

Newsletter

Crown Church, Inverness

June 2017: No. 730

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



SUNDAY SERVICES

All people, of any age, are warmly invited to take part in all of our services

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

11 June	9.30 am	The first service
	11 am	The second service, with the Sacrament of Baptism
18 June	9.30 am	The first service
	11 am	The second service
25 June	9.30 am	The first service
	11 am	The second service
2 July	9.30 am	The first service
	11 am	The second service, followed by monthly Special Prayers

Also, every Friday at 12 noon, prayers – at which people may be remembered by name



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

I was so glad at last during May to be able to take a break away with Brigid, to recharge the batteries. I do hope, if you are heading off at all, or simply taking time to enjoy some of this better weather, that you likewise can enjoy a refreshing time. And then in a larger sense still, around Pentecost, which falls on the first Sunday of June, the church is reminded of how the Holy Spirit wonderfully renews us. Disciples of Jesus who were all too aware of their limitations and shortcomings found in the experience of the Spirit of God great possibilities opening up to them. They found in company with one another inspiration for reading the Bible in a new and meaningful way. Some found themselves particularly gifted for sharing the Good News of Jesus crucified and risen, and others rejoiced in what they felt able to offer. And so it is for us! "Come, Holy Spirit: renew your people with divine power." For many years now, the coming of summer has meant a multiplication of morning services at church. Now, with our experiment begun last October which has formed into a regular pattern for the time being, there is not such an obvious shift, but our two services at 9.30 am and 11 are there for you to participate in and for the welcoming of visitors and newcomers. Those of you with children will know we have been trying to take stock of how best to cater for children's worship and learning needs, given that we have this regular choice of services. Thank you for the responses so far received, and together with our Youth and Children's Team I look forward to seeing all that comes in. Meanwhile a Youth Alpha has been begun on a Sunday night, and a midweek programme for children, which has one of the marked successes under the auspices of "Young Crown", will certainly be carrying through the summer holidays.

To end on a note of marking how much I hope we all value what children and young people can give us, it was excellent to have the Boys' Brigade again helping out as a Welcome Team throughout May, and for us to mark achievements of the senior boys on the last Sunday. We can be justly proud of them and also of their officers.

Yours, Peter



MUSIC FOR THE SUMMER

We look forward to hosting the Badenoch choir on the evening of Sunday 11 June, at 6.30 pm, for a concert of music which will last around an hour or so. They will begin by singing the Faure Requiem, which is a famous and beautiful setting, and then go on to other items. Do spread the word and plan to come yourself!

Then, on Monday 3 July at 7pm we have a concert from The Fair City Singers from Perth. Both these musical events have arisen from connections within our congregation with people in these visiting groups. It will be very lovely to welcome them.

Save the date: Monday, July 3rd at 7PM

THE FAIR CITY SINGERS are coming to Crown Church

The Fair City Singers are a highly successful independent choir for 11–18 year olds from Perthshire in Scotland. The choir is well known in the central belt of Scotland and is recognised locally for its strong musical tradition and high standards. The choir have performed throughout the UK and overseas, and have appeared on both TV and radio.

As well as performing in many local churches, the choir has performed in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow; The Usher Hall, Edinburgh and The Concert Hall, Perth. They have performed in the more unusual venue of Glasgow Central Station as part of the lead up to the 2014 Commonwealth games. They were the featured guests in BBC Radio 3's programme 'The Choir'.

Please come out and support this youth choir, it will be a good night out!!

Heidi

Interested?

I am thinking of leading a second women's retreat. Glenfeshie proved a great location. At this stage I am gauging interest and thinking when would be an appropriate time to go. I am thinking end of September or October. If you would be interested please see me.

Heidi

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The church has a new email address:-

office@crown-church.co.uk



Street Pastors

Dear church friends,

Can you help us to raise awareness of Street Pastors throughout the month of June? Does your congregation know that ...?

Street Pastors is led by the local church. We are not a para-church organisation. We are the local church in action on the streets. Street Pastors are not street preachers or street evangelists. We are there to listen, to care and to help.

Street Pastors are not all young, streetwise, confident, evangelists, or church professionals. Any ordinary church member with a heart for people and a concern for society can volunteer. Some of our best Street Pastors are senior citizens.

Street Pastors don't all volunteer in the night-time economy. We have Street Pastors in local housing estates in the early evening and in the city centre during the daytime too. There are lots of ways to become involved other than volunteering on the streets. For example, we have a growing body of Prayer Pastors.

Mark Hadfield, Inverness Street Pastors; office hours 9am-2pm Mon-Wed, Fri

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Christian Aid Week 2017

The video shown in church on Christian Aid Sunday encouraged us to Give, Act and Pray. I want to thank everyone for doing that: collectors for putting themselves out knocking on doors; counters for carrying out that important task efficiently; members for praying

for the success of this collection, this year with a focus on aid for refugees. The final total is not yet available but I am encouraged to think that it might be good this year.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me."

(Matthew 25:35-36)

David Crippin

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club was started 17 years ago when Rita Cameron suggested that a regular gathering for the older members of the church should be made available. This was



approved and Rita was invited to set this up. This she did, providing home baking, sandwiches and tea and coffee. She also provided a selection of boardgames so that those attending could play games to finishing time at 4 pm.

The leadership changed when Pat Jones took over from Rita until she moved with her husband, Rev Dr Willis Jones, when he took up his charge at Kiltarlity church. At this point Angie McDiarmid took over the Friendship Club which continued to flourish. A varied programme of speakers was put together each year and was enjoyed by all members.

Special thanks must be given to Rita, Angie, Mrs Minnie Thomson for the home baking and to Mrs Renee Bailey for the many salmon sandwiches she prepared for all. Mrs Beth Matheson must also be thanked for bringing so many beautiful flowers to grace the tea tables.

The Friendship Club season came to an end on 21st April with a beautiful lunch for all the members, who were able to express their appreciation.

Mrs Heidi Hercus will be running the club from the start of another season and the members will wish her every success with this.

Tea and Roses

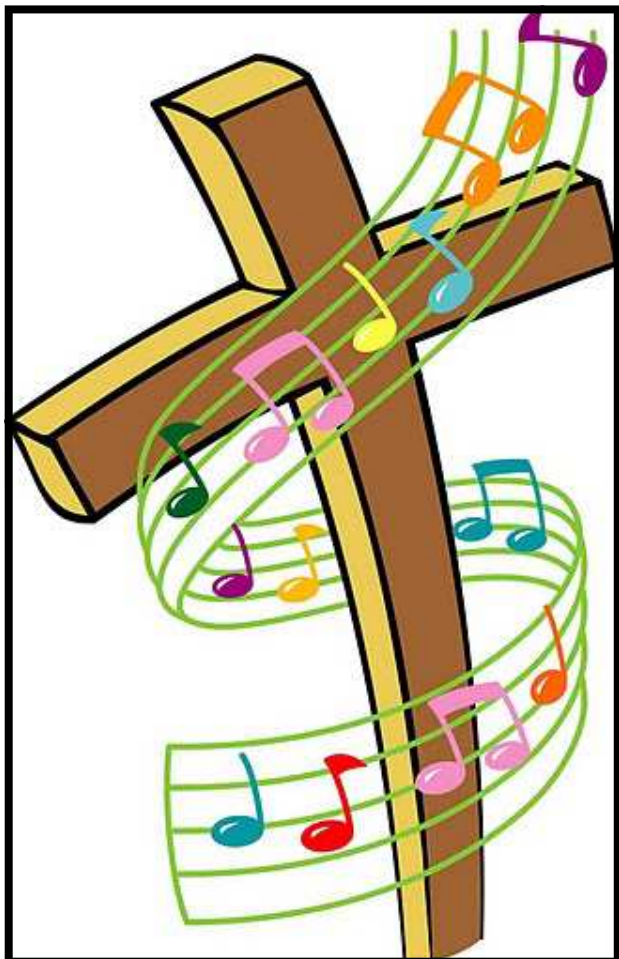
We are looking forward to another pseudo "Tea at the Ritz"! but this year it will be called "Tea and Roses" and we hope you will all come along and support the effort to fundraise for a church outing to Kincaig Wildlife Park in September - Ruby Morag and Sheena will commence collecting names for this in August - let's make sure we have the money first!



With this in mind, we are again on the lookout for pretty teapots and cake stands!! If you would let Ruby know you are willing to lend us these items, she will arrange collection.

Tickets for "Tea and Roses" can be bought at £5 each from either Ruby, Morag or Sheena. There will be no 'sittings' as there was for "Tea at the Ritz" - just come along between 2 and 4.30 pm.

Many thanks, **Ruby**



Crown Church Band

The first official meeting of the Crown Church Band was held on 29 March 1986. Since this first meeting approximately 66 people are recorded as past members, some for a short time and some for many years. The current membership is around 25.

This year the Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 24 April.

The Band is entering on a new phase under the leadership of the conductor Jo Hazell and new members, experienced and learners will be warmly welcomed, particularly trumpet players. The Band has several wind instruments and a set of drums which can be lent.

**Enquiries to Linda Moncur or
Charlie Gallacher**



TEA AND ROSES
in the
Crown Church Lower Hall
on
SATURDAY, 12TH AUGUST
from
2 pm to 4.30 pm

All welcome!

*Funds towards Church Family Outing
to Kincaig Wildlife Park on 9th September*

TICKETS - £5

(Parking will be available at Crown School)

Young Crown – Fete Accompli

Two weeks before the Young Crown fete, I started praying for the weather. Then watched without surprise as the long range forecast became increasingly favourable until the day before when we could be confident of glorious sunshine. And what sunshine we had on the day! One of the many prayers answered in many ways around the Young Crown Fete of 6th May...

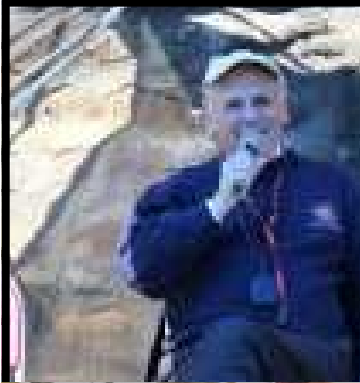
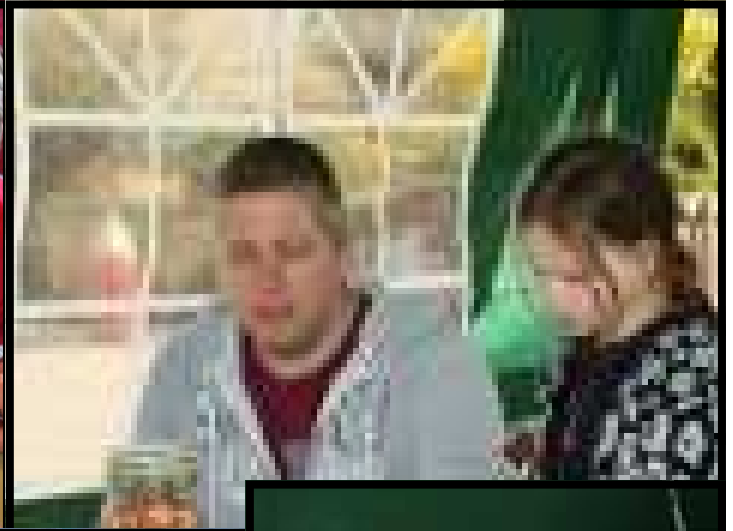
With representation and lots of help from the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Brownies, Kingsmills Toddler Group, Olive Grove, L'Arche, and many friends (apologies if I haven't mentioned you by name) we managed to put on a great event. Special mention to Stewart Robertson who flew in from far afield specially to be our in-house photographer and Colin Baillie for keeping the tunes rolling and the banter flowing from the microphone for the afternoon.

An encouraging number of families, children and young people came through to enjoy the bouncy castles, ice cream, BBQ, refreshments, parachute games, bake sale, wonky bicycle, best-priced-coffee-in-Inverness, and so much more! There was a wonderful atmosphere (not just the weather) of community and gathering and people really gave us the impression of having appreciated the event – not least the great value on offer. In spite of the low prices, we also managed to raise somewhere around £720 after expenses. We also managed to use the event to conduct a community survey which will go a long way to helping shape the ministry of Young Crown and how we serve locally in the coming months and years.

As ever, thank you so much to all involved. It wouldn't have happened without many hands on the day (particular mention for the BBs here), loans of gazebos, a marquee, a sound system, a generous contribution from the Congregational Board and hard work from so many.

Struan

Some of the photographs taken at the God Dimension Exhibition at the Science Fair and also at the Community Fete. Many thanks to Morven Archer and to Stewart Robertson for the photographs.





3rd Inverness Boys' Brigade Company News

The 2016-2017 session of the 3rd Inverness Boys Brigade came to an end on Friday 19th May with our Annual Display and Parent's Night. This year our Chief Guests were Eddie and Adrienne Adie; Eddie has been involved in Boys' Brigade work for many, many years and was Captain of the Company for 25 years from 1973 - 1998. Adrienne was also an officer in the company - it was great having them both with us for the evening as our 100th anniversary drew to a close.

More than 50 Boys were in attendance at the display and it was great to see a full hall of parents, grandparents and friends packed into the hall.

Once again the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Queen's Badge to one young man. This year it was Duncan MacKnight who attained the highest award the Brigade can offer. President's Badges were also presented to Calum Sampson, Daniel Wilson, Gary MacLennan and Joshua Gourlay.



A selection of photos has also been uploaded to our Facebook page - just search for 3rd Inverness Boys' Brigade.

A good number of boys took part in the Battalion Sports at Culloden. The Anchor Boys were runners up, Junior Section won the trophy and the Company Section boys finished in 3rd place. A big thank you to all those who turned up - a good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Next on the agenda for the older boys is company camp - this year 26 of us are off to the Lake District for a long weekend from the 10th to 13th August! Fingers crossed for some good weather...

At the end of another very busy year the staff are all off for all well earned rest but we'll be back raring to go again in August / September!!

Gary McAra.



Letter from the Malawi Maidens

Dear Friends

By the time you read this the maidens will hopefully be back safely amongst family and friends.

After a three year absence - how would it feel to be back ?

It did not help that there was a new entry

system including visas which was carried out in true Malawian style eg no method !!!

However when our dear Mr Lupia greeted us and we set off on our five hour car journey to Mzuzu we can honestly say it felt as we had only been yesterday. That feeling was again strengthened as each and every group welcomed us over the first couple of days .

Our planned building work had already started just prior to our visit and we can honestly say the workmen we had employed could not have worked any harder and we also had volunteers offering help. At one of our orphan centres we have managed to complete widows quarters, which includes kitchen , sleeping room and bathing room for the widows to use when doing their night watch. At present they sleep on mats in a room with the chickens that they rear for income ! We also did some repair work to their pig corrals. At another centre we built a kitchen , a double toilet and a bathing room as well as a new pig corral . We also managed to get piped water into their yard .

These two centres could not wait to show us their maize gardens - bumper crops due to the provision of fertiliser by the Trust .

Our third orphan centre has had internal wrangling so we had to sort that . A new committee has now been elected on the maidens orders and they have had their instructions . However to show that we are willing to continue with our support we have done repairs on their corral and we leave with maintenance on their building going on as work in progress . Also they have been told - mend your ways or else !! It was a hard day but it needed doing !

Probably the greatest joy of all was seeing the improvement at the school . A new management team and school board have worked wonders and the school is thriving . However, and this is how Malawi works - due to the poor sanitation they were being threatened with closure !! This was regardless of the fact that they have three very good buildings and a roll of 480 pupils all getting fed daily by Mary's Meals . They receive a development fund of £50 from the government and the community had made a start on building toilets but needed cement . Maidens to the rescue - Thandazga Hygiene project underway !! Due to unexpected donations just prior to our departure and promises of donation from people following us on Facebook we were able, without hesitation to build 2 double toilets and finish off the community project of four toilets and a bathing room .

School saved - they do need another classroom block however as four classes share a classroom on a rota basis !!(continued on next page)

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We delivered over forty banana boxes which had just arrived to Mzuzu Hospital and their appreciation cannot be described and we have done a trip with the under 5 mobile clinic , helping out and distributing goods .

We have driven over football pitches to deliver training strips and where Maiden Macgill gave a wonderful interview to the local radio , waxing lyrical about how satisfied we were with the league performance of the team . Actually , other than having previously sent them strips we knew nothing about them !!

Before leaving all our groups will have been provided with basics according to their needs , mattresses , pillows and bedding for sleeping quarters , towels , soap and flannels for bathing rooms , new mats for sitting on and new pots and plates .

There certainly have been challenges too though mainly domestic , getting up in the morning to no water and /or no electricity and with visiting at a different time of year, it means we have had to share our accommodation with many friends - all of whom have had more than two legs !!! We have had mozzie bites , dodgy tummies and also due to the rising numbers of pretty ropey bars quite close to our accommodation we have been subjected to all night boom boom music !!

It's a lovely time to visit though and we just thrive on it all . Weather is glorious and we are seeing Mother Nature at her finest. Also good to see the maize fields - usually by July they have been harvested.

We have enjoyed a lovely weekend at the lake , we have spent time with friends within and outwith our groups , treating them to tea and biscuits or a meal, we have sat through a two hour church service with singing that was spine tingling and yes we have treated ourselves to treats from the new supermarket !! Another highlight was a cracking Sunday Lunch at Sunbird hotel . Please keep in mind though these treats are funded by the maidens , every penny raised by the Trust hits the ground in Malawi !

Chrisanne & Reay

The Highland Malawi Trust Strawberry Tea

will be held on
Saturday 10th June 2017
From 2pm to 5pm
At 6 Raasay Road, Inverness



Count Team : We will shortly be needing a new count team leader. Each team is responsible for three months of the year and the leader co-ordinates the activities of the team each Sunday and has the responsibility of banking the proceeds. Please consider doing your bit and volunteer! For further information contact Sheena Ferguson or Pat Douglas



Update Jamaica

In 2012, Crown Church, in the persons of Rev Peter & Brigid Donald, visited our partners in North Street United Church in Kingston (NSU), Jamaica, joined in the church's 175th anniversary celebrations and presented scholarships to the first 8 students being sponsored by NSU's

newly established Educational Development Fund.

Five years on, 5 of the original students are about to graduate from High School. In that time, our contact, Don Reynolds and his team have found further sponsors to grow the Development Fund which now supports 13 high school students and 9 university students, drawn from the economically challenged area of West Kingston.

So we are delighted that Crown Church will again be represented in Jamaica to celebrate both NSU's 180th anniversary and first student graduation in September. Our travellers 2017 are Heidi Hercus (whose Dad, Willis, was instrumental in setting up our partnership), Lena Clarke, Mairi Fraser and Pat Crippin. All their travel costs are being met through Church of Scotland central twinning funding and own contribution.

However, we want to continue raising funds, initially for small gifts/ other support for the 5 graduating 'Crown' students, but also for the wider aims of the Educational Development Fund. Its vision for the quality of life of youth of West Kingston is ... *'through a focus on education as the pathway to the realisation of their full human potential'*. So, support for the most able children will be combined with more general support to raise overall levels of literacy e.g. through part time employment of a specialist teacher, or an IT tutor to help primary school children and others make maximum use of donated computers.

Earlier this spring, we were able to contribute over £2,200 to the Eduaitonal Development Fund, through the Christmas Eve collections, a large one-off donation from a contact of Sir Geoff Palmer, together with donations gathered after his talk in May 2016.

The next round of fund-raising starts with a soup & (possibly slightly Caribbean) pudding lunch after the 11am service on **Sunday 18th June**. Coffee and traybakes on offer after 9.30 service. You'll also be able to read letters from graduating students plus find out more of the work of our partner's project. We look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, please keep Aliyah, Aresha, Shermar, Tajhiann and Tivelle in your prayers as they prepare for final exams.

Outreach Team

Daily Bible Readings for June/ July 2017

June 4, 2017

Sunday: *Pentecost*, Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7

Monday: *Paul Greets the Ephesians*, Ephesians 1

Tuesday: *One in Christ*, Ephesians 2

Wednesday: *Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles*, Ephesians 3

Thursday: *New Life in Christ*, Ephesians 4

Friday: *On Being Christian*, Ephesians 5

Saturday: *Put on the Armor of God*, Ephesians 6

June 11, 2017

Sunday, Psalm 100

Monday, Psalm 103

Tuesday, Psalm 105

Wednesday, Psalm 111

Thursday, Psalm 135

Friday, Psalm 147

Saturday, Psalm 149

June 18, 2017

Sunday, Psalm 13

Monday, Psalm 3

Tuesday, Psalm 51

Wednesday, Psalm 69

Thursday, Psalm 90

Friday, Psalm 102

Saturday, Psalm 140

June 25, 2017

Sunday, Psalm 23

Monday, Psalm 11

Tuesday, Psalm 16

Wednesday, Psalm 46

Thursday, Psalm 52

Friday, Psalm 121

Saturday, Psalm 131

July 2, 2017

Sunday, Psalm 30

Monday, Psalm 34

Tuesday, Psalm 40

Wednesday, Psalm 57

Thursday, Psalm 66

Friday, Psalm 116

Saturday, Psalm 138

CONTACTS

MINISTER	Rev Dr Peter Donald, 3
PROBATIONER MINISTER	Mrs Heidi Hercus,
OLM ASSISTANT	Rev Morven Archer,
YOUTH WORKER	Struan McRoberts,
SESSION CLERK	Brian Macgill,
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	Brigid Donald,
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT	Patricia MS Crippin,
BOARD CHAIRMAN	Bill Mein,
CLERK TO BOARD	Judith Macleod,
TREASURER	Donald MacKenzie,
FREEWILL OFFERINGS	Robert Shanks,
GIFT AID TREASURER	Robert Hendry,
CHURCH SECRETARY	Gloria Mackintosh , Church Office 231140 office@crown-church.co.uk
SAFEGUARDING	Joan Merchant
FACILITIES -CONVENER	Gordon Cameron, David MacLellan, Irene Whyte,
HALLS BOOKINGS	Eilidh Ross
CARETAKER	Adrienne Adie,
GUILD SECRETARY	Jane Wilson,
LADY VISITORS	Ruby Coe,
FLOWERS CONVENER	Bob & M Forrest
NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Crown Church Tues-Fri (9.30-12.00)231140 office@crown—church.co.yk
CHURCH OFFICE	

Jun	Readers	Creche	Coffee
4	Communion	Reay Macgill & Rhona Mackenzie	Communion
11	Marion Forrest	Kay MacDonald & Marjory MacKenzie	Eleanor Ross, Janet MacPherson, Mairi Main
18	Jude Madeleine	Heather Beck & Sheena Ferguson	Marion Barbour, Seonaid MacLellan, Mary Ann Buchanan
25	Una Hamilton	Helen Grant & Irene Munro	Liz Forbes, Irene Munro, Irene Sutherland
July			
2	Alastair Campbell	Muriel Choppy & Rhona Mackenzie	Socials—TBA

<p>June Count Team</p> <p>Sheena Ferguson</p> <p>Ian Akers, Richard Ardern, Alastair MacPherson, Robert Shanks</p>	<p>June Welcome Team</p> <p><i>North Door</i> Sheena Ferguson & Douglas Taylor</p> <p><i>South Door</i> Jane Smith & Lena Clarke</p> <p><i>Midmills North</i> Peter & Joyce Collinson</p> <p><i>Midmills South</i> Jude Madeleine</p>
<p>July Count Team</p> <p>Liz Forbes</p> <p>John & Marion Barbour, Mairi Main, Kay MacDonald</p>	<p>July Welcome Team</p> <p><i>North Door</i> Mary Ann Buchanan & Ella Low</p> <p><i>South Door</i> Eileen & Richard Ardern</p> <p><i>Midmills North</i> Joyce Walker</p> <p><i>Midmills South</i> Norman Walker</p>

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

James (Jim) Nicol, Drumossie Avenue, on 4 April

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12.15)

I am only a tiny sparrow,
A bird of low degree;
My life is of little value,
But the dear Lord cares for me.

I have no barn nor storehouse,
I neither sow nor reap;
God gives me a sparrow's portion,
But never a seed to keep.

I know there are many sparrows;
All over the world they are found;
But our heavenly Father knoweth
When one of us falls to the ground.

Though small, we are never forgotten;
Though weak, we are never afraid;
For we know the dear Lord keepeth
The life of the creatures He made.

I fly through the thickest forest,
I light on many a spray;
I have no chart nor compass,
But I never lose my way.

And I fold my wing at twilight
Wherever I happen to be;
For the Father is always watching,
And no harm will come to me.

I am only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree,
But I know the Father loves me;
Have you less faith than we?



From The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life by Hannah W. Smith and submitted by Donald Morrison

The copy deadline for the next Newsletter (a bumper edition for July/ August) will be Sunday 25th June. 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 all the photographs in colour

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