

Interviewee: Ian Paterson (Rev John L Paterson)  
UoS Dates: 1972 - 1977  
Role(s): University Chaplain  
Married Lorna Begg: see Lorna Paterson



## Interview summary:

### *Summary of content; with time (min:secs)*

**Start 00:11** – Appointed University Chaplain in 1972 and took up the post in January 1973. Left in 1977 to go to St Michael's church in Linlithgow. Had been in Kenya for 9 years, part of this role was being Honorary Chaplain to the University of Nairobi. Professor James Whyte of St Andrews was visiting Nairobi and asked if the role at Stirling would interest IP. IP sent off the application and received a letter offering to fly him back to Scotland for an interview. Interview took place in Edinburgh, interviewed by Stewart Sutherland, head of the Chaplaincy Board, and Fred Holliday, Deputy Principal.

**04:10** – Remembers the University being in the papers after the Queen's visit.

**04:23** – Came back to Scotland in 1973. Lived in Chaplain's house on Kenilworth Road. Lorna Begg was the secretary of the Chaplaincy Board. IP and Lorna would later marry. First service at Stirling only had four attendees

**06:15** – Chaplaincy worked reasonably well, multi-denominational with two full time Chaplains, one from the Catholic church and IP from the Church of Scotland. Chaplaincy Board met twice each semester. Left to the full time Chaplains to keep the Chaplaincy running. Services started small but grew. No budget for visiting preachers but still had visitors such as Dr Archie Craig, George MacLeod and Dr Lillie. Advertised Chaplaincy services with notices posted around campus. Good relationship with Catholic Chaplain, would go to Rannoch for a retreat together twice per year. Catholic Chaplain was Father Ian Murray.

**11:12** – Students would come to the Chaplains with their problems, would sometimes have to go to students through the night. Some students had come from big cities and didn't like the quiet of Stirling. Many were first generation students and felt a lot of stress. Student support at Stirling was good. Remembers a student who had his drink spiked at the Allangrange and got in a fight where he used a knife. IP went along to sit with his parents when the case was tried in the High Court. The Chaplaincy supported the student when he returned to university.

**21:58** – IP thought it important that the Chaplaincy stretched the mind. Received support from the Hope Trust and Drummond Trust to get visiting speakers. Principal Hallett (?) wasn't very sympathetic to this but other Principals were. Started an event with Professor Hans Meidner where two or three lecturers from different disciplines would come together to discuss a topic. Donald Low and IP would organise visits to see a play or a film with a discussion in the Chaplaincy afterwards.

**27:25** – Chaplaincy buildings were at the end of a corridor in the MacRobert building

**27:44** – IP had good relationships with the University Principals. Tom Cottrell was very supportive and helpful. Went once or twice for a meal at his home. IP and Mrs Cottrell remained friends until she died. Principal Cramond was also very supportive. He was still Principal when IP left the university. Jim Trainer was Acting Principal after Tom Cottrell died

and chaired the first Drummond lecture.
<b>32:12</b> – Queen’s visit: student protests were going on all over the world. Remembers Tom Cottrell’s house was picketed. Really felt for them. A similar protest in Nairobi had been dealt with using tear gas. Was very harmful to the University, lost millions in funding as the second appeal for funding had to be dropped. Fergus Wood said the presence of junior reporters and senior photographers was a bad combination.
<b>45:25</b> – Lorna Begg was involved in the disciplinary cases following the Queen’s visit. Richard Evans, who had been a lecturer at the time, recently wrote an article in the Times Higher Education Supplement about “Cottrell’s kangaroo courts” which Lorna Begg wrote a response to. IP received paintings as a gift from Tom Cottrell. Lorna Begg had lunch with Tom Cottrell the day before he died. Bill Inglis was informed of Tom Cottrell’s death by Ian Miller. The two Acting Principals following Tom Cottrell’s death, Fred Holliday and Jim Trainer, were very good. Jim Trainer requested that IP officiate at his funeral. Jim Trainer loved cricket and would visit the Cramond family in Australia.
<b>55:57</b> – Chaplaincy didn’t function as effectively as it could have; there were too many part time Chaplains. Originally the University didn’t want a Chaplaincy, the Church pushed for one. Tommy Dunn was vocally opposed to the Chaplaincy. Andrew Bain and Mr and Mrs Dunn were very upset when Tom Cottrell died. Gordon Peacock was very supportive of the Chaplaincy and succeeded Stewart Sutherland as the Chairman of the Chaplaincy Board. Some students went on to the ministry: Colin Sinclair and Andrew Maclean.
<b>1:04:05</b> – IP lived in a big house on Kenilworth Road, would have an open house for students on a Sunday evening which was popular.
<b>1:06:42</b> – Very busy as a Chaplain, always on call, planning events, meeting students, visiting them in hospital or prison.
<b>1:09:00</b> – Professor John McQuarrie gave a Hope lecture.
<b>1:13:00</b> – Lorna Begg originally wasn’t pleased with the appointment of IP. Lorna Begg put a lot of work in to the Drummond lectures. Some of those who succeeded her as secretary didn’t put as much work in.
<b>1:16:56</b> – Professor McEwen was the first professor to give a lecture at the University. He died just before Christmas [2015].
<b>[Ends 1:20:22]</b>

<b>Interview No:</b>	SURSA OH / 066	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SURSA</b>  <b>University of Stirling</b>  <b>Stirling</b>  <b>FK9 4LA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:info@sursa.org.uk">info@sursa.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.sursa.org.uk">www.sursa.org.uk</a></p>	
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