

Supporting the people of Scotland since 1869

Timeline summary

- 1869** The Committee on Christian Life and Work was appointed by the General Assembly 'to inquire as to the progress of Christian work in this country and further to consider and report as to the best means of promoting evangelistic efforts'. Initially, the work of the Committee was in information gathering.
- 1879** Launched Life and Work magazine.
- 1880** Established Young Men's Guild.
- 1887** Established Women's Guild.
- 1894** Founded The Deaconess Training Hospital in Edinburgh.
- 1904** The General Assembly established the Committee on Social Work so that the Church had a full share in social and rescue work. From its inception, the Committee on Social Work assisted with personal and domestic problems beyond the resources of congregational life. In opening hostels for young men and women, as well as rehabilitation centres and training homes, the committee provided shelter and relief to the unemployed and destitute. Support soon expanded into providing residential care for children (1914) and the elderly (1926).
- 1916** Opened first Church of Scotland Huts supporting soldiers at the front.
- 1926** Opened our first Eventide Home.
- 1936** By the 1930s the work of the Committee on Christian Life and Work was merged with the Committee on Social Work, to become Committee on Christian Life and Social Work.
- 1945** Becoming the Committee on Social Service, the Committee invested in services for 'the elderly,' and opened 8 eventide homes in 3 years (1947-1950). Between 1945 and 1957, 7 new children's homes were opened.
- 1957** Wellhall Care Home opened in Hamilton.
- 1962** Opened the Tom Allan Centre for counselling.
- 1963** The Committee was amalgamated with 2 Church committees to form the Social and Moral Welfare Board. However, the committees remained largely separate and The Committee was dissolved (1970). The Department of Social and Moral Welfare was formed as an independent Committee of the General Assembly.
- 1976** The Board of Social Responsibility was formed. Over the next decade, the services offered by the Committee continued to respond to the Government's changing approach to social care.
- 1983** Williamwood specialist care home for people who have dementia was opened.
- 1985** Rainbow House opened to support adults recovering from substance use.
- 1988** Dick Stewart opened offering supported accommodation for male offenders who have recently left prison.
- 1993** Opened Cornerstone – a service supporting adults that have learning disabilities.
- 1995** Opened The Mallard, a short breaks service for children and young people with disabilities.
- 1995** Opened the Postnatal Depression Service in Edinburgh.

2005 Re-organisation of the central administration of the Church resulted in the Board of Social Responsibility being re-named the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland, trading as CrossReach.

2009 Perth Prison Visitors Centre was opened.

2012 Established Daisy Chain in Govanhill, Glasgow. Play-based interventions designed to improve the lives and life chances of children under 8.

2012 Heart for Art was launched, promoting creativity, self-worth and achievement for people with dementia, was launched.

2015 Polmont Prison Visitors Centre Family Hub & Bus was opened, supporting families visiting offenders in Polmont Prison.

2016 Finniescroft Farm opened – One of our houses offering a safe, caring home life for children and young people.

2018 Erskine Waterfront Campus opened, offering an enriched learning experience for pupils (aged 8 – 16 years) based on their strengths, skills and interests, using our Relational and Attachment focused approach.

