

Prospect

Magazine of Stepps Parish Church



October

2026

Issue 454

Scottish Charity No.
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Welcome to the October

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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Times for Midweek Worship Starting in October

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Harvest Thanksgiving and list of items requested by LHM

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Information on our October Services and Themes

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Sunday Services
Morning Worship 10am



***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:

Minister: Robbie Hamilton

Email: rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Session Clerk/Church Organist/Musician: Alastair Sim

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Our Website:

www.steppsparishchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Our Address:

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

Our Email Address

www.steppsparishchurch.org

Communion Services

These will now be held on the **2nd 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

Prospect

To submit an item for the November Prospect please email the Prospect Editor Anne by **Monday 19th October**.

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

Dear Friends

My attention was first drawn to Ronda in Andalusia by Michael Portillo when he stopped there on his rail journey through Spain. My abiding memory of his visit to this picturesque Andalucian town was of the bridge built over the spectacular yet rugged gorge below. I wasn't to be disappointed by my visit there a few years ago as all of my expectations of the place were to be more than fulfilled. The place was unforgettable as was the journey but for quite different reasons.



When in Spain I always hire a little car and this visit was no different. I made my way up the winding road to Ronda but the journey was hampered by a flat tyre - a sudden blow out! I waited by the roadside for assistance having failed miserably to work out how to bot locate and retrieve the space saver tyre. Help came, I managed to limp into Ronda at no more than 80km per hour. Everyone was so helpful and the tyre was repaired for the princely sum of 9 euros.

So, why am I telling you this? Plans are made. Dreams are caught. Reality on the other hand has a way of turning out in ways we could never have expected when things go pear shaped or imagined when they have surpassed all expectations. We can make plans and be disappointed, thwarted at every turn. We can make plans and be pleasantly surprised. What is important in all of our plans and journeys is to know and be comforted by the knowing that we don't need to journey on our own or languish in problems on our own. I was in a foreign land, with a limited knowledge of the language yet I was helped by others. When we get a true perspective on things we realise that there is more good than bad. There are more helpful people than not, pleasant people who bend over backwards for us. People who, when life and others let us down, never ever do.

One of the stoles that I have was gifted to me by a member of the congregation has bright pictures. Two images are of the sun and the stars, a reminder of Psalm 121 - "the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.". God is not distant like the hills or even like those who have promised to be with us and let us down. God is at our very right hand and in the words of George McLeod is "closer than breathing itself". This latter statement is so wondrously powerful because you cannot get anything closer to us than breathing and this image of God is of him in and through his Spirit as the very breath of life around us when experiences and situations are in danger of sapping the life out of us.

“Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow” is what that relationship with God in Jesus assures us of - the reality of God with us here and now as well as the promise of that constant presence in the journey ahead.

May God bless you and keep you close to himself now and forever.

Your friend and minister

Robbie H

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Morning Worship

Sunday, 4th October

Walking Together: Partnership Matters

10.00 a.m. Stepps Morning Worship

Walking in Moses' Sandals: Enough!

11.30 a.m. GRAC Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, 11th October

Walking in Moses' Sandals: What kind of God?

10.00 a.m. Stepps Morning Worship

11.30 a.m. GRAC Morning Worship

Sunday, 18th October

Walking in Moses' Sandals: In God's Presence

10.00 a.m. Stepps Morning Worship

11.30 a.m. GRAC Morning Worship

Sunday, 25th October

Harvest Thanksgiving

10.00 a.m. Stepps Morning Worship

11.30 a.m. GRAC Morning Worship

Sunday, 1 st November	10.00 a.m.	Stepps	Morning Worship
	11.30 a.m.	GRAC	Sacrament of Holy Communion

GRAC – Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend

Midweek Worship – Thought-filled Thursdays

Our midweek services start on Thursday, 1st October and will alternate between Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church and Stepps Parish Church.

Thursday, 1st October 12 noon Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend

Thursday, 8th October. 12 noon Stepps

Thursday, 15th October. 12 noon Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend

Thursday, 22nd October. 12 noon Stepps

If you have any prayer requests please be in touch with the minister or write them into the book in church which is available on a Sunday morning.

DATA CLEANSE

Periodically any company, organisation or charity is duty bound under civil law to do what is called a “data cleanse” which is an opportunity to make sure that the information held about individuals – name, address, telephone number, email address is correct. The Kirk Session has just updated policies around this and data protection and are following this up with a visit to each household to make sure that the information we have is accurate.

It is also an opportunity to catch up with you and hear what has been happening to offer support and see how you can be involved in the life of the church.

Arrangements are under way and we hope to be seeing you soon.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Funerals

10th September

Eric Paton

Message from our Session Clerk

I hope you all had a good summer and enjoyed some of the lovely weather. It has been great to see that the number of people who have been attending the services on a Sunday morning has been steadily increasing. This has created a lovely atmosphere in the church. New visitors are always most welcome.



Now that the summer is coming to a close we can look forward to the Remembrance Day celebrations and of course Christmas. This makes one realise that life is on various cycles whether it be the seasons of the planet, an individual's life stages or even the progress of technology. The one thing, in my opinion, which is not governed by cycles is God as he is constant and eternal. We are just a small 'cog in the wheel' in the cycle of time.

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

Prospect is Changing!

At a recent Kirk Session meeting it was decided that, from December, the Prospect will be published four times a year. This will coincide with communion and therefore future issues will be available in March, June, September and December.

The November edition will therefore be the last monthly issue.

Any articles for the November Prospect should be sent to me by **Monday 19th October**.

Anne



190th GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

We returned to our regular Monday nights a few weeks ago and it's been a very busy time. We've had a great increase in numbers, and are now running all three Sections.

Upcoming events include Glasgow Battalion Junior 7-a-side football, Junior sleepover at Carronvale, and our Church Parade for Dedication (4th October, with usual rolls and sausage for Boys, parents and the congregation afterwards) and Remembrance Sunday (8th November).

Our Senior Boys continue to give us a great deal of valuable help with the younger ones and continue to work towards their King's Badges.

We welcome Laura Harvey and Ben Herriot as Staff members, and of course Robbie as our Chaplain.

Recruits are still welcome:

Anchor Boys	P1-P3	Mondays 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Junior Section	P4-P6	Mondays 6.00pm to 7.30pm
Company Section	P7 and over	Mondays 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Please share this information, and get in touch with any enquiries.

Colin Goodall

Captain

colingoodall91@hotmail.com

Tel. 07828032807

Door Duty



	Welcome at Door	Welcome at Door	Beadle
Oct 4 th	Boys Brigade	Boys Brigade	L Ashmole
Oct 11 th	M Inglis	R McGovern	S Baker
Oct 18 th	F Shields	J Thomson	J Burns
Oct 25 th	E Watson	L Ashmole	C Skinner
Nov 1 st	H Baker	S Baker	J Thomson

Tea Rota

Oct 4 th	C Skinner	J Bennie
Oct 11 th	E Henderson	L Robertson
Oct 18 th	E Watson	H Baker
Oct 25 th	F Maxwell	C Logan
Nov 1 st	J Bennie	S Gowans



First person on rotation please bring milk

June

Sunday Club

The Sunday Club meet on a Sunday morning. We are in church for the first part of the church service and then retire to the church hall to participate in games, crafts, quizzes, discussion and fun activities based on Bible stories.

There is a Community Service in church on Sunday 4th of October and the Sunday Club will remain in church for the whole service.

On Sunday 11th October we will be on holiday due to the October week break but we will resume on Sunday 18th October.

Any children and young people from age 3 are welcome to join us on a Sunday morning.

Anne, Linda and Esther

Chestnut Café



Have you been to the Chestnut cafe? If not, then please come along and enjoy tea, a variety of coffees, scones, pancakes and cakes. Our lunchtime menu is sandwiches, soup and toasties. Also, plenty of chat and friendship. We are open every Thursday, 10am to 1pm. Hope to see you on Thursdays.

Chestnut Cafe staff



One of our church members, Kate Houston, recently celebrated her 95th birthday at the Chestnut Café.



The Rt Rev Gordon Kennedy, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland visited the Chestnut Café after a visit to Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Church where the new Prayer Room was dedicated.

New Choir Opportunity at GRaC



Combined Voices from
Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend
linked with Stepps

is a new initiative at Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend
Parish Church bringing together people who just enjoy singing –
who have been part of a choir or always wanted to be part of one.

No Audition required – just enthusiastic singers sought who want
to make music with others!



Please come along for our first night and
our first sing together on
Tuesday, 6th October at 7.30 p.m.
Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church
Porchester Street
For more details contact Robbie on
07934664197/ rhamilton@churchofscotland.org.uk

2025-And Beyond Brief Update

From regular articles in Prospect, recent comment on progress of premises and upgrade and development of Church and Halls has been practically non-existent. This is because the Feasibility Study results from our Architects have been assessed in detail and subject to ideas put forward by our Minister based on his experience of Church development. Recent meetings have produced much progress and aided by David Thorn, we are establishing costs for build/refurbishment works with the intention of presenting them at the next Trustees Meeting. If/when Trustees agree to recommendations we will inform members. Cost estimates are being sourced for refurbishment of the hall toilets and kitchen, refurbishment of the main door gathering area, changes to the stage and backstage areas, the main and lesser hall upgrading and toilet provision in Church.

Jim Hope

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service is being held on Sunday the 25th of October. We will be collecting items for the Lodging House Mission and a list of suitable items for donations can be found on the next page.

Our church LHM coordinator, Frank McGovern, will arrange for items to be delivered to the LHM after the service.

We are also arranging for flowers to be delivered to some of members who are unwell or unable to attend our services.



Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2026

We are so grateful to you for supporting LHM year after year, it means a lot to us. We've put together a short list of the things we need most. If you're able, please pick from these - we've thought it through so it reflects what we actually use. We've also included a few everyday essentials we usually have to buy; donating these would save us money that we can redirect to other areas of our work. Your help allows us cook hot, nutritious lunches and provide emergency food parcels for those who are struggling. If a cash donation is easier, we'll use it to buy fresh fruit, veg and other perishables we need, keeping meals healthy and cutting waste.

Thank you from The LHM Team

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Goods
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nut	Pears	Baked Beans
Weetabix	Pineapples	Chopped tomatoes
Rice Crispies	Mandarins	Coconut Milk
Sugar Puffs	Fruit Cocktail	Condensed Milk
Frosties	Other	Potatoes
Coco Pops	Diluting/fresh juice	Custard
Cheerios	Coffee	Rice Pudding
Porridge	Biscuits	Butter Beans
Dried Goods	Crisps	Cannellini Beans
Cous Cous	Tea Bags	Chickpeas
Bulgur wheat	Long life milk	Tinned lentils
Paprika, Cumin	Rapeseed Oil	Other
Lentils	Plain Flour	Brown Sauce
Mixed herbs	Corn Flour	Tomato Sauce
Garlic powder	Mustard	Vinegar
Onion powder	Butter	Soya Sauce
Chilli powder	Bottle lemon/lime juice	Worcestershire Sauce
Crushed chillies	Dry yeast	Olive oil
Ground coriander	Baking Powder	Vegetable oil
Black pepper	Red wine vinegar	Gravy Granules
Salt	Apple Cider Vinegar	Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Pasta	Vanilla Extract	Jelly
Long grain rice	Essentials	Sugar
Bay Leaves	Washing up liquid	Tomato Paste
Lasagna Sheets	Washing Powder	Passata
Coriander	Toilet Tissue	

Food Parcel Items

pot noodles/packet noodles	Tinned ham, corn beef, tuna,	Tinned spaghetti, spaghetti hoops	Tinned meatball, macaroni tinned dinners eg:curries
instant mash	Microwave rice pouches, pasta pouches	Biscuits, cereal bars	tinned soups packet soups



LHM360 Newsletter

www.lhm360.org

New Chaplain

Rev. Aime Aitken

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Chaplain at LHM. After 15 years in pastoral ministry and three years working in social care homeless services, this new role is an incredible opportunity for me to bring my passions together in one, unique place. I've loved spending the last month getting to know the LHM community by serving and learning alongside the incredibly skilled, passionate, dedicated staff and volunteers.



Sadly, just before I started, our beloved staff member Archie Sharp passed away. Archie had served in the kitchen at LHM for over 40 years and it's estimated he cooked over one million meals. It's clear from the stories staff have shared, and the funeral service that was held right here at LHM, that Archie was a beloved, gentle giant who meant so much to the whole community. Our staff, volunteers and guests put together a beautiful service that showed just how deep the relationships at LHM really run. Please keep the LHM community in your prayers as they learn to live with the loss of someone who was so deeply loved.



Upcoming Events

- Homelessness Service 6 pm - 08/10/26
- Please look out for our LHM Christmas card / Calendars coming soon



HARVEST

September 2026

Harvest is a great time for us to celebrate the gifts that God's creation offers us. It's a time to be thankful for what we have and to be generous with those in need. For many of our guests, fresh healthy food is something they can struggle to afford or choose for themselves. Our lead chef Jason does an incredible job of squeezing every possible bit of nutrition he can into our daily meals. Making soup and mains with seasonal veg, or desserts filled with fruit, means our guests are not only filling their bellies when they eat, but benefiting from all the natural nutrition in what they eat. If your church is celebrating Harvest, we would love you to consider donating fresh, seasonal food to LHM as well as some of our pantry staples. If you would like to donate, please drop by between 9:30am-11:30am during the week.



Harvest Church Reps Event

We would love to invite your church representatives to a Harvest Celebration event on 20th October from 2-3:30pm. There will be a time of worship and thanksgiving for all that God has provided, an opportunity to pray for the work at LHM and an afternoon tea provided by our wonderful kitchen team as our thanks to you for your generous support. We would welcome two reps per attending church. To confirm your places,

Please call or email Helen to confirm attendance: T: 0141 5520285

E: enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk



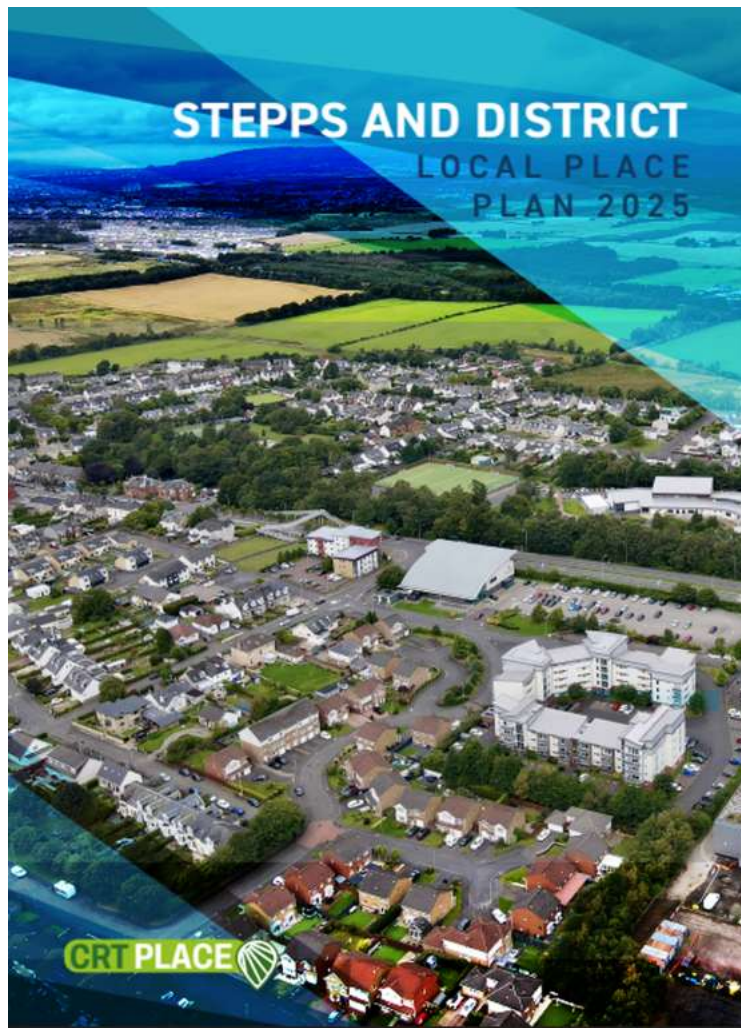
PRAYER POINTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

We deeply value being held in prayer by our churches. If you're including us in your service prayer time or newsletters, we would appreciate prayer for the following:

- Safety for all our guests and staff. We have recently experienced higher numbers during peak hours, which means more people moving around the hall and more activity around the building. This means working a little harder practical to keep everyone safe and ensure we spot those in need of help. We peaked at 139 one day in August which is the highest intake since 2021.
- Wisdom for our staff as we work alongside individuals experiencing complex mental health challenges. We want LHM to be a safe and welcoming place for anyone who needs us. At times this means helping people whose mental health presents with challenging behaviour, that can create difficult dynamics with other guests. Please pray for staff as they seek to make every guest feel safe and welcome.
- New Volunteers – we're delighted to have welcome some new volunteers on to the team. Please pray that they will feel welcomed as part of the team and enjoy their time with us!

LHM360, 35 East Campbell Street, G1 5DT 0141 552 0258
Registered Scottish Charity: SC017283



****NEWS FLASH**** Stepps & District Community Council has launched the Local Place Plan for our area. It is registered with North Lanarkshire Council.

The Plan was produced following extensive community consultation and includes:

- The community's ambitions for our area
- What features are valued
- What features are of concern today
- Our aspirations for the future.

To read the Plan and register your interest in future community projects and activities visit Stepps & District Community Council website <https://www.steppscc.com/lpp-register-your-interest> . Booklets are available in many local venues including Stepps Parish Church.

****ALL WELCOME**** The Community Council meets monthly in Stepps Cultural Centre. For more information email secretary.sdcc@gmail.com.

