

# ***Newsletter***

## ***Crown Church, Inverness***

**December 2017/ January 2018: No. 735**

**Parish Minister: the Rev (Dr) Peter Donald**  
**Probationer Minister: Mrs Heidi Hercus**



### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

**"O come let us adore him - Christ the Lord!"**

Sunday 10th December 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service: with the Sacrament of Baptism  
6.30 pm Evening Worship  
Sunday 17th December 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service: with the Sacrament of Baptism  
Sunday 24th December 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service  
6.30 pm Carols and candlelight: for all ages  
11.15 pm The Watchnight Service  
Christmas Day 10.30 am The celebration of Christmas:  
with the Sacrament of Baptism  
Also, the Lord's Supper afterwards for those who can stay.  
Sunday 31st December 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service: with the Sacrament of Baptism

### **2018**

Sunday 7th January 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service  
Sunday 14th January 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service  
Sunday 21st January 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service  
6 pm Joint Worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian  
Unity: in Culduthel Christian Centre  
Sunday 28th January 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service  
Sunday 4th February 9.30 am The first service  
11 am The second service

**PRAYERS every Friday at 12 noon, remembering people by name  
please always make your requests known!**

## **FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear friends,

Following on what I could tell you last month, I went down to Airdrie, to the linked charge of Cairnlea with Calderbank, and preached on the last Sunday of November, and was elected to be their Minister. Technically this needs to be confirmed by both the receiving and sending Presbyteries, but in all likelihood I shall be moving in the New Year. Since I am due to take leave from the very end of January, I imagine my last regular services at Crown will be on 28th, the last Sunday of January.



That is a large thought for the Donalds and no doubt for others. I don't want to be valedictory quite yet, but please know what a joy it has been for us to be here amongst you. What friends we have made and what good things have happened. Thank you.

The season of Advent is a season of beginnings. We look to the future God has had in store, and so in a sense we begin, we begin to catch on to the divine purpose. That was why Christ came! And so for all that I / we do not know all about the future, this we know, that we can trust in Him. And how that is a message to live by! In our December readings in church, we will be taking up the story of faithful souls who went even to a fiery furnace, maintaining their faith in God; and then the account of God putting flesh on the dry bones, bringing life where there was death. And then we come into hearing how Jesus was born for us. The Saviour of the world came, that we might live, and live life in its fullness.

Time is precious. I have always thought that, and I think it even more now. The time that matters is now, for we should not lose the moment. I encourage you to make time for God and time for one another. Ever more so in our fast-moving age, the pressures of life work against that. But whether it is in the run-up to Christmas, or in all of 2018, the more value and the less stress we fill our time with, the better.

Wishing you all a most joyous Christmas, and hoping to see you!!

**Peter**

## **HEIDI HERCUS**

Heidi has been with us for her 15 months of probationary ministry, and it has been a very rich time for us all. She has brought her personality and gifts and shared these so generously, in happy spirit and also working, as she had to, through a time of grief. How blessed we have been. Thank you, Heidi!

**(Continued on next page)**

## (Continued from previous page)

The Congregational Board on our behalf wanted her to be sent on with a parting gift, so we bought a desktop computer that we hope will serve her needs. In addition, the Thursday Sewing Group created a rather lovely preaching scarf, with embroidery, for her use in the future. All being well, she will hear in the next month where she is going to begin as a parish Minister, and we will continue to pray for her, that she may both bring blessings and receive them in this work to which God has called her.

Used Stamps



And we just happen to have a picture of the secret (Heidi's trademark) that lies on the reverse side of that lovely scarf!



## Used Stamps

This year £1400 has been raised up to the end of October. The Giffen Institute of Theology Presbyterian Church of South Sudan having recently relocated to Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya, is looking to stock up its library for students. This year's appeal will do just that. Please take your used stamps along to the red boxes at the front doors of the church, if possible keeping British and foreign stamps separate.

**Heather Grant**



## Highland Malawi Trust

The Highland Malawi Trust would like to thank all those who attended or donated to The Trust's Winter Feeding Programme Coffee Morning.

The total raised was an amazing £1,210 . Money will be transferred straight over there and the programme can begin. Thank you once again for your generosity and unflinching support . We are indeed truly grateful. May you all enjoy the blessings of the Christmas Season. Chrisanne, Reay, Brian , Doug .



## Highland Foodbank Harvest 2017

We have had an overwhelming response to our Harvest Appeal this year and would like to thank Crown Church for your part in this. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated by all at Blythswood and particularly by those who are referred to our Foodbank Centres.

Recently Maureen visited one of our Foodbank Centres. Maureen had her work uniform on. She had been allowed to leave work before her shift ended so that she could make it to Foodbank before we

closed. Maureen is the single parent of 2 teenage children.

The day before visiting Foodbank, Maureen went to withdraw money from the cash machine to find there was nothing in her account. Maureen's account had been emptied, and it looks like this had been done by someone she knows.

Maureen was anxious and embarrassed about coming to Foodbank, but this was her only hope at such a difficult and stressful time in her life.

So thank you for your part in helping people like Maureen and thousands more who are helped by Foodbank each year.

The items we are currently short of are: **Tins of Ham, Packets of Rice, Cream Crackers, Long Life Fruit Juice and Toilet Rolls.**

Donations of these items during November/December would be greatly appreciated, but please do not feel any pressure to respond to this as Crown Church has already been so generous during our Harvest Appeal.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Lorna Dempster  
Project Coordinator Inverness and Nairn**

**"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.**

# CrossReach Information Sheet

**CROSSREACH**  
providing a caring future

## Morven Day Services celebrates silver anniversary

Thanks to Bill Greer, the doors to CrossReach Morven Day Services in Kilmarnock opened for the first time 25 years ago in 1992. Working in a role similar to that of our Heads of Service in the then Board of Social Responsibility, Bill had long seen the need for a place where people who had mental health problems could be supported in an environment free from judgement and stigma. His tireless commitment and passion culminated in securing funds to establish and run the service. We were therefore delighted that Bill's daughter and Counsellor for East Ayrshire Council, Maureen McKay, agreed to open the third CrossReach Morven Day Services Art Exhibition in October. Celebrating achievement, the art exhibition showcased arts and crafts created by the people supported by Morven. The contributors wanted to demonstrate that even when impacted with a mental health issue people can be productive and creative. They organised and ran the event with limited support from the staff team, further demonstrating something of the achievements possible when individuals know they are valued for the people they are - and not seen through stigmatising and misrepresenting labels. Allan Marshall, Deputy Manager at Morven said: "This is our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service in East Ayrshire and we are proud to continue to provide a service which has supported so many people over the years." Councillor McKay commented: "The exceptional work displayed here confirms my father's vision that if people are given the opportunity to be creative it will improve their mental health."



## Social Care Mission Officer

October was a busy month with new resources added to the Social Care Forum, the meeting of the Dementia Network in Aberdeen and the launch of the Children & Families Network in Glasgow! If you're looking for the latest reports and resources to help you with some of the services you're providing within your communities, do visit the "Inform" section of the Social Care Forum: [www.socialcareforum.scot](http://www.socialcareforum.scot) - if you can't find what you're looking for, use the 'Contact Us' page to let us know and we'll try our best to help!

The Dementia Network met earlier in the month in Aberdeen and heard about the great work happening with Living Well Cafes. The group also heard from Pamela MacKay, Dementia Development Co-ordinator who spoke about how dementia affects the individual and the associated stigma often experienced following a diagnosis.



The Children & Families Network met at the end of the month in Glasgow and heard about the work of Whiteinch Transformation, part of Whiteinch Parish Church. The group then spent some time looking at the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) approach. We also

met our new wellbeing Octopus - a tool developed by Tanya Anderson, GIRFEC Development Advisor for CrossReach. The group had some fun using it to help them reflect on what the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators might mean for the children they support in their church role. The next meetings of both networks are due to take place in January 2018 - if you'd like to be involved, please e-mail me direct: [liann.weir@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:liann.weir@crossreach.org.uk)

## Morlich House is 'Care Home Service of the Year' finalist



Morlich House in Edinburgh has been named as one of the three finalists in the 'Care Home Service of the Year' category in the Scottish Care National Care

Home Awards. Morlich, which has 23 female residents, has constructed a 1950s street with a red telephone box and an authentic Sweetie Shop selling popular confectionary from the era. Residents can also spend time in a re-creation of a 1950s living room with an authentic bakelite radio and wood surround television. The Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev. Dr. Derek Browning visited the home in Morningside during CrossReach Week in September. Manager Glen Brady says that Morlich is surprised but delighted to have been shortlisted for the award. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on 17<sup>th</sup> November.





## CHURCH FLOWERS

If anyone has any 'honesty' heads of flowers, would they like to donate them to help decorate the Church at Christmas. They can be left in the old kitchen at any time. Thanks,

**Ruby Coe**

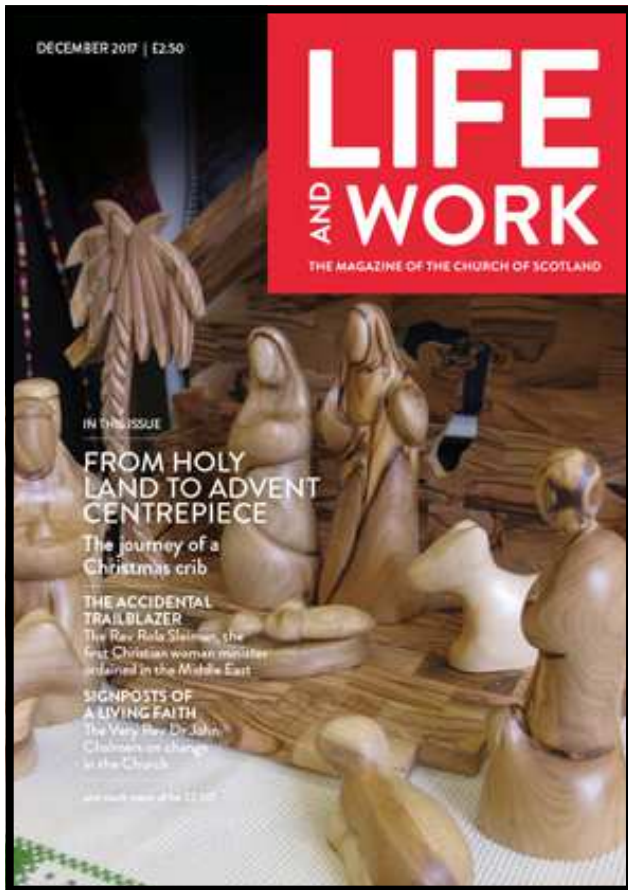
## Citizen's Advice

You might have noticed the new premises in Union Street which have recently been taken over by Inverness Citizen's Advice Bureau. Being easily accessible and in the town centre has led to an increase in people dropping in for advice, and the Bureau is about to start a new training course for volunteer advisers. These will be held on Tuesday mornings, and two modules will run before Christmas on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, continuing in the new year.

The Bureau offers free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities on a wide variety of topics, including benefits, housing, employment, debt, and relationships. If you have at least three hours a week to offer, could you consider becoming an Adviser?



Find out more by researching Citizen's Advice on the web, or dropping in to the office at 29-31 Union Street. If you would like to chat, Eileen Ardern (236841, [eileenardern@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenardern@hotmail.com)) has volunteered in the Bureau for several years and will be happy to answer questions.



## LIFE AND WORK

Life and Work is now available as a digital edition for computer, tablet and smartphone. Subscribe from £11.99 for six months or buy a single issue for £1.99 from [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)

**Gift subscriptions are also available: an ideal Christmas present!**

**DECEMBER 2017**

### CHRISTMAS

From Holy Land to Advent Centrepiece: The journey of a Christmas crib carved from olive wood

Christmas reflections from the Rev Lezley Stewart, Ron Ferguson, the Very Rev Albert Bogle and the Moderator

God With Us: the Rev Richard Frazer highlights the people on the move in the Christmas story

### The Accidental Trailblazer

Thomas Baldwin meets the Rev Rola Sleiman, the first female ordained Christian minister in the Middle East

### Signposts of a Living Faith

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why radical change is needed to reshape the Church of Scotland to serve in future

### Return to Chitambo

Ronald and Andrew Swanson, children of Church of Scotland missionaries, return to the Zambian mission station where they spent their childhood

### An 'Arts and Crafts' Church

John R Hume considers the gifts and beauty of a church in the east end of Glasgow

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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### SPECIAL OFFER

Life and Work readers receive a 10% discount on Saint Andrew Press books, resources and stationery.

**THE LIFE AND WORK TEAM WISHES ALL READERS A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**



## The Guild

December is rather a quiet month for the Guild. We only have the one occasion when we get together and that will be on the 12th when we go to the Waterside Hotel for high tea and then onto the Florians pantomime. We enjoyed their panto so much last year that we decided to go again this year.

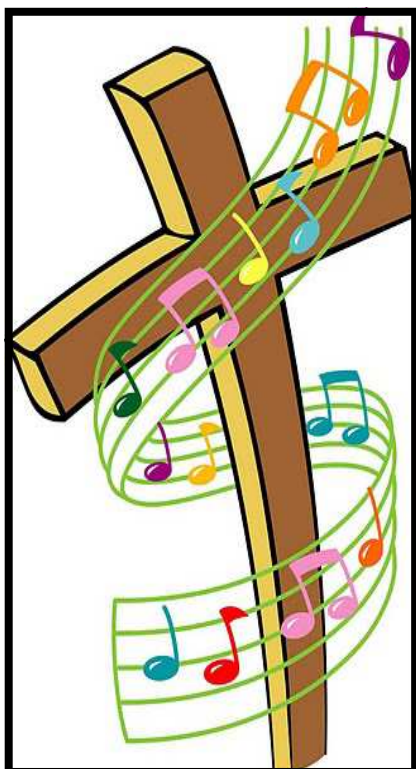
We are also leading the service in the Kingsmills Nursing Home on Sunday 18th December in place of the usual Action Group service. A good attendance of Guild ladies is encouraged. The

service begins at 4pm.

Our first meeting of 2018 is on the 9th January with a talk by Sinclair Dunnet entitled 'Mali: Child of the Fouta Djallon' and on the 23rd we are having a Scottish evening. On the 3rd February we are holding our popular soup and pudding lunch. This has been a sellout in the past couple of years, with the money raised going to our chosen projects. Tickets will be available from the 9th January from committee members and from the church office.

Recently the following members of our Guild were presented with long service certificates....Mairi Akers, Marjorie Mackenzie, Janet Fraser, Helen Grant, Sheila Ferguson, May Wilson, Morag Russell, Isobel Ewing, Adrienne Adie, Linda Moncur, Joyce Beattie, Beth Matheson, Dorothy Mein and Heather Beck. The years of service range from 40 years to over 50 and the total was 629

### **Dorothy Mein, Guild Correspondent**



## The Biggest Big Sing yet

The fourth Big Sing organised by the National Council of the Church of Scotland Guild took place in the East Church, Inverness on Friday 24 November. This was the fourth Big Sing the Council had organised but the first north of Perth. Over 700 people attended from all over the mainland of Scotland and the Islands.

The weather outside was cold but the church was warm and buzzing as people renewed friendships. The offering, over £2000, will go to the Loudon Girls College in Ekwendini to help supply fresh water. Another Big Sing is organised for 8th December in St Georges Tron, Glasgow.

**Heather Beck**

# St Andrews Night Ceilidh

Many thanks to those who organised a very successful ceilidh for Launchpad which took place in the Upper Hall on Saturday 25th

November. As the pictures show, a great time was had by all.



# Thank You!

On Sunday, November 19th I was presented with 2 extraordinary gifts from Crown Church. I was quite overwhelmed at both the generosity and creativity of my special gifts of a home computer and a personalized preaching stole made by the sewing group. My time at Crown will soon come to an end, although I am grateful the session have agreed to keep my around for the month of December although my official time as a probationer will have come to an end by the time you read this.

While I am, incredibly excited about the future and where that may lead us, (hopefully Ullapool where I will preach as Sole Nominee on December 10th) ; it will be bittersweet leaving Crown Church. You have become my church family, a family that has supported, encouraged, affirmed, challenged, and loved me since the day I stepped foot in Crown. I have been here with you all during what has probably been the saddest year of my life, and as individuals and as a church you came beside me in my grief and encouraged me to keep climbing sunshine mountain. I am grateful for my time here.



I have learned so much, laughed so much, and I hope grown into the minister I desire to be to my own parish. I know you are fearful of the future and all the challenges and changes it may bring. You are a strong body of brothers and sisters in Christ, stick together, love one another, support one another. Know that you are being held by a God who has plans for you and for this church.

Keep the faith, don't give up on Crown or on one another, God has something great in store for this church family I have come to know and love! Farewell my family ( but only kind of farewell, my last official day is Dec 31st.) May God Bless you and Keep you!

**Yours Aye,  
Heidi**

## Friendship Club is just FABULOUS!

This is a long overdue article to celebrate the JOY I am finding in Friendship Club! We started on September 1st with over 45 in attendance ( a few too many for the Lounge, I dare say) with a " getting to Know you Day". Every other week quite a gathering comes along for fellowship, entertainment and a fine cup of tea or coffee. In the past this thriving and essential ministry has been lead by one person with some



very loyal helpers. I agreed to take it over on the condition it would be with a group of helpers. My "Friendship Friends" are a Godsend, and help make this club happen. As I write this, we have just finished our Thanksgiving Feast with over 35 in attendance (plus my helpers). We ate a taste of American Thanksgiving, we

counted our blessings, we had a wee quiz AND story and shared a cup of blessing, a good time seemed to be had by all. Friendship Club is a group for men and women over say 60's but really all are welcome, from any church or none. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role in this club and am very much looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 8th of December.



If you have never come to Friendship Club but have been thinking about it please do



come. Friendship Club is every other Friday at 2PM in the Crown Church Lounge. It costs £2, and that gets you a lovely cuppa, home baking, sandwiches and a speaker of the day! If you would like to come or have any questions give Heidi a call at the church 01463 231140.



## **CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm  
in the Lower Hall**

**Tickets £5 to include afternoon tea,  
will be on sale from the Office and the  
Olive Grove  
In aid of Inverness and Nairn MS  
Society**

## **Guild members receive long service certificates**

The 11 o'clock service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> was a busy affair as certificates were also presented to a number of Guild members who, incredibly, have been serving in the Guild for 40 years. The Minister presented these certificates during the 11 o'clock service.

Shown in the photograph (from left to right) are Beth Matheson, Marjory Mackenzie, Dorothy Mein, Linda Moncur, Morag Russell, Helen Munro and Heather Beck.





## On the road with The Sense and Stance

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October the touring teams from Youth For Christ arrived at Crown Church – tired, hungry and inexplicably having taken 6 hours to arrive from Uddingston! This was the second time we have hosted them, and the mission was all at once very familiar and yet totally new.

The teams are operated by Youth for Christ and are a band (the Sense) and dance crew (Stance) which tour the country performing, teaching and sharing their faith in schools and other youth settings. We had some familiar faces – the team leaders had been with us before (obviously), but also three of the team were in their second year with the group - so with 11 in the team, that was just under half familiar faces and everyone else new (and first-timers to the Highlands!)

The teams had a certain international flavour this year with two band members from Argentina and one from Brazil; this indeed proved a great talking point for the teens in school (i.e. “why on earth would you choose to spend a year coming to places like *this*?!”) It was wonderful to see the different dynamics and creativity in the teams this year too – brilliant to know that they are keeping what they do fresh and vibrant. This lends itself strongly towards the credibility to inviting them back in to Millburn Academy for a second year running. **(continued on next page)**



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It was our privilege to be able to offer the services of the Sense and Stance to the school again and the school absolutely jumped at the chance of having them back in. Anyone who was in the loop last year will remember that our major struggle was in getting a timetable filled up for them to be kept busy in the school (which, in answer to prayer, was filled as of the day they arrived); this year a totally different scenario... The major issue of timetabling for this year's trip was in trying to do as many of the lessons and sessions as possible which the school had asked for! What a fantastic answer to prayer, as well as indicator of the quality of this outreach work.

The band were most certainly kept busy all week in lessons and also break and lunchtimes too. The feedback we had from pupils was encouraging and the feedback from staff and senior management deeply enthusiastic. What a superb way to love and serve the school, provide a quality educational resource and also take opportunities to share about faith in God and the difference He makes in everyday life.

One particular highlight for me came at the end of the week when we hosted a special gig at Caffe Nero in town. To cut a long (and not uninteresting) story short – we found



ourselves hosting an outreach worship event with a live band after hours in a coffee shop which has never ever done this sort of thing. As you can imagine, quite a number of prayers answered in the bringing together of that one! The event was jointly hosted as an end-of-week celebration for the time at Millburn Academy and also the monthly

worship event for Elevate – bringing together two of the key strands of my work in Young Crown. And what a night it was!

Having no idea what the attendance would be or what the make up of it would be like, we simply went there, set up and waited in faith. The place was packed out. People had come from across the Highlands which was exciting, and from just 'round the corner but from totally non-church backgrounds which was just as exciting. Worship was had, as well as testimony shared and all-in-all amazing things happened on that Friday night. Praise God!

A big thing of itself and yet, so clearly, this is just the beginning of what's to come.

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As ever, so many more big things in the pipeline, new projects starting, and ground being made for the Kingdom of God. Keep praying.

And enjoy this festive season. Well and truly we can say "God is with us!"

**Struan**



PS. In case anyone is worried about your dear youth worker's credibility, let me assure you; the band were going around pointing at me and telling people "we're with him!"

**Our thanks to Donald Matheson for this lovely photograph of the Boys Brigade dedication which took place at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday 5th November.**



Bob recently took a photograph (shown below) of some of our small but dedicated band of "folders" who, every month, gather in the lounge to undertake the formidable task of putting together the printed pages of our newsletter. Those shown here are only some of those involved because we were never able to catch everyone at the same time. The team members are Enid Barber, Marion Barbour, Helen Boynton, Vi Gollan, Kay MacDonald, Adrienne Munro, Liz Munro and Ann Reid under the leadership of Jane Wilson. The team meet for around 2 hours once a month and are a very cheerful and busy group. Jane also organises the delivery of the newsletters and would welcome new volunteers to help with this.

Every month, the church produces 500 printed copies of the newsletter. We were recently approached by Joan Merchant who chairs the facilities committee. This committee has responsibility for supporting those employed by the church, particularly Gloria, our church secretary. Gloria, even more than the folders, has a very busy time when the newsletter is ready for publication.

It has been pointed out to us that, as we move into a period of vacancy, the workload on people like Gloria increases considerably.

Some time ago, we approached the membership generally and asked if there were those who would be prepared to forego a paper copy of the newsletter in exchange for having an email copy forwarded to them. Quite a number of people took advantage of this opportunity and now receive their monthly copy of the newsletter electronically.

The quality of the photographs in the printed version, we know, is quite poor and can be seen to much better effect (and in colour) in the electronic version. There are, however, other advantages to the church in that, if we were to reduce the number of paper copies of the newsletter, this would not only save costs and be more



environmentally friendly, but also save a significant amount of work for those involved in its production. It would therefore be helpful if anyone who would be happy to forego a paper copy of the newsletter in exchange for an electronic version, could let Gloria know or speak to their district elder or visitor. Of course, if anyone does elect to make this change and finds that, for any reason, they miss the paper

version, there is nothing to prevent them going back to receiving a paper copy which can easily be done, on request. Finally, there will, as usual, be no newsletter in January and the next edition will be the February edition. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Jane Wilson and her teams of folders and visitors, Gloria and all those involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter.

**Marion and Bob Forrest**

# **3<sup>rd</sup> Inverness Boys' Brigade Company**

## **Queen's Badge Presentation**

Our latest Queen's Man, Duncan MacKnight, was recognised for his achievement at this year's Highland Battalion AGM.



All Queen's Men were re-presented with their certificates by Deputy Provost of Inverness, Graham Ross.

## **National Competitions**

The boys are through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Masterteam quiz competition, having won their heat in Blairgowrie. Next up is a trip to Alloa on the 9<sup>th</sup> December...

We're also through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the badminton thanks to a bye and our opposition in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round not able to field a team.

We're hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the table tennis so here's hoping for a positive result.

## **Battalion Competitions**

The Battalion 5-a-sides took place at Culloden Academy; unfortunately our Junior team didn't quite manage to win the trophy but the boys had a great time.

We only had 3 company section boys for that competition so the boys joined up with the 12<sup>th</sup> Company and they were successful in the Under-13 age group.





# *The Longest Night*

A service of light in the  
midst of darkness

*Thursday, December 21st  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Crown Church*

**a different kind of service for those who find Christmas a difficult or painful time of year due to loss, illness, isolation or unemployment. A time to recognize our sadness but to recognize that we are not alone in our struggles.**

**Let us gather together to support and encourage one another at this difficult time through the singing of hymns, quiet reflection, scripture, acts of remembrance, soft music, companionship and light refreshments. All are welcome regardless of church background (or lack of)**



**"Hope Lights a candle instead of cursing the darkness"**



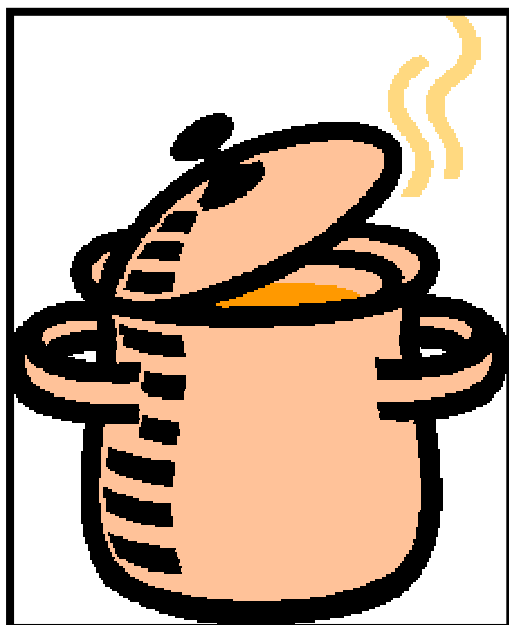
## Highland Foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar

My thanks to the Arderns for bringing this recent initiative to our attention. Highland Foodbank, in partnership with the "Inverness Courier" are promoting a "Reverse Advent Calendar". Instead of opening a box and having a chocolate each day, you put a particular and badly needed item into a box and make a gift of it instead. What a wonderful idea! The box and content can then be taken to Blythswood Care's Harbour Road outlet.

## Stay for Soup

"Stay for Soup" has begun and our first one proved very popular. We thought with the cold, dark winter nights creeping in why not stay together a little longer at church and have a warm bowl of soup together.

We will have soup the last Sunday of the month through March. A



fabulous group of folk have volunteered to make soup and so there will be a choice of four soups and rolls on the day. All are welcome just after the 11 Am service. Please do come!

### Dates for "Stay for Soup"

**October 27**

**November 26th**

**December 31**

**January 28**

**February 25**

**March 25**

# Daily Bible Readings for December 2017/January 2018

## December 3, 2017

Sunday, Daniel 3:1, 8-30, Daniel: The Fiery Furnace  
Monday, Daniel 1:1-21, Four Israelites at the Babylonian Court  
Tuesday, Daniel 2:1-16, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream  
Wednesday, Daniel 2:17-23, God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream,  
Thursday, Daniel 2:24-35, Daniel Interprets the Dream  
Friday, Daniel 2:36-45, Daniel Interprets the Dream  
Saturday, Daniel 2:46-49, Daniel and His Friends Promoted

## December 10, 2017

Sunday, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones  
Monday, Ezekiel 1:1-14, The Vision of the Chariot  
Tuesday, Ezekiel 1:15-28, The Vision of the Chariot  
Wednesday, Ezekiel 2:1-3:11, The Vision of the Scroll  
Thursday, Ezekiel 40:1-19, The Vision of the New Temple  
Friday, Ezekiel 40:20-37, The Vision of the New Temple  
Saturday, Ezekiel 40:38-47, The Vision of the New Temple

## December 17, 2017

Sunday, Isaiah 55:1-11, Word Accomplishes God's Purpose  
Monday, Isaiah 40:1-11, God's People Are Comforted  
Tuesday, Isaiah 53:2-12, The Suffering Servant  
Wednesday, Isaiah 57:14-21, A Promise of Help and Healing  
Thursday, Isaiah 59:1-8, Injustice and Oppression to Be Punished  
Friday, Isaiah 61:1-11, The Good News of Deliverance  
Saturday, Isaiah 65:17-25, The Glorious New Creation

## December 24, 2017

Sunday, John 1:1-18, Word Made Flesh  
Monday, Luke 2:1-20, Birth of Jesus  
Tuesday, Luke 1:26-38, Birth of Jesus Foretold  
Wednesday, Matthew 2:1-12, Wise Men  
Thursday, Luke 2:21-32, Jesus Is Presented in the Temple  
Friday, Luke 2:33-40, Jesus Is Presented in the Temple  
Saturday, Luke 2:41-52, The Boy Jesus in the Temple

## December 31, 2017

Sunday, John 1:19-34, A Voice in the Wilderness  
Monday, Psalm 32:1-2, The Joy of Forgiveness  
Tuesday, Psalm 32:3-4, The Joy of Forgiveness  
Wednesday, Psalm 32:5, The Joy of Forgiveness  
Thursday, Psalm 32:6-7, The Joy of Forgiveness  
Friday, Psalm 32:8-9, The Joy of Forgiveness  
Saturday, Psalm 32:10-11, The Joy of Forgiveness

## January 7, 2018

Sunday, John 1:35-51, Jesus Says Come and See  
Monday, Psalm 66:1-5, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel  
Tuesday, Psalm 66:6-7, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel  
Wednesday, Psalm 66:8-12, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel  
Thursday, Psalm 66:13-15, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel  
Friday, Psalm 66:16-19, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel  
Saturday, Psalm 66:20, Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

## January 14, 2018

Sunday, John 2:1-11, Wedding at Cana  
Monday, John 2:12, Jesus Goes to Capernaum  
Tuesday, Psalm 104:1-9, God the Creator and Provider  
Wednesday, Psalm 104:10-23, God the Creator and Provider  
Thursday, Psalm 104:24-26, God the Creator and Provider  
Friday, Psalm 104:27-30, God the Creator and Provider  
Saturday, Psalm 104:31-35, God the Creator and Provider

## January 21, 2018

Sunday, John 2:13-25, Jesus Cleanses the Temple  
Monday, Psalm 127:1-2, God's Blessing in the Home  
Tuesday, Psalm 127:3-5, God's Blessing in the Home  
Wednesday, Psalm 128:1-2, The Happy Home of the Faithful  
Thursday, Psalm 128:3-4, The Happy Home of the Faithful  
Friday, Psalm 128: 5-6, The Happy Home of the Faithful  
Saturday, Psalm 129:1-8, Prayer for the Downfall of Israel's Enemies



## Freewill Offering Envelopes

In common with most things, the cost of obtaining and issuing the Church's freewill offering envelopes has continued to rise.

Since the start of this year, the use of the pink envelopes has been kept under review and this has shown that in 50 cases, although the 2017 envelopes

were issued towards the end of 2016, they have not been used at all. It has therefore been decided that in these 50 cases, a set of 2018 envelopes will not automatically be issued during November/December 2017 as has been the case in the past.

However, anyone who does not automatically receive a set of envelopes under these new arrangements, but feels that they would like to make use of them, even in part during 2018, need only contact myself and I will make sure that a set is issued to them straight away.

With your cooperation, everyone who wishes envelopes will receive them but time, effort and cost to the Church will be saved under these new arrangements.

I can be contacted on 01463 242915 or via my email address which is [bobshanks136@gmail.com](mailto:bobshanks136@gmail.com). **Bob Shanks**

## Bible Readings for January continued

### January 28, 2018

Sunday, John 3:1-21, Nicodemus

Monday, John 3:22-30, Jesus and John the Baptist

Tuesday, John 3:31-36, The One Who Comes from Heaven

Wednesday, Psalm 139:1-6, The Inescapable God

Thursday, Psalm 139:7-12, The Inescapable God

Friday, Psalm 139:13-18, The Inescapable God

Saturday, Psalm 139:19-24, The Inescapable God

### February 4, 2018

Sunday, John 4:1-42, The Woman at the Well

Monday, John 4:43-45, Jesus Returns to Galilee

Tuesday, John 4:46-54, Healing Stories

Wednesday, John 5:1-18, Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Thursday, John 5:19-29, The Authority of the Son

Friday, John 5:30-47, Witnesses to Jesus

## CONTACTS

<b>MINISTER</b>	Rev Dr Peter Donald,
<b>PROBATIONER MINISTER</b>	Mrs Heidi Hercus,
<b>OLM ASSISTANT</b>	Rev Morven Archer,
<b>YOUTH WORKER</b>	Struan McRoberts,
<b>SESSION CLERK</b>	Brian Macgill,
<b>ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER</b>	Brigid Donald,
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT</b>	Patricia MS Crippin,
<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN</b>	Bill Mein,
<b>CLERK TO BOARD</b>	Judith Macleod,
<b>TREASURER</b>	Donald MacKenzie,
<b>FREEWILL OFFERINGS</b>	Robert Shanks,
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<b>CARETAKER</b>	Eilidh Ross,
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Dec	Readers	Creche	Coffee
<b>3</b>	Communion	Reay Macgill & Rhona Mackenzie	(Communion)
<b>10</b>	Emily Gourlay	Jane Smith & Muriel Choppy	Mairi Main, Eleanor Ross, Janet MacPherson
<b>17</b>	Juel Madeleine	Irene Munro & Kay Macdonald	Kimm Currie, Vi Gollan, Eileen Ardern
<b>24</b>	Hannah Donald	Helen Grant & Marjory MacKenzie	
<b>31</b>	David Donald	Reay Macgill & Rhona Mackenzie	
<b>Jan</b>			
<b>7</b>	Marion Barbour	Jane Smith & Muriel Choppy	Irene Munro, Liz Forbes, Helen MacLeod
<b>14</b>	Roddy Lightbody	Irene Munro & Kay Macdonald	Alison Caird, Lena Clarke, Isabelle MacKenzie
<b>21</b>	Eileen Ardern	Helen Grant & Marjory MacKenzie	Eleanor Ross, Janet MacPherson, Mairi Main
<b>28</b>	Brian Macgill	TBA	Vi Gollan, Eileen Ardern, Kimm Currie

# NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

## Baptism

Rúben Arran McNee Conner, son of Jamie and Heather, on 19 January

## Wedding

Pat Douglas and Sue Skelton, in church on 15 November

## Deaths

Jack Ely, Glenshiel Place, on 29 September

Hazel MacKenzie, Nairn, formerly Drumossie Avenue, on 21 November

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December Count Team</b></p> <p><b>Liz Forbes</b> John &amp; Marion Barbour, Mairi Main, Kay MacDonald</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January Count Team</b></p> <p><b>Pat Douglas</b> Heather Beck, Robert &amp; Aileen Laing, Helen Boynton</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February Count Team</b></p> <p><b>Sheena Ferguson</b> Ian Akers, Richard Ardern, Alastair MacPherson, Robert Shanks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December Welcome Team</b></p> <p><i>North Door</i> Marion &amp; John Barbour <i>South Door</i> Fiona Carter &amp; Janet MacPherson <i>Midmills North</i> Liz Forbes &amp; Alison Donald <i>Midmills South</i> Margot Tuley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January Welcome Team</b></p> <p><i>North Door</i> Linda &amp; Charles Moncur <i>South Door</i> B Merchant &amp; H Boynton <i>Midmills North</i> Sanders Campbell <i>Midmills South</i> Jane Wilson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February Welcome Team</b></p> <p><i>North Door</i> Jean &amp; Una Hamilton <i>South Door</i> Janet Fraser &amp; M Russell <i>Midmills North</i> Christina Pearson <i>Midmills South</i> Heather Beck</p>
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**The copy deadline for the February newsletter will be Sunday 28th January**

Contributions should be sent to the Forrests at:  
marionandbobnewsletter@gmail.com or left in the 'F' pigeonhole.  
Please note that the newsletter can also be accessed via the church website where you will be able to see the photographs in colour.

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