

FFWPU UK 2022 In Review, Community Spotlight: Scotland

Michael Balcomb
February 23, 2023



Let's take a look at how the year of 2022 went for our communities across the UK. For our next Spotlight we have Scotland! If you would like to see more, check out our annual report.

In our Scottish community, we are so grateful for all the blessings that Heavenly Parent has graced us with this year.



Photo from the fellowship weekend at the Lake District

We started the year with hope as we transitioned out of lockdown and installed the Cheon Shim Won prayer room in Scotland. We had our first in-person Holy Day celebration in a long time, and it felt so special to celebrate True Parent's Birthday and Foundation Day with our brothers and sisters! To quote

from the film Frozen:

"Finally they're opening up the gates...
There'll be actual real live people
It'll be totally strange
But wow, am I so ready for this change?
'Cause for the first time in forever,
there'll be music, there'll be light"



In Spring, the Scottish and North England communities teamed up for a weekend of fellowship at the Lake District. We had the chance to connect with old and new friends through discussion groups, Hoon Dok Hwe, walks, sports, games and a quiz! We could also connect with our wider European community by joining the EUME Sunday Service. Photos from the weekend can be seen on the right.

In Summer, our community received very good news! Our purchase of a new Peace Embassy in Glasgow had gone through smoothly. With help from our special guests, Dr Michael and Mrs Fumiko, and Dr Otsuka, we inaugurated our Peace Embassy with a holy salting ceremony, as well as ribbon and cake-cutting ceremonies as seen in the photos below.



Afterwards, some of us went on a boat trip across bonnie Loch Lomond. It was a joyful sunny day, and we could feel Heavenly Parent's rays of love. Alongside communities across the globe, our Scottish community also took a special day to celebrate True Father's 10th Seonghwa Anniversary. This was held in our Cheon Shim Won prayer room, where everyone present had a moment to lay a rose. Since True Father's ascension, we have missed him dearly and this was a precious time of reconnection.



In Autumn, our younger brothers from Scotland and North England had an adventurous weekend hill walking and staying overnight at a Scottish bothy. This was organised by Simon J., whose family also made sure that our brothers were very well fed! It seems that autumn was a month of adventures, with

Duke A. attending his first ever Divine Principle workshop at Cleeve House, and his spiritual father, Oliver L., attending a residential interfaith retreat on the Scottish Island of Iona. Spending a few days living with people of other faiths truly encompassed the spirit of interfaith, creating genuine friendships.



In Winter, we were delighted to invite over 50 guests to our Peace Embassy in Glasgow. As part of Scottish Interfaith Week, and with the help of Dr Maureen S., Director of Interfaith Scotland, we officially opened our Peace Embassy. We had speakers from a diverse range of faith groups and nationalities, alongside beautiful music and prayers.





The North Europe Region Leaders' meeting was held during the same weekend, with representatives of communities and nations of North Europe. We are so grateful to the attendees for their support for the opening of our Peace Embassy in Scotland and wish heavenly fortune for Iceland, who had a leadership change ceremony during the meeting.

Our last Sunday Service of the year was held near Dundee during the Scottish Christmas Retreat. It was a fun weekend spending time with our brothers and sisters, playing board games, visiting tourist sites, and even learning to Ceilidh dance! Of course, we also had our famous Christmas Quiz, hosted by quizmasters Eric W. and Shinyi B.

Our Scottish community loves having guests and you are all invited to visit our Peace Embassy next year. We wish you all a prosperous New Year. Sending love and thanks to all our Scottish community, who have invested so much heart into this year. May Heavenly Parent bless you all.

