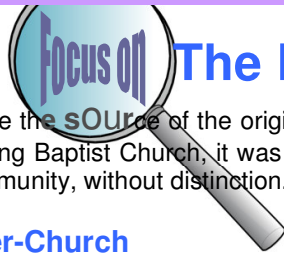




ROCK NEWS



The Rock and The Rest

While the **source** of the original vision for The Rock and much of its on-going support is Stirling Baptist Church, it was always hoped that The Rock would engage with the whole community, without distinction. So, how are we doing in the 'inclusive' stakes?

Inter-Church

Inter-denominational co-operation is not the easiest furrow to hoe. Denominations exist because of schisms in the past over principles still sometimes dearly held, even if animosity is long gone. Christians Together are doing a sterling job encouraging churches to live up to that title, and hopefully, The Rock is making a small contribution too. Rev. Ken Russell of St. Columba's Church of Scotland and Rev. Judy White of Stirling Baptist Church are Directors of The Rock. City Centre Chaplain Douglas Wright is part of the Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland team and the Rock is represented on its governing Council. Douglas is also secretary to the Stirling Ministers' Fraternal. Having three prisons close by, Stirling has a clear need for the kind of support that churches working together can offer, and The Rock is actively engaged in this area. The concept of The Rock as a means through which Christians of all complexions can engage with the community may be ambitious, but not necessarily pie in the sky.



– a strategic location, well used.

In addition to its own operations, The Rock is able to support other community groups by accommodating some of their activities. Among these are: •Group for Adopted People; •Stirling Council Youth Support Services; •Association for Family Therapy; •Volunteer Centre, Managers' Forum; •Christian Network Group; •XY Breakfast; •Quiet Waters Counselling. We have also had enquiries from Christian Union, The Bridge (Homeless Support) and Cruse Bereavement Counselling.

CAST - The Rock's Youth Programme.

CAST is a key part of the youth scene in Stirling, earning tremendous respect and support from Stirling Council youth services as well as its own clientele, which now includes some young people from PLUS - a Stirling-based organisation for 12 – 19 year olds with disabilities. On their own initiative, CAST young people raised £316 for Children in Need, demonstrating their willingness to give as well as take. *Client comment: "It's had a positive impact on me. I've learned more about myself."*



Inter-Faith

Although its core values are clearly Christian, The Rock is not an evangelistic venture. It is committed to serving the whole community without distinction of any kind and its record of integrity in this respect has enabled it to work along with faith groups as well as bodies who are legally or constitutionally prevented from 'promoting' any faith, such as Stirling Council or Central Scotland Council for Racial Equality. Our fractured society needs all the opportunities it can get for people of integrity and good will to work together towards community harmony.

Start-Up is a local charity, representing 21 churches from 5 denominations. The primary goal is to help people who are moving from a position of homelessness into a long-term tenancy by providing some of the basic necessities they need at that time. These include small household goods, food and cleaning materials. Christine (The Rock Centre Manager) is also the Project Coordinator for Start-Up and The Rock Centre is its registered office. *Client comment: "I never thought people would care enough to do this."*

Opportunities @ The Rock

- **Pray** for the community: Wednesdays 7.15—8.00 am in The Rock Centre.
- **REFRESH Seminars:** Welcomers, catering team, reception, programme planning, chairing.
- **Money Matters:** Budget coaching, presenters (training provided).
- **Website Administrator.**
- **Marketing**
- **Start-Up**
Donations of household goods welcome. If you have a few hours a month to spare, Start-Up needs volunteers for packing/transporting goods, diy, befriending and supporting homeless individuals and families. Contact your church Start-Up rep. Or Christine at The Rock.
- **Youth team (CAST):** sport, art, dance, music, getting to know the youngsters.

Interested? Contact Christine.

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✉ admin@rockcommunityproject.org.uk

The **CAST** Team will be leading the **REFRESH Lunchtime Seminar** on 8 May, sharing **Insights into The ASBO Generation.**



1 – 2 pm in The Rock.
Book your place with Christine.

April 2008