

# **CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE**

## **STIRLING**

***(Church of Scotland)***



## **NEWSLETTER**

**AUTUMN 2015**

Dear Friends

As we drove across Germany this summer on holiday, there was little sign of the impending refugee crisis that would soon develop. Stories of people fleeing poverty, persecution and war by risking their lives in dangerous sea crossings of the Mediterranean to Italy, Malta and Greece were common, but Germany, as with other central European countries, appeared both peaceful and prosperous.

In these recent days, of course, the large numbers of people from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan and other countries, have begun to arrive in Austria and Germany. The numbers involved - Germany alone expecting eight hundred thousand refugees this year - make the numbers gathering in Calais trying to cross the channel pale into insignificance.

Even more so has the terrible reality and high human cost been brought home to us, in the discovery of seventy-one people including four children, found suffocated in the back of a van in Austria, and the distressing pictures of young children drowned attempting the sea-crossing that have been posted on social media.

Who then, protesting a Christian faith, can remain unmoved by compassion at what we see? Who, knowing that all our riches are God-given, can refuse to share from our abundance with those who have so little? Who, knowing we are all made in God's image, can turn their back on those in such great need? Labelling those who seek asylum among us as 'migrants' is to deny our common humanity, and also the reality that many, if not most, are desperate for a new and better life in the safety and security of Europe, having lost homes and livelihoods and hope in their own countries.

No one country can hope to deal with the challenge alone - and every nation, and every people, must accept a share of the responsibility for the safety and well-being of those who have travelled so far at such great cost. We ourselves live in a wealthy country among other wealthy nations - so surely this United Kingdom should be following the example of Germany, which has offered automatic right of asylum to Syrians fleeing the brutal civil war in their home country. After all, it was the English poet and Anglican priest John Donne, who wrote the famous lines: 'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; ...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.'

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Alan', with a short horizontal line underneath it.

## **From the Session Clerk**

In my article for the last Newsletter I hoped that we would be looking forward to a wonderful summer, but unfortunately this was not to be and depressingly it turned out to be one of the wettest and coldest on record. However the weather has not dampened spirits and the Ministry of Welcome Team, under the auspices of the Friends of the Holy Rude, has welcomed an increased number of visitors to the Church and will continue with this outreach work until the end of September. The team of volunteers makes an immense contribution to the life of the Church and the generous giving of their time is much valued and appreciated.

Over the summer months a number of events were held - the Summer Music Concerts in aid of the Organ Fund were most enjoyable and we are grateful to the musicians who gave freely of their time to perform along with Ian Boulter, our Director of Music, who devised the programmes. Audiences could have been larger and I hope that there will be much greater support for the organ recital being given by John Kitchen on 25<sup>th</sup> September to launch the Organ Appeal. In addition we welcomed a number of visiting music groups who gave informal afternoon performances and these were attended and enjoyed by many of the visitors to the church. Donations from these concerts have gone to the Organ Fund. I take this opportunity to thank Janet McNair, Church Secretary, for finalising all the arrangements for the visiting groups, not an easy task, and Lorna Paterson who works tirelessly to ensure that all our Services and Events receive maximum publicity. On the 29<sup>th</sup> July the King James VI Coronation Lecture was given by a distinguished former pupil of the High School of Stirling, Professor Alasdair MacDonald, and this was well received by a large audience. Thanks go to Mike Makower for all the work he undertakes to ensure the success of this annual event.

Looking ahead, the Social Committee is once again organising a Christmas Fair and this will take place in the Church on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. There will be the usual stalls, crafts and a café, and I commend this event to all members and hope that you will give it your full support. I would ask you to pass this information on to family and friends and encourage as many people as possible to come along on the day and make this a really successful fundraising event.

May I remind you that the Quarterly Communion Service will take place on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September and I do hope that members who are unable to attend church services on a regular basis will be able to join with us to celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper at which the Common Cup will be used. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held at the beginning of October and the Annual Remembrance Day Service will take place on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. Details of all Services appear within the pages of the Newsletter.

Now sing we a song for the harvest:  
Thanksgiving and honour and praise  
For all that the bountiful Giver  
Hath given to gladden our days,  
O Thou who art Lord of the harvest,  
The Giver who gladdens our days,  
Our hearts are forever repeating  
Thanksgiving and honour and praise.

**Iain M White**  
**Session Clerk**

## **DIARY OF SERVICES**

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 6th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 13th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 20th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

#### ***Sacrament of Holy Communion***

Sunday 27th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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***followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness***

### **OCTOBER**

Sunday 4th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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#### ***Short Communion Service***

Sunday 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

***followed by short Service***

***for Healing and Wholeness***

***Please remember clocks go back***

Sunday 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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***Clocks go back***

### **NOVEMBER**

Sunday 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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#### ***Short Communion Service***

Sunday 8th	10.40 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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#### ***Remembrance Day***

Sunday 16th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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***followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness***

Sunday 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 30th	10.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



The summer period is always a busy time for the musical life of the Holy Rude. As usual we have had a mix visiting choirs and groups, including a university orchestra from Holland. It is always nice to have these groups perform during the day when the church is open to the public, and it does bring in more visitors to the church.

We held some recitals in aid of the Organ Appeal in July featuring some guest instrumentalists, on July 18<sup>th</sup> the Trumpet soloist was Caroline Farren, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> July the 'Cello soloist was Rebecca Luke. Both of the recitalists gave excellent performances and the audiences enjoyed both the performances and the refreshments afterwards. We have one more recital arranged at the moment, which will have a guest spot by Jeremy Atkinson on Violin.

We are always looking for new members for the choir, please contact me, or any member of the choir for information.

Ian Boulter

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Laughter is a tranquilliser with no side effects  
Anon

I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers  
Claude Monet

If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong  
golf ball.  
Jack Lemmon

I know God won't give me anything I can't handle  
I just wish he didn't trust me so much  
Mother Teresa

*Pastoral*

*Weddings*



***Saturday 15th August***

***Natalie Henderson and Scott Dunan***

***Friday 21st August***

***Deborah Moodie and Richard Sneddon***

***Baptisms***



***Let the children come.....***

***Sunday 5th July***

***Benjamin Alexander***

***Son of Peter and Wend Easterbrook***

***Sunday 30th August***

***Hollie Gladys Linda***

***daughter of Nichola and William. Cairney***

## **FLOWER ROTA**

### **SEPTEMBER**



Sunday 6th	Wedding
Sunday 13th	Wedding
Sunday 20th	Una Evitt
Sunday 27th	Wedding



### **OCTOBER**



Sunday 4th	Harvest
Sunday 11th	Janette Scott
Sunday 18th	Myra Gibson
Sunday 25th	Janet Craig



### **NOVEMBER**



Sunday 1st	Choir
Sunday 8th	Remembrance - Lorna Paterson
Sunday 15th	Alison Dale
Sunday 22nd	Church Flowers
Sunday 29th	Ann Crawford



## **SUMMER REPORT**

In their summer newsletter, Start-up Stirling give figures for the number of families and individuals who have been helped by the Food Bank during the year from July 2014 to July this year. There are now three centres in Stirling, each open once a week, where food parcels may be collected. In the twelve months there were 909 referrals, that is of people who the referring agencies (CAB, Women's Aid and Stirling Council are three of these) sent to the Food Bank for help. Altogether 3,326 food packs were issued during this period. People have a certain amount of choice of what they take, though most are very grateful for everything that is on offer.

The newsletter also gives a list of the items most needed at the moment. These are tins of meat, fruit and veg., UHT milk, ready meals and can openers. They do not need any pasta, cans of beans or soup at the moment, as these are the items most commonly given. Any contributions may be brought to the church and left in the box at the back desk. The unit at Unit 9, 10 Munro Road, Stirling FK7 7UU is open Monday to Friday between 9a.m. and 4p.m. and items may also be taken there. The 'phone number is 01786 561027.

Janet Craig

## **Distribution of Newsletters**

### **Note to Elders**

Over the past year the date material is required for insertion in the Newsletter has been moved to the second Sundays of November, February, May and August. This is to enable Elders, once completion, to arrange delivery to members within their District by the last week in the above months.

It would be helpful, therefore, if Elders who are going to be away at any of the above times, or are not in a position to deliver, contact me in order that Newsletters to members in their District be either posted out or delivery arranged. There have been occasions where some members are not receiving Newsletters until two or three weeks after issue so it would be very helpful to alleviate this happening in the future.

Hilary Blewitt



# **Organ Appeal**

**Update - August 2015**

Since my last update in the last edition of the newsletter we have been continuing in our efforts to raise the money needed to refurbish our magnificent organ. As I explained in the last edition of the Newsletter we now have a target amount of £171,847.00 Ex.VAT and we now have to start the next phase of the appeal when we will contact both national and local companies and appeal for help in reaching this total. We are also organising a launch event on Friday September the 25<sup>th</sup> when we will have a short recital, given by John Kitchen, and a presentation given by Forth Pipe Organs (the preferred bidder for the contract to refurbish the organ) on the scope of work to be carried out, and why it is necessary. Please keep an eye on intimations in the weekly Order of Service, Website and local papers for information on this and other events.

Paul Hale recommended our organ to an Australian organist, Thomas Heywood, to record a CD. Thomas is an international recitalist who has made many recordings and was so stunned by our building and organ that when he arrived to do the recording in July changed the plan and made the recording a DVD / CD project. There will be two discs in the recording, one a normal audio CD, and the other a DVD so you will also be able to see the organ being played. One of the highlights for me was hearing and seeing the Overture to the Flying Dutchman by Wagner, the playing of Thomas was virtuosic and is something to behold. This project will give our organ appeal a boost as word of the quality of the organ spreads.

I have recently purchased a digital projector so that at the two recitals we have held so far over the summer we have been able to project a live picture of the organist playing at the organ console. This has been very popular with the audiences. The two recitals we have held so far have raised just over £600 for the appeal.

We are continuing to get "sponsor a pipe" forms back, but need to keep up the momentum of fundraising over the coming months so as to keep the fund growing all the time. If you have any ideas for fundraising towards the organ fund, please let me know. I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have donated money to the appeal so far, your generous donations will help us reach our target.

There is a display of photos and information at the back of the church, please have a look at this to see some of the "insides" of the organ.

Ian Boulter,

Director of Music.



# SAVE THE DATE!



"Only 20 weeks until Christmas!" someone said to me near the beginning of August.....and that made me realise that it's therefore only 14 weeks until the kirk's



## Christmas and Craft Fayre on Saturday 21 November from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.



Please **save the date** in your diaries now, tell others about it, plan to be there to help on the day and start thinking about, making and gathering items for the church's own stalls. It's not too early to start! Everyone's help is needed.



The church's own stalls will, as usual, sell cake & candy, Christmas items, including bowls of spring bulbs (these are already in the shops now for planting!), bric-a-brac, the popular bottles stall, books, the Young Church stall and her latest children's book from the pen of our own elder, Noreen Boswell. Another elder, Margaret Davidson will be offering a "Nearly New" stall. There will be a cafe in the South Aisle all day offering tea, coffee, juice and home baking together with a variety of home made soups and crusty bread at lunch time. If you can contribute to any of these stalls or assist with moving tables and chairs in the Nave on the Thursday before the Fayre, or help put up posters anywhere in the city, please offer your help to our indefatigable Fayre Convener, Sara McKInlay, who will be delighted to hear from you. We really need "all hands on deck" to help raise the money which the church so urgently requires if it is to maintain our lovely building and honour our commitments (like every other congregation in the Church of Scotland) to the wider work of the Church.



In addition to our own stalls many local crafts people have already kindly agreed to take tables to display and sell their beautiful creations. These will include jewellery, tweed items, scarves, knitwear for babies, sewn items, screen printing, paintings and cards, patchwork, mosaics, fused glasswork, bags and Christmas items, Celtic crosses and pictures and cushions and much more. In addition, a portrait artist will be at work for those who would like to have their portraits drawn. So.....lots of exciting things among which to browse and choose in your early Christmas shopping.



Apart from all the buying and selling which goes on, this is a wonderful day in which to build up the fellowship of our congregation and community and although there's no denying that it is hard work, past years have seen us have much fun in participating in a shared venture for the work of Christ and His kingdom. We look forward to having YOUR help as we do this again on 21 November!



*The Fayre Committee*

# **Friends of Holy Rude**

## ***Ministry of Welcome***

The main activity for the Friends over the summer months has been organising the Ministry of Welcome season at Holy Rude, when the team of volunteers open the church daily to visitors from all over the world, sharing with them the rich heritage and history of our medieval church. Despite the persistent wet weather, the visitor numbers have been encouraging and it is hoped to at least match last year's record number.

## ***Archaeological Survey***

In March, the company Guard Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by the Friends to carry out a two day Archaeological Survey at Holy Rude, principally round the immediate exterior area of the church. Financial assistance from Stirling Council Community Grants Scheme was also obtained to assist in financing the project. A number of members of the Friends, together with people from the local community, as well as around 40 children from St. Ninian's and Riverside Primary Schools, took part in the survey work and enjoyed an interesting and educational experience.

Ground Penetrating Radar Equipment, along with Resistivity and Metal Detecting Equipment, was used in the survey work, and the results have identified possible buried features from the original 12th. century church, as well as areas of unrecorded burials.

Two trial trenches approx. 1m x 1m x 0.5m deep were also excavated by hand, and whilst no major discoveries were made, a range of artefacts including fragments of medieval pottery, window lead, and stained glass were recovered, along with disarticulated human bones. The bones were replaced where they had been found and the trench backfilled.

Any member of the Friends wishing a full copy of the Survey Report can do so by contacting E-mail [friends@holyrude.org](mailto:friends@holyrude.org)

## ***Other Features***

The Friends have also funded an Umbrella Stand for the entrance porch. A new Oak Cabinet has been made to house the list of Holy Rude Ministers from the Reformation, and a banner for the church railings installed highlighting the connections of Holy Rude with the Stewart Kings and Queens, and a small exhibition on the history of the church is also being prepared.

Brian Morrison

Secretary, Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude.



## The Poppy's Appeal

### ***How the humble poppy came to symbolise remembrance and raise millions to help war veterans***

*2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. More than nine million soldiers were killed during the four-year conflict. Much of the worst fighting took place in Flanders, the western part of Belgium. The whole area was completely devastated, with homes, farms, roads and trees all completely destroyed. The land became a bleak, muddy graveyard for the thousands of soldiers who fell there.*

*One plant, however, thrived in the disturbed soil and that, of course, was the poppy. Year after year, as the warm weather arrived, the poppies bloomed and turned the bare ground into a sea of red. Nowadays, we are all familiar with the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and a way to raise funds to support veterans. But how did the iconic flower make the journey from the fields to our lapels?*

*It all began with Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian physician who fought in Flanders. In May 1915, his friend, a fellow soldier, was killed in action. Looking at the poppies growing alongside his grave moved McCrae to write the poem "In Flanders Field" which was later published in Punch magazine.*

*The idea to use the poppy as a symbol of remembrance came from an American professor and YWCA worker, Moina Michael in 1918. She wrote a poem in reply to McCrae's called "We shall keep the faith" and started selling silk poppies. The idea was adopted by the American Legion in 1920 and she became known as "The Poppy Lady".*

*In 1921, Anna E. Guerin started making artificial poppies in France and gained the support of Field Marshal Douglas Haig, founder of the Royal British Legion.*

*The first poppy appeal was held on Armistice Day 1921. It was hugely popular and despite a recommended selling price of threepence per poppy, single petals sold for £5. In all, the appeal raised £106,000.*

*Finally, did you know that there is also a purple poppy? It commemorates the animals that have been victims of war and raises money for Animal Aid.*

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PRAYER COLLECTION

This year's 'Pray Now:Living Stones' prayer collection is to be reprinted after selling more copies in the last two months than over the course of the previous year. The surge in demand comes after several changes were made to the book this year, including bringing publication forward to coincide with the General Assembly in May. The success means that, for the first time, the prayer collection is to be reprinted with extra copies being made available to the public in the autumn.

'Pray Now' has been published for the past twenty years as the annual prayer book of the Church. Bringing it into step with the General Assembly meant the Moderator could include prayer from the collection in one of his devotions during Assembly week. Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison says he's delighted the change has proven successful and opened the resource up to be used by more people.

"The decision was taken this year to link the theme of Pray Now 2015 with the 'Living Stones' theme adopted at the General Assembly and the Heart and Soul gathering in May. We hoped this more joined up approach would help the themes in Pray Now to be explored by the whole Church, and Pray Now could be used more effectively throughout the year. I'm thrilled this approach has paid off."

Speaking of the prayers contained in the 'Pray Now:Living Stones' collection, Dr Morrison says:

"I've been using the Living Stones collection in my personal devotions and I am impressed by the quality of both the content and its presentation. It's a most helpful resource. I hope people will be able to take advantage of the new print run in the autumn, ahead of the normal increase in demand before Christmas."

'Pray Now:Living Stones' is published by the Church of Scotland through its publishing house Saint Andrew Press. You can order your copy through the St Andrews Press website

### **Autumn Prayer**



University of Stirling

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,

For the colouring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

For the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,

For the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,

For the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,

For the autumn harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,

For this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

Amen

Doug Leonhardt

## What if God had Voice Mail?



We have all learned to live with “voice mail” as a necessary (but frustrating) part of modern life. But have you wondered what would happen if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling My Father’s House. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests

Press 2 for Thanksgiving

Press 3 for Complaints

Press 4 for All Other Enquiries.

I’m sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, Press 1

Jesus, Press 2

The Holy Spirit, Press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, please press 4.

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5,

enter his or her social security number, and then press the hash key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)

For reservations at “My Father’s House,” please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah’s ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today.

Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray again on Monday after 9:30am.

If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local minister.

***Thank God he doesn’t have voice mail and that He listens when we pray!***

**Don't Forget**



**CLOCKS GO BACK**

***Please note Clocks go back***

***25th October at 2.00 a.m.***

**MATERIAL FOR WINTER NEWSLETTER**

The next Newsletter will be our Winter Newsletter covering the months of

**December, January and February**

Please ensure all articles are available no later than **Sunday 8th November.**

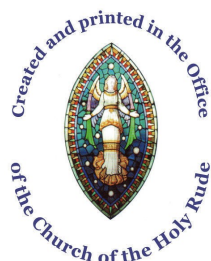
Please let me know of forthcoming events and any additional material that may be of interest.

Special thanks, as ever, to all members who have provided articles for this edition.

Your support, as ever, is very much appreciated.

*Hilary Blewitt*

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[www.holyrude.org](http://www.holyrude.org)

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