

CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE

STIRLING

(Church of Scotland)



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is upon us once more, and as we journey from the Sunday of the Transfiguration, with its story of God's glory revealed in Jesus on the mountain-side, to the joy of Easter morning, we travel with Jesus and the disciples as in the gospel stories through the gathering shadows as they face the challenges of hostility, mistrust, jealousy and fear that lead to Gethsemane and on to Golgotha.

The news today of yet another mass-shooting at a school in the USA is a reminder – if any were needed – that there is much wrong with the world as it is, much evil and many dangers that threaten us. It seems that we as a human race never learn our lessons. Not even those of us who strive to live as God desires, and who dearly wish to follow in the footsteps of Jesus himself, are able to say that we are always growing more Christ-like with the passing of every day. In order to make things better, we need first to see what is wrong.

Lent is a time for us to examine our lives, set against our hopes and expectations, and to determine for ourselves in prayer, reading and reflection, how we can better live in close relationship with God, and harmonious relationship with one another in this world, as in our homes, workplaces and yes, even churches. 'There is a time for everything', says Ecclesiastes, and this is a time to think about how we live, how we work, how we worship together and alone, in church and in the world. And in doing so we are not simply engaging in a passive introverted reflection alone, but acknowledging that self-examination which leads to a change of heart and mind needs always to express itself in the lives we lead, in decision, in action.

To know ourselves is the beginning of a journey towards renewal of the relationships that are so fundamentally important for human well-being, opening up the promise of reconciliation with one another and with God, that we and the whole world, may know the perfect peace and love of God at work in us and around us – a sense of God's glory in our midst, and a reminder that the Lenten journey through darkness and sorrow leads to the joy and life of the Resurrection.

With every blessing

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

From the Session Clerk

Wow! What a lot of weather! The sudden snow resulted in a very unusual cancellation of the Church Service in January as the drive was potentially very hazardous. At least now the days are definitely longer, and the bonus has been some magnificent views of our hills, made more prominent by their snow covering. I recall as a schoolboy writing an article for the school magazine describing the view from Schiehallion on a snowy day which included the sighting of a ptarmigan, and I still love the clarity and beauty at this time of year.

We are just back into the Church having been welcomed by Viewfield for the past 2 weeks while we were having the new flue lining inserted in the chimney and the heating was switched off; all is well and hopefully our heating system is now in good shape for some years to come.

December, as expected, was a busy month at the Holy Rude, and it was particularly pleasant to welcome for the first time the Stirling University Christian Union Carol Service. Other than our team of helpers, there was only one older couple who had come with their daughter; the entire congregation in excess of 100 were all students. As 2018 is the Year of the Young Person in the Church of Scotland, it was great to see them enjoying our beautiful church, and we hope they will come back – often! It may be that we will have to think of innovative ways to make our Church more appealing to the young; a recent television programme described such an effort: a vicar coined the name “champing” as opposed to “camping” or “glamping” and had a sleepover in the actual church itself where a whole group slept overnight and then attended morning worship next day. It looked like a lot of fun! We certainly feel that we need to improve publicity for some of our events, which are sometimes of high quality but poorly attended, and this is very much in our minds for 2018, in addition to attracting more folk to our Services. The observant among you will have noticed that the Holy Rude is represented on the floor of the Thistle Centre on the large Monopoly Board outside Marks and Spencers; all good publicity!

As ever, we have to thank the generosity of the Friends of the Holy Rude who funded the flue lining, and who have agreed to fund the re-wiring of the bells. The bell ringers were in action last Sunday, it sounded particularly pleasant and certainly reminded our Parish that we were there even if they were not! As mentioned previously we are still managing to keep up our monthly payments to Ministry and Mission, again in no small measure due to the generosity of a few.

We very recently had a meeting at which the Chairman of the General Trustees was present to discuss how to secure the fabric of the Church and make it fit for purpose for the 21st Century. In the meantime, although a long term strategy is needed, in the short term your Property Committee is keeping ahead of urgent issues, which include improving our fire safety arrangements.

On the social side, the Social Committee organised an “auction of talents” just before Christmas, and raised in excess of £700. The idea came from Janet Craig, and all went well, perhaps helped by a little prosecco. I must confess that I had reservations about this as I was concerned that there would not be enough interest but I need not have worried; the evening was a great success and our thanks are due to those members of the congregation and their friends who entered into the spirit of the occasion and gave generously, and of course to the Social Committee. A Quiz evening is planned for Friday 16th March and your support would be much appreciated.

We have considered the many suggestions put forward at the Congregational meeting and intend to put some of these into action in 2018. A specific service for baptismal families in the past 10 years will be re-introduced, and a specific service aimed at non attenders on the Church Roll. We would like to have a Top of the Town Thanksgiving, possibly a summer time Service, and well publicised.

Lastly, I would draw your attention to the painting by one of our congregation, Reverend Douglas Murray, which is appropriately placed in the sepulchre, and which is well worth a visit, and especially with the approach of Lent.

In this world of change in the Church, despite the many anxieties, there is much to be grateful for, and plenty to be optimistic about. Good things can happen if we make them happen!

Robin McKinlay.



From the Director of Music



The choir sings several Introits and occasionally slightly longer Anthems by the composer Eric Thiman. I have been asked about Thiman and what he did, so thought I might put some information about him in the Newsletter. Thiman was born in 1900 and obtained his FRCO organist qualification in 1921. In 1930 he became Professor of Harmony at the Royal Academy of Music. From 1958 he was organist at the City Temple in London, a Congregational Church. In the 1960's he was the director of Purley Choral Society (they later changed their name to become The Chandos Choir). Most of his church music was written for non-conformist churches, but he did write some anthems and canticles for Church of England choirs. His music is enjoyable to sing, with the Introits always leaving you wishing they were a bit longer.

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

Ian Boulter

Christmas Gift Report

The year 2017 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 silent Auction instead of the usual Autumn Fair. This year we are in the thankful position that the Ministries and Mission payments have been met in January.

As always, when an appeal goes forth we await the response expectantly but it has been very encouraging this year!

The total realized for 2017 Christmas appeal is £2365 which includes the application of gift aid for most of the donations but not all.

It is so good to have a congregation who are extremely generous and so aware that our numbers could be better!

In faith we go on into 2018, aware that our outreach and our witness to those around 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 the lost need to hear and we must meet this command and be ready to give a warm welcome to any newcomers.

May our God give you the Faith to be a good servant and a good giver for the extension of His Kingdom in 2018.

Kate McIntosh
Treasurer

DIARY OF SERVICES

MARCH

Sunday 4th <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 11th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 18th <i>followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 25th <i>Palm Sunday</i> (British Summertime begins Clocks go forward)	11.30 a.m.	Rev Scott Dennis, PCUSA and Doctoral Student at New College

APRIL

Sunday 1st <i>Easter Day</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 8th <i>Low Sunday</i>	11.30 a.m.	Mr Derek Neilson <i>Local Preacher</i>
Sunday 15th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 22nd <i>followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 29th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

MAY

Sunday 6th <i>Short Communion Service</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 13th <i>followed by Christian Aid "Hunger Lunch"</i>	11.30 am.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 20th <i>followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 27th	11.30 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK IN STIRLING

Monday 26 th March <i>Viewfield Erskine</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Gary McIntyre
Tuesday 27 th March <i>Allan Park South</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Alan Miller
Wednesday 28 th March <i>St. Columba's</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Scott McInnes
Thursday 29 th March <i>North Parish Church</i> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>	7.00 p.m.	Rev. Alex Millar
Friday 30 th March <i>Good Friday</i>	11.00 a.m.	Walk of Witness from Holy Trinity Church
<i>St. Ninians Old Parish</i>	7.00 p.m.	Mrs. Jean Porter and Student Deacon
Sunday 1st April <i>Easter Day</i>	7.30 a.m.	<i>Sunrise Service</i> <i>on Stirling Castle Esplanade</i> <i>All Welcome</i>

Pastoral

Baptisms



Let the children come.....

Sunday 10th December

Jack Duncan-Campbell

Sunday 31st January

Phillippa Jayne Te Anuanua Bruton

Deaths



I go to prepare a place for you.....

Wednesday 29th November

Paul Howarth, 8 Victoria Place, Stirling

FLOWER ROTA



MARCH

Sunday 4 th	George Wood
Sunday 11 th	Marlyn Macaulay
Sunday 18 th	Alison Dale
Sunday 25 th	Palm Sunday



APRIL

Sunday 1 st	Easter and Wedding
Sunday 8 th	Wedding
Sunday 15 th	Church Flowers
Sunday 22 nd	Church Flowers
Sunday 29 th	Janet Craig



MAY

Sunday 6 th	Choir
Sunday 13 th	John Gray
Sunday 20 th	Church Flowers
Sunday 27 th	Wedding

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS



MARCH TO MAY

2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday 2 nd March	<i>World Day of Prayer</i> St. Mark's Church Drip Road, Stirling	2.00 p.m.
Friday 15 th March	Quiz Night <i>and Raffle</i> <i>Tickets £10</i> <i>Including light refreshments</i> Parking available at the Old Jail.	7.00 for 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 18 th March	The Edinburgh Singers will present a programme <i>of heavenly a cappella music, featuring works by</i> <i>Talbot, Whitacre, Ešenvalds</i> <i>and a world première by</i> <i>Edinburgh composer Chris Hutchings,</i> <i>specially commissioned in collaboration with</i> <i>Creative Scotland. Under the direction of Alistair</i> <i>Digges.</i> Tickets (£12 (£10 concessions, under 12s free) available from the Macrobert Arts Centre or at the door.	7.30 p.m.
Sunday 15 th April	Stirling City Choir <i>Concert</i> <i>Haydn: Creation</i>	7.30 p.m.

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from Choir Members

Events contd.

Saturday 21st April Stirling University Choir 7.00 p.m.

Charpentier: *Te Deum*
Mozart: *Splendente te, Deus*
Handel: *My heart is inditing*
various: opera arias and choruses

Alistair Warwick *Conductor*

Tickets (£10, £8 concessions, £3 students and children)
available from Choir members and at the door

Saturday 12th May **Colorado State University Choir** 12.15 p.m.

Informal Lunchtime Concert
Entry free

Donations will go to the Organ Repair Appeal

Sunday 13th May Christian Aid 12.30 p.m.

“Hunger” Lunch

(following Morning Worship in the South East Aisle)

Sunday 13th - Christian Aid Week

Saturday 19th May

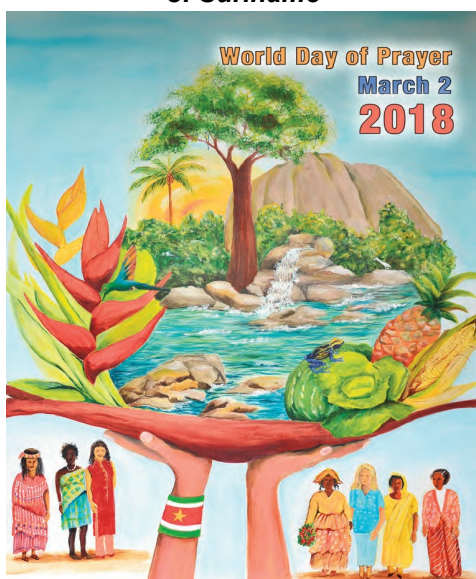
Saturday 19 May -
Friday 25 May. General Assembly
of the Church of Scotland



World Day of Prayer

'All God's creation is very good!'

***Written by Christian women
of Suriname***



Friday 2nd March 2018

St. Mark's Parish Church

Drip Road, Stirling

at 2 p.m.

The host country for World Day of Prayer 2018 is Suriname. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the theme "All God's Creation Is Very Good!". Universal issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and human abuse of the environment—all affecting God's good Creation and God's people—will be explored.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

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.

QUIZ

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT THE QUIZ NIGHT!

There will be another Quiz Night to raise funds for the church on

Friday 16th March, 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

in the church.

If you have been present at previous quiz nights, or if you still have to try one, come along and join us for a great fun social evening. Bring your friends and make up a team or come on your own and join a team there. We will also be holding a Raffle.

Tickets cost £10 per person, to include light refreshments and soft drinks or, bring your own bottle should you prefer something a bit stronger!

Tickets may be bought from members of the Committee or bought on the night.

Car parking will be available in the Jail.

Sara McKinlay



SOS - Save old Stamps for World Mission



The Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Project has so far raised £1432 since March 2017 in support of our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan's Giffen Institute of Theology. Because of the violence in South Sudan the Institute has had to relocate to a refugee camp in Kenya and help is required to replace resources and books which have been lost in the conflict. I now have ready to post a large parcel of stamps donated by the Church of the Holy Rude and Viewfield Erskine Church.

A big thank you to everyone for your continuing support - it is much appreciated.

Myra Gibson

Organ Appeal



Update - February 2018

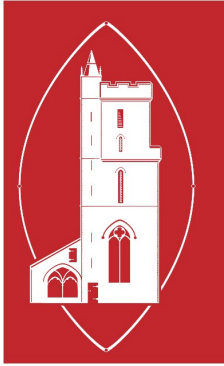
At the end of last year the intermittent fault with the swell expression returned. This meant that for the Nine lessons & Carols service I was not able to increase and decrease the volume of the swell organ by opening and closing the shutters, but only by putting more or fewer stops on. This is an electrical fault with a circuit board in the console. The organ builders were booked to come in at the start of January to bypass the fault. Through bad weather and illness they have not been able to come back to sort this out yet, meaning that I still haven't got full control of the swell expression. The fault is caused by some of the tracking on the circuit board lifting and separating from the circuit board. I have been told they should be in mid February to finally get this problem solved. It is a small issue, but does make a big difference to playing the organ.

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



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.

Join the Friends

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.

Membership Fees for the year 1st. April 2018 to 31st. March 2019 are as follows:-

Annual Adult Single Membership	£12
Annual Adult Joint Membership	£24
Life Membership - Single	£120
Life Membership - Joint	£180

Concessionary (OAP, Student, Under 21)

Annual single	£10
Annual Joint	£20

Anyone wishing to join the Friends can obtain Application Forms from the Reception Desk at Holy Rude, or from the Secretary, Brian Morrison (e-mail brian.morrison4@btinternet.com)

Current Annual Members will receive Membership Renewal Forms during March.

Ministry of Welcome 2018 Season

Preparations are now in hand for the 2018 Ministry of Welcome Season, with the initial opening over the Easter Weekend 30th. March - 2nd. April. The full 7 day per week opening will be from 1st. May to 30th. September.

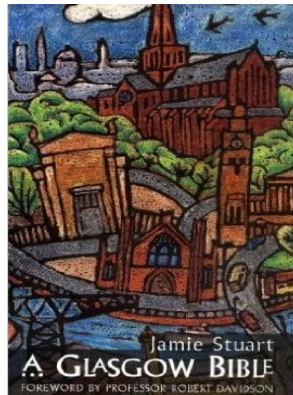
Amongst Improvements in presentation there will be an enhanced display at the Easter Sepulchre in the North East Aisle, where the Rev. Douglas Murray has prepared an excellent drawing and description of the empty Easter Tomb. There will also be fuller information on the Stained Glass Windows, and additional features at the King James Bible Exhibition. The Shop will also have a range of new items for sale.

Volunteers will be notified shortly of the date for the usual pre-season meeting. Last year, due mainly to the weak pound and the popularity of stay at home holidays, Holy Rude received a record number of 64,800 visitors, so it will be a real challenge this year to improve on this total.

Friends Assistance to Holy Rude

Thanks to Funds raised in 2017, the Friends have provided significant financial assistance to Holy Rude to enable critical urgent repair works to be carried out, particularly the installation of Underfloor Supports in the Nave, and the lining of the Boiler Flue System and building of a new chimney and cowl on the roof of the church. Full details of the assistance provided by the Friends in the year will be given in the Annual Report and Accounts.

Brian Morrison
Secretary, Friends of Holy Rude



Jamie Stuart
Author of "The Glasgow Bible"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Faither o us aw, bidin oan high
We ken yer name is holy
Let yer blessins stert, an let yer rules be carried oot
here right noo, jist like in Heaven.
Gie us breid for the day,
Lord, an let us aff the hook for aw oor fauts -
an we'll dae the same for them that gie us a hard time
Dear God, keep us awa from temptation,
an save us from the evil one.
For sure the Kingdom is aw yours Lord,
alang wi the power, an the hale glory,
aye even tae the feenish o time.

AMEN



451st Anniversary of the Coronation of King James VI

On the 29th July 1567 in the Church of the Holy Rude

Lecture by

Jane E.A. Dawson
B.A., PhD., Dip.Ed., FRHS., FSA(Scot)., FRSE

**John Laing Professor Emerita
of Reformation History**

"What was John Knox doing in Holy Rude on 29th July 1567 ?"

"John Knox" by Professor Dawson, Yale University Press

Chair: Andrew T.N. Muirhead

This anniversary is on Sunday 29th July 2018

at 7.30 p.m.

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 Environment Scotland on
Stirling Castle Esplanade

Barrier closes at 10.30 p.m.

The 452nd Anniversary will be marked on Monday 29th July 2019



STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER

*Please come along and
Join us at the monthly*

Friendship Lunch

Monday 12th March
Monday 9th April
Monday 14th May

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: Hilary Blewitt on 01786 462218
or Sarah Murdoch (Co-ordinator) on 01786-473087*



Willing helpers



*Enjoying Soup and Sandwiches
and fellowship*

Ceremony for Greyfriars Bobby on Anniversary of his Death



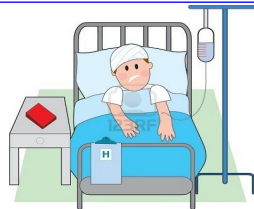
Local residents and tourists braved the cold weather on Sunday 14th January to mark the anniversary of the death of Greyfriars Bobby.

The ceremony took place in Greyfriars Kirkyard , Edinburgh, where Bobby guarded his master's grave for 14 years and where his own headstone was erected.

Councillor Lezley Cameron led the tributes, and Lisa Fleming and Bob – mascot of the One o'Clock Gun Association – laid a wreath from the Lord Provost and citizens of Edinburgh. Jennifer Hutcheon, the association's piper, played 'Tribute to Greyfriars Bobby'.

Also at the ceremony Bert Hutchings, an elder at Greyfriars, spoke about the life of Dr Robert Lee, the minister of Old Greyfriars while Bobby was alive. Dr Lee, who died 150 years ago this year, was a trailblazer who was responsible for installing the first stained glass in a post-Reformation Presbyterian church in Scotland, and one of the first organs.

Following the ceremony and refreshments, visitors were shown round the church and kirkyard, including the spot where 'Auld Jock', Bobby's owner, is said to be buried.



Know anyone who is ill or in hospital?
Know any one who is ill at home who would like a visit ?
Please let the Minister know as hospitals no longer keep lists available advising Ministers of patients from their area.

Don't Forget



BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS

CLOCKS GO FORWARD

Sunday 25th March at 1.00 a.m.

MATERIAL FOR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

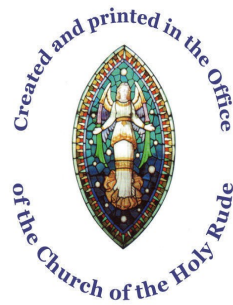
The next Newsletter will be our Summer Newsletter covering the months of
June, July and August

Please ensure all articles are available no later than **Sunday 7th May**
Please let me know of forthcoming events, anecdotes, poems and pictures
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
e-mail:- hiblewitt@aol.com



www.holyrude.org

Scottish Charity Number SC 011473