

# **CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE**

## **STIRLING**

***(Church of Scotland)***



## **NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2015/2016**



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR  
TO  
ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS**

## From the Session Clerk

This Christmas Night  
How sweet and clear above the sounds of war  
the clamorous bells are pealing their delight!  
The angels sing of glory, as they soar  
among the man-made stars,  
this Christmas night.  
And, once again, with spices and with gold,  
three Kings are riding through the sparkling snow  
to this poor lodging in the bitter cold  
where Mary kneels within the lantern glow  
to watch her Baby lying in the hay,  
and think about the wonder of His birth;  
And as He sleeps to hold his hands and pray  
for peace to come upon this troubled earth.

This poem by Mary Wilson, widow of the former labour Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, was set to music by the late Master of the Queen's Music, Malcolm Williamson, and it is one of my favourite carols. I think the words are so apt when we think of the strife in the world today, especially in the Middle East, and we will shortly be welcoming to Stirling some of the many refugees who are fleeing from the conflict in their own countries. Stirling Kirks Together, along with other churches in the Stirling Presbytery, will be working to ensure that these people, many frightened and disillusioned, will soon feel at home amongst us. We pray that sense will prevail and peace will be restored to these war-torn areas so that eventually those who wish to may return to their homeland. As an aside, you may be interested to know that Mary Wilson will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in January and is the longest living spouse of a British Prime Minister.

As we welcome the Advent Season we look forward to a number of special Services and events that will lead us towards Christmas and the New Year. On Sunday evening, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm the Choir will present a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight and it is hoped that this will be well supported by members of the congregation and I would ask you to encourage family and friends to come along to participate in this well-loved traditional celebration of Christmas. Refreshments of a Christmas nature will be served following the Service. On Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm a Christingle Service will take place in Viewfield Erskine Church, and at 11.30 pm our Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Church, starting with community carol singing at 11.00 pm. On Christmas Day and Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December, joint Services will be held in Viewfield Erskine Church, and on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 the first Service of the New Year will be held in the Holy Rude. These three Services will commence at 11.00 am. I also remind you that the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at Morning Worship on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December and also at the Services on Christmas Day and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January. In addition Christmas concerts will take place in the Church on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December – Stirling City Choir; Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December – the High School of Stirling. Further details of all Services and Concerts are given within the pages of this Newsletter.

The Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November and congratulations and thanks must go to the hard working members of the Social Committee for the time and tremendous effort spent in organising this annual fundraising event. To the many helpers from our congregation, the Ministry of Welcome Team and friends from outwith our Church, we thank you all for assisting so ably on the day. As you know we have many financial commitments, and the money raised will help towards maintaining our ministry and building. I am pleased to say that by popular demand the Committee is arranging another fundraising Quiz Night in the Church on Friday evening, 26<sup>th</sup> February. I hope you will support this event - the one held in February of this year proved to be a most successful and enjoyable evening.

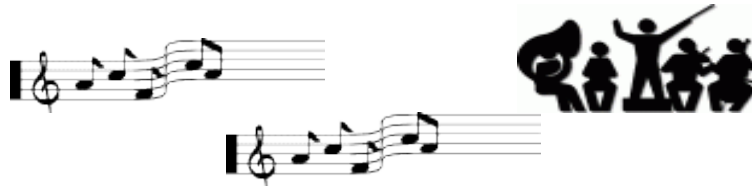
You may have read in the local newspaper that planning permission has been granted for the installation of a stained-glass window in memory of soldiers killed in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. The window is being gifted to the church by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Association and we hope the installation will take place in the not too distant future. The design for the window is by the renowned Scottish stained-glass artist, Christian Shaw.

Stirling Kirks Together, referred to earlier in this article, consists of Allan Park South, St Columba's, St Mark's, St Ninian's, Viewfield Erskine and the Holy Rude, and a committee of representatives from these churches look at ways in which we can work together to ensure that we continue to have a strong and important presence within the local community. A number of new initiatives and events are being planned for the New Year and details will be publicised in due course. I would remind you that the Friendship Lunches continue to be held in St Columba's Church Hall on the second Monday of every month from 12.00 noon – 1.30 pm and where a warm welcome awaits you.

I hope you have a blessed Christmas filled with the true Christmas Spirit and that the New Year will be good to you. We also pray for peace in this "troubled earth".

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

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Christmas is always a busy time at the Holy Rude for music, not just for our own choir, but also for concerts by other choirs and groups. Dates for the concerts can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Our own choir will present the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. This has been a wonderful service for the last couple of years, with the congregation enjoying both the service and the seasonal refreshments served afterwards. Please put this date into your diary, and tell all your friends about it as well.

It is now over a year since I started putting a copy of the words of the Introits and Anthems into the Order of Service on Sunday mornings. The response has been 100% positive from the congregation as it gives them time to think about what the choir is singing. This task will get easier for me as over time the choir will repeat Anthems, which will mean that I can just "Copy & Paste" from saved sheets rather than typing everything new each week.

Since August we have welcomed a new choir member into the choir stalls. Alison Marshall is a student at Stirling University studying computing. We all hope Alison will enjoy her time with us at the Holy Rude.

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

Ian Boulter

### INVITATION



***David and Tricia Cooke  
will celebrate  
their Golden Wedding  
on  
12th February 2016***

***On Sunday 14th February  
you are  
invited to join them in a Thanksgiving Service  
followed by  
tea/coffee, drinks and canapes in the South Aisle***

## **DIARY OF SERVICES**

### **DECEMBER**

Sunday 6th 10.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Sacrament of Holy Communion***

Sunday 13th 10.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Christmas Gift Service***

Sunday 20th 10.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness***

***Choir of the Holy Rude Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight*** 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 24th ***Christmas Eve***

***Christingle Service*** 6.30 p.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***in Viewfield Erskine Church***  
***(Christingles will be made in the Church Hall from 5.30 p.m.)***

***Community Carol Singing*** 11.00 p.m.

***Watchnight Service*** 11.30 p.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

Friday 25th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Christmas Day Joint Communion Service Viewfield Erskine***

Sunday 27th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Joint Service in Viewfield Erskine***

### **JANUARY**

***Please note change of Service times  
from 10th January until 6th July***

Sunday 3rd 11.00 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Joint Communion Service in Church of the Holy Rude***

Sunday 10th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

Sunday 17th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness***

Sunday 24th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

Sunday 31st 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday 7th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***Short Communion Service***

Sunday 14th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

Sunday 21st 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller  
***followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness***

Sunday 28th 11.30 a.m. Rev. Alan F. Miller

## *Pastoral*

### Weddings



*Saturday 5th September*

***Nicola Kerr and Thomas Gillan***

*Saturday 12th September*

Elizabeth Reid and Alastair Wright

*Saturday 26th September*

Suzanne Campbell and Philip Kirkwood

### Baptisms



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

*Sunday 13th September*

***Finn Wyllie, son of Robert and Ailsa Wyllie***

4 Woolcarders Court, Cambusarron, FK7 9RA



***"I am the resurrection and the life....."***

### Death

***Thursday 3rd September***

Mrs. Constance Brodie  
Cluny Lodge, 10/16 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 6DP  
**(Formerly of 13a Victoria Place, Stirling)**

## **FLOWER ROTA**

### **DECEMBER**



Sunday 6th	Christmas Flowers
Sunday 13th	Christmas Flowers
Sunday 20th	Christmas Flowers
Sunday 27th	Christmas Flowers



### **JANUARY**

Sunday 3rd	Christmas Flowers
Sunday 10th	Kirk Session
Sunday 17th	Robert and Elma Wyllie
Sunday 24th	Jeanette McEwan
Sunday 31st	Church Flowers



### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday 7th	Janette Crawford
Sunday 14th	Senga Morrison
Sunday 21st	Tricia Cooke
Sunday 28th	Elma Wyllie

**It is the time of year when I make up the Flower Rota for the year ahead. If anyone would like to add their name to the rota they will find the book at the back of the church, or speak to me.**

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the flowers in any way over the last year. Your efforts are much appreciated.**

***Alison Dale  
Flower Convener***



## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### 2015-16

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday 5th December	Stirling City Choir Christmas Concert	7.30.p.m.
Monday 14th December	Stirling High School Carol Concert	7.30 p.m.
Sunday 20th December	Choir of The Holy Rude Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight	6.30 p.m.
Monday 25th January	Viewfield Erskine Church Guild Scots Night Tickets: £8	7.00 p.m.
Sunday 14th February	Golden Wedding David and Tricia Cooke Thanksgiving Service Followed by Refreshments and Canapes South East Aisle	12.45p.m.
Friday 26th February	Quiz Evening	7.30 p.m.

### **CHRISTMAS GIFT ENVELOPES.**



Dear Members and Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude,

The Kirk Session has recently agreed that we can have a Christmas Appeal this year, which is good news!

So soon after the Christmas Fayre I'm sorry, but we do have expenditure which is ongoing and I can assure you that any contribution, however small, is hugely appreciated and a great help to our Church.

On the expenditure side, we face huge monthly bills for our heating and lighting, which the Friends have helped with, as well as maintenance and repair of our wonderful building.

At present we also face a big bill for the repair and maintenance of the organ for which there is a separate fund you can donate to, but there are bills which we must face for Ministries and Mission, for Presbytery, for office work, for upkeep of health and safety issues and the list goes on! We have struggled to make the payments for Ministries and Mission this year-in fact we may not manage to completely pay off the outstanding amount by the end of 2015!

I would like to ask you to consider if you can make any contribution to boost our funds and if you can this will be very much appreciated.

You will find a special envelope enclosed with this Newsletter, and our Christmas Gift Service will be at 10am on Sunday 13th December. Envelopes may be returned at the service, given to your elder or posted to The Treasurer, Church of the Holy Rude, St John Street, Stirling FK8 1ED.

If you would like to increase your gift by the gift aid amount offered by the government the please fill in the back of the envelope before you hand it in!

Many thanks

Kate McIntosh  
Treasurer.

# Organ Appeal

**Update - November 2015**

We had a successful launch event for the organ appeal in the church on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> September when we had a wonderful recital given by John Kitchen. The programme was picked to show off all the colours that are available from the organ. There was one extra sound when a cipher (a note sounding without the organist pressing a key) occurred. I would have preferred if this had not happened, but at least it showed the problems we are having, and how the problems manifest themselves. Luckily David Page, the Director of Forth Pipe Organs, our organ builder, was in attendance as he was also giving a presentation on what work we are intending to carry out. He was soon able to stop the cipher so that the recital could carry on. After the recital refreshments were served in the South East Aisle.

Paul Hale recommended our organ to an Australian organist, Thomas Heywood, to record a CD/DVD. Thomas is an international recitalist who has made many recordings and was stunned by our building and the quality of our organ when he arrived to do the recording in July. Work is now underway to the recording that was done and we are now waiting to hear when it will be launched. This will be a fantastic recording of our organ and one not to be missed.

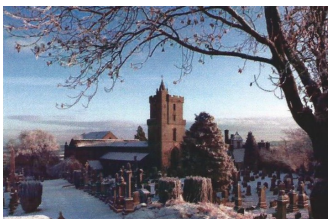
The next stage that the appeal committee is now involved in is applying to various trust and funding bodies to ask for help towards our target. We have now raised just over £50,000 of the target amount. It is important that we still carry on with our own fundraising as we have to prove to grant bodies that we are actively trying to reach our target amount.

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.

## **Christmas Cards**



Church Christmas cards are now on sale at the Church Shop at £3 for a packet of six quality cards – contact is Ann Crawford. Designed by Tom Buchanan, this is another excellent way of supporting the church's fund-raising and represents good value for what is a beautiful quality card, depicting the church from Ladies' Rock.



## FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE

This Society was registered as a Charity (No. SC042326) in May 2011 with the main purpose of raising funds for the care and maintenance of Holy Rude. Other principal objectives are a) the adornment and furnishing of the Church and providing facilities for the benefit of the Congregation and visitors, b) supporting the performance of music in Holy Rude, and c) the encouragement of research into the history of the Church.

### **Membership**

By being a member of the Friends you will be supporting the work of the Society in the preservation of the historic Church of the Holy Rude - one of the most outstanding medieval churches in Scotland.

There are various categories of Membership, as follows:-

*Annual* - Adult Single (£12); Family (£18); Concessionary OAP or Student (£8).

*Life Membership* :- Single (£120); Joint (£180)

The Membership Year is from 1st. April to 31st. March, and Application Forms are available at the Holy Rude Reception Desk, or from the Secretary, Brian Morrison (e-mail [brian.morrison4@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.morrison4@btinternet.com))

### **Friends Activities Summer / Autumn 2015**

The main source of income to the Friends comes from the **Ministry of Welcome**, whereby a team of volunteers opens Holy Rude on a daily basis from May to the end of September to receive visitors from all over the world, and to share with them the rich history and heritage of our special medieval church.

After a slow start, the 2015 Visitor Season picked up, and by the end of September a record number of approx. 53,000 visitors had been welcomed into the church (an increase of 1,000 over last year).

St. Andrew's Chapel provides a place for Prayer and Meditation, and was well used by many of the visitors, with 6,000 candles being lit and raising £3,000 in donations, and 1,049 Prayer Request Cards were completed for reading at the regular Health and Healing Services. Shop sales contributed over £3,600. The total amount of donations raised by the Ministry of Welcome this season was a record amount of £22,500 and this sum makes a vital contribution to the Friends funds.

Grateful thanks go to the team of 32 volunteers for giving their time and assistance so willingly in this service.

### **Masons' Marks Survey**

In order to enhance the understanding of the construction of Holy Rude, the Friends have arranged for a Survey by an Archaeologist to record the marks made by the skilled medieval Stonemasons when constructing our church. Each Stonemason had his own particular mark that he put on every stone he cut, and this allowed the Master Mason to calculate the payment due for the work carried out.

From the Survey it will be possible to identify the number of skilled Stonemasons that worked on the building of the West (15th. century) and East (16th. century) parts of the church.

By comparison with a national database of Marks, it will also be possible to determine the other medieval churches that an individual Stonemason worked on.

This Survey is now underway and a report will be given in the next Newsletter.

### **Expenditure**

In the last quarter, apart from assisting with the church with heat and light and insurance costs, and financing the manufacture of both the Oak Umbrella Stand and the Oak Display Cabinet for the Roll of Ministers, expenditure from the Friends funds has been limited. This is in anticipation of substantial financial assistance being required for an extensive programme of maintenance and repair work that is needed to the building.

Brian Morrison  
Secretary, Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude

*Pause for thought .....*

If you think it's hard to meet new  
people,  
Try picking up the wrong golf  
ball!

*Lemmon*

*Jack*

My father always used to say,  
"Don't raise your voice,  
Improve your argument."

*Desmond Tutu*



## Room at the Inn?

Small charity HOST is seeking friendly people who would like to learn more about other countries and cultures and share their home life with adult international students at UK universities. Young adults from many countries would love to have a short homely break and discover the real life of this country.

Host Kit Millington-Hore wrote "Meeting students from around the world is hugely fulfilling and satisfying. Watching their pleasure as you introduce them to our ways of living, particularly over Christmas, is extremely rewarding."

Visits can be for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas. Offering a Christmas invitation to someone who would otherwise be alone on a University campus can make a big difference. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter their age, or how far they live from a university. To find out more, or to be put in touch with your local organiser, please visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call 020 7739 6292.

**Kimberley Brough**  
*Deputy Chief Executive*  
HOST



### STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER

*Friendship Lunch - Monday 14th December*  
*From 12 noon - 1.30 p.m.*  
*In: St. Columba's Church Hall, Park Terrace, Stirling.*

**CONVERSATION, SOUP AND SANDWICH**

*Remember to put the date in your diary!*

**For further information contact: Sarah Murdoch on 01786-473087**



## START-UP STIRLING ANNUAL MEETING

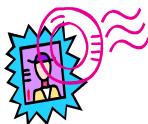
At the annual meeting of Start-Up at the end of October, information was given about the year ending last March. The charity continues to provide starter packs for people going into new tenancies and in that period 125 packs were given out, including in some cases kettles, duvets and pillows. In addition, smaller welcome and emergency packs are distributed through Stirling Council to those who are in temporary accommodation.

The work of the Crisis Food Bank has continued to expand and the three centres where food packs are available gave out a total of 3183 parcels over the year, helping 1112 adults and 420 children. The money which came from the National Lottery is earmarked for infrastructure only, that is for premises, staffing etc. The charity purchased a small van, which has enabled them, to deliver food to people in rural areas, who are unable to come into Stirling to the Food Bank.

Supplies of food still have to be sourced from voluntary contributions, both of goods and money, and local churches, schools and businesses are all involved in this. It has become a true community project, as is clear from the many supermarkets who share in the scheme by having trolleys for gifts of food in their premises. There are also other drop-off points in the town, e.g. at the office of the Stirling Observer in case people find the journey to the unit in Munro Road inconvenient.

The charity aims to help those in need by listening and befriending and, where appropriate, directing them to other services. It does not see itself as only operating an emergency service but as supporting any who are having housing difficulties and living with financial hardship.

Janet Craig



## S O S - Save Old Stamps for World Mission



The Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Project for 2015 is raising money for all the people worldwide who are living with HIV. The Church of Scotland HIV Programme enables our partner churches to respond to the challenge of HIV in their communities. We support 29 projects in 17 countries including Scotland. They include self-help projects and support groups which provide information and advice helping people to provide for themselves and their families.

By collecting your used stamps which are sold to make money you can help us to continue to support our partner churches as they respond to the HIV pandemic and ensure that the people infected and affected by HIV have hope for the future.

So far this year the sale of used stamps from March to September has raised £2259 for the HIV Programme.

In October I again posted a large packet of stamps generously donated by members and friends of the Church of the Holy Rude and Viewfield Erskine Church. Please keep the stamps coming – the collecting box is still on the desk at the back of the Church. You can give them to me or to one of the welcoming elders at the Sunday morning Service of Worship. Your continuing help is very much appreciated. Little acorns and large oak trees come to mind!

*Myra Gibson*



## Jean Servin, Psalms



A neighbour and friend of Church of the Holy Rude, Professor James Porter, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Aberdeen, recently edited and published a monumental edition of Latin psalms, nearly a thousand pages of music dating from 1578. The composer Jean Servin was a French adherent of Protestantism in Geneva, who turned to George Buchanan's Latin verse for vocal settings dedicated to the young Scottish King, James VI. Servin thus can be associated with the newly emerged Scottish Protestant church musicians, notably Andro Blackhall and David Peebles, who particularly shaped the religious culture of Stirling. Their psalms were sung at the Church of the Holy Rude, for example, at the wedding of the Earl of Mar's daughter in 1573. Servin, however, returned to Geneva having failed to secure a musical post at the Chapel Royal, and his collection of psalms was never sung during his lifetime.

On October 11th this year BBC Radio 3's Early Music Show provided an opportunity to hear recordings of Servin, Blackhall, Peebles, Louis Bourgeois, and the German cantor Statius Olthoff, as well as an interview with Professor Porter. The recording artists were local Scottish choirs, Cappella Nova, Sangschule, Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers, and the choirs of Dunblane and St. Mary's Haddington Cathedrals.

*Dr. Christina Porter*



## **CHRISTIAN AID SCOTLAND – MANY MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB**

“Many Mountains to climb” was the title of the Christian Aid Conference held in Edinburgh at the beginning of October to celebrate the charity’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The title was chosen because of the 70 Munros (hills over 3,000ft.) that had been climbed by staff and supporters of Christian Aid, including the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, in the spring of this year. At the conference were speakers from Bolivia, India and South Africa, all of whom are involved in projects sponsored by Christian Aid. In Bolivia, this means lessening the effects of flooding in the Amazon basin; in India the emphasis is on helping Dalit women, from the lowest class in society, whose work is cleaning toilets, while in South Africa the aim is to prevent big commercial companies seizing farms and uprooting villages, where people have lived and worked for generations.

Often we hear the bad news rather than the good. The natural disasters and emergencies hit the headlines, when the steady progress made by aid agencies goes unnoticed. So here is some of the good news which we heard about in Edinburgh that day:-

We were reminded about the successful campaigns of “Jubilee 2000”, which persuaded the government to cancel some of the debt owed by the world’s poorest countries to international banks and of “Make Poverty History “ when thousands of people marched through Edinburgh . The tradition of campaigning continues, with all eyes now on the Climate Change Conference to be held in Geneva at the beginning of December. In this campaign, too, there are still many mountains to climb.

In Nepal, following the two earthquakes, which devastated the country, Christian Aid’s partners on the ground set up a school to train local men and women to build houses that would better withstand earthquakes. Because Christian Aid works with local agencies, they were able to do this more quickly than many other charities who relied on outside help.

In Bolivia where deforestation is a big problem, Christian Aid has sponsored a project which provides solar ovens to replace the old charcoal-fired ones. As well as preventing the felling of trees, these ovens have changed women’s lives for the better, as they do not have to collect wood or suffer from inhaling wood smoke while they are cooking. The food is also more nutritious when cooked in a solar oven.

It was inspiring that day to hear about the world-wide work that continues to help the poorest and most disadvantaged. And it is also inspiring to know that our congregation at the Holy Rude still contributes generously to this work. At our Harvest Festival service in October, gifts of goods to the stall and financial donations raised £393.25, bringing the total for this year to £1910.10. many thanks to all those concerned.

Janet Craig

## LIFE & WORK



### THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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Your visiting Elder will take payment, cheques to be made payable to  
"The Church of the Holy Rude", or you may send your subscription to  
George Wood, 48 Torbrex Road, Stirling, FK7 9HH

Existing orders will automatically be carried forward to 2016 unless cancelled

### Syrian Refugees in Stirling

Some members of the congregation signed a petition one Sunday in September, asking Stirling Council to be active in accepting a number of Syrian refugees from camps in Jordan and Lebanon as soon as possible. This was part of a much larger movement by churches and other community groups in response to the crisis that was filling our TV screens and newspapers and hundreds of signatures were added to the petition. Stirling Council called an open meeting at the beginning of October when they explained their plans for accepting as many refugees as they were allocated. They hope to welcome the first refugees before Christmas. Anyone wishing to know more about the progress of the scheme, or to offer their services, including accommodation, can contact the website of Stirling Citizens for Sanctuary. They also have a Facebook page.

Janet Craig

## ***SCHOOL NATIVITY***



Family members each take up a seat  
To watch their children in an annual treat.  
Rehearsals are over - the big day is here.  
Only the teacher shows a moment of fear.  
Mary and Joseph stumble into the light.  
The innkeeper bellows "No room here tonight!"  
Joseph helps Mary as well as he's able,  
To settle her down on the hay in the stable.  
A heavenly host pretends to be flying  
And takes up their places - with Gabriel crying,  
As if by magic, baby Jesus appears.  
Now Mary and Joseph are also in tears.  
Two shepherds walk on, looking timid and pale,  
The smaller one dragging a lamb by its tail.  
The other, with tea towel over his eyes,  
Trips over the manger and centre stage lies.  
Adorned in splendour, the three kings progress;  
One's lost his crown and his hair's in a mess.  
The bringer of myrrh - a big, strapping lad -  
Has forgotten his lines as he's waving to Dad.  
Baby Jesus is shown to the parents so proud,  
And after the clapping and the cast have all bowed,  
The crowns and tinsel and wings disappear,  
Parents and grandparents leave in a great cheer.  
With smiles on their faces and a warm inner glow,  
They hardly notice it has started to snow.  
The spirit of Christmas reinforced once again,  
With peace on earth, and goodwill to all men

**Patsy Harris**

**CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME**

**AS FROM SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2016**

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE SERVICES**

**COMMENCE AT 11.30 A.M.**

**MATERIAL FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER**

The next Newsletter will be our Spring Newsletter covering the months of  
**March, April and May**

Please ensure all articles are available no later than **Sunday 7th February.**

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

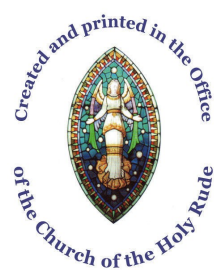
Special thanks, as ever, to all members who have provided articles for this edition.

Your support, as ever, is very much appreciated.

*Hilary Blewitt*

*e-mail:- [hiblewitt26@btinternet.com](mailto:hiblewitt26@btinternet.com)*





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

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