

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

November 2025 : No. 815

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 2nd November | BB Enrolment. Morning Worship at 10.30am followed by special prayers. |
| Sunday 9th November | Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am. Please be seated by 10.50am |
| Sunday 16th November | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 23rd November | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 30th November | Morning Worship at 9.30am and 11.00am |
| Sunday 7th December | The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am and 11.00am followed by special prayers |



'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone'

Romans 12: 18

Union of Crown Church and Old High St Stephens Church

The Presbytery of Clèir Eilean Ì met on the 28th October to discuss among other matters, the Union of Crown Church and Old High Saint Stephens Church. The Presbytery voted in favour of the Union which will take place on 1st January 2026.

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk

An important date for your diary!

As I think most of us now know, our minister, the Reverend Douglas Robertson, has indicated his intention to demit office at the end of this year.

Whilst we are all extremely sorry to lose Douglas and Alison, it is important that we have an appropriate opportunity to say our farewells.

We have accordingly decided to have a congregational lunch in the upper hall immediately after the 11 o'clock service on the morning of Sunday 21st December.

Further details will be issued nearer the time but, in the meantime, it would be helpful if everyone could put this date into their diaries.

Bob Forrest
Session Clerk



HIGHLAND FOODBANK

I would like to thank the members and friends of Crown Church for the extremely kind and generous donations this Harvest, totalling an amazing 279kgs!

Our grateful thanks to everyone who contributed. This will really help us to continue to provide emergency food to people in our communities who are facing financial crisis.

We are about to launch our Reverse Advent Calendar which lists an item of food, toiletries, or household cleaning products for each day in November. We run with this in November so that any Christmas specific items can be included in food parcels in the lead up to Christmas, giving a little bit of a treat alongside the main items which are given.

If anybody from your church would like to donate to us during November/December could you please donate something from the Reverse Advent Calendar.

Every blessing,

Lorna (Dempster)



Reverse Advent Calendar

Highland Foodbank

We'd be grateful if you would consider donating the following items during November, to give us time to add the items to food parcels for people in need this Christmas.

November 2025

- 1st Tin of potatoes/smash
- 2nd Jar of instant coffee
- 3rd Packet of microwaveable rice
- 4th Small packet of biscuits
- 5th Small tin of ham
- 6th Jar of jam
- 7th Box of Weetabix/corn flakes
- 8th Bag of crisps/Pringles
- 9th Tin of custard
- 10th Shower gel
- 11th Jar of pasta sauce
- 12th Tin of vegetables
- 13th 1kg bag of pasta
- 14th Tin of mince/meatballs
- 15th Carton of UHT milk
- 16th Tin of chopped tomatoes
- 17th Carton of long-life juice
- 18th £4 to help with deliveries
- 19th Packet of oatcakes
- 20th Packet of toilet rolls
- 21st Selection box/sweets
- 22nd Shampoo
- 23rd Tin of fruit
- 24th Deodorant
- 25th Tin of corned beef
- 26th Hot Water Bottle
- 27th Packet of cream crackers
- 28th Bottle of diluting juice
- 29th Box of soap powder
- 30th Box of mince pies (no alcohol content)



Highland
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Your kind donations need to be handed in to our Foodbank warehouse at 1 Glebe Street, Inverness, IV1 1RF - or any of our shops - **no later than the first week in December.**

Please note that the list of items we have asked for is not exhaustive, but they are items we are in most need of.

Foodbank enquiries: 01463 717630
blythswood.org/foodbank_advent

Thank you

Blythswood Care, Highland Deephaven,
Evanton, Ross-shire IV16 9XJ

News from Young Crown, Toddlers and Sweaty Church

Crown Church hosted Sweaty Church in the upper hall and Sanctuary. The theme was the Tower of Babel. 30 children were led in prayer. We watched a short film called Babel by Legobricks.com. The children were encouraged to think about the importance of listening to each other but more importantly to try to listen to God.



The children from Sweaty Church enjoying the Tower of Babel story then climbing ladders to reach the top

Toddlers

Toddlers have been receiving lots of new visitors lately mostly mums with babies who are beginning to walk. The sanctuary lends a great space for baby feet and legs to stretch. The attendance remains constant at over 20 each day.

We had a visit from Marianne Nairn, Highland Council Community Early Years Practitioner, who delivers Book Bug Sessions to Southside Nursing Home. The staff at Southside Nursing Home took residents along to join in with the Toddlers. We enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee, a chat and then a sing along together. The residents really enjoyed spending time with the mums, dads and toddlers. A big thank you to Marianne for her visit which I hope we can do again soon.



Baptism at Church



It was such a blessing to attend the baptism of Findlay and Jay Connon with their parents Ellie and Craig on Sunday 26th October 2025. It was lovely to meet their family and friends, some of who had travelled quite a distance to attend the baptism.

Jackie Mackenzie, Young Crown Children and Families Worker

Prayer Diary

November 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.

November 2-8

Give thanks to God for the beautiful autumn days. Father, we praise You for Your glory and the beauty of the world You have created, and we thank You for the mountains, rivers, seas, fields and animals You have given to us to enjoy. We are sorry for when we take creation for granted, and thank You today for the amazing planet we live on. Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Offer a prayer of personal thanks to God today: Lord, I thank You for prayer – that I can come before You and call You Father - Abba; that You listen to me and care about everything I bring before You. Today, above all else, I choose to give You thanks.

Pray that just as God loves and cares for us, we would also similarly love and care for others. Help us to be supportive and loyal to those in need.

November 9-14

On Remembrance Day, pray for all the lives lost in conflicts and the impact on loved ones. Pray for peace, hope and healing for all those affected by conflicts.

As conflict continues in many areas of the world, Let us look for ways to offer support, be it through humanitarian aid or prayer and acts of worship.

Almighty God,

Your Son came to be the Saviour of the world
and the Prince of peace.

Give us grace to follow in His ways
and to fulfil our calling
as peacemakers in His name.

May His Holy Spirit
so move in the hearts of all people
and among the nations of the world,
that barriers of fear, suspicion, and hatred
which separate us may crumble and fall,
and the peoples of the world
be united in justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(A prayer for Peace – Book of Common Order, Church of Scotland)

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.

November 15-21

Pray Psalm 139:1-2; Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:

Open our eyes to Your wonders,

That we may serve You with reverence

And know your peace at our lives' end

Though Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

God Our Father, grant us stillness to pray; to acknowledge your presence with us as we travel through this life journey.

Praise God for sending Jesus! Praise Jesus for the hope we have because of His sacrifice, for the joy we have in knowing that we are free to live life to the full because we have the security of eternity. Pray that we won't ever take salvation for granted.

Pray for unity among our political leaders and our nation. Almighty God, we bring before you the elected representatives of the UK Assemblies and parliaments, and members of the House of Lords. Please enable them to work together honourably for the highest interests of each of our nations and be guided by the truth of Your Word.

November 22-29

Give thanks for the Advent season; for hope as we look forward to the birthday of Christ, for the experience in the joy of salvation and celebrate the feast with love and thanksgiving.

Pray for those facing personal challenges or who may be experiencing ill health. May they know the peace and love of God's presence in their lives.

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 Isaiah 35:3-4. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come'.

November 30 – December 6

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

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

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 the staff who support and help look after them.

Pray for revival and spiritual awakening. Lord Jesus, help us to be bold witnesses of Your gospel.

Pray, 'Lord, today is there someone you want me to connect with outside or within the church family?'



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

Everyone needs a prayer at some time or another

We all hope for good health and wellbeing. Many do, but not all the time. Some people experience long periods of distress and yearn for better days. Prayer is powerful and inclusive. That means you or your friend or your family member. We believe in the power of prayer. There is no-one and nothing beyond the love of God. This is the good news for everybody.

People ask for prayers for all sorts of things: health both mental and physical, bereavement, job difficulties, family difficulties, financial difficulties. As well as doubts of faith, dedication and love.

If you have a prayer request then there are blank cards in the vestibules or just write on a piece of paper and post in the wooden box in the Midmills corridor next to the lift.

Brian Macgill

Finding God Among Us – The Church Bench

Recently, my wife and I were the last ones out of church, chatting with folks for a long time over coffee. Outside, a young man was sitting on the church bench in the garden, enjoying the sunshine. He had no church connection.

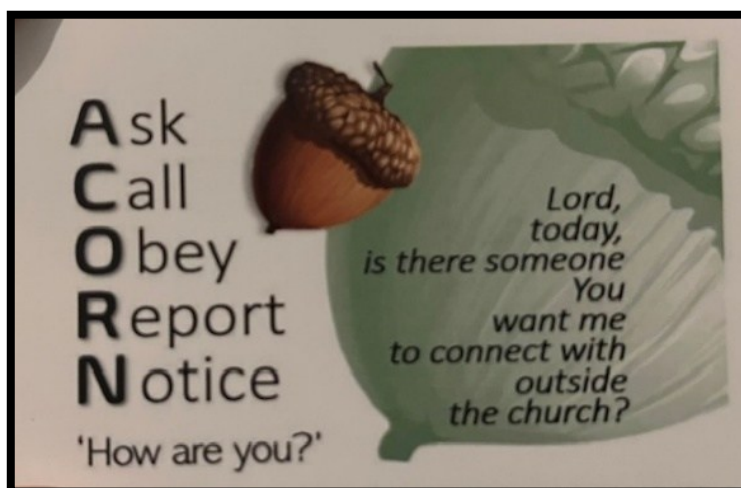
In conversation it actually turned out he lives in the South of England, studies in Scotland and decided to explore Inverness city centre for a day. Somehow, he ended up on that bench. We had a conversation during which we felt a deep, warm connection that we knew to be a God-given moment. We carried that sense of God's presence and blessing for the three of us away with us.

We wouldn't have spoken to him if we had not been the last ones out and if he had not had the boldness to enter the church garden. God's timing and direction was key. As perhaps we tend to do as mere humans, with hindsight I wonder where else we might have gone in that conversation?

We believe that God leaves these nuggets of opportunities out for us all the time, with unusual encounters of blessing. We pray often about who He wants us to connect with, so that we may find many more.

Jude Madeleine

ACORN Meeting
Every fortnight on Monday, 19:30 – 20:45
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/WhatsApp Jude Madeleine on 07813 892280 or John/ Marion Barbour on 07810 407231

Daily Bible Readings for November

Sunday, November 2, 2025, 1 Kings 19:1-18 God Speaks to Elijah

Monday, November 3, 2025, 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 2 Kings 2:13-18 Elisha Succeeds Elijah

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 2 Kings 2:19-25 Elisha Performs Miracles

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 2 Kings 4:1-7 Elisha and the Widow's Oil

Friday, November 7, 2025, 2 Kings 5:1-19a Elisha Heals Naaman

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 2 Kings 9:30-37 Jezebel's Violent Death

Sunday, Nov 9, 2025, Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 Amos: Justice Rolls Down

Monday, November 10, 2025, Amos 3:1-8 Israel's Guilt and Punishment

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, Amos 5:18-20 The Day of the Lord a Dark Day

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, Amos 6:1-8 Complacent Self-Indulgent Punished

Thursday, November 13, 2025, Amos 6:9-14 Complacent Self-Indulgent Punished

Friday, November 14, 2025, Amos 7:1-9 Locusts, Fire, and a Plumb Line

Saturday, November 15, 2025, Amos 9:11-15 The Restoration of David's Kingdom

Sunday, November 16, 2025, Isaiah 9:1-7 Isaiah: A Child Is Born

Monday, November 17, 2025, Isaiah 11:1-9 The Peaceful Kingdom

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Isaiah 22:1-14 A Warning of Destruction of Jerusalem

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, Isaiah 25:1-12 Praise for Deliverance from Oppression

Thursday, November 20, 2025, Isaiah 27:1-11 Israel's Redemption

Friday, November 21, 2025, Isaiah 30:8-17 A Rebellious People

Saturday, November 22, 2025, Isaiah 32:16-20 The Peace of God's Reign

Sunday, November 23, 2025, Jer 29:1, 4-14 Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles

Monday, November 24, 2025, Jeremiah 1:4-19 Jeremiah's Call

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, Jeremiah 2:1-8 God Pleads with Israel to Repent

Wednesday, November 26, 2025, Jeremiah 3:1-5 Unfaithful Israel

Thursday, November 27, 2025, Jeremiah 30:1-9 Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah

Friday, November 28, 2025, Jeremiah 31:1-6 The Joyful Return of the Exiles

Saturday, November 29, 2025, Jeremiah 31:31-37 A New Covenant

Sunday, November 30, 2025, Daniel 3:1, 8-30 Daniel: The Fiery Furnace

Monday, December 1, 2025, Daniel 2:24-49 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Interpreted

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, Daniel 5:1-12 Belshazzar's Feast

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Daniel 5:13-30 The Writing on the Wall

Thursday, December 4, 2025, Daniel 6:6-27 The Lions' Pit

Friday, December 5, 2025, Daniel 7:1-18 The Four Beasts

Saturday, December 6, 2025, Daniel 12:1-3; 5-13 The End of Days



Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea

The Leprosy Mission Scotland-Inverness Area Fundraising Group, wish to thank all who supported them at the recent Afternoon Tea. The magnificent sum of over £1900 has been raised with donations still coming in.

Thank you one and all.

Marion Barbour

Geoffrey Palmer Professor Emeritus Sir KT OBE

We were saddened to learn of the death of Geoff Palmer who died on 11 June 2025.

We first met with Geoff when he agreed to join with representatives from North Street United Church, Kingston and members of Crown Church at a meeting with Mary Scanlon MSP at Holyrood.

There will be those in the congregation who remember Geoff delivering, at the invitation of Crown Church, A Public Talk on "A Shared Inheritance: Links between Scotland and Jamaica" on 13 May 2016. This topic being of great interest because of the Partnership between Crown Church and North Street United Church, Kingston, Jamaica. He also addressed the congregation during the Sunday Service relating the background to the words of 'Amazing Grace' written by John Newton. Since then various people from Crown Church have kept in touch with him.

A Memorial Service organised by Heriot Watt University was held for Sir Geoff in St Giles Cathedral on 10 October 2025. A range of speakers including the Duke of Buccleuch, who was the representative of their Majesties the King and Queen, spoke about the origins, life, work, public service and honours of Sir Geoff.



**HERIOT
WATT
UNIVERSITY**
UK | DUBAI | MALAYSIA

*A Celebration of the
Life and Legacy of*
**Sir Geoff Palmer
KT OBE**

*Friday 10th October 2025
11.00am – 12.30pm
St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh*

  **• EDINBURGH •**
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL 

Inverness Choral

conductor: Gordon Tocher

piano / organ: Adrian Marple

soloists: Sophie Bysouth, Austin Smith,
Luke Francis

GOUNOD

Mass for St Cecilia

ELGAR

***From the Bavarian
Highlands***

INVERNESS CATHEDRAL

Sat 22nd November 2025

7.30 pm

Clare Blois ©



Tickets £16 (accompanied 18 and under free)

from **www.invernesschoral.org.uk**

SCO15219

INVERNESS CHORAL presents an uplifting programme of music on St Cecilia's Day

St Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and poets. The French composer **Charles Gounod** wrote his "**Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile**" in her honour. As his first major composition it was well received at its opening performance in Paris on St Cecilia's Day, 22nd November 1855. Exactly 170 years later, the members of Inverness Choral are delighted to be celebrating this beautiful work.

Forty years later **Edward Elgar** took his family on holiday to Upper Bavaria. They were much taken with the alpine landscape, prompting Alice Elgar to write six poems in the manner of Bavarian folk verse, which her husband set to music. "**From the Bavarian Highlands**" was published in 1896. The lively songs have contrasting styles and evoke the timeless themes of love, loss, joy and nature through the turning seasons.

Would you like to sing with Inverness Choral? Why not give it a try! You don't need to be an experienced musician. If you can follow written music you'll be fine. You can join up at our first 2026 rehearsal on Monday 12th January, Smithton Church at 7.30 pm (see our website) - our Spring concert will be a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah", a truly magnificent work and great fun to sing.

The Festive Season:

Saturday 13th December

is the date for Inverness Choral's annual all day **Christmas Carolthon** in the Eastgate Centre. Come along and hear the music! Our partner charity this year is **MUNLOCHY ANIMAL AID**. Look out for more details on our posters.

www.invernesschoral.org.uk

Welcome Team

November 2nd Ruby Coe, Helen Boynton, Brian & Sheona MacKenzie

November 9th Ruby Coe, Sheona MacKenzie, Frank & Sally McCubbin

November 16th Ruby Coe, Frank & Sally McCubbin

November 23rd Ruby Coe, Helen Boynton, Brian & Sheona MacKenzie

November 30th Ruby Coe, Helen Boynton, Brian & Sheona MacKenzie

**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

November 2nd Boys Brigade

November 9th Eileen Ardern

November 16th Marion Barbour

November 23rd Alison Robertson

November 30th Sheena Ferguson

December 7th Pat Crippin

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths

Miss Jean Hamilton, Stratherrick Road, 11th October 2025

Items for the December newsletter by Sunday 30th November 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

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