

**Prospect**  
Magazine of Stepps Parish Church



**April**  
**2026**  
Issue 449  
Scottish Charity No.  
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**Welcome to the April**  
**2026 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 from Reverend Robbie Hamilton's Induction*

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*Times and Dates of our Easter Services*

.....

*Information on our Future Services and Themes*

.....

*Dates for the 'Exploring the Faith' Sessions*

**Sunday Services**  
**Morning Worship 10am**  
**Please note change to times of service on Easter Sunday**



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



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

**Make Contact With Us:**

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**Session Clerk/Church Organist/Musician:** Alastair Sim

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**Our Website:**

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

**Follow us on Facebook:**

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

**Prospect**

To submit an item for the May Prospect please email the Prospect Editor Anne by **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

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

**Our Address:**

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

**Our Email Address**

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

**Communion Services**

These are held on the 1st Sunday of  
March, June, September and  
December at our usual time of  
10.00am

**Church Contacts:**

**Hall Lets:** Mrs. June Thomson

07909 - 042366

**Safeguarding Coordinator:**

Mrs. Ailsa Macdonald

07952 - 095380

**Please continue to follow our website for further information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you with us on a Sunday morning but for those who are unable to join us in person, we 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)

Dear friends

It is now almost two weeks since my induction as minister of Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend linked with Stepps. It is such a privilege to say that I am your minister and I look forward to both getting to know you and working with you.

I shared a little of my story and how I was called to be a minister when I was 16 going on 17. Although I did a gap year between degrees when they weren't fashionable church has been my focus as I have sought to serve God and his people. I served in a large housing estate in Irvine for almost seven years moving onto a town centre charge in Airdrie for over 22 years. I then took time out of the parish and served as a Presbytery Clerk for two and a half years prior to taking up this my current charge.

My experiences of ministry have been wide ranging in where and how I have served – serving both the church locally, regionally and nationally and seeking to serve the community recognising that the local church is a parish church serving members and those around the community alike. This is never a task I have attempted to do on my own but in partnership with God's people who I have discovered down through the years have been greatly endowed with wide ranging gifts complimenting those of the minister in seeking to maintain and develop the worship, work and witness of the people of God in their ministry together.

***“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now . . .”***

This passage from Philippians is dear to my heart and has been at the heart of my ministry from the first day until now and will continue to be as we embark upon a great adventure of faith together. Developing this in this my new charge starts with “eyes and ears” – getting to know you and your gifts which will take time. It continues with a willingness for as many as possible to be involved in growing in faith and growing in a confidence believing in what God can do in us and through us.

In all of this communication is important which will be a priority ensuring that you know what is happening and how you can be involved. This magazine plays an important part in this and I look forward to contributing on a regular basis.

Worship, as you know, is on a Sunday – 10 a.m. at Stepps and 11.30 a.m. at Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend. Please know that a warm welcome awaits you both at the door and from your new partner in the Gospel.

Your friend and minister

*Robbie*

## Future Services and Themes

The great command of Jesus brings together two strands – go and teach and go and make disciples. To both reach out and move out we need to be secure in our faith and know more about Jesus and what he requires of us as believers: those called to share the faith in word and in action as we follow in his footsteps. The “I am” sayings of Jesus are words spoken by Christ himself combining both a comfort and a challenge to the people of God. We will have a look at these Sunday by Sunday as we journey towards Pentecost and that moment when filled and thrilled by the Spirit disciples from all backgrounds were open to God working in and through them.

Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>Knowing together</i>
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>The Bread of Life</i>
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>The Light of the World</i>
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>The Good Shepherd</i>
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>The Way, the Truth, the Life</i>
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Knowing through Jesus:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>The True Vine</i>
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May	10 a.m. Stepps	<i>Pentecost Sunday:</i>
	11.30 a.m. GRAC	<i>Life in the Spirit</i>

(GRAC -Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend)



## Exploring Faith

“Exploring the faith” is an introduction to the Christian faith for those new to the faith or those who feel that they need a refresher when it comes to what we believe and how we grow in faith. There will be a tea/coffee available from 7 p.m. allowing people to gather with the session beginning at 7.30 p.m. There will be a break in the middle and it is anticipated that the session will finish at 9 p.m. The venue will alternate between Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigen Church and Stepps Church.

The last session will be on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May over a snack lunch allowing for any questions to be shared and explore the commitment of membership.

If you require transport or can offer a lift please be in touch with Robbie. Also, get in touch with him if you have any questions at all about the course.

(0131-388-3539, [rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk))

### **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April**

I believe in God

*Believing in God/ We need God in our Lives*  
(Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigen Church)

### **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

I believe in Jesus Christ

*The life and ministry of Jesus/ The death and resurrection of Jesus*  
(Stepps Church)

### **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Growing in faith

*Worship and the Sacraments/Bible and Prayer/ Time and Talents*  
(Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigen Church)

### **Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Sharing the faith

*Time and Talents/Living the Faith*  
(Stepps Church)

### **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Membership Vows

*Your questions answered*

Lunch and chat at 1 p.m. in Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigen Church

## Visits

Robbie is keen to offer pastoral support to those who are struggling so, please be in touch with him if you need help or know of someone who does. This will always be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. He is also available for any questions you might have.

You can contact him by email or phone. There are also cards available in both churches which you can fill out and pass to Robbie or one of the Session Clerks (Alastair or Brian).

0131-388-3539

[rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **Message from our Session Clerk**



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

We are about to move into Easter in the Christian calendar, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, following his crucifixion. This represents a time of hope, salvation and the promise of eternal life.

Our new minister, Robbie Hamilton, was inducted on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and this represents a new chapter in the life of Stepps Parish Church. All who attended on the evening, commented on the lovely atmosphere which was complimented by great companionship, music and food which was provided by our friends at Garthamloch, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church. We wish Robbie well in his new appointment.

I hope to see you at the celebratory services over Easter.

As always, I wish you and yours happiness, health and wellbeing.

*Alastair Sim*

## Photographs from Reverend Robbie Hamilton's Induction Service



The service of induction at Garthamloch, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church had standing room only at a packed service.



Robbie and his wife Carol. Robbie received a welcome gift of an engraved pen set from both congregations.

Below is the celebration cake.



### **Family Quiz Night**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we had our quiz night. Over 50 people, old and young, came along to test their knowledge on 4 topics.

Steps, Cities and Airports, General Knowledge and Sport. We had a variety of answers not all correct!!! However, we had fun, enjoyment and we raised £ 230 for Church funds.

Thank you everyone who came along and to those who helped with setting up with the food.

It was much appreciated.

*Esther*

### **Sunday Club**

The Sunday Club will be off on Easter Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. We will resume for our usual Sunday mornings of fun, games, crafts and Bible stories on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. We hope all our young people enjoy their school holidays and look forward to meeting up again on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Any young people from age 3 to 16 are most welcome to join us on any Sunday morning.

*Anne, Esther and Linda*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Sunday, 29th March

10 a.m. Stepps Parish Church  
11.30 a.m. Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church  
***Palm Sunday Service***  
“From cheers to jeers!”  
*A Service of Readings and Reflections*

### Thursday, 2nd April

7 p.m. Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church  
***Agape Meal with Communion***  
A Commemoration of Love  
*Love is served*

***If you wish to attend the Agape Meal please add your details on the sheet at the back of the church, along with any dietary requirements to help with catering.***

### Friday, 3rd April

7 p.m. Stepps Parish Church  
***Good Friday Service***  
A Commemoration of Love  
*Love is revealed*

### Sunday, 5th April

9 a.m. Hogganfield Loch  
***Joint Open Air Service***  
  
10 a.m. Stepps Parish Church  
***Refreshments***  
  
11 a.m. Stepps Parish Church  
***Joint Service for Easter Sunday***  
A Commemoration of Love  
*Love is eternal*



## World Day of Prayer Service

A huge thankyou to everyone who came along and supported this year's WDP service held at Garthamlock, Ruchazie & Craigend Parish Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.



It was a beautiful service based around the scripture verse from Matthew 11: 28-30

***"I Will Give You Rest, Come"***

Ladies from both congregations led the service which was followed by a fantastic spread afterwards including some home cooked Nigerian delicacies.

Next year marks 100 years of World Day of Prayer and so we hope to encourage as many to come along as possible and mark this momentous milestone.

A cheque for £92 + Gift Aid was sent to the organisers which will go towards the continuing ministry of the WDP movement.



## Lodging House Mission

Date for your diary, the Lodging House Mission AGM will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm, further details to follow.



Donations of eggs can be handed in to the church and our LHM coordinator Frank McGivern will deliver them to the LHM.

## Door Rota

	Welcome at Door	Beadle
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	S Gowans	J Burns
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	J Hope	J Thomson
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	M Inglis	L Ashmole
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	R McGovern	S Baker
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	F McGovern	J Burns



## Tea Rota



April 5 <sup>th</sup>	H Baker	F Maxwell
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	L Robertson	E Watson
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	S Gowans	E Henderson
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	C Skinner	J Bennie
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	C Logan	H Baker

*First person on tea duty please bring milk.*

## *June Thomson*



### Chestnut Cafe

Chestnut Cafe had a charity day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. We wore something red in aid of Red Nose Day and we raised £ 255.

Well done everyone who donated.

We are open every Thursday from 10am to 1pm.  
Come along and enjoy food and chat

All welcome

*Chestnut Café Staff*



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



Our first ever go at the Glasgow Battalion Junior Section Figure Marching Competition went very well indeed, with our Squad picking up third place. Bigger and better next year!

All Boys have been learning about the Easter story and doing lots of Spring and Easter-related arts and crafts, with making Mother's Day gifts and cards thrown in.

Senior Boys continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Staff as Non-Commissioned Officers, working towards the leadership requirement of their King's Badge course. They're also running a beetle drive to raise funds for CRUSE, the mental health charity, as part of the community service element. This will have taken place by the time you read this, more details in the next edition.

We're coming up to our annual Easter Bunny Hop sponsored walk around Hogganfield Loch, which raises funds for the Company. Please contact me if you'd like to sponsor one of the Boys.

## **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.

## **RECRUITS WELCOME!**

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. **WE ARE PARTICULARLY KEEN TO SEE MORE BOYS IN THE ANCHOR BOYS!** Please spread the word!

Colin Goodall

Captain

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

Tel. 07827032807

## **STEPPS PARISH CHURCH**

### **2025 -AND BEYOND**

### **WELCOME TO STEPPS -PEOPLES HISTORY**

The first rough draft of a booklet designed to encourage residents in our rapidly expanding community to embrace community and local organisations, including SPC, has been completed. It consists of 11 sections covering 8 foolscap pages. Three sections are presented below for your comment, corrections, additions, and importantly your memories and experiences. Comment will be presented in italics. Other sections will be produced in Prospect in coming months. If you would like a full draft copy now, please e-mail [jamhp9@outlook.com](mailto:jamhp9@outlook.com)

Other sections to follow include BUSINESS & SHOPS, STEPPS ORGANISATIONS, CHURCHES - PAST AND PRESENT, FARMS, PUBLIC AMENITIES, FAMOUS PEOPLE.

## **MOLINDINAR SOURCE AND COURSE?**

There is some evidence to suggest the burn on which Glasgow was founded rises in Stepps. Historians claim it rises in Hogganfield Loch, but that loch has only one feeder stream. It comes from Frankfield Loch which in turn is fed from a stream that can be

traced from the Buchanan Industrial Estate to run underground alongside Cumbernauld Road (north) to Lenzie Road and then near to what was the former Police Station, where it is now piped underground to join Frankfield Loch. It is recorded that this water ran across what is now Cumbernauld Road at Stepping Stones Nursery on low ground and was forded by means of stepping stones. Hence the name of Stepps is thought to originate.

*“Buchanans garage and forklift truck repair shop was situated at the extreme east of the site, adjacent to the bus garage, later Brewsters. An underground fuel tank sat in a bund wall, which was breached by rising water, even in long dry periods. From this area an underground stream flowed under the main factory and nearby railway lines before joining a waste water culvert from Cardowan Colliery which joined Frankfield Loch.*

## **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

Stepps has seen much housing development over the years. Probably the first large new housing developments took place between 1905/1910 around what is now known as the Bluebell Park, where a terraced house in Whitehill Avenue sold new for £400. In 1922 development spread towards Millerston on farmland, once worked by Steppshill and Coshneuk farms. Cardowan was built mainly in the 1930's on Graigendmuir Farm land. Just after WW2 an estate of prefabricated houses was built around the Mossview Road area in Cardowan, and replaced by a new permanent housing development in the 1960's. Additional housing was built to the north of Cardowan in the 1950's to house Coal Board and Agricultural workers.

Earls Rise was formerly Gateside Farm.

Crowwood Estate was formerly the site of Cardowan Colliery.

*“When I moved into my house in Whitehill Avenue in 1967, it still had a bell push in every room to summon the maid and the back room was still formatted to accommodate a set in bed, presumably for the Maid”.*

## **ORIGIN OF PLACE NAME**

When the first passenger line in Scotland was extended from St Rollox to Garnkirk, steps were formed to allow passenger access from what became Cumbernauld Road and in a History of Stepps (1975) this is listed as being a possible reason for the name. Another could be the fact that at the area of Laundry Lane and Cumbernauld Road a stream is recorded as crossing the road and running towards Frankfield Loch. Stepping stones were used to allow pedestrians to cross and for carriages to pass through. Was this the origin of the name?

*“As a member of Stepps Fire Brigade I was called to a small fire in an unusually shaped hut at the back of the Police Station in the 1960's. The owner, a policeman, explained the hut was very old and had been used to accommodate flax cutters during their stay in the area circa 1800's.”*

## COUNTRYSIDE

### The Irish Path

This was a walkway stretching from the road across from the Miners Memorial on Cardowan Road to Distillery Cottages and then to Garnkirk. Heathfield, Muirhead and Chryston. It was a favourite route for the many Irish workers resident in these areas as they made their way to worship at St. Joseph's. Still open but now part of the Crowwood Housing Estate.

### North Woods

A favourite walk was from Stepps at Victoria Road across country to the North Woods which lay to the north of the M80 motorway. On a summer night it was not uncommon to hear pipers practising in the woods, probably banished there by their families!

### Cardowan to Gartloch

Starting at Clayhouse Road and walking along single track farm lanes to emerge at the Gartloch Hospital Farm on the A814.

### Cardowan to Frankfeld Loch

Now a busy access road to Cardowan and Craigenmuir it was once a cart track and a favourite walk.

*"Just after the war various country walks provided a means of offsetting food shortages. Wild bramble bushes were plentiful as were "hips and haws" from rose bushes and hawthorn trees, for which the Government paid 3d per pound, redeemed at the local school."*

*Jim Hope*

### **May Prospect Deadline**

Please note the earlier deadline date for the May issue. All articles for inclusion in this issue **MUST** be emailed to me by **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**.

Thanks,

Anne