

Fishers of People

Church of the Holy Rude

Park Church Stirling

St.Ninians Old Parish

Viewfield Erskine

Joint Autumn Newsletter 2022 (September, October, November)



**Eco Theme
Season of Creation
Harvest
Remembrance**



From the Ministers:

Dear Friends

We are almost at the end of our sunny summer holidays, schools and universities are ready to start, and slowly but surely we're getting back into the rhythm of normality after the pandemic.

Yes, you may ask: "What is normality?"

The following is a definition of 'normality':

Normality is a behaviour that can be normal for an individual or group when it is consistent with the most common behaviour for that person or group. Normal is also used to describe individual behaviour that conforms to the most common behaviour in society. However, normal behaviour is often only recognised in contrast to abnormality.

As Christians we know that there are certain givens of our everyday 'normality':

God is a constant - though extraordinary - He is within our 'normality';

Change - in whichever way - is inevitable, and that forms part of our 'normality';

Being alive and able to be part of the world and creation around you is part of our 'normality';

...we can surely add on to this list of what we consider as 'normality'

Given the first three pointers above, the Bible teaches and gives us good direction on how to engage with God, our neighbour, ourselves and life.

It is Paul who wrote the following in 1 Corinthians 12:11-13:

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service (generosity) that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.'

In his book *Run With The Horses* Eugene Peterson writes:

Birds have feet and can walk. Birds have talons and can grasp a branch securely. They can walk; they can cling. But flying is their characteristic action, and not until they fly are they living at their best, gracefully and beautifully. Giving is what we do best. It is the air into which we were born. It is the action that was designed into us before our birth. Giving is the way the world is. God makes no exceptions for any of us. We are given away to our families, to our neighbours, to our friends, to our enemies—to the nations.

Our life is for others. That is the way creation works.

At the beginning of this new season may we again view ourselves as being *gifts of God* to others around us. The greatest gift we could ever receive is that of God's saving grace through Jesus.

May our lives reflect our gratefulness through our generosity: whether it be giving some of our time, our listening, our laughter, our spaces of living, our 'being present' in the moment, our possessions and money, our love, forgiveness, and grace!

Remember that God also sends these types of gifts to us on a regular basis: accept those gifts coming your way and embrace this love of God every day and every week! It was Mother Teresa who said:

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

We look forward to working together as ministers, and we pray that we as congregations will share our ventures and activities together with grace, love and joy. May we as parish churches here in central Stirling and St Ninians be known as *Givers* of God's love to everyone who comes in contact with us.

With our good wishes for Autumn!

The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

The Rev Gary J McIntyre,

The Rev Alan F Miller,

The Rev Attie van Wyk



A prayer for the new season ahead:

Loving God. We praise and thank you for your blessings and goodness we have received this past summer.

As we enter this new season of the year, help each day to recognise you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives.

We thank you for the many gifts in life you bestow upon us – that which we tend to consider as ordinary are extraordinary wonders which none of us can create or claim – thank you for all of them!

For this next year to come, we ask you to give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world.

Holy Spirit breathe power in us, through us, again, fresh and new.

Lord, thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against.

We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day and every day to come.

We pray for our four parish churches that we may share your love among each other and with all others. We love you Lord. Accept our prayer which we pray in your name Jesus, our Saviour.

Amen

ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH—upcoming events

TUESDAY GROUP

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Tuesday Group, an afternoon tea will be held in the Parish Halls at 2pm on Tuesday 27th September. Tickets costing £1 will be available on the Sundays in September and can be purchased in the McMichael Chapel after the Church service. They can also be purchased from committee members. £1 is a nominal cost to ascertain the number to be catered for.

The Tuesday Group was formed in October 1970 and was originally 'The Young Wives and Mother's Group.' Over the years, as many of the members returned to work, the group was simply referred to as 'The Tuesday Group' and it was open to all ladies in the parish.

Meetings were held on a Tuesday evening from September to March and there are many happy memories of Scots Nights and Burns Suppers which were greatly enjoyed.

Following a suggestion from committee members, the Kirk Session has agreed the Tuesday Group should be open to men as well as women. It was also decided that the Tuesday Group will now meet once a month at 2pm in the Parish Halls with evening meetings in November for the Scots Night, and in January for our Burns Supper.

Dates for your diary;

Tuesday 27th September at 2pm – 50th Anniversary Celebration

(Delayed due to the pandemic)

Tuesday 25th October – 2pm

Tuesday 29th November – 7:30pm – Scots Night

Tuesday 20th December – 12:30pm - Christmas Lunch

Submitted by Miranda Miller, President of The Tuesday Group, St.Ninians Old Parish

Social and Fund Raising Group: Soup and Sandwich Lunches

The **soup and sandwich lunches will recommence on Saturday 1st October** when lunch will be served from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

On Saturday 5th November we will be holding a Christmas Craft Fayre with morning coffee/tea being served between 10.00 and 11.30.

Anyone wishing to donate home baking can leave it at the hall on Friday 4th November between 6.30 and 7.30pm or from 10 o'clock on the Saturday morning. Lunch will be served from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

There will be a **soup and sandwich lunch on Saturday 3rd December from 12 noon until 1:30pm.**

We look forward to seeing you at the lunches and Christmas Craft Fayre. You will be very welcome

Park Church—upcoming events

LADIES GROUP AUTUMN SESSION

Meetings are fortnightly on a Monday evening at 7.30pm and last about 90minutes including time for refreshments and chat. All ladies of any age are most welcome.

Sept 12 Talk by Rev. Attie van Wyk

Sept 26 Jewellery made from silver spoons by Mark Durrie.
(Proceeds to Strathcarron Hospice)

Oct 10 Soaps and fused glass by Emma Fitzgerald

Oct 24 Gargunnock Songsters musical evening

Nov 7 The Eilidh Brown House

Nov 21 Grace's chocolates

Dec 5 Christmas Dinner

Contributed by Alison Magrath, Committee Member of the Park Church Ladies Group

Grumpy Old Men

The Hollywood legends, Jack Lemmon and Walter Mattau started it way back in 1968 with the film, "the Odd Couple," but the concept of the "**Grumpy Old Men**" has enjoyed several iterations since then, perhaps most notably to TV viewers, as Statler and Waldorf the pair of characters known for their cantankerous opinions and shared penchant for heckling. The two elderly men first appeared in The Muppet Show in 1975, where they consistently jeered the entirety of the cast and their performances from their balcony seats.

Park Church Stirling is proud to have an active group of "**Grumpy Old Men**" amongst its numbers with a **G.O.M's badminton club and a monthly gathering of the fellowship at a G.O.M's lunch held in the Torbrex Inn on the THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1.00pm**

As a "club" there are no rules, constitution, joining fee or subscription. Membership is open to those who are: - male, over 50 (probably, although not exclusively retired,) opinionated i.e. grumpy and with a fondness for beer flavoured drinks.

Nobody can be in any serious doubt that there is sufficient going on in the world at the moment to be grumpy about and it is self-evidently the case that, over the last couple of years, when meetings were banned because of the pandemic, the situation has worsened – this cannot be explained away as mere co-incidence.

As "**Grumpy Old Men**" we have earned the right, in fact we have a sacred duty to share our opinions about and in some cases solutions for the difficulties besetting our modern world.

If you feel you are qualified and are seeking an outlet for your grumpiness, please join us in the Torbrex Inn on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1.00pm**. New blood, or rather old blood, is always welcome.

Contributed by Duncan Crombie, member of Park Church

Viewfield Erskine Parish Church– Upcoming events

It is hoped to restart Viewfield Erskine Guild in early autumn , **the first meeting will take place on Monday October 3rd at 7.30pm** at Viewfield Parish Church if you would like more details contact LindaMillar66@outlook.com, or phone 01259 725379 (answerphone during the day)

Viewfield Erskine is holding a Cheese and Wine Event on Saturday 29th October tickets priced £10 include entertainment .

If you would like tickets please email LindaMillar66@outlook.com, or phone 01259 725379 (answerphone during the day)



A Delayed Celebration at the Church of the Holy Rude

455th Anniversary of the Coronation of King James VI on the 29th July 1567 in the Church of the Holy Rude: “The Heraldic Times of King James VI”

Each year on 29th July, the date on which King James VI, as an infant, was crowned in The Church of the Holy Rude, invited guests and members gather for the Anniversary Lecture. This year it was delivered by Mrs. Elizabeth Roads, LVO, Secretary of the Order of the Thistle and the present Dean of Guild of the Merchant Guildry of Stirling. The Lecture had been due to take place in July 2020, but had been delayed due to the pandemic.

This article gives only a flavour of the very detailed and interesting Lecture, accompanied by very colourful slides, given by Mrs. Roads on arms and armorials and their Royal, Religious, Political and other relevant connections. She explained how the arms of Scotland over the centuries have not really changed. (She noted that her talk referred to arms and armorials produced before and during the reign of James VI as King of Scotland- but not after he became also King of England).

Dropdown genealogical trees of the early centuries helped visualise the many complex marriages with different set of arms often incorporating areas of birth, parents and grandparents. This assisted the listener in distinguishing the people involved e.g. Mary Queen of Scots who, herself married on 3 occasions, her second marriage being to the father of King James VI, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley.

Many families (apart from the obvious Stuart dynasty) had strong connections with the Stirling area and influenced the early life of the young Prince including the Earl and Countess of Mar. The Earl being the Hereditary Keeper of the Keys of Stirling Castle.

Mrs. Roads also spoke of how religion and politics of the era were reflected in the arms and armorials produced. An example being that England claimed the French Crown and incorporated it within the arms of England until 1801, during the reign of George III, when it was felt there was no longer necessity to have a French element or influence within the Royal arms.

The vote of thanks was given by Alan Simpson, Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, who also chaired the lecture.

Contributed by Hilary Blewitt ,Elder in the Church of the Holy Rude

Church of the Holy Rude

In what is termed the Ministry of Welcome, Holy Rude opens daily during the summer months from 1st. May to 30th. Sept. so that its rich history, heritage, and fine medieval architecture can be shared with visitors from all over the world. Two persons at a time from a pool of volunteers are on duty to welcome visitors into the church and to provide copies of a Short History of Holy Rude that is available in 86 different languages (the biggest number known to be available in any UK church). Information Boards also provide details of key features in the church.

Visitors learn of how Holy Rude was founded in 1129 by King David I, and enjoyed the support and patronage of the Stewart Kings and Queens up until the early 17th. century, with the most significant event being the Coronation in Holy Rude on 29th. July 1567 of James VI, the infant son of Mary Queen of Scots. The ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Orkney and John Knox preached the sermon. In 1603 James also became King James I of England on the death of his relative, Queen Elizabeth. Holy Rude is now the only church in Britain still in active use, apart from Westminster Abbey in London, where a Coronation has taken place.

Holy Rude is one of the finest examples of Scottish Medieval Gothic Architecture and still retains the 600 years old Open-Timber Ceiling where the oak beams are held together only by wooden pegs, and no metal nails have been used. The 18 beautiful stained-glass windows, dating from Victorian times to early 21st. century, are also much admired, as is the music provided by the magnificent Romantic Type Organ (the largest church organ in Scotland).

There is no charge made for entry to the church, and any donations received go to the maintenance and repair of the building. In pre-pandemic 2019, a total of 70,228 visitors from approx. 90 countries were welcomed into Holy Rude, but lockdown in 2020 meant no visitors at all could be received, and in 2021 only 9,688 visitors were received during the 3 months of restricted opening. So far in 2022, indications are that foreign visitors are returning again to Scotland, but not in the large numbers of 2019, and up until 31st. July some 20,400 visitors have been received in the church.

Volunteers

The assistance of additional volunteers in the Ministry of Welcome would be very much appreciated, and if you are interested in being involved and can spare 2½ hours a week, could you please contact Mrs. Ann Crawford at e-mail wscrawford@sky.com or tel. no. 01786 478783 for fuller details. No special knowledge of Scottish history or architecture is required, nor membership of Holy Rude, and you will enjoy meeting interesting people from all parts of the world.

Brian Morrison, Church of the Holy Rude



Thank you from Park Church for the Spring Appeal 2022

The marvellous sum of £ 1,535 was raised by Park Church congregation. This will be much appreciated by those in need overseas. Please note that there will also be a Harvest Collection in

Park Church for Christian Aid and envelopes will be available nearer the date

The Annual Stirling City Christian Aid Coffee Morning this year is on

Saturday 22nd October from 10am to 12noon in the Main Hall of Park Church.

Please put this in your diary and come to support Christian Aid!

Submitted by Helen Reid & Helen MacDonald, Elders in Park Church

PARK CHURCH SERVICES AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE AUTUMN

September

1st Presbytery Meeting

4th **Communion 11am & Annfield Service 3pm**

7th **Session Meeting at 7.30pm**

23rd **Street Pastor's Commissioning service at 7.30pm**

25th **Doors Open Day– 2-4pm (see next page)**

October

2nd **Harvest Thanksgiving & Annfield Service**

5th **Session Meeting**

6th **Informal evening service (NEW)**

22nd **Christian Aid Coffee morning 10am to 12 noon**

November

2nd **Session Meeting**

6th **Annfield Service 3pm**

13th **Remembrance Sunday – service starts at 10.45am**



December

3rd **Torbrex Choir concert 7.30pm in the church**

4th **December Communion 11am & Annfield Service 3pm**

7th **Session Meeting**

25th September Doors Open Day from 2pm to 4pm in Park Church

Why not come and explore the Park Church building! (including guided visits to the Tower for wonderful views)

**Displays and presentations by organisations and hall users
Including:**

- **Stagecoach Speech & Drama classes**
- **Torbrex Choir**
- **Stirling & District Floral Art Club**
- **Street Pastors**
- **Sparks Pre-school Playgroup**
- **Exhibition of selected art works by several local artists including Kate Langley**
- **Information about new art class**
- **4th/6th Scouts**

Tea/coffee & biscuits in Main hall

ALL ARE MOST WELCOME

New joint Bible Study series for the autumn

If you enjoyed the Lent series of Bible studies presented by the Ministers of the four Stirling City Centre churches you will be pleased to hear that we are going to have some more shared study opportunities!

They are open to anyone and will be advertised on the websites, in the church intimations and in the Stirling



At the end of September 2021 Park Church started a pre-school playgroup for children and their adults. It has been well attended with children's ages running from a few months to nearly school age. The youngsters are accompanied by parents, grandparents or childminders. Sessions are held on Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 to 11.15am.

The sessions contain plenty of play time with a wide variety of toys and activities, a Bible story, a praise song, a short prayer and singing time. There is also a snack for the children and tea/coffee & cake or a biscuit for the adults. It is a good opportunity for the adults to have a good blether with each other or with one of our volunteer helpers.

At the moment there are 14 volunteers who help at these sessions on a rota basis and everyone helps for 2 or 3 mornings each term. The majority of these helpers attend Park Church but there are others who attend St. Ninians Old Parish, St. Ninians UF and Tillicoultry churches. Park Church would extend a warm welcome to anyone from these churches as well as from Viewfield/Holy Rude congregations who would like to come along and experience a SPARKS session with a view to perhaps joining the team? If you would like to consider this please contact the Administrator (Sheena Tait) in Park Church Office on 01786-462400.

A number of the children who have attended SPARKS are moving on to primary school or school nurseries and we now have some vacancies. If there is anyone who would like to come along with a child please contact the Office to request a place. It is important for us to stress that SPARKS is open to anyone and you do not have to be a churchgoer to be welcomed: if you know of someone who might like to come please tell them about us.

Contributed by Moira Parry, Elder in Park Church

Joint School Programmes

These activities are a joint outreach between St. Ninians Old, Park Church and helpers from other Churches: we are grateful for all the help and support from everyone.

As we approach the start of the new church year in September, we hope to confirm dates to begin the process again with our three Primary Schools: Allans, Borestone and St Ninians PS.

We hope to engage with Primary 5 as **Advent** starts at the beginning of December, relating with the children in looking at the real meaning of Christmas in the programme entitled "**Bubblegum and Fluff**".

At the end of March we hope the Primary 6s will engage with us as we explore the events of **Holy Week** in the programme "**The Easter Code**" and finally in the middle of May we will again be offering "**Popcorn and Cake**" celebrating **Pentecost** and the birthday of the church to the Primary 7s.

We are so pleased that we have been able to run each of these programmes this year so that the children can experience building on each of them as they move through the upper primary stages, giving them some kind of insight as to the real meaning of the Christian faith.

Contributed by Lyndsay Boyack & Joy MacFarlane, Elders in Park Church on behalf of the team.

The Stirling Kirks Together

All- Age Friendship Lunches will continue to be held every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 14th September

Wednesday 12th October

Wednesday 9th November

Wednesday 14th December

From 12noon-1.30pm

Venue: Park Church, Main Hall, Park Terrace



Conversation

Home- made soup & rolls, Tea, Coffee and Home Baking

All welcome - No need to book

(Optional £2.50 donation)

For further information contact Johan Stirling on 01786 461571

ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Morning Worship begins at 10:30am and all are welcome. The children of the Sunday Club meet in the Church and then go to the Parish Halls after the second Hymn.

A further time of fellowship is held in the Parish Halls following the service on the third Sunday of the month.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 11th September . All who love the Lord are welcome at His Table.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 2nd October when the congregation will once again support the work of WaterAid.

A Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 13th November with the Silence being observed at 11am. There will be a retiral collection for Erskine.

A service is held in Eccles Court on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 2:30pm. Dates for the coming months are 28th September, 26th October and 23rd November.

Residents of Roselea Court Care Home and Westerlands Care Home join the congregation of St Ninians Old in worship each Sunday via the livestream. Mr McIntyre also visits both homes and others in the area on a regular basis.

ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session is delighted to announce that Mr Leslie Asher has agreed to serve as Session Clerk and Mrs Sally Andrews has agreed to serve as Depute Session Clerk.

Leslie was Ordained to the eldership on the 12th of June 2016 and Sally was Ordained to the eldership on the 8th of March 2020. We wish Leslie and Sally well in this new sphere of service, and assure them of our prayers and support.

The Kirk Session places on record its sincere gratitude to Mrs Margaret Sibbald for her dedicated service as Session Clerk for almost eight years. Margaret is the first female Session Clerk of St Ninians Old and has therefore secured herself a place in the history of the Kirk Session!

The post of Depute Session Clerk was previously held by Mr David Farquhar who sadly passed away in 2021. David discharged his duties cheerfully and we give thanks to God for his faithful service.

The Kirk Session will meet in the Parish Halls at 7:30pm on the following dates;

Tuesday 20th September 2022

Tuesday 22nd November 2022

Tuesday 31st January 2023

Tuesday 21st March 2023

Tuesday 20th June 2023

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held following the service on Sunday, 26th March 2023.

CONGREGATIONAL BARBECUE AT ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH

Almost 70 people gathered in the Manse garden on the afternoon of Saturday 16th July for a barbecue. Due to the pandemic, it was the first to be held since 2019 and was greatly enjoyed by all present. The weather conditions were excellent as was the food which was well prepared and served by Harry from Michael More, Butcher & Caterer. There was a lot of conversation and laughter in pleasant surroundings. A most memorable occasion!



A HAPPY DAY FOR ALL !



BLYTHSWOOD CARE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2022

St.Ninians Old Parish will be supporting this appeal. Filled shoeboxes and individual items can be left at the Church in November.

Leaflets from Blythswood Care will be available soon in order that those supporting the appeal will know what items can be given.

You can also check this out on the Blythswood Care website – <https://blythswood.org>

The Teddy Bear's Picnic at Park Church.

To conclude our first year of SPARKS we had a Teddy Bear's Picnic at the end of June and as it was a sunny day we were able to have it on the grass outside our buildings. The children enjoyed a variety of activities which included Hunt the Teddy Bear, races, Teddy Bear songs, rhymes and stories and parachute games. Picnic boxes were handed out to the children and along with the adults having tea or coffee, everyone sat on rugs on the grass and had a lovely time.

Contributed by Moira Parry, Elder in Park Church



Sunday 5th June 2022: A celebration of Pentecost, the Union, welcome to Rev Attie Van Wyk and the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in Park Church

Over 150 people enjoyed lunch in the Main Hall, Library and Church (catering provided by Michael More) and entertainment provided by Ross McGowan, Lucas Cuthbert and the Minister. It is hoped to have another lunch later in the year.



Thanks to Nancy Turnbull for photos

New additions to the Park Church Library

ATLAS OF THE BIBLE -Christian Faith (yellow sticker)

PEARLMAN Moshe-The Maccabees-General Reading (green sticker)

EPIPHANY reflections- Christian Faith (yellow sticker)

WRIGHT Tom-Mark for Everyone-Bible Study (black sticker)

HOWAT Irene-Ten boys who made a difference Youth (gold sticker)

THE BIBLE PROMISE BOOK for Hope and Healing Christian Faith (yellow sticker)

BUCHAN Angus -Faith like Potatoes Biography (purple sticker)

Children's Section

NOAH'S ARK STORY board book

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS FOR CHILDREN

GOD MAKES THE WORLD-Board book

JONAH AND THE BIG FISH- Board book

Many thanks for the donations. Submitted by Lyndsay Boyack, Elder in Park Church

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

This book was published in 2018, but it only came to my attention when Michael Portillo spoke to the author when undertaking a walk in Devon following the first Covid lockdown. I saw a copy on my daughter-in-law's bookshelf when visiting the family recently and it has been my challenge to read it this summer. It is not a comfortable read as it describes the courageous journey undertaken by the author and her husband following a series of person tragedies: redundancy, a terminal diagnosis and loss of their home due to debt.

The courage of the couple who walk the 630 mile South West Coast Path from Somerset to Dorset camping wild, living on a pittance of benefit and the kindness of strangers is truly humbling. The description of people who saw them and thought that they were drunks, addicts or thieves in many wealthy tourist towns is so sad. It made me realise we seldom know the story behind the people sleeping rough.

The book is really uplifting in the way that the couple recover their health, emerge stronger and finally find somewhere to live which allows them to seek jobs and education opportunities. The role of several church congregations in reaching out to the homeless in a practical way is also refreshing to hear. At the time of reading this the Ukrainian hostilities were in the news along with the dire warnings about huge energy price increases and reductions in school meals.

I hope others will take time to read this and find as I did appreciation of human endurance and the healing power of nature. There is a copy in the Park Church Library.

It is published by Penguin ISBN 978-1-405-93718-4 and is available at Waterstones price £9.99

Book Review by Sarah Murdoch, Elder in Park Church

Stirling Street Pastors after COVID

We've all had to make changes during and after lockdown. Our evening patrols stopped when all the pubs and clubs closed and it wasn't safe to meet people. We did try to resume the late night Friday and Saturday patrols after lockdown in April 2021. Things were not quite back to normal yet and we found more people with mental health issues who wanted to talk. So we listened and cared, and when appropriate, prayed with them.

Over the year 2021/22 we had 88 evening and 38 campus patrols. 73 vulnerable people were helped, we had 112 important conversations, very often dealing with mental health, and 105 spiritual conversations. COVID did seem to have the effect of people looking for meaning and asking about God. There were questions about why God allowed all the suffering. It's a difficult question to answer, but we could say that Jesus understands and cares, and that's one of the main reasons we patrolled, to show that compassion of Jesus. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:36.

We had also started doing lunchtime patrols on the university campus as a replacement to the evening patrols. We have seen a real need there too so we are continuing this with full support from the university.

Another change is that we now extend our patrols onto the railway station platforms. Network Rail asked for our help here because they recognised that railways are often a place where people can be at risk of suicidal thoughts, and we were glad to and have made new relationships with rail staff and British Transport Police.



Our main focus this year is to find more volunteers. A lot of churches have had to work to survive through lockdown and in some areas there has been a drop in volunteering. A lot of Street Pastor areas throughout the UK have noticed this and are now working with churches to try and reengage and encourage people to consider becoming a Street Pastor.

Before COVID hit, we were out on patrol almost every Friday and Saturday evening, with some amazing stories to tell about how the Lord was working on the streets. With our current reduced numbers we are now missing a few evenings every month. We do still see the Lord at work in the encounters we have with people. Of course, we are still giving out free flip flops, drinks and having lots of friendly chats. But there are regularly those people that we realise that we are led to, through prayer, who are really in need of more serious help and care.

Finance

Stirling Street Pastors has been blessed with significant donations from legacies in previous years. This has sustained us because our normal yearly expenditure is more than our income. We also get regular monthly donations from several givers and a few churches, as well as one off donations from individuals, churches and other organisations.

Our aim and prayers are to become sustainable. We were grateful to the Scottish Government for providing a grant for our work improving mental health and wellbeing.

To support our work in Stirling you can make a one off donation or choose to make a monthly commitment, you may also want to think about leaving a legacy. See our web site for details under “Support Us”.

So do please keep us in your prayers.

Park Church has long been a supporter of Stirling Street Pastors and we are both thankful and encouraged for this.

Matthew 9 goes on to say “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

Please continue to pray earnestly for more volunteers.

If you are thinking about becoming a Street Pastor, or know somebody who might be suitable, then ask them to get in touch with anyone who is a Street Pastor in Stirling, or contact Russell, the Coordinator, directly at stirling@streetpastors.org.uk or on 07545 527511.

The Fish

The use of this symbol on the front of the magazine continues a practice of some 2000 years. Early Christians used the sign, easily and quickly drawn, to indicate where they were meeting and often hiding from persecution. It is thought that the sign was because Jesus called our own Andrew and his brother Simon (later Peter) and then James and John to leave their nets and become fishers of men. (See Mark 1 verse 16) That may well be part of it but in fact there is a deeper reason behind the use of this symbol.

The classical Greek word for fish, spelt phonetically, is ICHTHUS. Thus we have in modern English, words such as ichthology meaning the study of fish. Taking the individual letters of the word reveals the reason why the symbol is used:-

Letter	Greek	English
I	Iesus	Jesus
CH	Christos	Christ
TH	Theos	God
U	Uios	Son
S	Sotor	Saviour

Jesus Christ Son of God our Saviour.

Submitted by I H Cairns, member of St. Ninians Old Parish Church.



The Word for the World for Today

CREATION TIME

Season of Creation



Running from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the annual event encourages Christians of all denominations to engage in prayer and action for the protection of creation.

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

The next public event will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 21st September 7.30pm at which the guest speaker will be Miriam Adcock from Zero Waste Scotland:

Event theme: 'Think before you buy'.

Poem (author unknown)

This year I stopped to contemplate the kind of gift I'd bring
To lay at the nail-scarred feet of my Gracious Heavenly King.
He's given my very life to me, and the blessings I hold dear,
But I can't come up with anything appropriate, I fear.
Every time I give Him something, He more than doubles the return...
I gave to Him my weakness, His strength He then confirmed
Would always be there for me to securely hold on to.
I gave Him my shattered life – He gave me life anew.
I gave Him my pain and heartbreak, all that troubled my weary soul
He gave me hope and happiness, and made my body whole.
I gave Him all my doubts and fears, the things that stood in the way
Of my daily service in His name – He made them go away.
I offered Him my feeble voice, to sing His praise in song –
He filled my heart with a melody, that will last my whole life long.
I offered Him my hands to serve, to help out those in need,
He gave me the talent to use these tools, so that I would succeed.
I gave Him my life completely, to show His light in a world of night,
He gave me a wonderful testimony, a way to share His light.
I offered Him my eyes to see all that they could take in –
He showed to me a world of fear, unhappiness and sin.
For every gift I gave to Him, He handed back to me
Instructions for their uses – endless possibility
To reach a world that needs to find the Saviour that I found,
So on and on, I serve, for to Him in love I'm bound.

Pea and Ham Soup Recipe

Ingredients

Onion 75 g

Celery 50 g

Potato 150 g

Smoked back bacon 100 g

Unsalted butter 25 g

Frozen garden peas, defrosted 250 g

Ham stock 600 ml

White bread 1 slice

Seasoning

Method

1. Chop the onion, celery, potato and 75 g of the bacon.

Neatly dice the remaining 25 g of bacon and set aside.

2. Melt 10 g of the butter, and sweat the onion, celery, potato and the chopped bacon for 5 minutes.

3. Add the peas and stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes until the vegetables are soft.

4. Cool slightly, then puree the soup until smooth.

5. Remove the crusts from the bread, discard, and dice the remaining bread.

6. Dry fry the diced bacon until crispy, remove and reserve.

7. Melt the remaining butter in the same pan, fry the bread until golden brown and reserve.

8. Reheat the soup, adjust the consistency if required, taste and season.

9. Serve the soup hot, in a clean warm bowl, garnished with the bacon and served with the croutons.

Contributed by Linda Miller, Session Clerk, Viewfield Erskine Church

Cornton Vale and Glenochil Visitors Centres

The charity designated to run the visitors centres is changing its name from Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group to Forth Valley Inclusion (support for people in prison and their visitors). This is to reflect the wider geographical area covered and at the same time the specific support offered. In 2013 we only operated at Cornton Vale, but in 2017 we became involved with Glenochil.

We are busy devising a “Friends” leaflet so that individuals, families, churches and community groups can support the visitors centres. More at a later date.

The new prison presently under construction at Cornton Vale is not due to open now until the summer of 2023, later than expected.

This is a time of transition.

Contributed by Eleanore Hunter, Elder in Park Church

KIRK O' MUIR

Kirk O' Muir is a graveyard on the north side of the Carron Valley Reservoir. A small chapel existed there from early in the 10th century and was dedicated to St Mary. The Chapel became ruinous in the 18th century and was replaced in 1751 by a Chapel at Buckieburn, some four miles away.

In the 17th century Covenanters gathered at Kirk O' Muir. They were people who were committed to maintaining the Presbyterian form of Church government and who vehemently opposed state interference in spiritual matters. As a result of the stance they took, many suffered and were put to death, but this did not diminish their beliefs or make them abandon their principles. Indeed, they remained resolute and it has been said, *'The Covenanters followed hard in the footsteps of Christ and we would do well to be inspired and heartened by them.'*

A service is held at Kirk O' Muir every year on the first Sunday of August at 12 noon and is conducted by the Parish Minister.



The service this year was well attended and the weather conditions were favourable. In his address, the Rev Gary J McIntyre spoke about the challenges facing the Church of Scotland today. He said we could respond to these in one of two ways. We could resign ourselves to believing that the best days of the Church are behind us **or** we could see the challenges as opportunities and rise to them with courage and zeal, the likes of which was displayed by the Covenanters.

The text for the address came from 2nd Timothy Chapter 1 vs 7

'For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.'

Well known Psalms and Paraphrases were sung and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed.

At the close of the service, Clyde and Elma Leggat were warmly thanked for the many years they have conveyed the hymn sheets and offering bags to Kirk O' Muir and for welcoming people to the service. Gary also thanked them for providing him with a welcome cup of tea and sandwich between conducting the earlier service in the Old Parish and the service at Kirk O' Muir! Clyde and Elma have decided it is time to hand over their duties which will now be undertaken by Jack and Maralyn Unsworth.

Contributed by Rev.Gary McIntyre, Minister of St.Ninians Parish Church

Some Iconic Places of Worship around the World

We will travel to the Southern Hemisphere to New Zealand to look at two very different places of worship. The first is **the Church of the Good Shepherd** which stands on the shores of Lake Tekapo in the Southern Island. It is a small Anglican Church, built in 1935 as a memorial church to commemorate the early settlers and today it is used by various denominations. It is one of the most photographed spots in the country. From the beginning it was decided that a feature of the church was to be a plate glass window behind the altar. The church was to be sited so that the window would give a view of the mountains and the lake. It was also decided that the church was to be built “firstly to the glory of God” and secondly, as a memorial to the pioneers of the district. The church was completed in eight months and dedicated on Saturday 3rd August 1935 by his Lordship the Bishop of Christchurch.

On Christmas Day, 1979 the church of the Good Shepherd was part of a live international television link-up showing how Christmas was celebrated around the world. Pictures of the Mackenzie basin, the lake and the Church, were beamed by satellite throughout the Commonwealth and formed part of the Queen’s Christmas broadcast.



Tourists, broadcasts and maintenance are in a way peripheral to the on- going life of this church. The church is first and foremost a place of worship and will continue to be the regular Sunday by Sunday place of worship where the local people in the area come to hear the Word of God and to praise him in song and prayer.

The second church is the **Cardboard Cathedral** formally called the **Transitional Cathedral** in Christchurch. It was constructed after the devastating earthquake to hit Christchurch in 2011, which severely damaged the original Christchurch Anglican Cathedral. It is constructed from cardboard tubes, timber and steel and was designed by the Japanese architect Shigeru Ban and was dedicated on the 15th August 2013.

This temporary Cathedral building, apart from religious services was to be able to host concerts and civic events. It was the first significant building to be opened as part of Christchurch’s rebuild. The building rises 69 feet above the altar. In place of a rose window, the building has triangular pieces of stained glass. It seats around 700 people.



Now we travel northwest to arrive at the island State of Singapore. A multi- cultural city, where the population worship many religions, live in harmony and are able to share in each other’s festivals.

The **Sri Mariamman Temple** is Singapore's oldest Hindu Temple. The temple was founded in 1827 by Nariana Pillai, eight years after the East India Company established a trading settlement in Singapore. Pillai was a government clerk from The Island of Penang who arrived in Singapore with Sir Stamford Raffles.



From its inception, the temple served as a refuge for new immigrants, particularly South Indian Tamil Hindus. Besides being an important place of worship, the temple granted them shelter until they found work and more permanent accommodation. Historically the temple was the registry of marriages for Hindus. At that time, only the priest was authorised to solemnise Hindu marriages in Singapore. Today, in addition to its religious services and functions, the temple promotes various social, cultural and educational activities. Due to its architectural and historical significance, the temple has been gazetted a National Monument and is also a major tourist attraction in Singapore.

Contributed by Ken Christie, member of St.Ninians Old Parish Church

News from Mercy Ships:

Mercy Ships is a Global Christian based Charity which provides free healthcare, and improves healthcare delivery systems in the poorest nations, with its present focus on sub Saharan Africa. For a number of years it has had a hospital ship, the Africa Mercy, which is still in commission (and currently in Senegal; I served on her in Conakry, Guinea) but this summer she has been joined by a



brand new, custom built sister ship – the Global Mercy – which not only has well equipped operating theatres, but has – and is currently using – a Simulation Lab to train local doctors.

She has also developed a “Food for Life” programme to make more efficient farming techniques available which is very relevant and current in the present crises.

Visited by The Princess Royal earlier this year, she requires approximately 400 volunteers on each ship, who pay all their own expenses, and obviously oodles of cash to keep afloat!

Are you interested in either volunteering, or donating?

Both would be hugely appreciated, and contact details are all online.

Contributed by Robin McKinlay, Elder in the Church of the Holy Rude

THE 8th STIRLING (ST. NINIANS) Company, The Boys' Brigade.

The 8th Stirling meets in The Parish Halls, Kirk Wynd, St Ninians;

Anchors (Primary 1- Primary 3) – Wednesday's 6:15pm -7:30pm

Juniors (Primary 4-Primary 6) – Fridays 6:45pm -8pm

Company Section/Seniors (Primary 7 – Secondary 6) – Fridays 8:15pm – 10pm



Our Colour Party represented Stirling and District Battalion at this year's Mid Scottish Queen's Badge Service and Parade to Dunblane Cathedral on 19th June.



The Company held an Awards Night in the High School of Stirling on Friday 10th June. Four senior boys received their President's Badge, the second highest award in the Boys' Brigade, and they will now work towards gaining the Queen's Badge. They are Andrew Newlands, Ewan Cameron, Luca Menichetti and Hugh Bruce.

For further information go to our Facebook page: 8th Stirling – St Ninians Boys' Brigade or email us at 8thstirlingbb@gmail.com

St.Ninians Old Parish Church Sunday Club

Over the last few weeks of the summer term the children of St. Ninians Old Parish Sunday Club enjoyed a varied and wide-ranging programme of lessons and activities.

During Christian Aid week we learned and talked about the work that Christian Aid undertake. The children learned how the money raised during Christian Week is spent by the organisation and how it helps people in different countries around the world.

Prayer is an important element of the Christian faith. The children made prayer chains and considered how the word “CHAT” can help us shape our conversations with God:

C – Confession “I am sorry, God...”

H – Honour “I love you, God...’

A – Ask “Please, God...”

T- Thanks “Thank you, God...”

On the Sunday following Ascension Day we talked about Ascension and when the Sacrament of Communion was being celebrated in the Church, we had our own celebration of the Sacrament in Sunday Club.

We celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with the children making crowns and decorating cupcakes, they had great fun with these activities.

Our session finished with Prize Giving at a Family Service in the Church and a special tea party for the children as part of the regular monthly Fellowship Tea in the Parish Halls following the Church service.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to the new session on **Sunday 21st**

August and hope we can welcome some new families too.

Sunday Club is for children from Nursery to Primary 7. Younger children can attend our crèche.

All welcome.



The Organ in the Church of the Holy Rude

Music plays an important part in worship at the Holy Rude. Central to this is the magnificent 4 manual Rushworth & Dreaper Grand Romantic Organ. Five or six years ago it became clear that it was time for a major restoration of the instrument due to air leaks all over the instrument caused by the leather perishing and problems with the solid state electrics. A decision was taken to refurbish the whole organ including the electrical side of the instrument as well. A restoration fund was started with the intention of getting all the monies needed raised and then completing the work in one go. Money started coming in and almost half of what was needed was raised over the next few years. We were amazed by the generosity of the public.

Then came 'Lockdown' it was clear that fundraising from grants would be limited as there would be so much call for funds from everywhere, so a decision was taken to split the work on the organ into phases. This meant that work could start with the funds that had already been raised. In November 2020 work started with the manual actions being removed to the workshops of Forth Pipe Organs to be releathered. This work was completed by June 2021. Pipes that hadn't been playing for a couple of years were now sounding again, and the very loud 'Hiss' that had been there for ten years or so had now gone. The next section of work was repairing some of the circuit boards in the organ loft in the solid state system for the Swell and Choir organs. Due to shortages of electrical components, along with the Covid situation, this took longer than expected. The last piece of work undertaken was only completed in June this year and now sees the swell organ back under expression for the 1st time in eight months.

The work undertaken so far has made a huge difference: the organ is reliable once more. The next stage of work begins in September when we start releathering the main reservoir bellows and associated wind trunking, starting with the Great heavy pressure and Solo sections. Continued fundraising will enable further refurbishment work to be undertaken.

Ian Boulter, Director of Music, Church of the Holy Rude.

God's Wonderful Gift of Colour and how it features in The Bible

Colour brightens all our lives, but how much reference to colour is to be found in The Bible? The answer is, an amazing amount. The subject of colours holds an important place in the Scriptures.

Right at the start I have to say that colour was very much part of my life for over thirty years. During this time I was employed as a Process Development Engineer with the Swiss Company Ciba, based in Hawkhead Road Paisley. They were producers of coloured pigments for use in paints, ink, and plastics.

Going back to God and the Bible, which is the main theme of this article.

Some years ago when my younger granddaughter, very young at the time, got the story at her nursery or Sunday Club of God flooding the world and Noah and the Ark, she was quite frightened and indeed was crying that this could happen again. However I reassured her that every time a rainbow appeared, that was God promising he would never flood the world again and put her mind to rest! I was told the same story at Sunday School! A rainbow of course is a natural phenomenon due to the physical interaction of the sun's rays with moisture in the atmosphere after rain and the result is one of great beauty. It is an example however of Colour affecting our lives and like all natural phenomena comes from God. This month's Life and Work shows a glorious rainbow in its main picture.

The subject of colours holds an important place in the Scriptures.

As described in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, these four colours, white, purple, blue and scarlet were used in the textures of the tabernacle curtains.

(The tabernacle was the portable earthly dwelling place Of the God of Israel, used by the Israelites from the Exodus until the conquest of Canaan. The inner sanctuary contained The Ark of the Covenant. After 440 years Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem superseded it as the dwelling place of God.)

As part of The Sermon on the Mount, as described In Matthew's gospel, Jesus refers to the beauty and colour of lilies. Telling his followers not to worry about tomorrow. "The lilies in the field neither toil or spin. Not even Solomon in all his finery is dressed as beautiful as a lily". Lilies commonly grow in several colours, including white, yellow, pink, red and orange.

In the wonderful hymn, 'All things bright and beautiful', reference is made to the flowers God made and to their glowing colours. A very important reference to colour is made in the Book of Acts .Lydia, a woman of Thyatira, part of modern Turkey, who dwelt in Philippi, was a 'seller of purple fabric'. She was a proselyte, someone who was originally a gentile but had converted to Judaism. She was a worshiper of God. However, the Lord opened her heart as she heard the Gospel from the lips of Paul. She was baptised and her household with her. She thus became the first in Europe who embraced Christianity. She was a person of considerable wealth, made from her work with purple fabric, and she gave a home to Paul, Luke and their companions.' Now that you have accepted me as a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.' And she insisted on them going.

There is a beautiful stained glass window in my previous church in Kilmarnock, The Laigh Kirk, which depicts Lydia working with the purple fabric and indeed was what gave me the idea of doing an article on colour, particularly as purple is near to blue, the colour I was most involved with in my work at Ciba!

Beautiful coloured stained glass windows, depicting the glories of the gospels are to be found in churches up and down the land. The most beautiful I have come across are in Dornoch Cathedral, in the Highlands. When in Dornoch recently, I was absolutely awe struck by the stained glass windows in the Cathedral. One in particular depicts our Lord in the centre piece with Saint John and other Saints surrounding him including his mother Mary in all her glory. I just cannot describe the beauty and holiness of these colourful stained glass windows. The cathedral dates back to the mid fourteen hundreds-but the work on the stained glass windows started in the mid nineteenth century.

God's gift of colour is all around us. In can be seen in the gardens in many of the streets of Stirling. We live in a wonderful world of colour here in Stirling, and elsewhere in The UK, from John 'Groats to Land's End.

Thanks be to God, the Father of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and our Father in Heaven.

Submitted by Arthur Walls, Elder in St Ninians Old Parish Church.

St. Ninians Old Parish Church:

REMEMBERED WITH LOVE

Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and I am the life'

We give thanks to God for the lives of the following, and commend their loved ones to God's comfort and peace.

Mr Robert Gilchrist 2 Westerlands Drive Stirling	Mrs Jane Garden 17 Broomridge Road St Ninians	Mrs Eleanor Bruce 34 Newhouse Stirling
Mrs Helen Colville 12 Culthenove Place St Ninians	Mrs Olga Montgomery 3 Cunison Crescent Causewayhead, Stirling	Mrs Margaret Rutherford 18 McGrigor Road St Ninians
Mr William Straub 59 Coxithill Road St Ninians	Mrs Janet Parnell 89 Erskine Street St Ninians	Mrs Marion Hunter 21 Laurelhill Place Stirling



Park Church

In loving memory

It is with sadness, but great thankfulness for lives well lived, that we have to share the news of deaths of the following people:

Sarah (Mona) McGhee

Rhona Blair, Wallaceview Care Home

Margaret Derrick, Forth Crescent

Anne Kinnear, Airth Drive

Sheila Lawrence, Orchard Care Home (late of Dalmorglen Park)

Joseph Sinclair, Wallaceview Care Home (former APS beadle now at Bridge of Allan)

Ellen Allerdyce, Annfield Care Home

Wedding Congratulations:

Katie Kilgannon to Lloyd Smith on 14th May 2022 in Park Church



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: NEW CONTRIBUTORS WELCOMED

This newsletter depends on you sending interesting copy to the Editor! Why not send in something for the winter edition?

Any content for the next newsletter must be handed into the Park Church office or sent by e-mail to the Editor **before 5pm on Friday 28th October 2022**

We reserve the right to edit or hold over copy if required.

Please send text as a **Windows** file and photos as **JPEG** format.

Handwritten text is accepted but should be in as early as possible please

Any submissions received **AFTER** 5pm on the copy deadline will be held over for the next issue.

WINTER EDITION COVERS DECEMBER 2022 TO END OF FEBRUARY 2023

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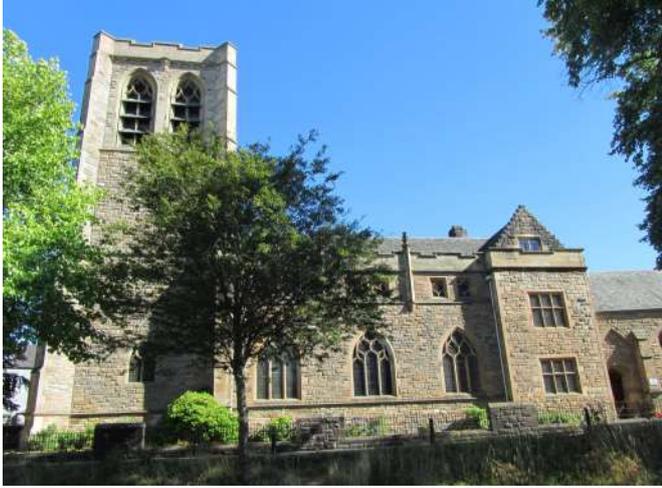
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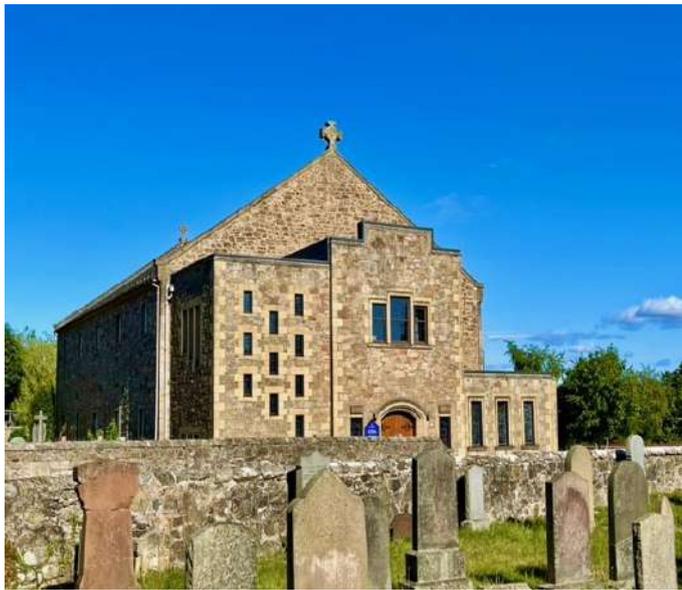
The Church of Scotland in Stirling City Centre



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Church of the Holy Rude
Stirling linked with
Viewfield Erskine Church



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