

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE**

**STIRLING**

*(Church of Scotland)*



**NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2019/2020**



## ***FROM THE MANSE***

Dear Friends,

It does seem entirely appropriate that we celebrate Advent and Christmas in the depths of winter, and that as the days shorten and nights lengthen, we look to light up our homes and towns with lights that dispel the gloom.

Both Advent and Christmas are seasons of hope and expectation; the anticipation of celebrating Christ's birth, of God coming to the world to be Immanuel, God with us. Throughout Advent we look back, to that birth so long ago in Bethlehem, and look forward to the day when God's promise to make all things new is fulfilled. Sunday by Sunday we light the candles in church, to remind us of that growing hope, the light of God dawning in the darkness so many in the world experience, a light dawning in human hearts, too, we pray.

Following on from All Saints and from Remembrance Sunday, we need to be reminded that all is not dark, but that through Christ, we and those who have gone before us are all alive to God, in whom there is no darkness at all.

And Christmas is not a celebration only for children – indeed, we should say that Christmas, properly understood, is a time for all of us to give thanks to God for the promise of life now and for ever with the one who is eternal and eternally loving, steadfast in faithfulness to us, even when we are not always faithful to God.

There is, and should be, a solemnity to Christmas that accompanies the celebrations. Certainly the weeks before, in Advent, are a time for reflection, to take stock of where we are and who we are, looking back in order to understand more of why we are where we are, and looking forward in anticipation of what God has in mind.

In all the uncertainties of life – and we are still caught up in many uncertainties at this time, in the church, in the world, and in the life of the nation – let us be the ones who remember what God has done, and who God is, and how God came to us, and bear the light of love and hope into all the places we are present, and to all the people we meet on the way.

With every blessing for a peaceful, joyful and blessed Advent and Christmas.

**ALAN**

#### NOTES FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Our busiest summer season with record numbers of visitors having come to an end, we are now looking forward to welcoming our musical friends over the coming weeks. There are a number of concerts and carol services planned for the run up to Christmas – Stirling University choir, the City Choir, Stirling High Carol Concert, the Stirling University Christian Union carol service. Our own 9 Lessons and Carols will take place on December . Please do support these events and enjoy the special atmosphere in church.

Our annual Service of Remembrance took place on 10<sup>th</sup> November and was well supported. It was impressive to see the number of young people representing Army and RAF cadets and Scouts in attendance. Fortunately, the weather was kind and there was no repeat of the very wet weather experienced last year.

The Hunger Lunch held in October to support the work of Christian Aid raised £200. Many thanks to all who contributed to and supported this enjoyable event. We have many excellent soupmakers in our midst!

Work continues at Cowane's Hospital however the end is in sight! We look forward to having the drive clear in the near future.

Work has now been completed on the organ following the damage done by the ingress of water. The insurance company have covered the cost of repair and we continue to raise money for the organ restoration appeal fund.

Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival held its opening reception in the church and was attended by over 400. These visitors, many from abroad, were much impressed with the building and we look forward to welcoming the festival again next year. The outside walls of the church were floodlit in red, representing blood on the walls adding to the atmosphere of the occasion! This event generates a good income as well as allowing visitors, who might not otherwise come, to appreciate our marvellous building.

Hopefully the Beast from the East will not visit us again this year. We look forward to seeing you in church over the festive period where you can be assured of a warm welcome!

Best wishes

**PAT MIDDLETON**

## ***FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC***



After a couple of quieter months, after the busy summer period, we are about to end the calendar year with all our usual seasonal concerts and extra services. The University Choir and the City Choir are giving their concerts on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December respectively. The Holy Rude Choir will be performing a service of Nine Lessons & Carols at 6.30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. This is always a popular service, which is followed with seasonal refreshments served afterwards. The following evening Stirling High School will be holding their Christmas Concert in the church. The Watchnight service starts with carol singing at 11.00pm.

As always, please keep an eye on the Sunday orders of service, and the Stirling Observer for information about concerts and events. We are already getting some dates arranged for 2020 from visiting choirs and orchestras, and it is nice to try and get as large an audience as possible.

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

Ian Boulter

*I truly believe that if we keep telling the  
Christmas story  
singing the Christmas songs  
and living the Christmas spirit  
we can bring joy  
and happiness  
and peace to this world*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

## **DIARY OF SERVICES**

### **DECEMBER**

Sunday 1st <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Gift Service followed by short Service for Healing and Wholeness Holy Rude</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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<i>Choir of the Holy Rude Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight</i>	6.30 p.m	
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Sunday 22nd <i>Viewfield Nativity Service</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Eve Christingle Service in Viewfield Erskine Church (Christingles will be made in the Church Hall from 5.30 p.m.)</i>	6.30 p.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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<i>Community Carol Singing Holy Rude</i>	11.00 p.m.	
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<i>Watchnight Service Holy Rude</i>	11.30 p.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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Sunday 29th December <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00.a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
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*Diary of Services continued*

**JANUARY**

Sunday 5th <i>Joint Communion Service</i> <i>Holy Rude</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 13th <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 20th <i>followed by short Service</i> <i>for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 27th <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

**FEBRUARY**

Sunday 3rd <i>Short Communion Service</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 10th <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00 am.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 17th <i>followed by short Service</i> <i>for Healing and Wholeness</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller
Sunday 24th <i>Viewfield</i>	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Alan F. Miller

## ***PASTORAL***

### *Weddings*



*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August*

*Aston Olivia Ivy Bell and David Patrick McGowan*

### ***Baptisms***



*Let the children come.....*

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September*

*Arabella Stockwell, daughter of Mr & Mrs Adam Stockwell*

### ***Deaths***

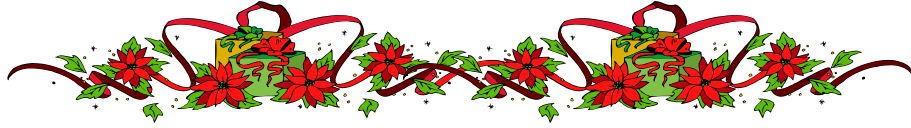


*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September*

*Mr. James Smith, 21 Charters Street, St. Ninians, Stirling*



## FLOWER ROTA



### **DECEMBER**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

Church Flowers

Sunday 15th

Christmas Flowers



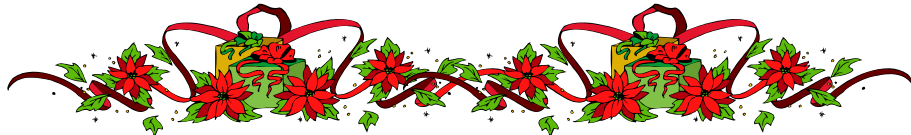
### **JANUARY**

Sunday 5th

Robert and Elma Wyllie

Sunday 19th

Jeanette MacEwan



### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday 2nd

Janette Crawford

Sunday 16th

Elma Wyllie

***I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the flowers over the last year.***

***New contributors are always welcome. Please just have a word with me, or put your name against a date in the Flower Book, which is at the back of the church.***

***Alison Dale***  
*Flower Convener*

## *Christmas Gift Envelopes*



Dear Members and Friends of the Holy Rude,

The Kirk Session has agreed very kindly that we can have our Annual Christmas Appeal this year! This is good news to me as Treasurer since your generosity and help is much appreciated and even small amounts help the Church's finances!

We try very hard to keep our funds in the black and although we started 2019 in a poor state we have soldiered on and managed to re-invest the money we had to take from an account in 121 to keep us going in January. We have had expense with the organ during the year, but with the help of the Friends we have managed to meet these costs and, after water damage, been successful in a claim from the insurance company.

The Friends have also helped by paying the insurance for the building and the heat and light bills throughout the year. It would probably be impossible to keep going without the invaluable help from the Friends of Holy Rude.

You will find a special envelope enclosed with this Newsletter, and our Christmas Gift Service will be at 11.00 a.m. on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Envelopes may be returned at the service, given to an Elder or posted to The Treasurer, The Church of the Holy Rude, St John Street, Stirling FK81ED.

If you would like to increase the value of your gift by 25% and you pay income tax we can reclaim on your donation for this tax year, so please complete the back of the envelope.

With many thanks

***Kate McIntosh***  
*Treasurer.*

## LIFE & WORK



### THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**2020**

Life & Work contains up-to-date news and views on many aspects of life  
... religious... social... environmental ... international ... economic -  
all based on sound Christian principles, and is delivered to you personally.  
Its stimulating style appeals to many readers.

Annual subscriptions are now due at the specially discounted rate of  
**£28**

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 2020 unless cancelled



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



This year's World Mission Stamp Appeal is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the World Mission Council Stamp Appeal and Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. The Chigodi Women Centre aims to deliver a broad range of skills training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi and to improve the women's socio-economic status and increase their chances of employment.

So far this year the sum raised from the sale of the used stamps is £2245 and with the Christmas season fast approaching there will again (hopefully) be the annual increase in the use of "stick-on" postage stamps.

Please save all your stamps (British and Foreign) and either place them in the box on the desk at the back of the church or hand them to me or to one of the welcoming elders. The support from members and friends of Holy Rude and Viewfield churches is much appreciated.

**Myra Gibson**

# Organ Appeal

## Update - November 2019

In the last edition of the Newsletter I wrote about the major problem we had experienced due to ingress of water in the blowing chamber. This had the result of damaging the leather on the concussion bellows due to contact of water on the glue that held the leather to the ribs of the bellows, and making the leather itself harden.

The bellows were removed and taken to the organ builder's workshop for the work to be undertaken. Fortunately, the organ could still be used whilst the work was undertaken. The only difference that you might have noticed was that the full organ could not be used, it could only be played at a subdued level. The work took about five weeks to complete and cost £12,360. When the bellows were reinstated the grand sound of the full organ could once again fill the Holy Rude. We were lucky to be able to make an insurance claim for the work undertaken, which was accepted and paid, minus our insurance excess.

At the end of October the 6 monthly service of the blower took place, everything is in good order and the water ingress doesn't appear to have damaged the motor or the blowing unit.



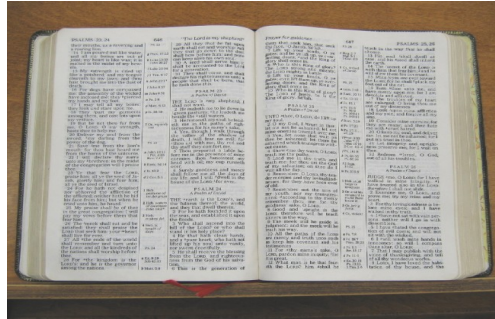
This picture shows the concussion bellows behind the blower. You can see the nice new white leather on the 3 bellows. Also, the frame that holds the bellows in place has been refurbished.

Further updates on the restoration appeal will appear in future Newsletters.

Ian Boulter,

***Director of Music.***

## BIBLE READING



The Bible reading finished on 5/10/19 at the close of the Ministry of Welcome season. Despite our late start towards the end of June, thanks to the dedicated team of readers we managed to complete the Old Testament and reach Chapter 14 of the Gospel of Luke which, in the circumstances was excellent. All agreed it was a blessing to be involved and enjoyed fellowship with visitors who showed enthusiasm and appreciation for our Christian witness.

The total number of readers taking part was 37 of whom 23 were Church members or local Christians, the remaining 13 were visitors who volunteered and felt it a privilege to read God's Word in our important and historic place of witness.

Although the primary purpose of the Bible reading was that of witness it was humbling to find that our little donation box raised £180 which has been donated to the Friends of Holy Rude to assist with the ongoing maintenance and running costs of Holy Rude.

It is hoped to complete the remaining Books of the New Testament when the 2020 season gets underway.

Grateful thanks to all who helped with this important act of Witness.

***Findlay McIntosh***



## **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**

The current Financial Year of the Friends runs from 1st. April 2019 to 31st. March 2020.

Anyone wishing to join the Friends Society can obtain a Membership Pack from the Reception Desk in Holy Rude, or by e-mailing the Secretary at [morrib42@gmail.com](mailto:morrib42@gmail.com)

Since being established in 2011, the Friends Society has now provided just over £250,000 of assistance for the care and maintenance of the historic Church of the Holy Rude.

### **Ministry of Welcome Season 2019**

The end of season gathering of the volunteers was held in the church on 22nd. October, when the results were announced for the 2019 Ministry of Welcome Season that began on Good Friday 29th. April and ended on 5th. October. The first visitor on Good Friday was from Italy, and the last visitors of the season were a couple from California.

In total, a record number of 70,228 visitors from approx. 90 different countries were welcomed into Holy Rude during the 5 month opening period, This was the best ever year for Ministry of Welcome visitor numbers, beating the previous record of 2018 when 68,803 came to Holy Rude. Over the season, as part of our Outreach Service some 5,130 candles were lit in the St. Andrews Chapel and 726 Prayer Request Cards received. In addition, a reading of the complete Bible, starting from the Book of Genesis, was carried out. The shop also enjoyed a successful season with record sales. By the end of the season a total of just over £34,000 in donations was raised for the care and maintenance of our ancient and historic church.

The 28 Ministry of Welcome volunteers were thanked for their dedicated assistance in achieving such fantastic results.

### **Talk on Stirling's History**

After the results for the season had been announced, an informative and entertaining talk was then given by the Stirling Council Archaeologist, Dr. Murray Cook, who provided stories from his excellent newly published book, *Digging Into Stirling's Past-Uncovering the Secrets of Scotland's Smallest City*.

## **Visitors Tales From Ministry of Welcome**

### *Connal Family Connections*

The stained glass windows on the west wall (Tower) of Holy Rude were installed in 1887-88 by William Connal, Merchant of Solsgirth, Dollar, to commemorate various members of his family. The large centre window, depicting *The Sermon On The Mount*, commemorates his son, Patrick, who died on 31st. July 1887, aged 30 years.

In May this year, a lady from New South Wales, Australia, visited Holy Rude, and left the comment in the Visitors Book " My Great Grandfather Robert Connal came to Australia, and was the son of Patrick."

### *Montana Visitors*

Two related young girls from Montana were looking round the church, when one accidentally bumped into a lady who was part of another group of four older ladies (all 4 related). After exchanging apologies, they realised that they were both from the United States, and after further conversation that they were from Montana. Even more strangely, they then found out that they were fact distant relatives! The girls and older ladies then spent the next half hour swapping details and taking photographs.

### *Dividing Wall*

After learning about the Dividing Wall in Holy Rude that existed from 1656 to 1936, one visitor from Northern Ireland advised of a similar situation existing in Belfast City Cemetery that was opened in the 1860's. Apparently there is a 9 feet high Dividing Wall in the cemetery, separating the Catholic burials from the Protestant ones. What is unusual about this wall is that it is built underground just below the surface! Details can be found on the Internet by searching *Belfast City Cemetery*.

## **Reminder - 1936 Restoration Film**

There is a fascinating 30 minute film available on the Internet showing the building work being carried out on Holy Rude during the 1936-40 Restoration. This can be found at:- <https://vimeo.com/95123975> or <https://vimeo.com/95122252>

*Brian Morrison*

*Secretary, Friends of Holy Rude*

***E-mail [morrib42@gmail.com](mailto:morrib42@gmail.com)***





## ***STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER***

*Please come along and  
Join us at the monthly*

### ***Friendship Lunch***

***Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December***  
*Christmas Lunch  
with Carols*

***Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January***  
***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February***

*From 12 noon – 1.30 p.m.  
In: St. Columba's Church Hall  
Park Terrace, Stirling.*

***CONVERSATION, SOUP AND SANDWICH***

***Remember to put the dates in your diary!***

## ***INNER PEACE***

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any  
time,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without wine,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, .....  
then you are probably the family dog



## "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



### Story behind the hymn

*Phillip Brooks was a distinguished man of faith and intellect. A Boston-born Episcopalian preacher, he'd earned a Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Oxford, taught at Yale University, and publicly advocated against slavery during the Civil War. But he's best known for penning "O Little Town of Bethlehem" after a life-changing journey.*

*In 1865, Brooks rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, where he participated in the Church of the Nativity's five-hour long Christmas Eve celebration, complete with hymns. Returning home, this experience proved so profound that he channelled it into the hymn sung in churches to this day. Its first public performance was held three years later, performed by the children's choir of his church Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, on December 27. The music was written by his Organist, Lewis Redner.*

### *The original manuscript of the first verse*

*O little town of Bethlehem  
Now still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep & dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The Everlasting Light  
The hopes & fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight*

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD**  
**VIEWFIELD ERSKINE CHURCH**  
**2019-2020**



**THEME**  
***ONE JOURNEY MANY ROADS***  
***COMPANIONS ON THE ROAD***

Members of Holy Rude are warmly invited to join the meetings of the Guild. which are held in the Lower 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.

9 <sup>th</sup> December	Silent Auction
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party with Archie Strang
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev. Alan Miller
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Scots Night Tickets - £10
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Talk by Craig Mair
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Alzheimer Scotland
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Open Night
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Stirling Archivist Pam McNicol
13 <sup>th</sup> April	A.G.M. and Pot Luck Supper

*Lord of our life and God of our salvation  
In this time of expectancy and excitement  
Grant us grace as we pray for*

**C**

*Celebration beyond the tinsel and superficial trappings which  
distract and dilute the meaning of the coming of Jesus*

**H**

*Harmony where discord reigns in families and communities  
and war destroys lives, homes and hope*

**R**

*Refreshment for the jaded and exhausted and those who are  
cynical and lacking in enthusiasm*

**I**

*Inclusion of the poor and the marginalised, the powerful and the  
privileged as Jesus of Nazareth taught us*

**S**

*Sensitivity to those who find this time particularly painful through  
grief, separation and alienation*

**T**

*Time and patience to listen to others, free from prejudice and  
preconception about their views and perspectives*

**M**

*More compassion for those whose cries for justice are ignored  
throughout the rest of the year*

**A**

*A spirit of determination to bring light into the dark places where  
hunger, famine, abuse and oppression hold sway*

**S**

*Silence of our fears and anxieties, doubts and question to release  
our praise for the Baby of Bethlehem*

*These we ask in the name of Jesus,  
The Prince of Peace*



*It's not long to go before Christmas **REMEMBER:***

**Jesus is Better than Santa**

**Santa** lives at the North Pole.

**JESUS** is everywhere.

**Santa** rides in a sleigh

**JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

**Santa** comes but once a year

**JESUS** is an ever present help.

**Santa** fills your stockings with goodies

**JESUS** supplies all your needs.

**Santa** comes down your chimney uninvited

**JESUS** stands at your door and knocks.. and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see **Santa**

**JESUS** is as close as the mention of His name.

**Santa** lets you sit on his lap

**JESUS** lets you rest in His arms.

**Santa** doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hello little boy or girl, What's your name?"

**JESUS** knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

**Santa** has a belly like a bowl full of jelly

**JESUS** has a heart full of love.

All **Santa** can offer is HO HO HO

**JESUS** offers health, help and hope.

**Santa** says "You better not cry"

**JESUS** says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.

**Santa's** little helpers make toys

**JESUS** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

**Santa** may make you chuckle but

**JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.

While **Santa** puts gifts under your tree

**JESUS** became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.

We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

**Jesus is still the reason for the season**



As this is the season of Advent, we decorate our homes and churches with holly, ivy and mistletoe; each has an interesting history.



**Holly:** The Romans gave sprigs of holly to their friends as presents during the feast of Saturnalia which falls in winter. Pliny the Elder, who was killed during the eruption of Vesuvius, wrote in his natural history that if a holly tree grew near a house it would deflect lightening and evil spirits. Holly was called 'holy tree' as the red berries were symbolic of Christ's blood and the thorns represented his suffering.



**Ivy:** Bacchus, who was the God of Wine, is represented with a wreath of ivy leaves around his head. This was supposed to ward off the effects of drinking too much wine. It was also reported to be a symbol of fertility and the Greeks gave a wreath of ivy when girls married. When ivy grows up a house, as it often does, many thought it would protect their home from evil



**Mistletoe:** *Pliny, in his book of natural history, also wrote about the magical rites the druids performed. They thought mistletoe, which grew up the bark of mainly oak trees, was very potent and lovingly cut it with special sickles and caught it to stop it falling on the ground and getting damaged. Freya was the Norse goddess of love and was associated with fertility, which is probably why kissing under the mistletoe became a custom as she also protected mistletoe fiercely.*

### **MATERIAL FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER**

The next Newsletter will be our Spring Newsletter covering the months of  
**March, April and May 2020**

Please ensure all articles are available no later than **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
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*  
e-mail:- [hiblewitt@aol.com](mailto:hiblewitt@aol.com)





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

Scottish Charity Number SC 011473