

Douglas' story



Hello I'm Douglas.

This is a picture of me in my church, Dalry St Margaret's. I was christened in St Margaret's and it is very special to me. I love my church and all my friends there. I go to church every Sunday. I am on the Social Committee and help with teas after the service on a Sunday. I also help with the Care and Share Lunch on a Monday and I am on the Messy Church Team.

I love hearing about Jesus, singing and praying for all my family and friends. Jesus is my friend and he walks with me and I trust Him. I also enjoy all my Prospects online meetings and meeting up with my friends at Praise Pals in Kilwinning. I am going to

Prospects Tulliallan Holiday Weekend with Mum and my friend Alison, and I am really looking forward to it.

Group news



Above - Friends of Jesus group at Brightons enjoyed a joint meeting with the church choir and had a great sing along and a lovely tea together.



Above - Friendship Club and Following Jesus groups, as well as others at St Columba's church at Kirkintilloch, raised the amazing amount of £470.84 for PAS by filling smartie tubes with money.

Zoom activities

With a grant from RTR Foundation we are able to run the following Zoom activities, some old favourites as well as exciting new events:

- Prospects Choir**
- Drama**
- Hear my Music**
- Coffee morning**

In addition we also still have our regular

- Bible Buddies Bible Study Group** and
- Precious Gems Prospects Group**



Left - Inverness group telling the story of the 'Road to Emmaus' at the church service at Culduthel Christian Centre

Training we offer and new drop-in sessions

PAS aims to support churches in welcoming and including people with learning disabilities and autism. We offer training opportunities, either in-person or online:

Autism in the Church Family – covering a biblical perspective, what is autism, sensory processing, communication, strategies and ideas for churches, stories, discussion and questions.

The Prospects Roadshow – an introductory session to learning disabilities and autism, biblical perspectives, some simple tips and ideas for welcome, inclusion and belonging. This is ideal for churches beginning to think about these areas.

Worship For All – A more in-depth look at ways to worship together as people of all abilities. This includes biblical perspectives, practical issues, thinking creatively about worship, opening up the Bible, prayer and communication. This is a longer session which includes some practical experience of multi-sensory worship.

Growing Together – a monthly Zoom chat to discuss learning disabilities and faith. This is open to all, and covers different topics each month. Our upcoming sessions are on Monday May 13th and Monday June 10th, both at 7-8pm.

Email hilary.lacroix@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk for your invitation.

If you would like more information about any aspect of our sessions, or support that we might be able to offer, please do get in touch. We aim to make training very affordable for churches regardless of size.

Thank you

In 2023 our fundraising campaign reached **£20,643.89**. We thank you for your efforts and support through fundraising events and donations which made this a success.

We are also extremely thankful for our current funders John James Trust, Paristamen Charity, Spill the Beans and RTR Foundation,

There is a need for ongoing funding and we have now launched our new fundraising campaign **£20k more in 2024**. The funding is needed so that we can reach more people with learning disabilities and autism and help them develop their faith and build friendships in church communities – a place to belong and where each one has gifts and skills to contribute.



We plan to start a fundraising group - can you help?

Please contact Ivy if you would like to be involved

Easter Service for all

Hosted by Breich Valley Friends of Jesus group, Stoneyburn



The pictures and a few of many quotes, show and tell the joy of the day better than words.

"A joyful celebration amongst new friends"

"What a wonderful afternoon learning about Jesus and his love for us. The singing was amazing and the lesson inclusive and the Holy Spirit was amongst us! "

"I enjoyed processing around the room following 'Jesus' and waving my palm branch."

"The most special start to our Easter Celebration EVER! Thank you all at Breich Valley Church."

"Fantastic to meet all our friends."

"Wonderful afternoon everyone was so friendly and happy. Songs and singing was great. Enjoyed every minute."

"We enjoyed celebrating the start of Holy week and look forward to the Bible readings."

Thanks for Service to PAS

A very big thank you to Robert Callahan and Lindsey Rowlands who have served as Trustees for 6 years and have now stepped down as this is the maximum time they can be on the Board. Both Robert and Lindsey helped with the application for PAS to become a charity in 2018.

Lindsey has agreed to continue her involvement with PAS in the role of volunteer book-keeper.

Future events

Look out for future events on our **website** and **Facebook** or get in touch by phone or email.

Ivy Blair, Management Co-ordinator

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Check our **Prospects Across Scotland** Scotland Facebook page

Website <https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/>

Scottish Charity Number SC048143

Supporting the work of Prospects Across Scotland

- By praying - if you don't already get our prayer diary please ask Jennifer admin@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk
- By giving financially - either a one-off gift or by monthly standing order – see details on our website or contact Ivy
- Leave a gift to PAS in your will
- By shopping - register with Give as you live <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/> Please remember to use our full name **Prospects Across Scotland** when registering
- By offering practical help as a Trustee, in groups and at events.

Meet our Trustees

We are delighted to introduce our four new Trustees to the Board of PAS and find how why they became a Trustee?

Linda Sharp (Chairperson)

After many years as a Prospects Group leader I recently felt led to serve as a Trustee of Prospects Across Scotland. The retiring Trustees have done a great job and it has been so encouraging to see God answering prayers for more Trustees to join the Board. PAS is close to my heart because I believe that people with learning disabilities, like my son, should be able to take their place in church, have their gifts recognized and valued, and play their part as members of the body of Christ.



Through PAS we can encourage them in their spiritual lives and give them opportunities for friendship and fellowship, as well as encouraging and equipping churches to fully welcome people with learning disabilities.

Stuart Collins (Treasurer)

I became involved with adults with learning disabilities over 20 years ago as my wife was instrumental in the setting up of our Celebration Group at our Church, Deeside Christian Fellowship.



I also helped take the attendees to and from Church.

As Mission Committee Chairman I included our Celebration Group in an outing to Leith to visit the Operation Mobilisation ship the Logos Hope.

On a visit to the Keswick Convention, I was thrilled to see how inclusive they were towards all people with learning disabilities.

I felt drawn towards becoming more involved in serving and was prayerfully guided to approach Prospects Across Scotland to offer

Helen Eckford

I am a member of Port Glasgow, New Parish Church. I am passionate about the Church of Scotland Guild and in 2022 and 2023, I was National Convener of the Guild. I first heard about the work of Prospects when it was one of the Guild Projects several years ago. I love what Prospects does by helping adults with learning disabilities to take part fully in church activities and I felt that working with Prospects could be another step on my faith journey. I became a Trustee at the end of 2023, and it has been a good decision.



Alan Macfarlane

I was invited last autumn to become a trustee.

I retired last summer after serving 31 years as an elder in Brightons Parish Church.



As a member and elder I can remember the creation of the Friends of Jesus Group within the church for people with learning disabilities so they could learn more about Jesus. It is now an opportunity to meet and hear about the valuable work the organisation undertakes throughout the country.



Three more trustees are needed to complete the Board.

Would you be interested? Contact Ivy if you would like to know more.