

# **CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE**

## **STIRLING**

***(Church of Scotland)***



## **NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2017**

## ***FROM THE MANSE***

Dear Friends

The season after the Epiphany takes as its theme the light of God revealed in Christ shining amid the darkness of the world, light that is stronger than any darkness, and which both reveals God to us and draws us towards the source of our very being, of life itself, as we respond to the grace of God with heart and mind enlivened by faith in the one who makes God known.

And of course as a theme it could not be better suited to the season of the year – as we come through the darkest part of the year and slowly, slowly, light returns to the world as the days lengthen and the dark of night recedes. For me, this is a time of hope, despite the turmoil into which the world seems ready to descend at any moment.

Despite Brexit, Trump, Isis, and the numerous social and economic crises that fill the headlines, as people of faith we put our trust in the God who has made us and redeemed us. Revealed as a God of love, coming to us and for us into all our human experiences, dying on the cross and rising to resurrection life as a sign of a new creation and life renewed.

Ahead of us lie the weeks of Lent, time for us to reflect on our own lives, and on our relationship with God; time to step back, perhaps, from the business and cares of daily living; time to live to the beat of a different rhythm, as we prepare to remember and celebrate the joy and glory of Easter, life beyond death, the victory of love over hate, and of the light of God in Christ that cannot be extinguished.

For many of us in the church, we live in uncertain times, wondering what the future may hold. We live with the prospect of fewer people, and of fewer ministers to serve them, of less money to support our mission and less strength to sustain congregational life. It may seem indeed at times that the church is in terminal decline in our nation. Yet the story of Easter is that of God's steadfast faithfulness to his people, and we, too, must learn to trust that as one way of being the church slowly fades away, the future still belongs to God, and that the church will continue in the world, though in new and different ways.

While that prospect may seem daunting to some, it is both exciting and encouraging for others, who remain open to the possibilities that God presents to us. As with Lent, we must learn to let go of some things from our past in order to renew ourselves for the future, preparing the way so that the church may itself know the power of Easter resurrection that brings fullness of life and which opens the way to the kingdom of God.

With every blessing

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Alec' or similar, written in a cursive style.

## From the Session Clerk

I really enjoy this time of year. We have passed “Blue Monday” (although blue is my favourite colour) and the days are just starting to lengthen. We have time to consider our plans for the year ahead, and the garden is not growing so fast – yet – that we can’t keep ahead of it.

2016 saw many changes – in the World, in the Country, and in our Church ; in a way, extraordinary changes that we would not have believed a year or two ago. We will certainly not forget; not least, the very considerable contributions to our Church Life by Iain White, Ian and Lorna Paterson, and by David and Tricia Cooke.

“And its from the old we travel to the new; Keep me travelling along with you”

“Where I see no way to go You’ll be telling me the way, I know”

2017 is a new year, and, while remembering the old, we must move to the new and consider our plans to ensure the continuity of our Christian worship and that of our beautiful place of worship. We are hugely grateful for the pragmatic help given by The Friends of the Holy Rude and, indirectly, by the Ministry of Welcome Team, without which we would be in difficulty. As mentioned by my predecessor at the last Annual General Meeting, there is a major amount of restorative work now required, of the order of £250,000, and this is in addition to running costs; while central funding bodies may well contribute, we will certainly be required to contribute. Therefore, our plans for 2017 must include significant fund raising. The Autumn/Christmas Fair was, as ever, a great event and raised £2,002.46 which was a huge help.

But, important as is finance, much more important is people. We would dearly love to see more people in Church on Sundays, and we need to consider how best to achieve this. We need to consider innovative ways that we can bring the Community into the Church, on Sundays but also at other times. With this in mind, and by the time that you read this, we will hopefully have had the planned Interactive Discussion to discuss possible solutions ahead of the Kirk Session Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March and the AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The Social Committee have already met this year and a Quiz Evening with a light supper (provided by Sara of chocolate brownie fame!) is planned for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March; PLEASE come along and bring your (intelligent) friends! And intelligent children/grandchildren! Incidentally, the Social Committee, which lost 50% of its members last year, has been boosted by 2 new members so far, and I look forward to lots of fresh ideas! Can we look forward to – like Tam’s Kirk Alloway – “hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys and reels” to put “life and mettle” in our heels! Or, like Durham Cathedral, building a Leggo model of our Church. (they built a scale model over 3 years, sold the bricks individually and raised £300,000 in the process!) Watch this space!

“Ever old and ever new – keep me travelling along with you”

Thank you for your support.

**Robin McKinlay**

## DIARY OF SERVICES

### APRIL

Sunday 2nd	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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***Short Communion Service***

Sunday 9th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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***Palm Sunday***  
***Christian Aid "Hunger Lunch***

Sunday 16th <b><i>Easter Day</i></b>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 23rd <b><i>Annual Business Meeting</i></b> <b><i>following Morning Service</i></b>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> <b><i>followed by short Service</i></b> <b><i>for Healing and Wholeness</i></b>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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### MAY

Sunday 7th <b><i>Short Communion Service</i></b>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 14th	11.30 am.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 21st <b><i>followed by short Service</i></b> <b><i>for Healing and Wholeness</i></b>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 28th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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## From the Director of Music



The festive period is now well behind us, and we are now looking forward to spring. The choir is always busy in the lead up to Christmas, and last December was no different. The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was a great success, as ever, with many new faces in the congregation that aren't regular worshipers at the Holy Rude in attendance. There were also the regular events from the City Choir, University Choir and Stirling High School that meant that the church was in use a lot of the time in December.

In October the City Choir and University Choir joined together to give a concert in aid of the Organ Appeal. The final total for the event was £1915. Unfortunately, another fundraising event to be given by our old friend Frances McCafferty had to be cancelled due to illness. It is hoped that the event will be performed in December this year.

Please check the Newsletter, weekly Order of Service and the local paper for details of other events in the church over the next few months. There are a mixture of evening, lunchtime or afternoon events that are already booked. One in particular is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May when the Bach Ensemble from Edinburgh will give a concert in the church. One of their members was a former pupil of Iain White, and the concert will be in Iain's memory.

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

Ian Boulter

*Wedding*



**Saturday 21 January**

Shona Katherine Milton and David Nicholas Metcalfe

## **FLOWER ROTA**



### **MARCH**

Sunday	5th	George Wood
Sunday	12th	Marlyn MacAulay
Sunday	19th	Church Flowers
Sunday	26th	Alison Dale



### **APRIL**

Sunday	2nd	Church Flowers
Sunday	9th	Palm Sunday
Sunday	16th	Easter- Wedding
Sunday	23rd	Church Flowers
Sunday	30th	Janet Craig



### **MAY**

Sunday	7th	Church Flowers
Sunday	14th	John Gray
Sunday	21st	Wedding
Sunday	28th	Alison Dale

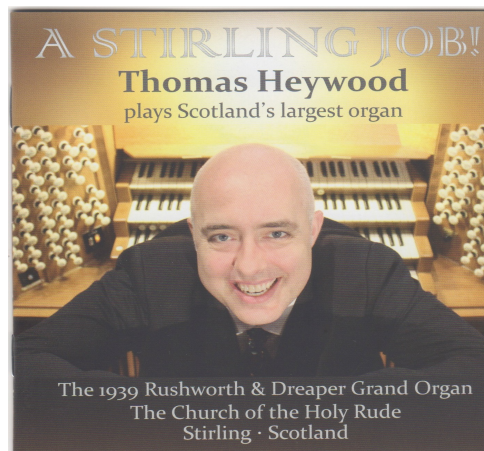
## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS



2017

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Quiz Evening  Including light supper  <i>Tickets £10 (Children £5) available from Social Committee members</i>	7.30 p.m.
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Stirling University Choir Concert  <i>Mendelssohn: Elijah</i>  <i>Tickets available from Choir Members</i>	7.00 p.m.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Christian Aid “Hunger” Lunch  (following Morning Worship in the South East Aisle)	12.30 p.m.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Stirling City Choir Concert  <i>Three Masses</i>  Mozart: Trinity Mass  Haydn: Little Organ Mass  Schubert: Mass in G  Tickets available from Choir Members	7.30 p.m.
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	The Bach Ensemble Concert  <i>Dedicated to the memory of the late Iain White</i>  <i>Proceeds to The Organ Fund Appeal</i>	7.30 p.m.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Christian Aid Week	

# Organ Appeal



The CD that was recorded of the Holy Rude organ by Thomas Heywood has at last been released. The recording really shows off all the orchestral colours that an instrument such as our organ can produce. Those of you who came to the recital Thomas gave last summer will remember what a stunning performer Thomas is. We have now received copies of the recording which are for sale at the price of £13. All the money from the sale of the discs goes to the Organ Appeal. Please see the Director of Music, Ian Boulter, if you would like to purchase a copy.

The Appeal fund is still slowly increasing, but if anyone has any ideas for fundraising events please let Ian Boulter know.

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 GIFT ENVELOPES.**



The year 2016 has passed all too quickly as it seems no time since I wrote the report this time last year.

We have had some excellent fund raising events by way of weddings, concerts, quiz night and the Autumn Fayre. This year we are in the thankful position that the Ministries and Mission payments were met as we came to the end of December. This hasn't happened in recent years meaning we carried over debt into the next year.

As always, when an appeal goes forth the response has been very encouraging! The total realized for 2016 Christmas appeal is £2317.50 which includes the application of gift aid for much of the donations but not all.

It is so good to have a congregation who are extremely generous and so aware of our falling numbers.

In faith we go on into 2017 aware that our outreach to those in our community who are lost and searching is essential. The Scriptures reminds us "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you" Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ is what these people need to hear and we must be good witnesses and faithful servants and always ready to extend a warm welcome to new people.

May our God give you the Faith to be a good servant and a good giver for the extension of His Kingdom in 2017.

*Kate McIntosh*  
*Treasurer*



# **World Day of Prayer**

***Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee  
of the Philippines***



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
St. Mark's Parish Church  
Drip Road, Stirling  
at 2 p.m.**

## **Theme**

**“Am I Being Unfair to You?”**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian men and women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer.

Through World Day of Prayer, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world, are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

**World Day of Prayer is able to claim tax on Gift Aid donations.**

## RECIPE FROM THE PHILIPPINES

The cuisine of the Philippines is a unique blend of Indian, Asian, Spanish and American influences and the variations on recipes, like this one for Adobo, are as numerous as the islands in the archipelago. "Lola" is one of the names for "Grandma" in the Philippines.

### ***LOLA'S CHICKEN ADOBO***



Total Time: 2 hr (including marinading time)  
6 to 8 servings

Ingredients 4 to 5 pounds chicken  
1/2 cup white or red wine vinegar  
1/2 cup low sodium soy sauce  
1 small head garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon black peppercorns  
3 bay leaves  
Steamed rice, for serving

### ***Directions***

Combine the chicken thighs, vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns and bay leaves in a large pot. Cover and marinate the chicken in the refrigerator for 1 to 3 hours.

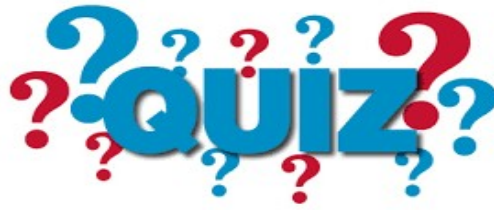
Bring the chicken to a boil over high heat.

Lower the heat, cover and let simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove the lid and simmer until the sauce is reduced and thickened and the chicken is tender, about 15-20 minutes.

Serve with steamed rice.

## COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT THE QUIZ NIGHT!



There will be another quiz night to raise funds for the church on **Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7 p.m.** in the church. If you have been at the previous ones or if you are still to try one, come along and join us for a great social evening. Bring your friends and make up a team or come on your own and join a team there. Tickets cost £10 (£5 for children) and include a light supper provided, as in previous years, by Sara Macmillan. Soft drinks will be provided or bring your own bottle. Tickets may be bought from members of the Committee or by 'phoning 01786- 472319 or 01786-472764.  
Janet Craig

### *STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER*



*Join us*

#### *Friendship Lunches*

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March*

*Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April*

*Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

*From 12 noon - 1.30 p.m.*

*St. Columba's Church Hall, Park Terrace, Stirling*

*CONVERSATION, SOUP AND SANDWICH*

*Remember to put these dates in your diary*

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



## **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.

### **End of Financial Year 2016/17**

The Financial Year for the Friends ends on 31st. March 2017, and the Annual Report and Accounts for the year will be available immediately after this date and will be presented to the Friends Council for approval.

### **Annual Memberships**

Renewal of the Annual Memberships will be due from 1st. April, and all members in this category will receive a letter during March inviting renewal of membership of the Friends Society.

### **Organ Repair Appeal Fund**

The Holy Rude Organ Repair Appeal Fund held by the Friends continues to grow steadily and through the *Sponsor A Pipe Scheme* has now reached just over £60,000. With over £200,000 required for the extensive repairs needed to the organ, any further donations to the Fund would be gratefully received.

### **Website**

A new website, specifically for the Friends, has been commissioned from Dojo Design, and this will provide members and visitors with news on the activities of the Society and its achievements, and allow discussion and interaction. It will be designed also to attract new members.

### **Ministry of Welcome**

The funds generated through the Ministry of Welcome are crucial to the upkeep of our ancient and historic church. Following on from last year's highly successful Ministry of Welcome Season when nearly 57,000 visitors from 87 different countries visited Holy Rude, preparations are now well underway for the 2017 Season. The initial opening will be over the Easter weekend, Friday 14th. to Monday 17th. April, and then the full Season will be from 1st. May to 30th. September, with the church open daily from 11.00 am. to 4.00 pm.

As always, additional volunteers are required to ensure the continuation of this valuable service, and so if you have any friends or relations who may be interested in assisting for two and a half hours each week, then please get in touch. A pre-Season meeting of all volunteers will be held at a date to be advised during late April.

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

## REPORTS

### MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

#### **Report of Presbytery Meeting**

**Thursday 10th November 2016**

The monthly meeting was held on 10th November 2016 with 31 ministers, 42 elders & 1 deacon in attendance. The Moderator (Mrs Lynne Mack) welcomed Rev Scott McInnes to his first meeting following his induction to Bridge of Allan on the 20th October. The Business committee reported on the appointment of Dr Janet Foggie as Pioneer minister with Stirling Presbytery overseeing particularly Stirling University, her service of induction to be held on Thursday 15th December at Logie Church. The Strategy Committee reported that Rev Stuart Davidson be appointed as acting convenor in Scott Raby's absence and Rev Alex Millar be vice convenor responsible for Vacancy Procedure committee. The Presbytery Plan is to be reviewed in February and the Committee were eager and willing to receive suggestions and observations from Kirk Sessions

*John Millar  
Presbytery Elder  
Viewfield Erskine Parish Church*

#### **Report of Presbytery Meeting**

**Thursday 8th December 2016**

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday 8th December at Bridge of Allan Church at 7pm. The Rev Colin Renwick paid tribute to Rev Marshall Scouler who had died on 28th November & who latterly had been a member of Dunblane Cathedral. He had been a minister for 62 years & was best known in the Stirling area as a past minister of Kippen Church. The Strategy committee informed the Presbytery that members of the committee had visited Tullibody, St. Serfs and recommended that the status of the church should be changed from 5-year reviewable tenure to unrestricted as was promised to the present minister before his appointment earlier in the year. The Strategy committee also recommended that the union between Allan Park and St. Columba's, no further action should take place until Spring of 2018, when the 7-year reviewable tenure for the Allan Park minister was to expire, to give the minister at Allan Park his full 7-years to develop the church further. At this juncture Rev Alex Millar proposed a counter motion that the Presbytery instruct the Strategy committee to begin negotiations with both Kirk sessions, with the aim of presenting to the Presbytery by no later than Dec 2017 a draft basis of adjustment of a union quicker than stipulated by the Strategy committee, this was seconded by Dr Peter Murdoch. After this a vote was made & the original motion by the Strategy committee was approved. The Business Committee asked us to remember Rev Scott Raby in our prayers who is on sick leave & welcomed back Rev Jim McNeil from illness

*John Millar  
Presbytery Elder  
Viewfield Erskine Parish Church*



## SOS - Save old Stamps for World Mission



A big "Thank you!" to everyone in the Church of the Holy Rude and Viewfield Erskine Church who contributed to the latest package of used stamps which I have sent to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal.

The Appeal raises money to help the work of our partner churches and this year the money from the sale of the stamps will go to the Church of South India in support of the Othara Eco-spirituality Centre where people can learn about the harvesting and re-use of rain water and, importantly, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds. The Church of South India hopes that the knowledge gained at the centre will inspire them to live sustainably and encourage others in their community to do the same because "caring for the earth is not only a calling. But a lifestyle".

The total made from the sale of the stamps from March until January is £2728.

**Myra Gibson**

### **THE POWER OF 1**

***One song can spark a moment  
One flower can wake a dream  
One tree can start a forest  
One bird can herald spring  
One smile begins a friendship  
One handclasp lifts a soul  
One star can guide a ship at sea  
One word can frame the goal  
One vote can change a nation  
One sunbeam lights a room  
One candle wipes out darkness  
One laugh will conquer gloom  
One step must start each journey  
One word must start each prayer  
One hope will raise our spirits  
One touch can show you care  
One voice can speak with wisdom  
One heart can know what's true  
One life can make the difference***

**You see, It's up to you!!**

***Author unknown***



## 450th Anniversary of the Coronation of King James VI

on the 29th July 1567

in the Church of the Holy Rude

Lecture by

**Dr. Steven Reid**

**Senior Lecturer in Scottish History**

**University of Glasgow**

**"From Bairn to Bearded Man"**

The political apprenticeship of James VI, 1578-1587

This anniversary is on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

at 7.30 p.m.

There are NO tickets – Donations at the door very welcome

CAR PARKING by kind permission from Historic Environment Scotland on  
Stirling Castle Esplanade

Barrier closes at 10.30 p.m.

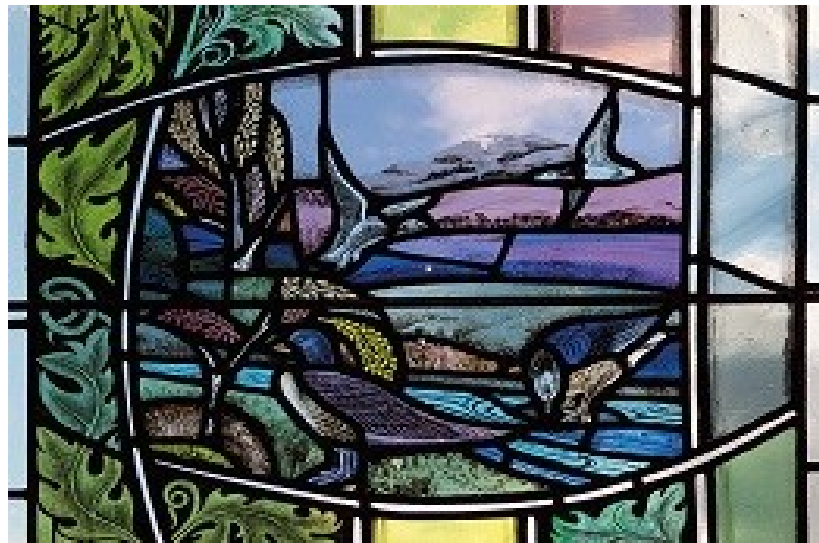
*The 451<sup>st</sup> Anniversary will be marked on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018*



## **Crear McCartney - Stained Glass Artist (1931 - 2016)**

The beautiful and much admired Guildry window on the South wall of the Nave in Holy Rude was the creation in 1993 by Crear McCartney, one of Scotland's finest stained glass artists. In February last year he sadly passed away, but he has left a magnificent stained glass legacy of 112 largely religious works at sites principally in Scotland, including commissions for Plusgarden Abbey; St. Magnus Cathedral, Orkney; St. Michael's, Linlithgow; and Stirling Castle Great Hall.

In 2008 he was coaxed out of retirement by Black Mount Parish Church, 14 miles north of Peebles, near to where he lived, and was commissioned to create two new stained glass windows (the Dolphinton Windows) for the recently renovated church.



A filmed record was made of the techniques and methods used by this master craftsman in making the windows, and this is now available as a DVD, and can be obtained by sending a cheque for £12 (inc. p&p) payable to *The Scottish Stained Glass Trust*, 3, Ross Gardens, Edinburgh, EH9 3BS.

Brian Morrison

# In the garden

Author: Lucy Mills



In the Easter story, there are two gardens. There is a garden in which Jesus kneels in distress, and one in which Mary kneels before him.

There is a garden in which Jesus agonises over what is to come, and one in which his body is buried once 'it is finished'. There is a garden where the disciples sleep and then run from the soldiers, and another where, wide-eyed with confusion, they run towards an empty tomb. One where Jesus is betrayed; one where he is vindicated.

Looking back over the Bible's Big Story, all this is to set right what had gone wrong in a garden, long ago. A garden in which God had walked, before humanity had decided to go against what they were made to be – friends of God.

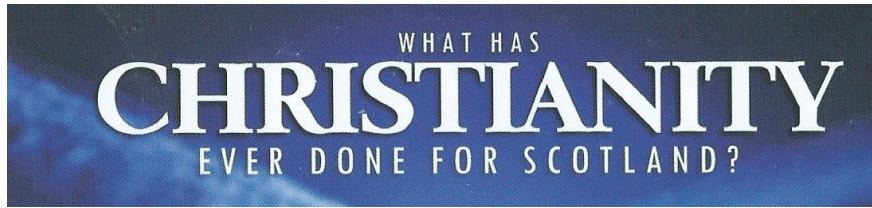
At Easter we celebrate the event that changes the story, the event that alters everything that has gone before. It returns what is lost but in a new way – this isn't just a ctrl-alt-delete moment, or a system restore. No, it is the instalment of something new, building on the first. The first covenant was full of shadows and sketches of what was to come. The new covenant is the astonishing coming-into-being of God's law written on our hearts, of God's spirit poured out on all people.

All this made possible by suffering, made possible by the death of the one who was before all things.

The Easter story is a glorious shout in the face of what seem like impossible odds. Life is stacked up against death. But life wins. It reasserts itself, even when all seems hopeless. And this is new life, resurrection life, life with an X factor. Mary doesn't recognise Jesus, at first. She thinks he is the gardener, confined to this point in time. Only when he says her name does she respond, "Master!"

But what happened through Jesus' death and resurrection breaks the barriers of place and time and stretches to us today. Now we, when Jesus speaks to us by name, can recognise him as both friend and Lord.

*Extract from "The Sign"*



I was intrigued when I recently came across a little tract with this title. In our fast moving, secular and politically correct 21st Century Scotland, it is very easy to forget who and what was the driving force behind the establishment of the generally stable and law abiding society that we are blessed to be a part of.

On reading further I was reminded that Scottish Christians have for centuries been at the forefront of the vision for peace, justice and fairness for all, not only in our own land but throughout the world.

It is easy, particularly for the younger generations, brought up in this digital age to think that it is "Mr Google" that has all the answers to life's questions! But not so... The Bible along, with the Holy Spirit, remains THE source for truth and meaning for each and everyone.

There is much uncertainty in Scotland today and those in positions of authority over us are seeking to influence far reaching decisions which need to be made, not only to maintain stability and prosperity for the Nation but also to build upon the solid foundations of our culture and heritage. It is the duty of Christians at this time to pray earnestly for our leaders in Church and State, so that, "we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" *1 Timothy Ch. 2 v. 2.*

If you would like to be reminded of the depth and breadth of our glorious Christian heritage I can supply copies of this excellent little tract, after all..." A Nation that forgets its history may one day be forced to relive it" !

There has been much blood shed in our past to secure the blessings we enjoy. Let us build upon the unity and shared heritage enjoyed over more recent times.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" *2 Chronicles Ch. 7. v.14.*

***Findlay McIntosh***

## Becoming 'dementia friendly': A matter for everyone, because everyone matters

Across communities, people are generally living longer. With this increasing number of older adults of an older age, the number of people diagnosed with dementia is rising too. The symptoms of dementia can include changes to a person's memory and their thinking processes. These symptoms can impact on independence, confidence and participation.

Generally speaking, a person's sense of purpose is usually based in their interests, activities and communities. Keeping connected to these, and exploring new ones, are important factors for everyone's health and well-being. This applies especially for people who are living with dementia.

Church life and life of the church include many activities for everyone: people of Christian faith, any faith and none, across the age spectrum and various health status. The church's inclusion and involvement with and within our communities supports health and well-being through participation and connectedness.

Recognising various changes and needs in our communities, and building on current good practices, the presbytery of Stirling hosted a learning event at the Church of The Holy Rude, entitled, The Challenge to Care: Dementia in early June, 2016. A few weeks later, Stirling presbytery commissioned a 12-month project to identify potential opportunities for our presbytery, churches and congregations in regard to supporting people living with dementia in our communities.

The vision of the project is for churches in the presbytery area to become '**dementia friendly**'. The specialist charity for dementia care, Alzheimer Scotland, describes '**dementia friendly**' as 'people who are committed to working together and helping people with dementia to remain a part of their community and not become apart from it'. The essence of that description resonates with the vision of the Church of Scotland, which includes, 'nurturing and serving communities'.

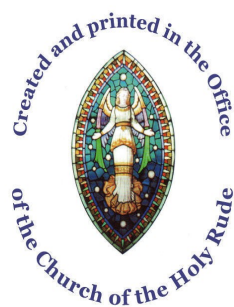
Conscious of the good work and good will which is evident across presbytery area, the project is therefore focusing on three topics for promoting and developing the '**dementia friendly**' concept in churches. These are:

- Dementia friendly people
- Dementia friendly environments
- Dementia friendly activities

A suite of learning and sharing events have been taking place on these three topics, aiming to:

- improve knowledge and understanding of dementia and its effects
- improve knowledge and understanding of continued capabilities and value of every person
- support and improve inclusion, participation and well-being through collective action

If you would like further information relating to this project, please contact Bonnie by email on: [BMcDowell@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BMcDowell@churchofscotland.org.uk) or by phone on: 07704 601 983



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

Scottish Charity Number SC 011473