

Church of the Holy Rude
King James VI Coronation Anniversary Lecture
7.30pm Tuesday 29 July 2025



How both traditional and contemporary society
was reflected and represented within the 2023
Coronation Liturgy at Westminster Abbey

Speaker: Rev David Stanton
Sub Dean, Westminster Abbey

2025 marks the 400th anniversary of James VI & I's death, and since then the authorities of Westminster Abbey have cared for his remains and those of his mother. David Stanton is Sub-Dean and Canon Treasurer at Westminster Abbey, Distinguished Friend of Oxford and Trustee at Pusey House, Oxford. For most of the last decade he was senior independent member of Oxford Research Ethics Committee and Chair of Bishops' Selection Panels. He is appointed by the Prime Minister to both national Senior Salaries Review Body, and Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee. He is also elected by the Master and Fellows at Corpus Christi, Cambridge to their Remuneration Committee. Until very recently David was independent expert member of the national Public Service Honours Committee (Cabinet Office) and Vice Chair of Court at Westminster (now Honorary Fellow). He is a former Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral, Archdeacon of Westminster, Church Commissioner for England and Non-Executive at both the Church of England Pensions Board and the Wales Audit Office. 45 years ago, as an undergraduate at St Andrews, he played shinty for the Scottish universities.

Chair: Prof David Fergusson OBE, DD, FRSE, FBA
University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity
Head of the King's Ecclesiastical Household in Scotland

You are warmly invited to attend. Admission is by donation to Organ Appeal Fund. The kirk has a 'loop' system for those with hearing aids and hospitality is provided after the lecture. For those unable to attend in person, the lecture will be livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/holyrude>.

The driveway by the church is for the use of the Emergency Services and those with mobility problems. Car parking is available on the Castle Esplanade and closes at 10.30pm.

Holy Rude Viewfield Church, Stirling (Church of Scotland)
Minister: Revd. Alan F Miller B.A., M.A., B.D.
St John Street, Stirling, FK8 1ED
Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude
Scottish Charity Number: SC042326 www.holyrude.org

The Coronation of James VI (1566–1625) on 29 July 1567 is an important date in the history of the nation of Scotland, of the United Kingdom, and of the Reformation. Only seven months earlier on 17 December 1566, **Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots** had seen her baby son baptised in the Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle according to Roman Catholic Rites. England, France and Savoy were all represented and sent lavish gifts. Although the Protestant Lords remained outside the Chapel door at the baptism, they did take part in three days of rejoicing, including jousting, feasting, dancing and fireworks in and around the castle.

From a strong and respected position, Mary's power collapsed suddenly. Suspected of involvement in the murder of her husband, Lord Darnley, she was eventually forced by the Protestant Lords into prison, where, at Loch Leven Castle, she was forced to sign the instrument of abdication in favour of her son, the thirteen-month-old Prince James. This abdication, on 24 July 1567, marked the end of a twenty-five-year struggle between the English supported Protestants and the French supported Roman Catholics, and, while politics was as significant as religion, the Protestant group appeared to have triumphed. The Protestant Lords, with the young Prince in safe keeping in Stirling Castle, decided on a coronation in the nearby Church of the Holy Rude. The proximity of the church to the castle ensured the safety of the young James and, perhaps more importantly, meant that the service would be Protestant.

In considerable haste, the coronation was duly held in the church with John Knox preaching the sermon, no doubt with characteristic relish, on 2 Chronicles 23, a passage recounting the crowning of the young king Joash and the killing of Queen Athaliah. The crowning was carried out by Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, while the service itself was conducted with speed for fear of a Roman Catholic counterattack. The new king was then safely returned to the castle.

On 24 May 1997 **Elizabeth II** was present in the Church of the Holy Rude to witness a re-enactment of the coronation of her ancestor, and to unveil a commemorative inscription on the floor near the East end to mark the event. She was crowned on 2 June 1953 in Westminster Abbey which, at its East end, has the tomb of King James VI & I.



Scottish Royal Crest

CORONATION ANNIVERSARIES of 29 July

Full details: holyrude.org/home.html 'Special Events'.

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| No.448 2015 | Wednesday 29 July: Alasdair A. MacDonald, 'James VI and the Poets.' |
| No.449 2016 | Friday 29 July: Richard Fawcett, 'Stirling Holy Rude: its state by James V.' |
| No.450 2017 | Saturday 29 July: Steven Reid, 'From Bairn to Bearded Man, the political apprenticeship of James VI, 1578-87.' |
| No.451 2018 | Sunday 29 July: Jane Dawson, 'What was John Knox doing in the Holy Rude on 29th July 1567?' |
| No.452 2019 | Monday 29 July: Charles Burnett, 'The Honours of Scotland.' |
| No.453 2020 | Wednesday 29 July: No lecture due to global virus. |
| No.454 2021 | Thursday 29 July: Astrid Stilma, 'Scotland and Europe-the Writings of James VI as an International Project.' (recording on website) |
| No.455 2022 | Friday 29 July: Elizabeth Roads, 'The Heraldic Times of King James VI.' |
| No.456 2023 | Saturday 29 July: Alison Cathcart, 'King James VI and I and his Empire of Islands.' |
| No.457 2024 | Monday 29 July: Theo van Heijnsbergen, 'King James VI's own Queen Elizabeth.' |
| No.458 2025 | Tuesday 29 July: Rev David Stanton MA (St Andrews), Sub Dean, Westminster Abbey, 'How both traditional and contemporary society was reflected and represented within the 2023 Coronation Liturgy at Westminster Abbey.' |