

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

October 2025 : No. 814

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 5th October

Harvest Thanksgiving and Guild Enrolment Service

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

Sunday 12th October

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 19th October

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 26th October

Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am

Sunday 2nd November

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



'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up'

Galatians 6:9



As we look back on the past year, I am pleased to report that Young Crown continues to thrive as a stand-alone charity with a clear Christian message and a valued link to the local churches, including Crown Church, and Old High and St Stephen's. We remain focused on providing a safe, welcoming space where children, young people, and families can grow, explore faith, and feel part of a caring community.

Interesting times lie ahead with the imminent union of Crown Church and Old High and St Stephen's, forming the new Midmills Parish Church from 1st January. This is a significant moment for the church in Inverness, and it will no doubt shape how we work together in the years ahead. While Young Crown is independent, our connection to the churches is an important part of who we are, and we look forward to exploring new opportunities for partnership as the new parish begins its journey.

It is also worth noting that the 9:30am service continues to thrive, thanks to the dedicated work of those who faithfully lead these services. We are encouraged to see the number of young families attending continue to grow. Their involvement brings fresh energy and innovative ideas, which in turn help shape the direction of our work with children and families in the community.

One of our challenges this year came when our funding application to Seeds for Growth was unsuccessful. There appeared to be some concern or confusion over our relationship with the church, which may have contributed to this outcome. However, we were deeply encouraged when an anonymous sponsor stepped forward and offered to match pound for pound any money we could raise through donations and fundraising activities, up to a maximum of £7,000. I am delighted to report that we raised £6,126, and with Gift Aid added we are in a strong financial position heading into 2026.

Our Youth Worker, Jackie, continues to deliver outstanding work. Her toddler group remains a valued resource for parents and carers, and her work at Crown Primary School is flourishing, with growing numbers attending the Scripture Union group. Jackie also provides support at Millburn Academy, helping to strengthen links with young people as they move through secondary school. She has been linking with Old High and St Stephen's through their Sweaty Church programme and is collaborating with the Kinmylies Church Youth Worker, helping her build confidence, knowledge, and experience. Saturday Night At Crown (SNAC), which runs monthly, continues to be a popular event for our younger members, offering a fun and safe environment with a positive Christian message.

This year we were sorry to lose one of our board members due to ill health. In addition, two of our long-serving board members decided to step down. We are very grateful for the commitment and expertise they brought to Young Crown and wish them well.

I am delighted to report that we filled these positions with three willing volunteers ready to step into the vacant roles, which gives us confidence and stability as we plan for the future.

Looking forward, we are excited by the opportunities that the formation of Midmills Parish Church and our ongoing partnerships with local churches will bring. With Jackie's dedication, the commitment of our volunteers, and the generosity of our supporters, Young Crown is well placed to continue our mission of serving the children, young people, and families of our community.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us — through prayer, volunteering, donations, and encouragement. Your partnership makes all the difference and allows us to keep building something that impacts lives in a lasting way.

Charles Forbes

Chairperson Young Crown

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Leaflets with details of the annual appeal are available at each Church door. Complete boxes or individual items from the list can be left at the Olive Grove from Thursday 30th October, the deadline being Sunday 2nd November. Members of the Outreach Team will drop off to Blythswood's Harbour Road depot the following Monday/Tuesday.

Mairi Main



Navigating Life's Path: A Lesson from Belfast's Streets

I was standing in the centre of Belfast, it was lunchtime, the place was busy and a strange little scene unfolded. A visually impaired woman, accompanied by her guide dog, made her way down the bustling street. As they came close to me, the woman paused and called to the dog 'You've done it again' (meaning that the dog had gone beyond where she wanted to be). However her faithful companion continued to gently pull on its harness, signalling that they had not yet reached their destination.

With unwavering trust, the woman followed her dog's lead, taking a few more steps until they arrived precisely where she wanted to be. This moment of trust between human and animal offers a poignant metaphor for our own journey through life.

In our daily lives, we often rely heavily on our own judgement, sometimes overlooking the wisdom of God. The Book of Proverbs beautifully offers us some wise advice: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding' (Proverbs 3:5 NIV).

While we may not experience the physical tug of a guide dog's harness, we can sense a different kind of guidance. It comes as a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit, 'the gentle whisper of a small still voice'. By tuning in and listening closely, we might just discover insights that surprise us and guide us on our path.

Stewart Robertson

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.



Thank you very much to everyone who came along to the Soup and Sandwich lunch in aid of Launchpad on 14th September. £591.48 was donated, which will allow us to give out another two grants.

Eileen Ardern

Daily Bible Readings for October

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

Sunday, October 5, 2025, Exodus 16:1-18 God Provides Manna

Monday, October 6, 2025, Exodus 18:13-27 Jethro's Advice

Tuesday, October 7, 2025, Exodus 20:1-21 The Ten Commandments

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, Exodus 25:10-22 The Ark of the Covenant

Thursday, October 9, 2025, Exodus 32:1-35 The Golden Calf

Friday, October 10, 2025, 1 Samuel 1:1-28 Samuel's Birth and Dedication

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah's Prayer

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 1 Samuel 3:1-21 God Calls Samuel

Monday, October 13, 2025, 1 Samuel 4:1-11 The Ark of God Captured

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 1 Samuel 5:1-12 Philistines and the Ark

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 1 Samuel 6:1-16 The Ark Returned

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 1 Samuel 8:1-18 Israel Demands a King

Friday, October 17, 2025, 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8 Samuel Anoints Saul as King

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 1 Samuel 15:10-34 Saul Rejected as King

Sun, Oct 19, 2025, 1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 51:10-14 God Calls David

Monday, October 20, 2025, 1 Samuel 17:1-11 Goliath

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 1 Samuel 17:12-23 David Visits His Brothers

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 1 Samuel 17:31-40 David Prepares for Battle

Thursday, October 23, 2025, 1 Samuel 17:41-54 David Slays Goliath

Friday, October 24, 2025, 1 Kings 1:28-31 Solomon Becomes King

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 1 Kings 3:3-15 Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13 Solomon's Temple

Monday, October 27, 2025, 1 Kings 17:1-7 Elijah Predicts a Drought

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 1 Kings 17:8-16 The Widow Zarephath

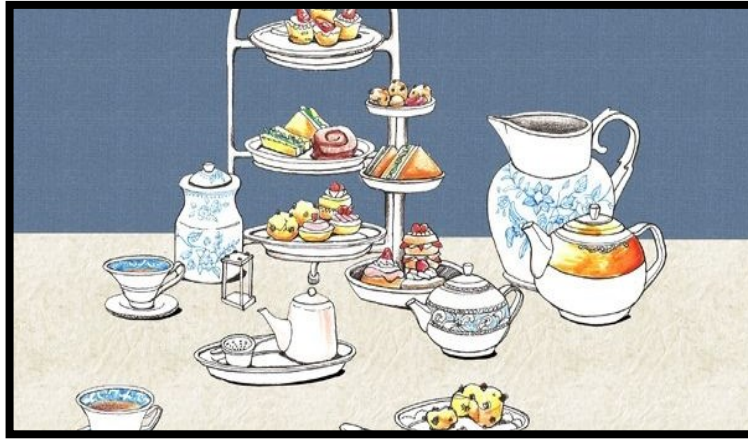
Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 1 Kings 17:17-24 Elijah Revives the Widow's Son

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 1 Kings 18:1-19 Elijah's Message to Ahab

Friday, October 31, 2025, 1 Kings 18:20-40 Elijah's Triumph over the Priests of Baal

Saturday, November 1, 2025, 1 Kings 18:41-46 The Drought Ends





Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea

The Leprosy Mission Scotland - Inverness Area Fundraising Group, are holding an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 18th October from 2.00 - 4.00pm in the Sanctuary of Crown Church (Garden entrance, and free parking in Crown School).

There will be a bring and buy stall and a stall with Leprosy Mission products.

Please come and support the work to restore the Danja Hospital building in Niger. A donation may be made at the door. We look forward to seeing you.

All welcome.

Marion Barbour

Circle of Friends of Cameron House

On behalf of the residents, staff and Circle of Friends of Cameron House, along with the pastoral Care Groups of Crown and OHSS, can I say a huge thank you to all you wonderful bakers, tablet makers, sandwich makers, tea and coffee makers, clever crafters, everyone who donated to the lucky squares and Harry Gow for the sausage rolls.

Thank you to all the willing helpers on the day and to all of you generous folk who turned out and supported us. We are indebted to the Crown Church for the use of the Church and amenities.

The super amount of £1,650 has been raised for Cameron House - we are truly blessed by people's generosity and willingness to support the Home.

Kay MacDonald

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

October 5th Douglas and Jane Wilson, Mairi Main, Eileen Ardern

October 12th Douglas and Jane Wilson, Val Little

October 19th Helen Boynton, Douglas and Jane Wilson, Lena Clarke

October 26th Helen Boynton, Douglas and Jane Wilson, Lena Clarke

**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.**

Readers

October 5th Lena Clarke

October 12th Ella Low

October 19th Jane Smith

October 26th Pat Crippin

November 2nd Boys Brigade

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations



Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Frank & Sally McCubbin on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, October 2025.

Items for the November by Sunday 26th October please!

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

Please send any articles, photographs or news to :

newsletter@[crown-church.co.uk](mailto: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

Published by Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland)

Registered charity SC 018159

The Church website is to be found at www.crown-church.co.uk