

## Rebekah's Story

Rebekah was baptised at Nicolson Square Methodist Church in Edinburgh and throughout childhood spent Sundays travelling around East Lothian, Edinburgh and Fife (Edinburgh and Forth circuit) as both her parents were Methodist local preachers. She took part in Sunday School along with her sisters and always enjoyed hymns and children's choruses. She attended confirmation classes with her elder sister Ruth and became a member of Livingston Ecumenical Parish in December 2008.

In 2009 Rebekah was a founding member of SPRED Livingston encouraged by local priest Father Jeremy Bath. Over the years she formed lovely relationships with her catechists, particularly enjoying the sharing of food and the farewell 'Shalom' song at the end of each meeting.

Rebekah's life of worship was further expanded when she joined her local Prospects Across Scotland, 'Friends of Jesus' at Breich Valley Church in 2012. She takes part in craft activities using stickers and gluing/stamping craft materials and uses a BIGmack communicator to offer a bible reading during worship.

Since 2013 Rebekah has been a member of her local church, Livingston South Community Church, where she is very well known by her church family. She enjoys clapping and rocking during worship when she recognises old hymns that she has known for many years. She likes the social time after services sitting round the table with friends, listening to the chat.

Rebekah has Down syndrome, autism and a profound learning disability so it is challenging to understand what Jesus means to her but sharing worship with her brothers and sisters in Christ in many different ways has enabled her to feel part of God's family and be accepted as one of God's children. The words of a Prospects song come to mind -

**'God loves you just the way you are'.**

**Rebekah's story is told by her sister Rachel**



## Zoom Groups

**Precious Gems** is our Zoom Prospects group. It started so that people who can't attend a local group can meet together on Zoom to sing, hear a Bible story, pray and meet up with friends – sometimes we have a drama or a quiz. Some people come along who also go to a local church group – all are welcome.



**Precious Gems has a new meeting time – it's now monthly on a Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock.**

If you or someone you know would like to come along and try Precious Gems, please get in touch.

**Bible Buddies** meets fortnightly on a Monday morning and it's our opportunity to look a bit more at a Bible passage and talk about it so we are all learning more about our friend Jesus together. We use the Quick and Easy Read Bible and I can send anyone who wants to come to Bible Buddies a copy – just let me know.



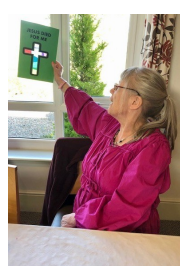
**Weekly drop-in prayer time** meets on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. This is our opportunity to pray for the work of Prospects and listen to God's direction for the way ahead.



**Contact Ivy on 07827 939 520 [ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)**

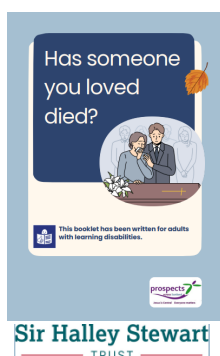
## Easter for All

Our northern groups received some funding to hold a special day 'to make memories'. On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, more than 60 people came together in Inverness, including Prospects Dingwall and Inverness as well as four of our friends from the Buckie Lighthouse and Footprints groups. Quite a few had really dressed up, including a spectacular Easter hat! After drinks and cakes, we gathered to celebrate 'Jesus our King' with group members helping lead singing, music, readings and a joyful procession. Following the celebration, everyone sat down for a two course lunch, complete with hot drinks and after dinner mints. One of our helpers came with an armful of embroidered vintage tablecloths, so along with beautiful flowers, napkins and name cards, it did look great. One of the carers said 'This is wonderful, like being in a posh hotel!' Catherine, our photographer did an amazing job. She set up a studio and managed to photograph everyone during the day, print out pictures and put them in cardboard frames for everyone to take home. After the meal, people sat at their tables and relaxed with crafts and games. The weather was beautiful so some people also had the opportunity to relax in the sun in the church garden. After a final song everyone went home with a wee egg, booklet about the Easter story, a King Jesus magnet and their photo and some of the flowers. It was definitely a memorable day for all of us, and we are so grateful to 'Jennifer's Fund' for making it possible.



## Two new PAS booklets

### Bereavement Booklet



We have produced an Easy Read booklet to support people with learning disabilities at times of bereavement.

We are grateful to the 'Sir Halley Stewart Trust' for funding this much needed project.

We have learned how important it is for people with learning disabilities to be given space, time and expression for their grief and our hope is this booklet will help them through the process.

The booklet is available to download from our website <https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/about-prospects/prospects-across-scotland-resources/>

or if you would like a copy of this booklet or further information, please contact - [hilary.lacroix@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:hilary.lacroix@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)

### 'Our Stories' Book-

We are grateful to the 'Bishop Radford Trust' for providing the funding to produce this booklet and pray you are encouraged when you read it.

In this booklet you will be able to read about 12 people with learning disabilities from around Scotland – all unique and special with gifts and talents to share to build up the church and to encourage others.

The booklet is available for download from our website

[https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm\\_downloads/our-stories-booklet/](https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm_downloads/our-stories-booklet/)

or if you would like a copy of this booklet sent to you, all we will ask is you pay for p&p.

For any further information, please contact - [admin@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)



## Meet our new Trustees

We are delighted to introduce two new Trustees to the Board of PAS and find why they became a Trustee.

### Heather Haywood

Hello,  
I'm Heather and I joined Prospects Across Scotland as a trustee last summer. I live in Falkirk where I work as a GP and we have two sons and a daughter-in-law.



A long time ago we had a lovely friend called Brian at our church. He would have loved to be part of a Prospects group if there had been one and I hope, that as a trustee, I can help make it possible for lots of people like Brian to have a group they can be part of.

I met some of you at my first Celebration Day last year and have also visited the Friends of Jesus group nearby. I hope to meet lots more of you over the next few years.

### Malcolm Kinnear

It was nearly 20 years ago now and I was a befriender to a young man with Down syndrome. We used to go to a Christian gathering for people with a learning disability. I saw how the people there enjoyed being together and praising God. The young man I was with got his chance to speak from the front. I will always remember that. Later I was working at a Church of Scotland housing support unit for adults with various forms of disability and I got to know more of the people who stayed in it. It was good to see many of them getting involved in a local church. Today I see how Prospects Across Scotland can help people find fellowship and get to know Jesus better, and find their voice, live their lives for Jesus and show his love.



## Prospects Across Scotland needs your help



We have two volunteering opportunities to offer – could you

- ♦ be our treasurer to help oversee PAS finances? This person must be willing to join the Board as a Trustee.
- ♦ help with PAS social media so we can let more people hear about our work?

For more information contact Ivy on 07827 939 520

[ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)

## Training opportunities

PAS is able to offer a range of training to help your church become an even more welcoming and inclusive place - often it's small things that make a big difference. Current training courses which can be run on Zoom or in person are

- Worship for All
- Autism in the church family
- Supporting people with learning disabilities when someone they have loved has died.

Contact [hilary.lacroix@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:hilary.lacroix@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk).

## Job opportunity in PAS

An exciting job opportunity has arisen and job advert attached. Recruitment pack can be downloaded from the website [https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm\\_downloads/recruitment-](https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm_downloads/recruitment-)



## Future events

- ♦ **PAS Annual Celebration**, Saturday afternoon, 25th October, Dunfermline
- ♦ **PAS Carol Concert**, Saturday afternoon, 6th December in Kirkintilloch

For more information:

Tel: 07827939520

Email: [info@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)

Dates  
for your  
DIARY

## Thrive in '25 Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have continued to donate, many on a regular basis and the current total raised this year so far is £12,249.42



It is essential that we raise this money so PAS can continue to operate effectively so we are very grateful for the continued support of individuals.

It is also encouraging for PAS when local groups and individuals are also willing to organise events or think of small ways of raising money to support us.

Recently the.

- The Friendship Club and Following Jesus group, Kirkintilloch, enjoyed doing a sponsored walk. We are very grateful for the £1757.70 they have donated.
- The Celebration group at Deeside held a Tartan Tea and raised £1080
- Brightons Friends of Jesus group held a fundraising puppet show and raised £490.10. With thanks also to The People's Puppets for giving their time to support this event.

You can see photographs of these events on our website [https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm\\_downloads/fundraising-events-spring-2025/](https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk/sdm_downloads/fundraising-events-spring-2025/)

Maybe you or your group could consider running an event or doing a simpler idea like filling Smartie tubes with coins or something similar. We would love to hear from you if you can. All donations small and large are appreciated.

**Thanks from all at PAS.**

## Contact details

Ivy Blair, Management Co-ordinator

Email:

[info@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

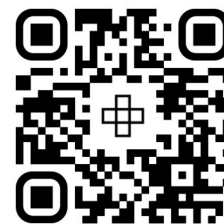
Check our **Prospects Across Scotland** Scotland Facebook page

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](mailto: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. You may also scan our QR code with your mobile phone to access our charity's Stewardship Partner Profile and give a gift.



- 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.

## Funders

We are thankful also to our funders:-

- ♦ John James Trust
- ♦ RTR Foundation
- ♦ Paristamen Charity
- ♦ Claremont Trust
- ♦ Benefact Trust
- ♦ Sir Halley Stewart Trust
- ♦ Anchor Foundation
- ♦ The Bishop Radford Trust

