for Clèir Eilean Ì at a special service in Dunoon, at which he recounted 18 months in which he had led 22 special services – 3 ordinations of ministers, 6 inductions of ministers, and 13 services of union – as far afield as Bute, Caithness, Sutherland, Forres, and Kingussie; two of these services (the last one just the day before the Crown celebrations!) took us back to Dornoch Cathedral, where we were married in 1982, and where our children were baptised. So it's been a very special time for us, and we're very glad to have been able to share it – and the paper aeroplanes – with our friends in Crown.

In case you're wondering about the picture, it was taken when we were sailing on the Sea of Galilee. The boat was pretty much on the spot where the risen Jesus told Peter and his friends to cast their net one more time... and they landed the catch of a lifetime; 153 fish.

A ministry which had started some years earlier with about 120 gallons of water becoming wine, reached its earthly conclusion with a catch so large the nets couldn't hold them all... So, as we thank you all again, please continue to celebrate the Good News in all our lives!

Doug & Lesley

Prayer Diary

July 2025 and August 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

July 6-12

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

During the summer holidays, pray for all children, young people and families to form blossoming friendships that will sustain them through the academic year ahead.

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 majestic creation and ask Him to prompt us to be good steward of the earth.

Lord Almighty – we pray for collective action against climate change. We pray for countries worldwide to act collaboratively to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases and CO2 emissions. Guide world leaders in this monumental effort. Amen

Pray Isaiah 40:31; "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like angels, they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Pray that God would give us all strength to do His will

July 13-19

PRAY FOR PEACEFULNESS "Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble" *Psalms 119:165*

Pray for moments of peacefulness this week. Life often feels hectic, but moments of peacefulness can help us recentre and tune in to God again.

As Christians, we know the peace of the Lord. Pray that we will carry that into our daily lives, and bless those we meet with a sense of calm and stability.

Heavenly Father – You give us Your peace and You are with us at all times and in every way. We pray to be reminded of that every day, and to bring that peace to a world that so often spins too quickly to remember it. Thank you for your grace and love. Amen.

Pray for peace - *Shalom* in our world, particularly for the ongoing conflicts in different parts of our world; that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. We ask for wisdom for our leaders that they make appropriate decisions on behalf of all of us.

Pray for peaceful people to enter positions of power in the workplace, in government and global leadership positions. We need peaceful leaders to influence culture.

July 20-26

Pray Psalm 62:5-7, 'Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God.'

Pray today for people who have recently suffered bereavement – particularly those who are mourning the loss of a family member. Ask God to give them His comfort, strength and hope as they grieve, and to know He is their comforter.

Lord God – We remember those people in prison and pray for their spiritual lives. We pray that they will meet You in new ways, through Scripture, through chaplains or through hearing Your voice. Bring Your love into their lives. Amen

Whatever your own family situation today, thank God that He has adopted you as a son or daughter into His family. Thank God for relationship and the opportunity to share life with other people, ask Him to reveal more of His intended plan for families to You and to teach you how to love those around you like He does.

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

July 27 – August 2

PRAY FOR FRIENDSHIP "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" *Proverbs 17:17*

Adult friendships are precious relationships. Thank God for the friends in your life.

Pray for those people who struggle to build and maintain friendships. Pray that they will find people who love and accept them, just as they are.

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.

On 28th July – World Nature Conservation Day, pray for the recognition of a healthy environment as the foundation for a stable and productive society and for the future generations. Pray for protection, conservation and sustainable management of our natural resources.

Today 30th July - International Day of Friendship, pause and thank God for all the friends that He has blessed us with. Pray for friends that we might have lost touch with, for friends whom we know are going through a difficult time, and for health and happiness for our friends in the future.

August 3-9

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 God's light and love to shine into the minds of all who are depressed, anxious or suffering from dementia. Pray for opportunities, resources, and new and renewed relationships which help and support people with mental health

challenges in healthier ways.

Pray for the homeless and those cut off from their families; that the much-needed practical help and support be made available to meet both their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Father God – thank you for blessing each and every one of us with gifts and creativity. We pray for more disciples to represent Christ in popular culture and act as role models for the next generations. Amen.

August 10-16

Father, thank You for sending Jesus into the world so that we could have a relationship with You. Help us to be part of sharing the gospel with the world. Amen

Remember and pray for those who have been affected by substance use; may they receive love, compassion and support, and may God guide them through difficult times.

Oh God of 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.

On this day 12th August, International Youth Day, Pray for the children and young adults you know. Pray that they would know they are loved by God, and that they would have an awareness of their value in Christ. Pray for young people's spiritual growth and relationship with God.

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.

August 17-23

Pray for teachers and pupils heading back to school in the UK after the summer break. Ask God to guide and inspire teachers as they prepare, and to instil in children the desire and confidence to learn and grow. Thank God for the opportunity of education and learning.

Thank God for all of the aid workers around the world that bravely sacrifice their time and their own safety to help others.

On this day 19th August -World Humanitarian Day, pray for all countries experiencing disasters and crisis; pay tribute and give thanks for all aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service.

Pray for God's revival in our community and congregation. Ask God to open the eyes of the people around us, that they would see His unfailing love and sense His powerful presence and purpose for our lives.

Lord, we trust in your perfect plan and timing. We seek your wisdom in every decision and your favour in every endeavour. May your guidance lead us to fruitful partnerships and effective support, and may your hand be evident in all that we do. In Jesus' name we pray.

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 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.

Lift up the emergency services today and pray for the people in our daily lives who we often take for granted. Thank God for the everyday heroes who risk so much for us so that we can live safe lives, and pray for opportunities to thank them ourselves.

Pray those who are experiencing a form of terminal and long-term illnesses or have a family member or friend affected; may they be comforted, experiencing strength and courage in their treatment.

Pray for all elderly people in our community, for those living in their own homes or nursing homes and care homes. Pray for strength, resilience and peace among them, their families and staff who support and help look after them.

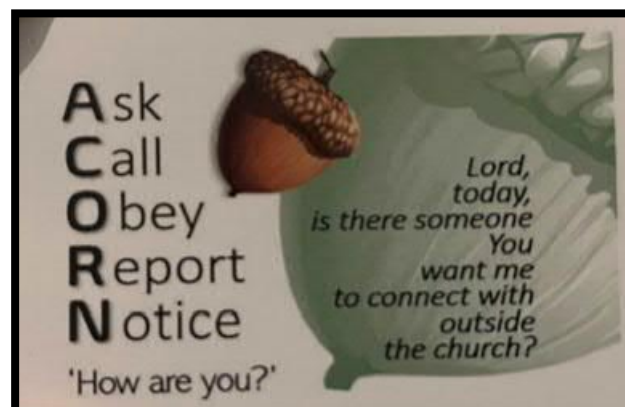
If you have particular prayer requests for September 2025 please do send them to our *church administrator, Fiona* who will pass them on, or e-mail Jude Madeleine; judedmond@yahoo.co.uk



ACORN Meeting

Every second and last Monday of the month, 19:30 – 20:45pm

CROWN CHURCH – Small Meeting Room



Everyone welcome for a friendly and informal discussion about doing discipleship and mission, and exploring what is God doing in me, through me and in the other?

For more information, contact Jude Madeleine on 07813892280 or John/Marion Barbour on 07810407231

SNAC and Messy Church (OHSS) BBQ Saturday 28th June

It was very windy but it was sunny and dry!

A super time was had by all last Saturday as around 130 people enjoyed lots of fun, games and delicious food. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success, in particular Gary and Pamela McAra. A big thank you also for the donations in aid of Young Crown.

Jacqueline Mackenzie





The Olive Grove Customers are attracted to the Olive Grove for a variety of reasons. For some it is a handy small café on their way going into or coming home from the centre of Inverness. For others it is a stopover for a lunch of homemade soup, homemade fresh bread, scones and cakes, at very affordable prices. Many are regulars who have their lunch in the Olive Grove, every week, others are visitors who are drawn in by the sign outside; some of these are tourists, including from overseas.

For all that use the Olive Grove one of the biggest attractions is the atmosphere created by the friendly volunteers who staff the café. The rapport between the customers and staff creates a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

There is a cross section in the age levels of the customer base, from the more mature, to young families, some from the Toddlers Group in the church. The young mothers or fathers often appreciate a bit of assistance especially if there is more than one youngster looking to be fed. Here, when time allows, a staff member can act as 'grandparent' helping feed one of the children to ease the pressure on a busy parent. This all adds to the informal family feeling around the tables.

Adults come in in groups of twos or threes, or singly which also allows cross table conversations. At other times, a few minutes shared with those not in company is invaluable and appreciated.

Presently, Team Olive Grove needs additional volunteers to maintain this hugely appreciated service at its current level. The menu is simple, the cooking quite routine, a friendly disposition is key to this equal opportunity. It is amazing how quickly people fit in and new friendships form.

Come on, give it a go, you will enjoy it !

Liz Gray

VOLUNTEERS

needed



Got some free time?
We are looking for
volunteers to join our
fun and friendly team at
the Olive Grove, Crown
Church's cafe.

Open Wednesday &
Thursday 10am - 3pm.



Contact - 07845067501
or pop into the Olive Grove



Christian Aid Week 2025

The Christian Aid Week collection has amounted to a Grand Total of **£1918.75**.

The breakdown is as follows (all figures include Gift Aid).

Envelopes on seats	£402.00
Envelopes returned from parish	£1084.25
Crown Church e-envelope	£382.50
333k Steps in May e-envelope	£50.00

My grateful thanks to the congregation and parish as ever. In fact the amount raised from the parish is noticeably up on last year, which is very encouraging and which vindicates the efforts of our team of some 20 volunteers.

However the grand total is noticeably down. There's no point in beating about the bush – I am disappointed about this. I can't really imagine that my sudden enforced absence from the scene had a great deal to do with this because fortunately all the arrangements were in place before that.

It's true that after being well up to date with my step count until the middle of the month, suddenly it went down from 11,000 steps a day to a few hundred, just toddling around the hospital ward! The most likely explanation for the lower total is that just a few weeks previously, the congregation had been extremely generous with the collection for the Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Appeal.

Anyway the bottom line is that over the two appeals Crown Church and parish have been very generous in responding to the needs of regions of the world beset by problems of injustice, inequality and climate change. We can be proud of that.

Next year I plan to be fighting fit and ready for the challenge again!

Thank you

David Crippin

Daily Bible Readings for July & August

Sunday, July 6, 2025, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 Letter to Exiles

Monday, July 7, 2025, Jeremiah 31:1-9 The Joyful Return of the Exiles

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, Jeremiah 31:10-17 The Joyful Return of the Exiles

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, Jeremiah 31:18-26 The Joyful Return of the Exiles

Thursday, July 10, 2025, Jeremiah 31:27-30 Individual Retribution

Friday, July 11, 2025, Jeremiah 31:31-37 A New Covenant

Saturday, July 12, 2025, Jeremiah 31:38-40 Jerusalem to be Enlarged

Sunday, July 13, 2025, Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Planting and Building

Monday, July 14, 2025, Jeremiah 32:16-25 Jeremiah Prays for Understanding

Tuesday, July 15, 2025, Jeremiah 32:26-35 God's Assurance of the People's Return

Wednesday, July 16, 2025, Jeremiah 32:36-44 God's Assurance of the People's Return

Thursday, July 17, 2025, Jeremiah 33:1-9 Healing After Punishment

Friday, July 18, 2025, Jeremiah 33:10-13 Healing After Punishment

Saturday, July 19, 2025, Jeremiah 33:19-26 The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

Sunday, July 20, 2025, Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34 Messiah and New Covenant

Monday, July 21, 2025, Jeremiah 34:8-22 Treacherous Treatment of Slaves

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, Jeremiah 35 The Rechabites Commended

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, Jeremiah 36:11-21 Jeremiah Imprisoned

Thursday, July 24, 2025, Jeremiah 38:1-6 Jeremiah in the Cistern

Friday, July 25, 2025, Jeremiah 38:7-13 Jeremiah is Rescued by Ebed-melech

Saturday, July 26, 2025, Jeremiah 39 The Fall of Jerusalem

Sunday, July 27, 2025, Revelation 1:4-8 Greetings and First Vision

Monday, July 28, 2025, Revelation 1:9-20 A Vision of Christ

Tuesday, July 29, 2025, Revelation 2:1-11 Message to Ephesus, Smyrna

Wednesday, July 30, 2025, Revelation 2:12-17 Message to Pergamum

Thursday, July 31, 2025, Revelation 2:18-29 Message to Thyatira

Friday, August 1, 2025, Revelation 3:1-13 Message to Sardis, Philadelphia

Saturday, August 2, 2025, Revelation 3:14-22 Message to Laodicea

Sunday, August 3, 2025, Revelation 4:1-11 The Elders and the Four Living Creatures

Monday, August 4, 2025, Revelation 4:1 What Must Take Place

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Revelation 4:2-3 The One Seated on the Throne

Wednesday, August 6, 2025, Revelation 4:4-6a The Twenty-four Elders

Thursday, August 7, 2025, Revelation 4:6b-8a The Four Living Creatures

Friday, August 8, 2025, Revelation 4:8b The Hymn of the Living Creatures

Saturday, August 9, 2025, Revelation 4:9-11 The Hymn of the Elders

Sunday, August 10, 2025, Revelation 5:1-13 The Seven Seals

Monday, August 11, 2025, Revelation 5:1-5 Who is Worthy?

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, Revelation 5:6-8 Worthy is the Lamb

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, Revelation 5:9-13 The Songs of the Saints and All Creatures

Thursday, August 14, 2025, Revelation 6:1-8 The First Four Seals

Friday, August 15, 2025, Revelation 6:9-17 The Fifth and Sixth Seals

Saturday, August 16, 2025, Revelation 7:1-8 The 144,000 of Israel Sealed

Sunday, August 17, 2025, Revelation 7:9-17 The Multitude from Every Nation

Monday, August 18, 2025, Revelation 8:1-5 The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

Tuesday, August 19, 2025, Revelation 8:6-13 The Seven Trumpets

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, Revelation 9:1-12 The Fifth Angel's Trumpet

Thursday, August 21, 2025, Revelation 9:13-21 The Sixth Angel's Trumpet

Friday, August 22, 2025, Revelation 10 The Angel with the Little Scroll

Saturday, August 23, 2025, Revelation 11:1-14 The Two Witnesses

Sunday, August 24, 2025, Revelation 13:1-18 The Beast and the Dragon

Monday, August 25, 2025, Revelation 11:15-19 The Seventh Trumpet

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Revelation 12:1-6 The Woman and the Dragon

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, Revelation 12:7-12 Michael Defeats the Dragon

Thursday, August 28, 2025, Revelation 12:13-17 The Dragon Fights Again on Earth

Friday, August 29, 2025, Revelation 12:18-13:10 The First Beast

Saturday, August 30, 2025, Revelation 13:11-18 The Second Beast

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



SOUNDS FAMILIAR



Sounds Familiar is a singing group for people with dementia and their carers. If you care for someone with dementia or you have dementia and have a carer who could bring you and stay with you, you would be most welcome.

Sounds Familiar meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. From the new session starting in September we will be meeting in a new venue- Hilton Church - and at a new time -2pm.

If you wish to come please contact 07706383251 or 01463 230803 or email soundsfamiliarmusic@aol.com for more information or to book.

Margot Tuley

Sir Geoff Palmer

Reading of the death of Sir Geoff Palmer in mid June caused both sadness but also an awareness of the privilege of meeting such a remarkable man, Scotland's first black professor, chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, first black Knight of the Thistle (2024) and a powerful voice as a human rights activist.

Crown's link came through our partner North Street United Church in Kingston, which Sir Geoff left aged 14 to join his mother in low skilled employment in London. His life was radically changed, firstly by the intervention of an Immigration Officer who insisted he must attend school until age 15, then by his own phenomenal skills with a cricket bat which saw him progress from a junior secondary 'special' class to a selective school on the strength of the asset he would be to their cricket team! Once bitten by the learning bug, his progress from laboratory assistant to professor (of brewing) was remarkable.

His talk in Crown Church in 2016 on Scottish involvement in slavery attracted a large audience well beyond the church congregation. Such was his warmth and humanity that rather than dwelling on guilt associated with this painful subject, he focused forward on how, when properly understood, situations could be improved by encouraging reconciliation and genuine equality of opportunity.

With personal warmth, there also came humour. Turning to one of our visiting North Street guests with a twinkling eye, he surprised her by saying how much his teenage self had admired her mother, gazing longingly at her over the church pews in North Street. Our guest's grandmother would have none of it, seeing a boy with no prospects ... how wrong she was! Sir Geoff, you'll always remain an inspiration.

Mairi Main

Outreach Team

CROWN CORNER CLUB

Fiona Green, Manager of Crown Corner Club, retires at the end of the school year after 23 years in charge.

Fiona has been manager of the club since its set up in 2002 and has looked after 100s of local children during the years of service she has given.

Fiona has had a lasting, positive impact on the kids attending. Many of our children still talk about Fiona and their time at the club fondly, even after many years. We wish Fiona well for the future.

Jane Smith



As we look forward to the summer months, holidays and hopefully some sunshine, let us not forget that there are many in our community in financial hardship who are struggling to put food on the table. The letter below from Lorna Dempster highlights the significant challenges facing the Foodbank and the items that are so very much needed over the next two months.

Dear Churches supporting Highland Foodbank,

Once again I'd like to thank everyone who has been able to donate to Foodbank this year. Your commitment to people in crisis in the Highlands is really appreciated by Blythswood. So far this year we've provided emergency food to 2,500 people, many of whom had never been referred to a food bank before.

The reality for us is that stocks haven't been so low in over five years, and we're beginning to have to buy items to ensure we have enough food to make up food parcels for people referred to us. If folks in your congregation could donate even one item from the list, this would make a massive difference to what we do.

If bringing food to Church is difficult for anyone, we have permanent collection points in Tesco Inshes, Tesco Tain, Asda Inverness and Asda Tain, which are emptied on a weekly basis. Some

Co-ops across Highland also have a food donation box for us.

Wishing you every blessing this summer.

Kindest regards,

Lorna Dempster

Food Bank Manager



The items we'd appreciate donations of
in July & August 2025 are:

- Tins of ham
- Tins of potatoes
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of fruit
- Tins of corned beef
- Tins of mince/ravioli
- Deodorant/toothpaste
- Bags for life new or used

**Nobody
in the
Highlands of
Scotland should be
without food!**

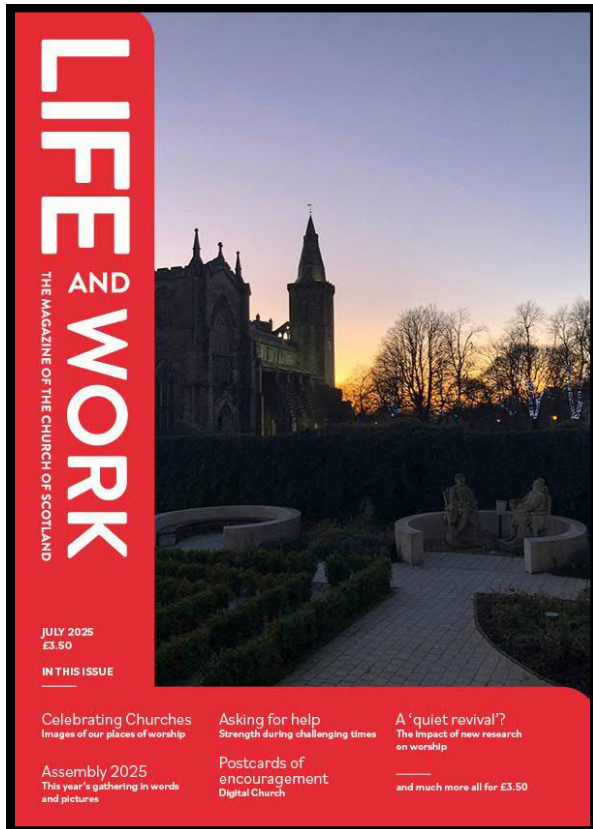
**Please donate an
item or
two if you can.**

Thank You!

01463 717630
foodbank.admin@blythswood.org
Registered Charity in Scotland 048001
Company Number 583493

LIFE AND WORK

July



Celebrating Churches

Images of our places of worship

Assembly 2025

Six pages of coverage in words and pictures

Restoring Dignity

One of Christian Aid's Malawian staff explains the importance of its work, and the support of the Church of Scotland

Postcards of Encouragement

The Rev Ruth Kennedy reflects on sharing and building up communities

A 'Quiet Revival'?

The Rev Roddy Hamilton considers the impact of new research on worship

My Church

Professor Ronald L Crawford of Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church explains why the

influences of yesterday remain relevant for today and tomorrow

The Content of Your Heart

The final part of the Rev Richard Baxter's series on the undervalued and underrated figures of the Bible

A Day in the Life

The Rev Jane Howitt describes a typical day as chaplain at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

Asking for Help

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer explains why seeking the assistance of others is a strength during challenging times.

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

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

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Welcome Team

July 6th Heather and Alex Grant, Eileen and Richard Ardern
July 13th Helen Boynton, Val Little, John & Marion Barbour
July 20th Helen Boynton, Val Little, John & Marion Barbour
July 27th Val Little, John & Marion Barbour, Alex Grant

August 3rd Sheena Ferguson, Helen Boynton, Elspeth Gibson, Jane Wilson
August 10th Sheena Ferguson, Helen Boynton, Elspeth Gibson, Douglas Wilson
August 17th Sheena Ferguson, Elspeth Gibson, Heather & Alex Grant
August 24th Sheena Ferguson, Elspeth Gibson, Jane & Douglas Wilson
August 31st Sheena Ferguson, Elspeth Gibson, Jane & Douglas Wilson

Readers

July 6th Ian Fraser
July 13th Lena Clarke
July 20th Jimmy Gray
July 27th Helen Boynton

August 3rd Alastair MacLeod
August 10th Gus McGowan
August 17th Donald MacKenzie
August 24th Linda Moncur
August 31st Bruce Merchant

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 Eddie Adie, Miers Avenue, 7th June, 2025

Mr John Lindsay Munro (known as Lindsay), Milton Crescent, 7th June 2025

Congratulations

We have recently had the joy of welcoming, by profession of faith, four new members to our congregation; on Sunday 25th May Brian & Sheona MacKenzie and on Sunday 1st June Jimmy Gray & Sam McCowat.



Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Anne and Alastair MacLeod on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 11th June 2025.

Items for the September newsletter by Sunday 31st August 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

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