

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HM FORCES

MAY 2011

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Reaffirm the support of the Church of Scotland for all who serve in Her Majesty's Forces as Chaplains, and thank them for their outstanding service to military personnel and their families.
3. Acknowledge with particular gratitude the dedicated service of chaplains on operations in Afghanistan and the immeasurable support shown by their own families.
4. Commend to the prayers of all members of the Church of Scotland not just our Chaplains but all members of HM Forces who serve on operations, and their families.
5. Recognise the heightened levels of stress and anxiety visited on military communities by the current Strategic Defence and Security Review, and the extra burden this brings to those with responsibility for pastoral care.
6. Commend the Firm Base Initiative as a means by which local churches can engage effectively with those in the military community.
7. Commend to eligible ministers of the Church consideration of service as a Chaplain to HM Forces.
8. Congratulate The Rev Scott J Brown QHC, a minister of the Church of Scotland, on his appointment as Chaplain of the Fleet.

REPORT

1. Introduction

The wider Church should be in no doubt as to the high regard in which Chaplains to HM Forces are held by those amongst whom they serve. Military personnel from all three Services, of all ranks, recently returned from operational duties in Afghanistan have been quick to point out that the Chaplain or Padre is an essential member of the team, to whom they will not hesitate to turn in time of need. They talk freely and without any hint of embarrassment about their readiness to share their innermost thoughts, fears and concerns with chaplains, and about their very real appreciation of the support, encouragement and reassurance they receive. Were they not serving in the Armed Forces, many of these young men and women simply would not otherwise encounter a minister of the Church, or the message of the Gospel.

2. Recruitment

It is clear that such specialised ministry is as essential as ever and, despite the uncertainties generated by the Strategic Defence and Security Review, recruitment of chaplains remains a vital aspect of the Committee's work. It is highly encouraging that at the time of writing, and indeed for the first time in a considerable number of years, there are Church of Scotland chaplains in the pipeline of all three branches of the Armed Forces. But, just as the operational tempo continues relentlessly, so does the need for chaplains. Eligible ministers are strongly encouraged to consider this particular form of ministry. Initial enquiries can be made without any obligation and in strictest confidence to the Convener or Secretary of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces. Applications are welcome not only for regular service but for part-time

chaplaincy in the Royal Naval Reserve, the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Force, the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Air Training Corps, all of which offer exciting opportunities to engage at various levels with the military community.

3. Firm Base Initiative

The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the interest shown in the Armed Forces, both Regular and Reserve, by the outgoing Moderator, the Very Rev John Christie, not only through his visits but through his support for the Firm Base Initiative, which seeks to support serving personnel and their families while at the same time engaging effectively with the wider community.

4. Administration

At last year's General Assembly Douglas Hunter stepped down after twenty years of "long service and good conduct" as Honorary Secretary to the Committee. Here too the Committee wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation of the inestimable work he has done over the years and of the friendship and support he has given to countless chaplains and their families. In his place John Thomson from the Ministries Council has been appointed our Secretary, and in welcoming him onboard we welcome also the closer links with the Council that his appointment brings.

In the name of the Committee

NEIL N GARDNER, *Convener*
ANDREW V M MURRAY, *Vice-Convener*
JOHN K THOMSON, *Secretary*

ADDENDUM

Andrew V M Murray

This year's Assembly marks the conclusion of Andrew Murray's term as Vice-Convener. He has served the Committee quietly and faithfully and communicated with Chaplains regularly and conscientiously and we are all grateful to him.

In the name of the Committee

NEIL N GARDNER, *Convener*
JOHN K THOMSON, *Secretary*

APPENDIX I CHAPLAINCY IN THE ROYAL NAVY

It has been another busy year for the Naval Service. (Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary) Our primary aim remains to support the UK's contribution to operations. In Afghanistan today, the Royal Marines, Naval helicopters, Naval Special Forces and numerous augmentees from logisticians, engineers, medics and Chaplains, and both Royal Naval and Royal Marines Reserves are taking part in demanding and intensive operations. 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines, an integral part of the Naval Service, are currently leading the UK's efforts in Helmand Province. We must not forget the true cost of these operations and tragically, a significant number of our Servicemen and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan; with Church of Scotland Chaplains being involved in the care of the bereaved, both in theatre and with the families in the UK.

The surface fleet, submarine service, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary all continue to contribute to the defence of the UK, protecting our maritime trade across the world, reassuring legitimate users of the sea, exerting influence on behalf of the UK Government through a programme of engagement and presence, and building trust, co-operation and friendships.

All of this is set against the backdrop of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). We will see a reduction in the number of naval personnel over the next few years, bringing much uncertainty to our people and their families.

Naval Chaplains, both Regular and Reserve, continue to serve in the front line, at sea and on land operations. It is their privilege to take the ministry of the church, and indeed the message of the Gospel, to the Service community wherever they are serving in the world today. Naval Chaplaincy continues a long tradition of care for the seafarer, and in being the friend and advisor to all on board.

Chaplains are grateful to the Church of Scotland Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces for their support through the year, their wise counsel and ongoing pastoral care of Chaplains and their families.

The number of Church of Scotland Chaplains in the Navy today is critically low. Any Minister who would like to explore this area of ministry, either full-time or as a Reservist, please do make contact with the Chaplain of the Fleet or with the Convener. We can normally recruit up to age 49 on an initial commission of 6 years, but there is flexibility too. (scott.brown943@mod.uk or call 023 9262 5055.)

The Rev Scott J Brown QHC was appointed as Chaplain of the Fleet and Director General Naval Chaplaincy Service on 1 November 2010. Scott is grateful to the Church for its support and on-going good wishes as he leads the Naval Chaplaincy Service.

The Rev Dr Scott J S Shackleton Royal Navy

Scott re-joined the Royal Navy in 2010 after a period in parish ministry. Scott has been appointed to be Chaplain to 45 Commando Royal Marines, based in Arbroath. At the time of the General Assembly, Scott will be serving in Afghanistan.

The Rev Stan Kennon Royal Navy

Stan continues to serve in HMS DRAKE in Plymouth. DRAKE not only supports the men and women of the Devonport Flotilla, but also has responsibility for Hasler Company. Hasler Company supports injured personnel, mostly from the Royal Marines, as they return from operational theatre with life-changing injuries.

The Rev Mark Dalton Royal Navy

Mark continues to serve in HMS RALEIGH, the Royal Navy's initial training establishment. As Chaplaincy Team Leader, he teaches and offers pastoral support to new trainees whilst co-ordinating the work of the Chaplaincy Department.

The Rev Stevie Thomson Royal Navy

Stevie is now serving in the ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). The RFA, as an integral part of the Naval Service, supports front-line operations in all areas of the world.

The Rev Alen McCulloch Royal Navy

Alen has just completed a sea-going appointment in the ships of the Devonport Flotilla. Alen leaves the Naval Service this year, and we wish him and his family every blessing for the future as they return to civilian ministry.

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean Royal Naval Reserve

Marjory has given an 8 month period of full-time service during the past year, serving both at sea on anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean and on land operations in Kabul. We wish Marjory every blessing as she returns to parish ministry, and look forward to her ongoing valuable contribution to the Naval Reserve in Rosyth.

The Rev Ross McDonald Royal Naval Reserve

Ross continues to serve the men and women of the Naval Reserve at HMS DALRIADA in Greenock. The Reserves play an increasing role in operations, with the RNR Chaplain playing a key role in their care and the care of their families.

The Rev Mark Davidson Royal Naval Reserve

Mark also serves at HMS SCOTIA in Rosyth, ministering to the men and women of the Royal Naval Reserve. By the time of the General Assembly, Mark will have completed his PhD and will have jumped the fence and be serving as a Regular Chaplain in the Royal Navy. Mark is looking at service with the Royal Marines.

APPENDIX 2 CHAPLAINCY IN THE ARMY

Church of Scotland Chaplains exercise their ministry within the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in all categories: as Regular Chaplains, as Chaplains to the Territorial Army and to the Army Cadet Force, and as Officiating Chaplains. The nature of the campaign in Afghanistan makes great demands upon our soldiers and their families and shows very clearly the challenging context in which chaplaincy operates. The Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD) has a vital role to play as part of the Army of today. Prospective applicants for this rewarding and exciting ministry are most warmly encouraged to contact the Convenor or Secretary of the Committee. There is always a need for new Regular Chaplains, and specific vacancies within other categories are identified in the list below.

The Rev Dr David Coulter QHC has completed three years as Principal of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre at Amport House. He is to be warmly congratulated upon his promotion to Deputy Chaplain General in June 2011. Rev Angus MacLeod assumed the new post of Deputy Assistant Chaplain General for 51 (Scottish) Brigade, with responsibility for day to day chaplaincy across Scotland. Fr Tony Paris QHC is the new Assistant Chaplain General 2nd Division with overall responsibility for chaplaincy across Scotland and the North of England.

Church of Scotland chaplains continue to play a significant role on operations. Their almost continuous presence is a reminder of the role being played by Scottish soldiers. Rev

Benjamin Abeledo was Senior Chaplain to 4 Mech Brigade on its deployment to Afghanistan (March – October 2010.) His team included Rev Rory MacLeod, Chaplain to 1 Scots. Rev Stewart MacKay is currently deployed in the same theatre of operations with 5 Scots. Rev Hector MacKenzie will deploy with 4 Scots (April – October 2011) and Rev Seoras MacKenzie will deploy with 3 Scots (October 2011 – Mar 2012.) Rev Jim Aitchison is to be congratulated for the award of a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service for his work at the hospital in Camp Bastion while deployed in 2010.

This year Rev Paul van Sittert was recruited as Chaplain to Scottish Transport Regiment (V).

Rev David Thom visited soldiers of 105 Regiment Royal Artillery in the Falklands.

In 2010 the Army Cadet Force celebrated one hundred and fifty years with its Cadet 150 programme. Amongst many occasions, 1st Bn Highlanders ACF held a service and parade in Inverness Cathedral. Rev Ivan Warwick, the senior padre of the battalion, wrote a hymn for the occasion based on the cadet prayer.

The work at home in support of deployed units and personnel and families is clearly very considerable, and the involvement of TA, ACF and Officiating Chaplains in ministering to the wider military community, either routinely, in an uncertain economic climate or in response to grief and tragedy, is witness both to the demands of war and to the ethos of the RACHD.

The Army has received excellent support from this year's Moderator. The Right Rev John Christie visited both Regular and TA soldiers and families. His interest has culminated in a letter to all Presbytery Clerks with regard to the military's Firm Base Initiative. In essence, the Firm Base seeks to optimise support for military personnel from the key agencies in the civilian world, (Health, Education, Social Services, Church etc) while also encouraging

military engagement with the civilian community. It is perceived that many congregations are seeking creative ways to support members of the military community. It is hoped the Firm Base will be a vehicle to assist that.

The work of our chaplains is best conveyed by their own reflections:

Rev Chris Rowe, Chaplain to 32 Signal Regt completed his TA Professionally Qualified Officers' Course at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the only chaplain on the course:

I found that this was one of the best chances to put chaplaincy into practice as I shared in the same circumstances as the rest of my comrades. Taking part in a Field service with his course companions: There was something very special about worshipping under the darkening canopy of tall pine trees in the middle of our platoon harbour position as the sun was setting. At Annual Camp, an outdoor service was organised which included an X-Factor-style squadron sing-off.

A new tradition established, the Christmas carol service received the same treatment!

Rev Stephen Blakey, Chaplain to 6 Scots writes:

As part of the unit welfare team I provide support to soldiers and their families and friends before, during and after their period of operational service. Regular soldiers live and work within a well structured caring organisation that maintains contact with them and their dependants at all times. The military side of life of TA soldiers is very often quite separate from their civilian work and family, and there are special challenges in ensuring that each soldier receives as high a standard of support as his or her regular comrade. The chaplain is an important part of the caring team.

Rev Fraser Stewart, Chaplain to 1st Bn Hldrs ACF

The Annual camp remains the highlight of the year for most ACF Chaplains – ranging from sunscreen-essential to soaked

to the skin. Distance and increasing financial restraint do not make the visiting of cadets easy. The variety of background of cadet from island or village to town or city is an interesting part of the work with differing experiences and outlooks. The biggest joy is the meeting with many younger people who are seen as unchurched but have questions, ideas and hopes that the church has to listen to and reflect upon.

Rev Benjamin Abeledo, Senior Chaplain 4 Mechanized Brigade: part of a reflection on the Desert Experience.

It's hard to imagine anywhere being 32 degrees at night and 50 degrees (peak time) during the day. It's like someone sticking a hair dryer in your face, and you can't find the off-switch.

What can you or I expect in a dry and arid desert? In Helmand province (Afghanistan), whilst we do find areas which are lush with green vegetation and green mountains, for most of it, it is a dry, sandy and harsh environment. It is here in this unwelcome environment where we find our troops serving day in and day out, patrolling in the baking heat, carrying weights which often can exceed 100 pounds for hours on end, and of course not forgetting the threat to limb and life. The heat, the anxiety, the isolation and the vastness of the landscape is mind numbing and at times overwhelming. The term godforsaken comes to mind.

Then a realization hits me, as you experience and reflect where you are, it becomes quite apparent that there are no distractions here. Existence is reduced to the basics.

But after you have done this, and if you happen to be at all inclined toward the spiritual, you have all the time in the world to gain a proper perspective on God and issues of life and death. What is the proper perspective? It's this: He is everything and I am nothing. The desert sucks all pride out of you. It shows you your own need. It deepens your character, broadens your awareness, so that you begin to see the needs of others, including your own.

Church of Scotland Army Chaplains

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1. | Rev B J A Abeledo | HQ 4 Mech Bde
Baden Powell House
Scottton Road
Catterick Garrison
DL9 3JS | 8. | Rev D V F Kingston | Chaplain
39 Engr Regt
Waterbeach Barracks
Waterbeach
Cambridgeshire
CB5 9PA |
| 2. | Rev J W Aitchison | HQ 101 Log Bde
Buller Barracks
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 2BY | 9. | Rev S A MacKay | 5 SCOTS
Howe Barracks
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1JU |
| 3. | Rev D Anderson | 1(UK) ADSR
Hammersmith Barracks
BFPO 15 | 10. | Rev H M MacKenzie | 4 SCOTS & 2 Bn REME
St Barbara Barracks
BFPO 38 |
| 4. | Rev D Connolly | 36 Eng Regt
Invicta Park Barracks
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 2NA | 11. | Rev S L Mackenzie | 3 SCOTS
Fort George
Ardersier
Inverness
IV1 2TD |
| 5. | Rev Dr D G Coulter QHC | AFCC
Amport House
Amport
Andover
Hants
SP11 8BG | 12. | Rev C A MacLeod | HQ 51 (Scottish) Bde
Forthside
Stirling
FK7 7RR |
| 6. | Rev J C Duncan | Chaplain
3 YORKS
Battlesbury Barracks
Warminster
Wilts
BA12 0DJ | 13. | Rev R N MacLeod | 1 Bn The Royal Regiment
of Scotland
(RS) (1 SCOTS)
Dreghorn barracks
Edinburgh
EH13 9QW |
| 7. | Rev Dr J Francis | Chaplain
2 Royal Anglian
Dhekelia
BFPO 58 | 14. | Rev D J MacPherson | Chaplain
HQ Hereford Garrison
Hereford
HR4 7DD |

Also serving from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Rev N G McDowell	3 AAC Wattisham Airfield Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7RA
Rev Dr S P Swinn	11 EOD Regt RLC Vauxhall Barracks Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 7ES
Rev M Henderson	Aldergrove Station N I Salamanca Barracks BFPO 53
Rev S W Van Os	1 R Irish Clive Barracks Tern Hill Shropshire TF9 3QE
Rev H M Rendell	Lancers RHQ 3 RHA Caen Barracks BFPO 30

Location of Territorial Army Chaplains

6 Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Rev S A Blakey
105 Regiment Royal Artillery [V]	Rev D J Thom
32 [Scottish] Signal Regiment [V]	Rev C J Rowe
225 [Highland] Field Ambulance [V]	Rev Miss N Frail
205 [Scottish] Field Hospital [V]	Rev L Kinsey, TD
Scottish Transport Regt (V)	Rev P van Sittert

Also serving from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

152(U) Amb Regt (V)	Rev Prof J P Taylor MBE
204 (NI) Fd Hosp(V)	Rev Dr D Latimer
253 (North Irish) Div(V)	Rev C Jones

Location of Army Cadet Force Chaplains

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Bn	Rev R D M Campbell, OSTJ, TD
Black Watch Bn	Rev Dr I C Barclay, MBE, TD
Glasgow & Lanark Bn	Rev J E Andrews
1 Bn The Highlanders	Rev I C Warwick, TD Rev F Stewart
2 Bn The Highlanders	Rev T Bryson
West Lowland Bn	Rev D M Almond Rev R MacDonald
Cumbria ACF	Rev D J Thom
Shetland Independent Bty ACF	Rev K T Blackwood

Also serving from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

1st (NI) Bn ACF	Rev K D W Crowe
-----------------	-----------------

Location of Officiating Chaplains to the Forces

Rev R A Whiteford	Resident Battalion, Fort George
Rev Dr I C Barclay	Aberdeen Universities Officer Training Corps
Rev Dr J Walker	Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps
Rev A R Mathieson	Resident Battalion, Dregghorn & Glencorse Barracks

Rev N N Gardner	Edinburgh Universities Officer Training Corps
Rev S Blakey	Glasgow Universities Officer Training Corps & 51 (Sc) Bde
Rev T A Davidson Kelly	Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow
Rev K Watson	Edinburgh Garrison
Rev G Berry	2 SCOTS

Also serving from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Rev D Weir Aldergrove Station, N Ireland.

APPENDIX 3 CHAPLAINCY IN THE RAF

With the loss of Nimrod and Harrier Force and a four-year programme to shed 5000 personnel, the RAF is facing its toughest post-war challenge.

Implementing the Government's cuts while fighting a war in Afghanistan and maintaining capability in the Falkland Islands and the UK skies will create uncertainty, Defence Chiefs have admitted. The headline figures speak for themselves. RAF numbers will fall to 33,500 by 2015 and to 31,500 by 2020.

Chief of Staff Personnel AVM Mike Lloyd has stated: "We have taken significant reductions in capability with the withdrawal of Nimrod and the Harrier Force, which is very sad because both forces have given outstanding service over many years and served their country well.

A major concern is the compound effect that the outcome of SDSR has on our people. We are going through a period of uncertainty and change and **part of the challenge is to look after our people whilst managing that change.**

We must continue to deliver on operations while drawing down, but this will cause additional pressures on us to make sure that we can move people around the Service to fill the gaps during the drawdown as and when they arise. We must make sure that we retain experience where we can and continuity so that we can continue to deliver on operations.

We might see some instability as we move people around to plug gaps or man the operational requirements, but we will attempt to minimise the turbulence."

The mission of the Royal Air Force Chaplains' Branch is: **To serve the Royal Air Force Community through Prayer, Presence and Proclamation.** Therefore chaplains' are playing a major role in trying to meet the challenge of looking 'after our people whilst managing that change' as they minister to the entire RAF community, including the sizeable civilian element.

With the operational tempo continuing at a brisk pace RAF Chaplains are continuing to serve in Afghanistan and the Middle East. With the requirement to provide ministry to both home based units and deployed personnel RAF Chaplains currently deploy every 30-36 months for a period of around 3 months. Chaplaincy is valued extremely highly by the Service and this is perhaps reflected in the fact that 2 RAF Chaplains were named in the New Year Honours List 2011. The Rev Ruth Hake received an MBE for her work with the bereaved following a tragic aircraft accident and the Rev Eddie Wynn also received an MBE for his work as chaplain at Selly Oak Hospital ministering to the severely injured and their families. Additionally the Rev Colin Weir received a commendation for his willingness to accompany Chinook crews tasked to evacuate injured personnel whilst under fire.

As an integral part of the RAF the Chaplains' Branch has also come under scrutiny under SDSR and will lose 6 posts as the RAF draws down. However as many chaplains are due to retire over the next few years the Branch has to continue

recruiting. We would therefore be extremely happy to hear from any minister who may be feeling the first stirrings of a call to military chaplaincy. To allow any such minister to explore their calling further we would be delighted to chat or organise a visit to one of our units. If this is you, please make contact with The Rev Ashley Mitchell 01494 494469, or e-mail him at: hwjy-stnpadre@mod.uk

Alternatively you can access the RAF Chaplains website at www.raf.mod.uk/chaplains

Church of Scotland Chaplains

The Rev Gordon T Craig QHC RAF Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre Amport House

Gordon is the Principal Chaplain, Church of Scotland and Free Churches and has recently been appointed as Principal of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre Amport House. Amport provides chaplaincy training and instruction in 'soft skills' for the three services. An important part of the work of Amport is the training of 'Visiting Officers', officers who will be supporting bereaved families.

The Rev Sheila Munro RAF RAF Halton

Sheila returned safely from her deployment to Afghanistan last year and is serving at RAF Halton working as part of an ecumenical team. RAF Halton is a large initial training unit that saw around 1500 new recruits through its doors during 2009-10. This year that number will drop considerably. Consequently the staff, both military and sizeable civilian contingent, are somewhat anxious about their future. Sheila delivers the Beliefs and Values Programme and looks after the spiritual and pastoral needs of the trainees and staff.

The Rev Craig Lancaster RAF RAF Cranwell

Craig is the latest recruit to RAF Chaplaincy and began training at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell in April. Consequently as you read this he is very possibly hiking

over a moor somewhere engaged in some form of leadership training and dreaming of a comfy bed! Craig is due to graduate from Cranwell in July.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland Chaplains

The Rev David Edgar RAF RAF Brize Norton

David is the Senior Chaplain at RAF Brize Norton. David has the responsibility of running an ecumenical team tasked with the delivery of chaplaincy at the RAF's largest Station. RAF Brize Norton is the gateway for all service personnel deploying or returning from operations and is rapidly expanding to become home to the RAF's fleet of Hercules aircraft following the closure of RAF Lyneham. The closure of RAF Lyneham will also mean that David and his team will have to take on the harrowing yet rewarding ministry of providing chaplaincy during repatriations.

The Rev Jonny Wylie RAF RAF Leuchars

Jonny is working as sole chaplain at RAF Leuchars during a challenging transitional phase as the unit switches from Tornado to Typhoon. A transition of this nature involving a change of aircraft types creates turmoil for any unit as it involves a large turnaround in personnel.

APPENDIX 4 THE AIR TRAINING CORPS (AIR CADETS)

The aims of the Air Cadet organisation are: To promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force; to provide training which will be useful both in the service and in civilian life; to foster the spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of leadership and service. This is achieved through a programme which is varied, challenging and stimulating and is designed to develop the cadets' knowledge, confidence and self-reliance.

Chaplains are involved not only in providing pastoral support to all members of the corps but also in delivering "Padres' Hours" where moral and spiritual issues are explored. In recent years a book entitled "Patterns for Life" has been produced to provide our Chaplains with materials to use in when conducting such sessions. Chaplains may also attend camps along with the cadets and staff. They take part in all the activities, including flying, and may also conduct "Padres' Hours" and worship.

Currently we have some 90 chaplains serving 115 squadrons and detached flights throughout Scotland and Northern Ireland. The majority of our Chaplains in Scotland are from the Church of Scotland but we also have chaplains from the Scottish Episcopal Church, the United Free Church, the Baptist Union and a variety of mainstream denominations. We have also had in the past Chaplains from the Roman Catholic Church. We are happy to welcome suitable Chaplains from any denomination. In recent years we have appointed chaplains from the Moslem and Hindu faith in one or two of our squadrons in England.

Chaplaincy currently enjoys a high profile within the Air Training Corps and plays a valuable role in developing the potential of our young people. Chaplains have the privilege of working with a generation who are so often absent from our churches.

The profile that we enjoy is due in no small part to our last Corps Chaplain, the Rev Tom Tait. Tom, a retired Church of Scotland Minister, was Corps Chaplain from 2002 to June 2010. His contribution to the Corps was recognised by an award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list.

If you are interested in the possibility of becoming an ATC Chaplain please contact the Regional Chaplain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Rev Alistair K Ridland who can be contacted through Air Cadets Regional Headquarters Scotland, RAF Leuchars, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 0JX. Phone: 01334 857464.

Location of Air Training Corps (Area) Chaplains

Chaplain Scotland & Northern Ireland Region:

Rev Alistair K Ridland
13 Stewart Place, Kirkliston
EH29 0BQ
0131 333 2711
akridland@aol.com

North East Scotland:

Rev James L K Wood
1 Glen Drive, Dyce
Aberdeen
AB21 7EN
01224 722 543
james@jamesinez.plus.com

South East Scotland:

Rev C Graham Taylor
22 Albert Road, Broughty Ferry
Dundee
DD5 1AZ
01382 779 212
graham.taylor@dundeepresbytery.org.uk

West Scotland:

Rev Colin G F Brockie
36 Braehead Court, Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
KA3 7AB
01563 559 960
revcol@revcol.demon.co.uk

Highland:

Rev Alan Lamb
Smiddy House, Arisaig
Inverness-shire
PH39 4NH
01687 450 227
handalamb@talktalk.net