

CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE

STIRLING

(Church of Scotland)



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



**We extend a very warm welcome
To all visitors
during the Easter season**

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

This long stretch of time between New Year and Easter can be hard going for many people. Christmas and New Year are already memories quickly receding, but the Spring seems a long way off, as the snow is still lying on the frozen ground and we wait for the days to get warmer, as well as longer.

Lent will start soon, with Ash Wednesday on 18th February and as we should every year, we have an opportunity to reflect on our own journeys of faith as we look ahead to Easter Day. To help us this year, there will be an online calendar of reflections for each day of Lent on the Church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk) linked to the Christian Aid Lenten programme of daily prayer and giving, 'Count Your Blessings'.

Even as just now we long for better times that we hope will soon come, so in this time before Easter we live still in the hope and promise of the Resurrection – an event long in the past but still central to our understanding of ourselves as people of faith today and for the future we cannot yet discern. Remembering Christ's own sacrifice, through which the world is reconciled with God, we ought to count our blessings as we give thanks for the life we have now, and for the fullness of the life of God's kingdom which still awaits us.

Hope and promise, then, are the blessings of God who loves us and who has been made known to us in Jesus of Nazareth, continues to inspire and encourage us through the work of the Holy Spirit, continually renewing us and the Church to which we belong. I pray that during Lent we may all discover a new depth both to our faith and to the life of church in the world, renewing our commitment to live out the Good News with which we have been entrusted, as blessings to our families, our friends, and our local community.

With best wishes

Alan

From the Session Clerk

The Annual Report and Accounts have been finalised and hopefully after a full discussion at the Kirk Session Meeting on 11th February they will have been approved for presenting to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 15th March. I do hope that as many members as possible will be in attendance at the Service and at the meeting that will take place immediately following Morning Worship. This gives members the chance to learn about the work being undertaken by the Minister, the Kirk Session and the various committees to make sure that our Church is presented to the general public in a Christian context, ensuring that all comers are made welcome and that as a “living church” Holy Rude continues to play a vital Christian role in Stirling and beyond. In addition it updates members on our financial position. It will be very evident from studying the accounts that we are not in a good position financially and we will have to look at other ways of raising additional funds. Our Social Committee members give much of their time in organising fundraising events, but the totals raised from these events can only meet a small part of our outgoing expenses. Stewardship will continue to be discussed by the Session and we will look for other ways to increase our income. Once again I appeal to those members who do not attend on a regular basis, to consider completing a Standing Order Form to ensure that their Offerings are received on a regular basis. In addition I draw your attention to the notice from Alastair Roy concerning the completion of a new Gift Aid form. I do urge all members who pay income tax to complete this new form as we can reclaim 24p for every pound you give to the church.

The Ministry of Welcome Team, which is organised by the Friends of the Holy Rude, will ensure that the Church is open over Easter weekend and will then be on duty from the beginning of May until the end of September. Greeting the many visitors who come to the Church is a very interesting and valuable service, enabling visitors from all parts of the world to learn not only about of the history of the building but also more importantly that we are a “living church” with an active congregation. Volunteers to join the team are always being sought and if you are interested please do speak to me or to Ann Crawford.

The dates for the Quarterly Celebrations of Holy Communion are as follows:-

Sunday 1st March; Sunday 7th June; Sunday 20th September and Sunday 6th December. Please note that the Communion Service in September is now held on the third Sunday of the month.

An Easter Hymn – from The Quiver 1889

There was a grave in a garden once,	The Sabbath passed, and the morning broke
Wherein no man had lain,	Over the eastern hill.
Thither they carried the Lord of Life,	The Temple front flashed glittering rays;
Dead from his cross of pain.	The city was sleeping still;
They set a guard; and sealed the stone;	The guard had fled; the Mighty Dead
And left Him there to sleep alone.	Had risen from His rocky bed.

O! Lord of Life, Who for us did die,
For us, art risen again!
Grant that our love for Thee may rise
To the measure of thy pain;
Till all our hope and longing be,
To die to sin, and live to Thee.

N. Wilson

Iain M White

DIARY OF SERVICES

MARCH

Sunday 1st March <i>Service of Holy Communion</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 8th <i>followed by Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 15th <i>Mother's Day Annual Business Meeting following Morning Service</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 22nd <i>Christian Aid "Hunger Lunch</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Alison Jack Assistant Principal New College Edinburgh

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK IN STIRLING

Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday (Please note Clocks go forward)</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Monday 30th St. Ninians Old Parish Church <i>followed by tea/coffee and time for fellowship</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Alistair Cowper
Tuesday 31st St. Columba's Parish Church <i>followed by tea/coffee and time for fellowship</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Stuart Davidson
Wednesday 1st April St. Mark's <i>followed by tea/coffee and time for fellowship</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Alan Miller
Thursday 2nd <i>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Church of the Holy Rude</i> <i>followed by tea/coffee and time for fellowship</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Alex Millar
Friday 3rd <i>Good Friday</i>	11.00 a.m.	Walk of Witness from Holy Trinity Church
Allan Park South <i>followed by tea/coffee and time for fellowship</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Gary McIntyre
Sunday 5th <i>Easter Day</i>	7.30 a.m.	<i>Sunrise Service on Stirling Castle Esplanade All Welcome Followed by breakfast served in Church of the Holy Rude</i>
Church of the Holy Rude <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

Diary of Services contd.

APRIL

Miller	Sunday 5th April	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F.
	<i>Easter Day Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>		
	Sunday 12th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. J. L. Paterson
	Sunday 19th <i>followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
	Sunday 26th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

MAY

Sunday 3rd <i>Short Communion Service</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 10th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 17th <i>followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 24th <i>Pentecost</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 31st	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



After all the build up to the Christmas period the New Year can be a quieter and less busy time for music at the Holy Rude. The choir, however, do not get a rest and continue to work hard every week to provide items of music for every service at the Holy Rude. It is always nice to get feedback from members of the congregation after a service regarding the choral music, and my organ voluntaries. I always pass your comments on to the choir so that they also know how much they are appreciated. It is good to know that the congregation is paying attention to both organ and choral items in the service.

In April we have two concerts by regular choirs that use the Holy Rude. The Stirling University Choir and the Stirling City Choir both return to give their spring concerts. Please keep an eye on dates in the Newsletters and weekly Order of Service sheets for other musical events and other events taking place over the next few months.

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

Ian Boulter

Organ Appeal

Update - February 2015

Since the last newsletter things have again been progressing with regards to the appeal for the organ refurbishment. All three organ building companies have now provided the church with their tenders and their own suggestions for work on the organ.

By the time you are reading this I will have started to go through, line by line, each tender from the 3 companies with our consultant, Paul Hale. This is not an easy job as each tender has a slightly different approach to how, and what work should be carried out.

Once this has been done we will know which company will be carrying out the work, and more importantly, what the work is going to cost, so that the next stage of the Organ Appeal can start.

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.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2015 CALENDAR



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday 6th March	World Day of Prayer St. Mark's Church Drip Road Stirling Please wear something brightly coloured	2.00 p.m.
Sunday 15th March	<i>Annual Business Meeting</i> following Morning Worship	12.30 p.m.
Sunday 22nd March	Christian Aid "Hunger" Lunch (following Morning Worship in the South East Aisle) Services for Holy Week in Stirling are listed on Page 3 of this Newsletter "Diary of Services"	12.30 p.m.
Sunday 12th April	Stirling City Choir <i>Tickets available from City Choir Members or at the Door</i>	7.30 p.m.
Saturday 18th April	Stirling University Choir <i>Tickets available from University Choir Members or at the Door</i>	7.30 p.m.

FLOWER ROTA



MARCH

Sunday 1st	Church Flowers
Sunday 8th	Alison Dale
Sunday 15th	Marilyn Macaulay
Sunday 22nd	Lorna Paterson
Sunday 29th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	John Gray



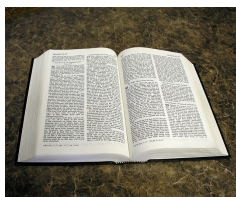
APRIL

Sunday 5th	Easter
Sunday 12th	Church Flowers
Sunday 19th	Alison Dale
Sunday 26th	Church Flowers



MAY

Sunday 3rd	Choir
Sunday 10th	John Gray
Sunday 17th	Janet Craig
Sunday 23rd	Pentecost
Sunday 31st	Church Flowers



**New Member
By Profession of Faith**

Sunday 30th November

Ross J. McArthur 42 Chandler's Court, Stirling, FK8 1NR

**A LENTEN FEAST
(The alternative diet)**

*FAST from criticism
and FEAST on praise
Fast from self-pity
and FEAST on joy
FAST from ill-temper
and FEAST on peace
FAST from resentment
and FEAST on contentment
Fast from jealousy
and FEAST on love
FAST from pride
and FEAST on humility
FAST from selfishness
and FEAST on service
FAST from fear
and FEAST on faith*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ON
GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

Note by Alastair Roy

There has been a change in the requirements of Gift Aid Declarations recently which has resulted in our existing Gift Aid Declarations form being now out-of-date. In addition a number of these declarations were completed many years ago (some in the year 2000) and may no longer apply due to a change in individuals circumstances following retiral etc. or they have moved house to a new address.

Accordingly **a new Declaration form is required**. Each existing Gift Aider is asked to complete a revised Declaration if they still meet the requirement of being a tax payer. This will ensure that there can be no come-back by the tax authorities on the tax repayment claims made by our Church in future years.

In addition I hope that those of you who are tax payers and have never provided a Declaration will take this opportunity to boost the Church's finances by completing one. The claims we make for Gift Aid tax each year provide more than £7,000 of further funds to help maintain our Church and are a very valuable contribution at no cost to the person making the donation.

The new Declaration makes it clearer than in the past that the reference to being a "tax payer" means paying Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax and not VAT or Council Tax. If you have any doubts about your tax status you can talk, in confidence, to me. Your elder can arrange contact.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation. The completed Declaration should be returned to your elder or given to Alastair Roy any Sunday or posted to the Church marked for his attention. If an existing Declaration is not replaced by another in the new format, it may not be possible to claim back tax in future years based on the old Declaration.

Friends of the Holy Rude

Archaeological Survey

In order to provide an increased understanding of the history of Holy Rude, the Friends have commissioned the company, Guard Archaeology, to carry out a Geophysical Survey at the church on Friday 27th. and Saturday 28th. March. The objectives of the Survey are:-

1. To identify the foundations of the original 12th. century church that was burned down in 1405.
2. To determine if there were more than the 3 pre-Reformation chapels already known, and to identify their foundations and the extent of archaeological remains within these.
3. To determine the extent of burials and other underground objects within 20 ft. of the outside of the church walls. On the South Side of the church, the full width and length of the driveway from St. John's Street up to the steps into the Kirkyard, will also be included.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Metal Detecting, and Resistivity Equipment will be used in the Survey. Arrangements for the 2 days are now being finalised, but it is intended to have demonstrations on Geophysics techniques, along with participation in the Survey by members.

If you are interested in taking part in the Survey, then please contact Brian Morrison for further details at the e-mail address friends@holyrude.org

Membership Renewal

The Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude was registered as a Charity in 2011 with the principal objective of raising funds for the repair and maintenance of our ancient church. Since being established, financial assistance has been given for various repairs made to the building and organ, as well as the installation of the new kitchen and toilets, and the modern sound system.

Existing Annual Members

Your current membership will end on 31st. March, and you will shortly be receiving a reminder that your subscription will be due for renewal from 1st. April.

Invitation to Join

If you are not a member currently, you are invited to join the Friends and help maintain our historic church. The membership categories and fees are as follows:-

Annual Adult Single Membership	£12
Annual Family Membership (2 Adults at one address and any children)	£18

Membership categories contd.

Life Membership - Single	£120
Life Membership - Joint	£180
Concessionary: (OAP, Student, under 21)	
Annual - Single	£ 8
Annual - Joint	£16

Membership Forms are available at the Reception Desk in the church, or by e-mail from friends@holyrude.org

Brian Morrison
Secretary, Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude
Scottish Charity Number SC042326

The Difference

***I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.
problems tumbled around me
and heavier came each task
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered
He answered "You didn't ask".
I wanted to see joy and beauty
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me
he said "But you didn't seek".
I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys in the lock
God gently and lovingly chided
"My child, you didn't knock".
I woke up early this morning
and paused before entering the day
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.***

Author unknown



Start-Up and Scottish Churches' Housing Action

It is perhaps appropriate that we remember homeless people especially in January, one of the coldest months of the year, when Spring seems a long way off. This year, at the end of January, the congregation not only provided much-needed goods for the Crisis Food Bank in Stirling but we were also able to send £100 to the charity Scottish Churches' Housing Action, who were marking twenty years of work with homeless people. Under its Chief Executive, Alastair Cameron, it has campaigned for more affordable housing to be built in Scotland and for support for people moving into their own homes for the first time. It has given many local schemes, including Start-Up Stirling, advice and support in setting up starter-pack schemes and drop-in centres. When we think of the problems of homelessness, we tend to see the local situation and forget the work done by the national organisation. We wish Scottish Churches' Housing Action success in all they do to meet the needs of homeless people.

Janet Craig



70 Years of Christian Aid

This year Christian Aid will turn 70 and several special activities are planned to mark the event. If you are a Munro bagger, or just a keen hill-walker, you can sign up to climb one of 70 Munros and help reach the target of £70,000 which Christian Aid have set themselves for this year. In October there will be a national conference in Edinburgh.

As a congregation, we will again be celebrating the work of Christian Aid with a soup and cheese "hunger" lunch after the morning service on **Sunday, March 22nd**. We will sample a delicious choice of soup provided by members of the congregation and there will be an opportunity to donate to the work of Christian Aid. This year in Lent, Christian Aid is focusing on the work of its partner organisation in Ethiopia to support young women.

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 10th – 16th May. As ever, we will be taking part in the house to house collection and new volunteers will be most warmly welcomed. By far the biggest contribution to Christian Aid's budget is the amount raised in Christian Aid Week. If you can help in this way, please speak to me or telephone 01786 472319.

Janet Craig

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD
VIEWFIELD ERSKINE CHURCH
2014 - 2015



Members of Holy Rude are warmly invited to join the meetings of the Guild, which are held in the Smaller Church Hall, on the dates listed below. Please come along and be assured of a warm welcome. Normally, all meetings take place on a Monday at 7.30 p.m. Other dates on the Calendar are highlighted below.

Monday 9th March	Logie Auld Kirk
Monday 23rd March	Fascinators
Monday 13th April	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew McLellan
Monday 20th April	Open Night – Jack Delaney and Family (to be confirmed)
Monday 27th April	A.G.M. & Pot Luck Supper



HOSPITAL VISITS

It is important that Members are reminded that when the Minister visits Hospitals now, there is no longer a "Chaplain's List" for him to consult as in previous year. It would be helpful if you know of a Member or friend of the congregation who is in hospital that the Minister is informed either directly or by speaking to one of the Elders. This should also apply to anyone who is ill at home.

Christmas Gift Envelopes.

It has been a long tradition of the Church of the Holy Rude to make an appeal at Christmas to help with the upkeep of our beautiful Church and place of worship.

This year and I mean 2014, the envelopes were inserted in the winter newsletter and donations gradually came in so a big "thank you" to all who responded to this appeal.

The total raised to date is £2246 and with the gift aid element added it will come to over £2802. There were a few late donations and if these are now added in the total becomes £3520 which is wonderful. This will help to boost our funds and to meet the rising expenses for the Church and costs of upkeep especially heating!

We are really blessed to have such a wonderful and historic Church often referred to as the Westminster Abbey of Scotland. It is a huge responsibility and privilege to maintain it for the generations to come.

Kate McIntosh
Treasurer



Sunday 17th May 2015

1.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

"Heart and Soul 2015" is a large-scale celebratory event organised by the Church of Scotland. It coincides with the beginning of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland taking place just a few hundred metres away. The event is designed to celebrated the life and work of the church in Scotland. It's free to attend and all are welcome!

**448th Anniversary of the Coronation of King James VI
on the 29th July 1567 in the Church of the Holy Rude**

Lecture by

Professor Alasdair A. MacDonald

"James VI and the poets"

Alasdair MacDonald, who attended the High School of Stirling, has an MA and PhD from the University of Edinburgh (thesis: 'The Middle Scots Religious Lyrics'). He has taught in departments of English at the universities of Leeds, Ghana, Nijmegen and Groningen. At the latter he was professor of English Language and Literature of the Middle Ages, and is now retired. He has published widely on the older literature of Scotland. His edition of the 'Gude and Godlie Ballatis' (1565) will appear later this year, and he is currently working on the poetry of George Lauder, a 17th-century Scottish poet and soldier in the Low Countries.

This anniversary is on

WEDNESDAY 29 July 2015

at 7.30pm

celebrated within the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling

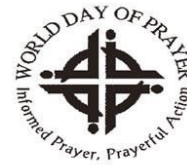
There are NO tickets - Donations at the door very welcome.

CAR PARKING by kind permission from Historic Scotland on Castle Esplanade
Barrier closes at 10.30 p.m.

Please NOTE the above details.

Invite friends, to take some time to join us and relax

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday, 6th March 2015

*A special service in which Christians
of all denominations come together
to share and to reflect in company
with millions around the world.*

St. Mark's Parish Church

Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1RE



2 p.m.

*Please wear
something
brightly coloured.*

Please stay and join us for tea & coffee after the service

The Bahamas

Jesus said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?'

World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee – SC 020446





'Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name ... there I will be also.'

Will YOU join us?

Every year on (or near) the first FRIDAY in MARCH, Christians around the world (Protestants, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Evangelicals) of all ages (women, men, young people and children) gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

This year we pray with women of the Bahamas for



-Transformation in the lives of:
teen mothers
those affected by cancer
those living with HIV and AIDS
local communities

This service speaks of Radical love, reminding us that Jesus is God's presence of radical love in the world. Following Jesus' example of washing his disciples' feet, we are asked to continue the gesture of love in our own communities. That is how the spiral of informed prayer and prayerful action moves around the world.

**Jesus asked the question ,
" Do you know what I have done to you?
How would you respond to that?**

For more information:

Contact: Jean Porter 07729316321

WDP Scottish Committee (SC 020446) website: www.wdpScotland.org.uk

Bells and Bellringing at the Holy Rude

It is always a joy to hear the bells of the Holy Rude ringing, and I asked Mr Rob Ferguson, Tower Captain to provide me with some information on the bells and the bell-ringers and I am sure you will find his article both interesting and informative. IMW

There is a long history of bell ringing at the Holy Rude. The original ring of 3 bells was medieval and referred to in the kirk session records of 1597. The 3 bells were cast and recast between 1656 and 1853, with a fourth bell added in 1781, all hung for full circle ringing in a medieval timber frame.

In 1972 the bells were augmented to 6 (tuned to the key of Bflat) and hung in a new steel frame. 2 of the original 4 bells were re-hung. The 5 (4.75cwt) was cast in Rotterdam in 1656 (and is the oldest bell in Scotland hung for change ringing); the tenor (6) (6.25cwt) was cast in Glasgow in 1853. The treble (1), 2, 3 and 4 are Taylor's bells cast in Loughborough in 1971. The Holy Rude is one of three towers in Central Scotland where the bells are hung for change ringing – Dunblane Cathedral is a heavy ring of 8 with the tenor weighing 24cwt; St John's, Alloa, also a ring of 8, with a 13cwt tenor.

Full circle ringing means the bells are hung on wheels which rotate through 360°. Change ringing is the art of ringing the bells in set sequences known as Methods. This technique dates from the Reformation and contrasts with the European tradition of striking or tolling bells. The bells at the Holy Rude can also be struck with steel hammers using the striking machine where steel pins on rotating drum run by an electric motor pull wires that lift and drop individual hammers onto the flange of each bell. The six bells ring a method called Plain Hunt.

Methods are compositions of sequences, which are memorised by the ringers. No single sequence of bells is repeated in a method. Methods are often named after the composer – for example Stedman, or the place where they were first rung – Norwich, London, Cambridge. The earliest methods date from the late 16th century. The Holy Rude has its own method – Stirling Delight Minor (Minor methods being on 6 bells). For morning service we usually ring quarter peals of between 1270 and 1320 changes taking about 45 minutes and, on special occasions, full peals of 5000+ changes, taking almost 3 hours.

Bell ringing does not require great physical strength, but does require some physical coordination, a sense of rhythm and a reasonable memory. It is excellent physical and mental exercise. Ringers are of all ages and abilities with many people taking up ringing as older adults. There are between 10 and 15 regular ringers attending practice nights and service ringing. Most come from Dunblane, and a few from Stirling and the Hillfoots. We also have 5 learners who practice at the Holy Rude where the bells are light and easy going. Practice at Dunblane is Wednesday evening; Friday evening between 7.30 and 9.00pm at the Holy Rude. Service ringing is every Sunday at Dunblane and the second Sunday in the first 6 months of the year at the Holy Rude (between 10.30 and 11.30am). There is no service ringing at Alloa. There just aren't enough ringers to ring at all the towers when service times coincide.

Bell ringing is a very social activity with trips to ring at other towers, seasonal events, and regular competitions and meetings with other ringers organised through the Scottish Association of Change Ringers. Anyone who is interested in seeing the bells and the ringing, or is interested in learning the art, will be given a very warm welcome. The Tower Captain is Rob Ferguson and can be contacted on 01786 812416.

Rob Ferguson

The Story of Mary Slessor

Mary was born in Aberdeen in 1848 but when she was quite young she had to move to Dundee so that her mum and dad could find a job.

When Mary was growing up life was quite hard, her dad, an alcoholic, lost his job and so Mary had to start work when she was just a little girl. Before she was 10 years old she was working in a jute mill for half of the day and then going to the school the mill ran for half a day. The mill was hot and the work was heavy. Mary worked hard at her school work. At church she learned about a man called David Livingstone who had been a mill worker like her, but who had worked hard at school and eventually became a doctor and was now serving God in Africa.

As Mary got older she started to help out at her local church, she helped run a youth club. One night Mary went out to try and get people to come to the church and she met a gang of boys. The boys made fun of Mary and made a circle round her. Then the gang leader started swinging a piece of lead on a string towards Mary's head. He swung it closer and closer until it hit Mary and grazed her forehead but Mary stood her ground, determined she wouldn't move.

The gang thought Mary was really brave and they agreed to go to her church youth club.

Mary believed that God wanted her to do something special with her life but she wasn't sure what until one day she read in the newspaper that David Livingstone had died. He had written a letter asking other people to think about whether or not God was asking them to go and work in Africa.

Mary decided she should go to Africa, to Nigeria, to a place called Calabar, so she applied to the church and after training she was allowed to go.

She sailed on the SS Ethiopia and it took a long time. Mary was afraid of water so it was a bit scary for her on the boat but she reached Nigeria safely.

Mary got to know the people in Calabar. She spent time with them in their villages, helping them to learn to read and count, she helped people who were sick. She wasn't like most other missionaries, she climbed trees with the children and she lived in a village hut.

Mary didn't like the way that people in Calabar were afraid of twin babies and that they often abandoned or killed them as they believed they were filled with evil spirits. So she began to look after them instead. So whenever someone was having twin babies the people would run and get Mary so that she could take the twins and care for them.

Mary decided to move further into the countryside to work and when she was travelling on her boat they were attacked by a hippo! Hippos are very dangerous animals but Mary wasn't afraid! She took her frying pan from her bag and hit the hippo over the head to frighten it and so her boat could get away.

When Mary got to the villages further inland she found that the different tribes spent a lot of time fighting with each other. So Mary talked to both sides, she made them sit down together and speak to each other. She also helped them to learn to read, to write and to count. Then they were able to trade with each other rather than fight and to respect each other. She helped the women in the villages to feel they had a valued place in the family and that their role was important.

When Mary died people in Nigeria were very sad, and they still remember her today, even though that was 100 years ago. There are churches named after her, streets are named after her, even hospitals and schools. And there are lots and lots of statues of her, most of them with twins because she did so much to change their lives for the better. Mary Slessor did lots of amazing things and she changed things in Nigeria for the better.

Think about our world today, if you could change one thing to make the world a better place, what would it be? How can you make a difference?

Mary Slessor Centenary Postcard competition

Making a difference in our world today.

To celebrate the life and legacy of Mary Slessor and the many positive differences she made to the lives of people in Nigeria, we invite children and young people to think about today's world and the one thing that they would change if they had the chance.

Instructions

1. Read or listen to Mary's story.
2. Think about the things that would make a difference in the world today, what would be the one thing they would like to change.
3. Then show us by drawing a picture, a cartoon, making a collage, writing a poem or a short story, it's up to them.
In fact encourage them to be as imaginative and creative as they want to show us the change they want to make in words and pictures.

The only rule is that it should be on a postcard size piece of card.

4. Remind them to write their name, age, church/school/ youth group name and address on the back.
5. Entries should be sent to

Carol Finlay
Twinning and Local Development Secretary
World Mission Council
121 George Street
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

6. The closing date is **20th March 2015.**

There will be prizes for entries in the following age group

- Pre school
- P1-P4
- P5-P7
- S1-S6

A selection of entries, including those of the winners in each age category will be on display at a special Mary Slessor Exhibition at the Verdant Works in Dundee in April 2015.

Don't Forget



CLOCKS GO FORWARD

***Please note Clocks go forward
29th March at 2.00 a.m.***

MATERIAL FOR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter will be our Summer Newsletter covering the months of
June, July, August

Please ensure all articles are available no later than **Sunday 10th May**.
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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