

# Prospect

Magazine of Stepps Parish Church



**December/January**

**2025/26**

Issue 446

Scottish Charity No.  
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**December/January**

**2025/26 Edition of**

**Prospect**

*In this edition, along with our usual features, there is news & updates from our congregation and community.*

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***Photographs of our Remembrance Service***

.....

***Details of our Christmas Fayre on 6<sup>th</sup> December***

.....

***CHANGE TO OUR USUAL  
COMMUNION SERVICE, NOW ON  
30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER***

## **Contact Us:**

**Minister:** Currently Vacant

**Session Clerk:** Alastair Sim

**Church Organist / Musician:**

Alastair Sim 07821 667272

## **Website**

[www.steppsparishchurch.org](http://www.steppsparishchurch.org)

## **Follow us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/steppsparishchurch>

## **Prospect**

To submit an item for the December/January Prospect please email the Prospect Editor Anne by Monday 20th January.

[anne.bunyan87@googlemail.com](mailto:anne.bunyan87@googlemail.com)

***At the heart of our community  
celebrating faith and life to the  
full.***





**Stepps Parish Church linked with**  
**Garthamlock, Ruchazie & Craigend**

**Minister:** Currently vacant

**Locum Minister:** Rev Elaine Mckinnon

**Email:** [EMckinnon@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:EMckinnon@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Phone:** 07780590575

**Interim Moderator:** Rev Monica Michelin - Salomon

**Email:** [MMichelinSalomon@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MMichelinSalomon@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Session Clerk:** Alastair Sim

**Email:** [alastairsim1972@gmail.com](mailto:alastairsim1972@gmail.com)

**Address:**

Stepps Parish Church,  
17 Whitehill Ave, Stepps, Glasgow G33 6BL

[www.steppsparishchurch.org](http://www.steppsparishchurch.org)

**Communion Services**

(1st Sunday – March, June, September,  
December)  
10.00am

**Contacts:**

**Hall Lets:** Mrs. June Thomson

07909 - 042366

**Safeguarding Coordinator:**

Mrs. Ailsa Macdonald

07952 - 095380

**Sunday Services**

**Morning Worship 10am**

Please continue to follow the website for information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you with us but for those who are unable to return we will continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on our Stepps Parish Church YouTube channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW\\_qMKKjcXAw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_qMKKjcXAw)



## **Message from our Session Clerk**

Hello there and welcome to this month's edition of Prospect.

By the time you read this, we will be fast approaching Advent which is arguably the most important time in the Christian calendar as it celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. This is going to be a very busy time in Stepps Parish Church.

I am pleased to say that our Locum Minister, Elaine, is continuing to make good progress in her recovery and we all send our love and blessing to her. We are very grateful to have our new temporary locum, Susan, with us who has been delivering excellent services in the last couple of weeks.

This year's Christmas Fayre is on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** and as before we are hoping you can help make it a big success by providing donations for the Christmas stall, bottle stall, tombola, toiletries, groceries, home baking, nearly new toys and games, cash for Santa's selection boxes. These are a few ideas but all donations will be gratefully received. Santa has been invited so we are hoping that he is not too busy that day.

On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a 'Gifts of Toys' Sunday service. All toys donated will be given to an organisation called F A R E based in the East End of Glasgow.

The following week, on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, we are having a 'Gifts of Christmas Food' Sunday. All food donated will be going to Ruchazie Pantry. Later that day, there will be an all-age Christmas Party from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This will be a ticketed event and tickets can be received from Esther. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult.

This year the young people from the Sunday Club will be performing 'The Nativity Story with a Difference' on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**.

Our **Watchnight Service** will be led by Susan at **11.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve** followed by an informal service lead by yours truly on Christmas Morning.

As always, I wish you and yours happiness, health and wellbeing during our Advent season.

*Alastair Sim*

## **Message and Update Received from our Dear Friend Linda Walker**

Dear friends, it seems a long time since I was your Locum and Interim Moderator, but the work I did with you has served me well in my ministry since then. Many of the ideas I had back then have resurfaced - any of you remember Joseph's coat of many colours??

I moved from Glasgow to Nairn in July 2022, not long after I stopped working full time for the then Hamilton Presbytery - although it's not the retirement I had expected. Yes I'm closer to my sister and it's a joy to watch my great nieces growing up but the jigsaws are still in a cupboard! I became a member of Nairn Old Parish Church and was soon asked to be the Interim Moderator of a vacant charge in neighbouring Forres. As time went on I became more involved in NOPC, assisting the minister with funerals and pulpit supply when required. This increased when the minister became unwell, eventually having to retire on the grounds of ill health.

I have now been appointed as the Auxiliary Minister and so I'm preaching most Sundays - hence not being able to come to your birthday celebrations. I'm very fortunate to have a good team of office bearers who work well together - it makes things so much easier. Our Interim Moderator lives in Argyll, such is the size of the new Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery - or Cleir Eilan I if you prefer the Gaelic. NOPC is going through the process of uniting with Nairn: St Ninian's, hopefully by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 and following that we will be able to call a new minister.

Nairn is a lovely place to live and I feel very much at home here. I have a semi-detached bungalow and a garden that has seen many changes since I took it over. My great delight is the crafting cabin which was built on the site of the old and rather wobbly looking garage. The beaches here are lovely and there are plenty of places to go for a cup of coffee or a meal. Please do get in touch if you're ever up this way - it would be lovely to see you. Alastair has my contact details. May God bless you all as you work in and witness to your community.

### **Linda**

Photos from Linda on the following page :

Interior of NOPC decorated with gifts of the sea as part of our harvest service at the beginning of October.

Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the Food Nest project in our grounds in September as part of her visit to the Presbytery (me, Moderator,

William the Treasurer, Frances the Session Clerk, Janet McKellar, Moderator of the Presbytery)

Remembrance display of knitted poppies and other items.



Photo memory of Linda when she was our Locum and Interim Moderator.





## **Christmas Fayre**

**2pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



Christmas is fast approaching and this year again we will be holding a Christmas Fayre in the church halls. We hope you can help make this a great event by providing donations for the stalls.

This list gives some ideas of what we need:

Christmas stall – Cards, wrapping paper, decorations, Christmas crafts

Bottle stall – Wine, shampoo, sauces, spirits, juice

Beauty&toiletries-perfumes, soaps, gift sets.

Groceries -Biscuits, tins, jams

Tombola -sweets, chocolates, toys

Toys, new items such as box games, children's books, jigsaws

Homebaking, accompanied by list of ingredients

Santa- cash donations to be used to buy selection boxes

These are a few ideas. All donations gratefully received.

Thank you.









### **Christmas Post Box**

The delivery by church volunteers of Christmas cards within the community (Stepps, Cardowan, Millerston) will take place again this year.

All Cards should include name, address and house number.

Postal boxes will be in both the church and entrance to halls. They will be available on these dates:

**Church:30<sup>th</sup> November until 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Hall:30<sup>th</sup> November until Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December.**

Suggested donation 50p per card or 6 for £2.50.

Cards will be available for pickup on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.  
Volunteers please speak to Susan Gowans if you can help.





## **Christmas Dates for Your Diary**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>                         | Communion  |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> November until 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Christmas Post Box in Church                           |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> November until 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> | Christmas Post Box in Hall                             |
| <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>                        | Christmas Fayre 2pm                                    |
| <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>                          | Gifts of Toys Service                                  |
| <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>                         | Gifts of Christmas Food Service<br>Christmas Party 2pm |
| <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>                         | Sunday Club 'Nativity with a Difference'               |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b>   | Watchnight Service 11.30pm                             |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>   | Christmas Morning Service 10am                         |
| <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>                         | Twixmas, Joint Service with GraC 10am                  |



## **190<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

I think we're definitely into Winter now!

It's been a busy month, as October-November always seems to be for the BB. The Company facilitated the Sunday morning service for Founder's Day and Dedication on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, plus the by now traditional roll and sausage afterwards. Thank you to our former Captain Jim Hope for his comment on the BB and our relevance in the modern world, and for conducting the act of Dedication. Many thanks to all who supported us and gave donations, and to Stepps Parish Church for donating the morning's offering to the Company. All together we raised £177.00 for Company funds.

A team of Senior Boys took part in the BB UK Masterteam quiz competition. The Seniors have also taken on leadership responsibilities on Monday nights, helping the Staff to plan and deliver the weekly programme to Anchor Boys and Junior Section. They were particularly helpful during our recent Halloween Party. All of this work contributes to King's Badge courses.

We attended the service of Remembrance at the cenotaph in Bluebell Park on 9<sup>th</sup> November, when Boys of all ages turned out in the pouring rain and did really well in treating the occasion with the respect it deserves. During the weeks before and after Remembrance Sunday, younger Boys learned about Remembrance, made their own poppy ornaments and baked ANZAC biscuits.

Coming this weekend is a trip to the Scotland-v-Tonga rugby match at Murrayfield, and then we'll be thinking about Christmas.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Due to our growing numbers, we are in great need of adult help on a Monday night. We expect to expand our numbers even further next year, and will really need help at that point. If anyone would be interested in helping out, either weekly or just occasionally, it would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with me if you would like to know more.

Anchor Boys for Boys in P1-P3, and Junior Section for Boys in P4-P6 meet on Mondays from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. Company Section meets on Mondays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm for Boys in Primary 7 and above. New members are always welcome.

Colin Goodall

Captain

[colingoodall91@hotmail.com](mailto:colingoodall91@hotmail.com)

Tel. 0782703280

# **STEPPS PARISH CHURCH**

## **2025 -AND BEYOND - STEPPS HISTORY PROJECT**

The local area was a small village in the early 1900's consisting of Stepps and Millerston. It expanded over decades to form Stepps and District, including Cardowan, Craigendmuir, Steppshill and more recently, Crowwood Grange and Earls Rise. What once was a small village now has a population of over 7,000 and is classed as a small town.

Stepps and District Community recently celebrated two notable milestones - the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Joseph's RC Church and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stepps Parish Church. As part of SPC celebrations it seems appropriate to provide information for residents to help develop a community spirit and a pride of place for 2025 -AND BEYOND.

The plan is to compile a people's history of the area with anecdotes, memories (first or second hand), theories, opinions and experiences and we invite as many people as possible to contribute. Findings will initially be published on- line whilst funding is sourced to print a hard copy version.

The intention is to augment the information contained in the excellent "History of Stepps" produced in 1975 by local people in partnership with the then Lanarkshire County Council.

We need your assistance. If you can provide information on any of the following or on any aspect of Stepps not listed, please contact 07796 998491 or e-mail [jamhp9@outlook.com](mailto:jamhp9@outlook.com)

|                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Whitehill/SPC                    | Parkers Garage                        |
| St. Andrew's Church              | Hot Scot Engineering                  |
| St. Joseph's Church              | Black and White Whisky plant          |
| Stepps/Millerston farms          | Stepps Fire Station                   |
| Stepps Golf Course               | WW1 and WW2                           |
| Former use of housing sites      | Cardowan Miners Welfare               |
| Former businesses and Shops      | Cardowan Amateur Boxing Club          |
| Stepps Telephone Exchange        | Armoury and Armoury House             |
| Molindinar source and course     | Former Stepps and Millerston Stations |
| Stepps Public Hall/Unionist Hall | Stepps Cricket Team                   |

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Stepps Curling Club                        | Stepps Bowling Club                   |
| Stepps Stadium                             | Stepps School                         |
| Famous people- politicians/sports people   | Turnpike Road – (Whitehill Farm Road) |
| Coronation celebrations                    | Cenotaph                              |
| Cardowan Colliery                          | Public park                           |
| Cardowan House                             | Community events                      |
| Mount Harriet House                        | Stepps Masonic Lodge                  |
| Sculleries and Maids                       | Scout Troop                           |
| Stepps Hockey Club                         | Boys Brigade                          |
| Stepps Tennis Club                         | Guides/Guide Hut                      |
| Scottish Coal Board Cup Winners (football) | Girls Brigade                         |
| Church events                              | District Reporter (newspaper)         |
| Bus services                               | Stepps Police Station                 |
| Origin of place name                       | Bomb shelters                         |
| The “Irish pad”                            | North Woods                           |
| Stepps characters                          | First new houses (Whitehill Avenue)   |
| Tram terminus                              | Ministers/Priests                     |

For recording and production purposes, contributions should ideally be short, ideally one- liners, and to the point.

All contributions will be acknowledged and published, subject to agreement.

*Jim Hope*



### **The Chestnut Cafe**

Chestnut cafe meet on a Thursday morning. All are welcome. Come along and join our friends.

December's activities are Christmas events.

On Thursday 4th and 11th December, we will have craft activities with Liz. Thursday 18th will be a celebration of Christmas.

We will then be having a 2 week break and will open again on Thursday 8th January.

Chestnut Cafe staff wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a safe New Year.

### **Sunday Club**

The Sunday Club had an outing to see the film 'Wicked Part 2' at the Lantern Theatre in Cumbernauld on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

We will be preparing to perform the 'Nativity with a Difference' which will be part of the morning service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

The Sunday Club will then be on holiday for the next two Sundays and we will return on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January for our usual fun, games, crafts and Bible stories.

*Anne, Esther and Linda*

### **Mid-week 'growing in faith' group**

There has been sufficient interest to start a weekly small group on Thursday evenings to explore and deepen our faith together. The group will first meet in the New Year from Thursday 8 January 2026 in the session room between 7:30 and 9pm. The group won't meet if there is a Kirk Session planned. We will initially be using a resource from the Bible Society called 'The Bible course' which helps contextualise the passages and readings we hear each week in worship as part of God's whole story. This will involve watching a short video and group discussion. We can also create time for prayer together.

Anyone interested, please feel free to speak to Ailsa Macdonald on 07952 095 380 or come along when you can. All will be made most welcome.



## Welcome Team

| 2025                 | Welcome at Door | Beadle    |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Dec 7th              | J Hope          | J Burns   |
| Dec 14th             | M Inglis        | J Thomson |
| Dec 21st             | R McGovern      | L Ashmole |
| Dec 28th             | F McGovern      | S Baker   |
| 2026                 |                 |           |
| Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>  | F Shields       | J Burns   |
| Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> | C Skinner       | J Thomson |
| Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> | E Watson        | L Ashmole |
| Jan 25th             | H Baker         | S Baker   |
|                      |                 |           |
| Feb 1st              | J Bennie        | J Burns   |



## Tea Rota

First person named on tea rota please bring milk.

| 2025                 |             |             |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dec 7th              | H Baker     | L Robertson |
| Dec 14th             | No Tea      | No Tea      |
| Dec 21st             | E Watson    | F Maxwell   |
| Dec 28th             | S Gowans    | E Cameron   |
| 2026                 |             |             |
| Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>  | H Baker     | C Logan     |
| Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> | J Bennie    | E Henderson |
| Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> | L Robertson | F Maxwell   |
| Jan 25th             | S Gowans    | E Cameron   |
|                      |             |             |
| Feb 1st              | H Baker     | C Logan     |



*June Thomson*

## Communion Service

We will be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion and sharing fellowship with each other on Sunday the **30<sup>th</sup> of November**. Please note the change to our usual December communion service.

***"The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."***





# Winter Events

Please Join Us

2pm, 18th November

Annual Service of Remembering

in partnership with City Mission



1pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Christmas Panto - Book Early!

A Glasgow Life Production



2pm, 16<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Carol Service

with Mission Voices

Blankets & Blessings



35 East Campbell Street

Glasgow, G1 5DT

*See you there!*

Scottish Charity No SC017283



## Donations to Support the Lodging House Mission this Christmas

| <b>Items we could use for Christmas Gifts</b><br>We would love for everyone who comes to us to have something in their Christmas bag that they would like, rather than just what they need.  |   |
|--|---|
| Hat, Scarf and Gloves (preferably a set)<br>Men's Hoodie<br>Men's Jogging trousers<br>Women's Hoodies<br>Woman's Leggings<br>Women's and Men's Socks<br>Men's Boxer shorts<br>Women's underwear<br>Men's Pyjamas<br>Women's Pyjamas<br>Toiletry Gift Sets for both men and women<br>Gift Vouchers (Primark, Greggs, Sports Shop)<br>Diary/Stationary set<br>Jigsaw Puzzle/Game | One Size<br>S, M, L, XL<br>S, M, L, XL<br>S, M, L<br>S, M, L<br>Any size<br>All sizes<br>All sizes<br>S, M, L, XL<br>S, M, L<br>N/A<br>Any amount you feel comfortable with |
| <b>Additional Treats As Part of Christmas Gift</b><br>We would love to provide a bag of goodies to enjoy over the festive period.  | <b>Toiletries We Need Generally</b><br>These are things we provide daily.   |
| Juice (fizzy)<br>Crisps<br>Nuts<br>Popcorn<br>Sweets<br>Bars of chocolate<br>Selection boxes<br>Advent Calanders<br>Mince Pies<br>Cakes<br>Any festive treat that does not contain alcohol   | Hairbrushes<br>Soap<br>Shower Gel<br>Shampoo<br>Razors<br>Shaving Foam<br>Toothpaste<br>Wet Wipes<br>Deodorant<br>Moisturiser   |
| <b>Miscellaneous Items</b><br>These are wee extras that would made a big difference.   |   |
| Biro pens<br>Bingo pens<br>Bingo books<br>Thermal underwear<br>Handwarmers (emergency type)  | White board pens<br>Phone charging wire for any phone<br>Mobile phone power pack charger<br>Old mobile phones*  |

\* This is not something we would give out regularly, however we do have people who would benefit from a mobile phone.



## Remembrance Service

Our Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The church looked splendid decorated in knitted poppies.



