

27th September 2018

Bishopton Parish Church
Ferry Road
Bishopton
PA7 5PP



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Police Service of Scotland
Renfrewshire & Inverclyde
Renfrew Police Office
14 Station Rd
Renfrew
PA4 8RP
Tel No: 101

Dear Sir/Madam

PREVENTION ADVICE REGARDING FRAUD

I wonder if I can bring to your attention an acquisitive crime trend. This involves the perpetrators contacting victims (usually the elderly) and convincing them that they are from their Bank. They advise the victim that they have observed fraudulent activity on their account and that they are required to transfer money to a 'safe account'. Account numbers are then given and they convince the victim to either arrange a bank transfer online or to attend at their Bank to arrange this. Sometimes they insist that the victim stays on the phone to assist them – this actually prevents the Bank from phoning the victim if they are suspicious. Victims should hang up and then contact their Bank direct to check. Banks are aware of this scam and do contact Police if they suspect anything untoward however there are occasions when transfers are successful and this can run into thousands of pounds.

I would also highlight that bogus callers are attending at home addresses of the elderly and convincing them to part with money for house repairs, which is never carried out.

We highlight this issue on social media and in the local press. We also discuss this at Community Council meetings. Predominantly the victims are elderly and we are aware that we may still not be reaching as many victims as possible.

I wonder if you could highlight this within your Church community group so that we can try and prevent this despicable crime.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Scott'.

Chief Inspector Hazel Scott
Area Commander