

Image Courtesy of <https://faithtalks.blog>

***Welcome to the April 2024 edition of
Prospect***

*In this edition there is our usual
features with news & updates from,
BB, congregational news and update
on our linkage.*

*Congregational Vote on Unitary
Constitution 21st April.*

*Save the Date for Service of Union
16th May Garthamlock, Craigend &
Ruchazie.*

*Committee - Planning Members
Needed*

*If you have any ideas for additional
features, please get in touch.*

April 2024

Issue 429

Scottish Charity No. SC014212

PROSPECT

**Magazine of Stepps Parish
Church**

Contact Us:

Minister: Currently Vacant

Session Clerk: Lorraine Robertson
sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com

Church Organist / musician:

Alastair Sim 07821 667272

**Watch us on YouTube each
Sunday at 11.00 am.**

Follow us on Facebook.

www.steppsparishchurch.org

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

To submit an item for Prospect
please email Lorraine on

sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com



Stepps Parish Church

Minister: Currently Vacant

Interim Moderator: Deacon
Claire Herbert
CHerbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mobile 07960 546553

Session Clerk

Lorraine Robertson

Tel: 0141 779 2356
sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com



Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

Address:

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

www.steppsparishchurch.org

Communion Services

(1st Sunday – March, June,
September, December)
11.00am

Contacts:

Pastoral Locum: Mrs. Christine
Reid: By appointment

Hall Lets: Mrs. June Thomson
07909 - 042366

Safeguarding Coordinator

Mrs. Ailsa Macdonald
07952 - 095380

Please continue to follow the website for information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you all back 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

Follow us on Facebook

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



Charity No SC012412



Left in the Dust

Pastoral Letter Deacon Claire Herbert

Chocolate, School Holidays, Daylight Saving Time, showers – not too many, I hope! That is how April opens.

Holy Week is upon us as I write and yet I know by the time you read this Easter will feel but a distant memory. *The call to serve left in the dust of Lent.*

There are changes all around us and in us. As buds burst in nature and in ourselves as we respond to the change of weather and lengthening days. Here in the parish, there are changes too.

Our cluster partners at Garthamlock and Craigend Parish Church and Ruchazie Parish Church are to unite, serving a new combined parish of 9,308 people. The service of Union will take place in Garthamlock on May 16th at 7pm to which you are all warmly invited.

Later in the year, our own congregation, Stepps, will be linked with the newly united congregations at Garthamlock, Craigend and Ruchazie, forming a new enlarged parish of 17,183 people. This will pave the way to begin the process of calling a minister.

Such a large, linked parish will require new ways of working and care. A team of volunteers, elders and community participation working alongside any new ministry to effectively engage with such a large geographic area. In recognition of the opportunities and the challenges within the Presbytery Mission Plans for our area, the elders have been working hard to ensure that Stepps Parish Church is a well-equipped space in the right place for the future growth of Gods Kingdom here in Stepps and across the cluster.

As part of this reshaping, a congregational meeting is being held in April to seek your resolution to move to a new form of constitution, known as the Unitary Constitution. This change will bring us in line with newly formed congregations across the presbytery. Part of the change is the formation of new committees to take on the congregational responsibilities of mission, management and maturing the faith. These new committees can invite participation from any member of the congregation, community members and volunteers widening the participation and collaboration in the churches mission to 'follow Jesus'.

More details are in this edition of Prospect.

One noticeable change will be that elder's districts will come under the care of a pastoral team. Allowing us to serve in new and more focused ways, to the housebound, hospitals, families and those newly married in the parish.

We are called by Jesus to 'come and follow' him. Let us not forget - in the midst of all that is emerging - the heart of *true* discipleship. That is, staying close enough to our

teacher, Jesus, that we eat at His table, sit at His feet and after long hours walking behind him from place to place we shall be covered in the dust of His footsteps. As people of The Way.

Claire

Deacon Claire Herbert

Interim Moderator.

Chaplain LHM

Throughout the month of April, I welcome your questions or comments on these changes, please drop me an email cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk or speak to your elder.

CONSTITUTION

The Kirk Session have been exploring the recommended constitution, Unitary Constitution. As a congregation we operate under an older form of constitution known as the 'Model Deed.'

"The Kirks with the "Unitary Constitution", (also known as quoad omnia) parishes, allow the single body of the Kirk Session and its committees to oversee both temporal and spiritual issues. These include everything from property to pastoral care and from finance to vision for the future.

On the other hand, the "Model Deed of Constitution", (also known as the quoad sacra), represents the separation of matters temporal and matters spiritual. Issues such as property and finance are taken care of by the Congregational Board, while the Kirk Session is left to oversee the spiritual life of the congregation.

As recently as 2008, the General Assembly urged congregations, which were not already using the Model or Unitary Constitution, to review their practice and consider adopting one or the other. This was prompted by the need for local congregations to comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, which placed upon members of Kirk Sessions, Congregational Boards, the additional responsibility of Charity Trusteeship. With this comes a far greater need for transparency and simplicity in governance.

In that context, the provision of a written constitution for the congregation and a single agency responsible for governance is greatly to be desired. In order to comply fully with this burden of charity trusteeship, there has been a healthy trend towards the adoption of the Unitary Constitution. This arrangement provides the necessary written constitution, but at the same time, eliminates the possibility of Charity Trustees being constituted in separate meetings and coming to different views on matters of common interest.

The General Assembly of 2016, while not compelling every congregation to adopt the Unitary Constitution, decided that from 1 January 2017 the Delegation of Assembly would, in cases where a new constitution was requested, only issue constitutions in the Unitary form. So it is that 2016 saw the very last issue of the Model Deed of Constitution.”

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/64790/Office_Bearers_Constitutions_of_the_Kirk.pdf

In practice, here at Stepps this will immediately reduce the need for two clerks, sets of meetings and minutes. Allowing the members of the Congregational Board to be invited to join the eldership.

“The section [of the act], describing the tasks of the Kirk Session provides a general overview of the tasks of an elder. Apart from a duty of attendance at Kirk Session meetings and taking a due part in the decision-making process, the duties of a particular elder will be defined by the Kirk Session.

Historically, these have included the pastoral care of a district and this continues to be important. However, modern practice favours more attention being given to the special gifts of each elder and it should not be assumed that these will include pastoral visiting. They might include education, fabric, finance or any of the areas of work a Kirk Session identifies.

PASTORAL CARE

The Kirk Session, directly or through an appropriate committee, has the duty of making arrangements for pastoral districts and appointing one or more persons to have oversight of each district. Such people need not necessarily be elders. One suggestion that came from the Assembly Council Report was that, perhaps, districts might be larger and served by a team of pastoral visitors instead of a single elder.

Such a team could involve one or more elders, a magazine distributor, and others with gifts suitable to pastoral visitors. [The team would undergo appropriate training in safeguarding, pastoral listening and be members of the PVG scheme.]

Among suggestions gathered by the Assembly Council were:

- people may be visited in different ways according to need.
- visitors might follow up weddings, funerals and baptisms with pastoral care.
- instead of geographical districts, elders should care for groups of similar people, such as older people, or recently married couples.
- instead of the elder calling on each of the members in their district, all the members could meet together.

- the elders who had the greatest pastoral gifts could form a team to give extra care to the housebound and hospitalised. [A role currently undertaken by Christine Reid.]
- instead of seeing pastoral care only in terms of visiting, creative thinking should be done to identify and meet the real needs of the parish, for example providing a babysitting service to give parents a break.”

<file:///F:/Admin/Stepps/Unitary%20Constitution/Unitary-Constitution-Guidelines.pdf>

As you can see there are a myriad of new opportunities and possibilities which open up to us in this new way of working.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1811/1964_act_19.pdf

For some these are just the exciting possibilities they have been waiting for. For others it will mean that some cherished ways of working and traditions will be coming to an end. We will all go at a different pace in transitioning this time of change. With forbearance and patience as a community of love, I trust we will continue to support one another to review the most appropriate ways to grow the Kingdom of God.

The congregational vote is Sunday 21st April.

Upcoming Worship Details

Date	Theme	Worship Leader	Bible Reader	Prayers
7 th April	Easter 1	Claire Herbert	Flora Shields	To Be Confirmed
14 th April	Easter 2	Ailsa MacDonald	Marvyn Mackay	
21 st April	Easter 3	Claire Herbert	Ailsa MacDonald	TBC
28 th April	Easter 4	Allan Lafferty (Prob)	Graeme Izatt	
5 th May	Easter 5	Claire Herbert	Jim Hope	TBC
12 th May	Easter 6 / Ascension	Claire Herbert	Margaret Crawford	TBC
19 th May	Christian Aid / Pentecost	Elders	Alastair Sim	Elders
26 th May	Trinity Sunday	Donald McLeod (Rev)	Ellie Henderson	
2 nd June	Communion	Claire Herbert / Stewart McMillan	Irene Ashby	
9 th June	Ordinary Time	Claire Herbert	Scott Baker	TBC
16 th June	Prize Giving / Father's Day	Donald McLeod (Rev)	June Thomson	
23 rd June	Ordinary Time	Allan Lafferty	Liz Ashmole	
30 th June	Ordinary Time	Allan Lafferty	Flora Shields	
7 th July	Ordinary Time	Andrew Rooney (Rev) Compassion	Marvyn Mackay	
14 th July	Ordinary Time	Claire Herbert	Ailsa MacDonald	TBC

We have a well-established list of readers who take a regular part in worship and their contribution is greatly appreciated.

We are now beginning to establish a group of people who feel called and able to take part in the prayers for worship. If anyone would like to join the rota, it does not matter your age, how long you consider you have been a Christian or that you are a regular attender. If you feel you would like to know more about prayer, share prayer with others and are willing to have a go at speaking in church then we would like to support you to share your gift in the service of God and for the good of all Gods people.

Can you help us to change TBC into reality and put your name down?

We will be starting off with pre-written prayers of your choosing and as we expand the pool of people and confidence grows, new prayer rhythms will emerge. I encourage you to be in touch and to add your name to the list and see where you can go in God's strength.

Please drop me an email cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk or leave your details on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Quasquicentennial Jubilee



Next year marks our 125th Anniversary or for those Latin scholars among you our *Quasquicentennial Jubilee*. Already we are considering how we may mark this remarkable milestone in the life of our church and welcome your thoughts on how we can promote and observe the significance of this notable landmark. Perhaps you have hidden talents and can assist in delivering a special service of worship or are good at planning events or have memories to share to help us compile an exhibition, host a jubilee party or other event.

Before our congregation can celebrate, some planning needs to take place and we are keen to put together a planning committee to help come up with ideas to mark and celebrate the anniversary and plan special celebratory events and encourage you all to think how we can use this special occasion to continue to strengthen our place in the community. If interested please speak to Jim Hope or Lorraine to bring your plans to fruition.

All suggestions warmly welcomed.

Session Clerk Letter



As I write this month's letter we await the *Hope* and *Joy* of our Lord's Resurrection. Easter brings a message of *Hope* and *Renewal* and as April edges closer there is lot of information in this month's issue and that message of *Hope and Renewal* seems apt as we move closer to our linkage with Garthamlock and Craigend. I urge you all to take the time to read and consider prayerfully Claire's call to volunteer or think how you can get more involved within the life of our church as we consider a fundamental change in the way we currently constitute ourselves.

A lot is happening and it suddenly is going very fast but there is good reason to try and get through some of the formalities quickly to allow our adjustment with Garthamlock and Craigend and the soon to be united congregation with Ruchazie to go ahead as smoothly as possible before the summer recess of Presbytery.

Our days are lengthening and this is welcomed as the brighter days seek to strengthen and renew our energies. We have spoken before of the difficulties in filling our vacancy and the issue of buildings and it is hoped that once we formally approve our linkage then we can aim to go forward in putting out an advertisement for our newly linked congregations. This involves other work of course as the parish profile will have taken on a fresh look so there is still a way off yet but as the Poem on page 14 alludes to we have to roll our sleeves up and "*tackle the thing that ... couldn't be done.*"

The next 12 months I expect will bring about even more changes and progress I hope for our congregation. My husband would laugh as he knows I love a plan and I'm not referring to the *Presbytery Plan* but to make it a success we need you all to be on board and offer your help where you can. How wonderful would it be if 2025 brings us a year of increased growth, hope and renewal. Let's make it a promising one for us all as the Easter message refreshes us going forward.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

(John 11:25)

May the joy and promise of Easter fill your heart with joy and your spirit with renewed faith.

As always.

Lorraine.



190th GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Company Section Boys joined up with Boys from the 94th to field joint squads in the Glasgow Battalion Drill Competition for smaller Companies and took first and second place.

A group from the 190th and 162nd went along to the Scotland v France rugby match in Edinburgh, and to Glasgow Clan v Manchester Storm ice hockey at Braehead.

A new activity was the Easter Bunny Hop sponsored walk around Hogganfield Loch, which raised a fantastic £735.00 for Company funds. Thank you to all the Boys and parents (and dogs) who took part.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section completed some Easter crafts, and the Company Section finished up for the break with a trip to ten-pin bowling.

We're off now for the Easter break but we'll be back as normal on Monday 15th April, when we'll start working towards our Annual Display.

CAN YOU HELP?

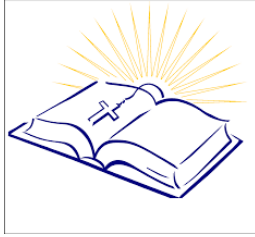
Due to our growing numbers, we are in great need of adult help on a Monday night. We expect to expand our numbers even further after the Summer and will really need help at that point. If anyone would be interested in helping out, either weekly or just occasionally, it would be greatly appreciated. Please 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 7.00pm. 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

colingoodall91@hotmail.com

[Tel. 07827032807](tel:07827032807)



Congregation News

Death: Mr. Glyn Edwards 18th March 2024

Parish Funeral: (Daldowie Crematorium 28th March)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

(Matthew 5:4)

April Welcome Duty



	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
April 7th	S. Baker.	S. Gowans	J. Thomson
14th	J. Burns.	J. Hope	L. Ashmole
21st	A. Macdonald.	J. Thomson	S. Baker
28th	F. McGovern	F. Shields	J. Burns
May 5th	C. Skinner	E. Watson	J. Thomson

If you are unable to do your weekly rota. Please ensure you arrange someone to cover

June Thomson

Tea Rota



April 7th	L. Robertson	E Watson
14th	A. Moutantzi	H. Baker
21st	C. Skinner	S. Gowans
28th	E. Corbett	H. Baker
May 5th	L. Robertson	S. Gowans



Chestnut Café

The Chestnut Café is open every Thursday from **10.00am - 1.00pm** at Stepps Parish Church, Whitehill Avenue, Stepps. Named after the large chestnut tree at the entrance to the church halls, the café has a menu of eight barista style coffees, a variety of teas and hot chocolate with scones, pancakes and a choice of cakes. In addition, from **12.00 noon** soup, bread rolls and toasties, with a variety of fillings are served for lunch. Payment is by donations only.

During April, by very special request, every Thursday from **11.00 - 12.00 noon** there will be time for music and gentle exercise as Gary Swan leads our ever-popular Line Dancing Sessions once again. Our charity of the month on Thursday 22nd February, marked World Encephalitis Day, and all the donations were given to The Encephalitis Society, the amount raised was £350.00 which is the highest amount we have raised and wish to thank all our generous customers for digging deep and contributing to this wonderful amount.

Do come along for fellowship and friendship, out of the cold and into the warmth of the church halls and enjoy a hot tea, coffee or hot chocolate and a snack lunch.





MANSE SALE

Following on from our Manse Update in last month's edition of Prospect, we can now report that there have been several viewings of the manse by interested parties and a conditional offer has very recently been accepted by the Law Dept at 121 on behalf of

the General Trustees who own the property. The legalities will take a little time to conclude but soon the manse will be in private ownership.

Hebron Concert



Saturday, April 20th, 2024 at 7:30PM

**Shettleston New Church
679 Old Shettleston Road
Glasgow, G32 7JG**

**Gospel Music
with a Jewish flavour,
with ministry
in word and song**

Featuring:

**Simon Elman
Chrissy Rodgers
Helen Shapiro**

**ADMISSION: BY
FREE TICKET
A freewill offering
will be taken**

**For tickets,
Contact:
07765 400915**



Shettleston New are hosting a Hebron concert and would like to invite local congregations along. It will be a fab night of music and ministry with 3 very talented musicians. Some of us older folks will no doubt remember Helen Shapiro from many moons ago with her hit 'Walking back to happiness'.

If anybody would like tickets, they can contact Isabella Gallagher directly on 0781 508 9897 busyisi881@gmail.com or the number on the poster.

2025 is an important year for our church already some early thought's come into my head but we welcome your input and suggestions on how we can celebrate our ***Quasquicentennial Jubilee.***

We know there are many among you have hidden talents and skills and we welcome all suggestions.

(1900 - 2025)



Our Centenary Window

"Our risen Lord"

It Couldn't Be Done

By EDGAR ALBERT GUEST

Somebody said that it couldn't be done

But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So, he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried, he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

At least no one ever has done it;"

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure,

There are thousands to point out to you one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;

Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing

That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

Courtesy of Poetry Foundation