

*Image courtesy of thechristianfilmreview.com*

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### ***Welcome to the April 2022 edition of Prospect***

*In this edition there is all our usual  
features with updates from the Boys  
Brigade, LHM and a further update on  
the Presbytery Planning process.*

*Elsewhere in the edition we bring you  
some news from Ukraine as well as  
dates for our Easter services and an  
Easter special offer for the Life And Work  
magazine.*

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

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**April 2022**

Issue 409

Scottish Charity No.  
SC014212

## **PROSPECT**

**Magazine of Stepps Parish  
Church**

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

**Follow us on Facebook.**

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

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## Stepps Parish Church

### Minister

Rev Gordon MacRae (BD  
MTh)

Tel: 0141 779 5742



### Session Clerk

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## Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

Whilst many of the legal restrictions previously in place have been removed. The pandemic is not yet behind us and the increased surge of Covid-19 infection these past couple of weeks means the law Re. face coverings must wait a further review in two weeks' time because of increased infection rates and hospitalisations. This means that we are still required *by law* to wear masks in Church and the earliest date on which the requirement will be removed will be 4<sup>th</sup> April with an announcement in Parliament the previous Tuesday (29<sup>th</sup> March). However, from the 21st March the legal requirement to retain contact details for attendees will be removed – so Test & Protect registration at the door will be discontinued.

Please continue to follow the website for information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you all back with us again. For those who are unable to return with us at this time we will continue to stream our weekly Sunday service on our Stepps Parish Church YouTube channel

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



Charity No: SC014212

## Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae



### **A**re you Lost?

If you watched my Wednesday Reflection (23<sup>rd</sup> March) or shared in worship the following Sunday, you will know that God has led me to focus on the notion of Lost and Found. We visited the parables in Luke 15. There we heard the word '**lost**' several times. The Parables of the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Parable of the Lost Son.

Each of these deal with someone, a woman, a shepherd, a father losing something or someone. Each parable ends with a huge party to celebrate that was lost now found.

I want us to shift the emphasis a little by recalling the occasions when YOU were lost, Did a map and compass help? Did the 'satellite navigation thingy find your way, or did it lead you further from your destination? You may think the best choice is to ask someone for directions. Often, when I try that I ask several folk before I find a local; "sorry I am a stranger here too!".

There is much about being lost in the Bible. People who have wandered in the wilderness. Folk who have failed to accept guidance. Disciples who have stopped following Jesus. Others who have chosen to follow their own desires, those who have found themselves in a blind alley.

Whatever the reason we all know what it is to be lost, either on a journey to a new destination or a journey in faith.

It seems to me that, in recent years, the Church of Scotland has got herself a little lost. Lack of resources, lack of fresh incite, lack of vision has caused a loss of direction. The Kirk seems to have meandered along one of those blind alleys. The General Assembly should have acted when first we noticed a drop in attendance, when givings failed to keep pace with expenditure more importantly, we failed to listen, we failed to see.

Now we must seek guidance from God. The General Assembly has chosen to offer a radical plan that will result in cutting the number of ministers by half and radically reducing the number of buildings. We, each parish, each congregation faces a choice. We have to find a way to be an effective presence of God while seeking to share ministries and buildings with neighbouring church families. As I write I have to admit that we are lost! We, as yet remain unclear on the direction God is guiding us. We need your guidance; we need your prayers.

Lent is a period for searching, a time for wandering and wondering. Each year we feel lost as we strive to see God more clearly, love God more dearly, follow God more nearly. Yet every Easter we find our way as we stand below the cross and then go with Mary to see our risen Lord. Jesus has us go out and tell the world.....

### ***"The Lord is Risen"***

Are you lost?

We all should remember what Jesus said when Thomas said

'Lord, we do not where you are going, how can we know the way?'

Jesus said

***'I am the Way!'***

May the Easter Good News ring loud in your ears and may it call you to follow the Risen Jesus

*Gordon x*

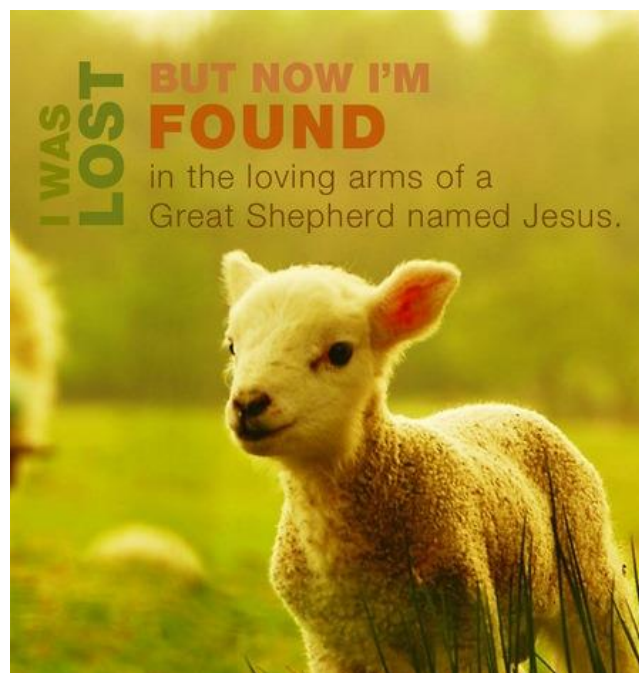


Image courtesy of WordPress.com

## Session Clerk Letter



Once again there has been a lot happening since my last letter. March seems to have been a month of meetings and a time for reflection and pondering.

Firstly, I attended an Eldership Conference at the start of the month, which spoke of how we can '**Recharge our Eldership**' for the future. Change has been part of eldership from its early founding years. Like the children of Israel or the first disciples and change will continue to be part of its work and witness in its future. The new **Mission Planning Act of 2021** which I seem to bang on about all the time will certainly see and expect the role of the elder to change particularly as ministry posts reduce. The following 2 Saturdays saw me attend Zone meetings... not to be confused with **Zoom** meetings but actual in person zone or cluster meetings representing our congregation in both zone 2 & 3. To be honest I feel a little zoned out by it all.

I have been encouraged, perplexed and informed and not necessarily all in that order. The theme of Journey is a constant and recurrent one in the Bible from the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, to the description of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation. These journeys often were fraught with difficulties and challenge and those who were involved in them did not always find them easy or simple to negotiate.

That is where I find myself today as I write to you. Gordon has spoken of the new journey that we face as a National Church. The challenge that lies ahead. None of you who has been listening to us this past year could fail to comprehend the enormity of what lies ahead for us all.

Gordon speaks of being **Lost**... of journeying through Lent and seeking answers. I don't mind confessing that if a satnav could currently point me in the right direction as I seek to search deeply within myself to discern the journey for Stepps Parish Church I'd happily follow its course. Sadly, no such navigational tool exists and so I feel the burden of the decision weigh heavy on my shoulders whilst I seek to take you on that journey with us. To ask for your guidance in determining the right road for us as a congregation. Do we follow the head or the heart? Will we lose some of you along the way? Can we turn back if we take the wrong turning? or don't like the way we are heading!

All I can say is that God will know the plans he has for us. I am encouraged by Gordon reminding me of Thomas's words of his doubts, of the disciples not knowing the way? And of Jesus response to his question.

***"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans".***

*(Proverbs 21:5)*

*Affectionately Yours*

*Lorraine x*





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

[facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade](https://facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade)

Company Section remains as busy as always, so much that I had to look back through the timetables to see what we had done.

Target Boys have all received their Membership Badges and first years have been converted to the new badge structure, this is a faff for all concerned and we are very glad Colin is on it because it would take the rest of us ages to do.



We have finished our block on Our Place in the World looking at current affairs and their impact on us for older Boys whilst Target Boys completed their mindfulness block.

All the Boys tried different mediums for making pictures, some more successfully than others, chocolate we discovered was exceedingly difficult to work with while pastels, wax and water colours produced more recognisable pictures.



We had a visit from a forensic expert, Ryan (94<sup>th</sup> Glasgow) who showed us various methods of lifting fingerprints and how to identify distinct types of fingerprints, I am still removing fingerprint powder from things now. It was an interesting evening and something which none of us knew anything about previously.

On the same evening Benjamin did some basic computer programming, I even found out what an Algorithm is, the resultant cookies were particularly good and worth the effort. There is no photographic evidence for the cookies... says it all I think.

Our current block of classes includes a guest instructor Grant doing self-awareness and self-defence work with the boys. How to avoid, emphasis here, and be prepared to deal with would be aggressors.

James continues to progress towards his Queen's Badge and has been working with the Anchors and Juniors on a Platinum Jubilee Project. This covers a number of activities related the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from artwork to games and cookery, watch this space Mums and Dads!

We are moving towards our Parents night and Summer Programme both of which are eagerly anticipated this year as we return to a more usual way of doing things more to follow on this next month.

**Christine Copeland, Lieutenant**



The Anchor Boys and Junior Section have been busy working on activities for the Queen's Jubilee too, making crown-shaped jam sandwiches and designing BB Jubilee stamps.

Both Sections will be going on a trip to City Kids soft play for the Easter break.

Anchor Boys (P1-P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6) are on Monday nights, 6.00pm to 7.00pm; Company Section (P7 and over) is on Mondays 7.00pm to 9.00pm. All recruits very welcome.

**Colin Goodall, Captain**

**Captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com**

**Follow us on our company Facebook page**

**<https://www.facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade/>**

## Latest Bulletin



Dear Supporters,

We are in the midst of Lenten reflection upon the Wilderness, re-committing ourselves as *Pilgrims and Strangers on The Way*. Our day centre is experiencing an increase in visitors and in the excitement of voices and activity we recognise the need for solitude.

We are **seeking a team of new volunteers to join our chaplaincy work**, providing a quiet prayer space and willing to offer skilled listening. All training will be given, enthusiasm for mission and openness to others are essential, to join a rota of weekly sessions of up to 2 hours. Is God calling you to a season of listening and prayer? Are you being led to a community who hunger for Hope? Who struggle to make meaning or sense of their experiences? Are you willing to help others explore a conversation with God through prayer?

**Get in touch with our chaplain, Claire Herbert; [cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk) or call 0141 552 0285.**

February marked our weekday service fully reopening, and we have seen an increase in the number of meals we serve.

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Sit in meals	427 (+21)	917 (+200)
Take-out meals	33 (+1)	113 (+43)



amongst people who often feel forgotten.

At the beginning of Lent, we launched our **Easter Egg Appeal**. We are collecting Easter Eggs every day of lent and on Easter Sunday we will be distributing them amongst people living in homeless hostel and temporary accommodation across Glasgow. Accompanied by a card, these Easter symbols are a reminder people are not alone and that '*God so loved the world he sent his only son*' John 3:16. At LHM we share that message of hope, in practical and demonstrable ways,





We are pleased to say our **COMMUNITY SINGING group** are restarting on a Tuesday morning and we are running a **pilot GUITAR GROUP** with 12 Guitars starting on Fridays. Wonderful to have the gift of musical expression back in our building. If you could volunteer to play, learn to play, or sing, no matter your skill level, please pop in or contact our chaplain for more information.

**Sign Up Now for the next round of the Pioneer Introduction Course. Thu, 21 Apr 2022, 19:00 – Thu, 26 May 2022, 21:00 BST @LHM 35 East Campbell Street, G1 5DT.**

[Pioneer Intro Tickets, Thu 21 Apr 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)



*Celebrating **Pancake Day** with a pudding decorating competition.*

We ask for your **prayers** for all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, for those of our guests with families in Ukraine and Poland and those who have previously fled war zones who are struggling with the news at this time. As we advertise for new Chaplaincy volunteers, may those God is calling be inspired and obedient to that call. Pray that the Easter Egg appeal reaches those able to help and those most in need of hope and new life. May the Spring season, offer new opportunities for the team and guests to work together, reducing harm and restoring dignity.

In this season of Lent, Lord, do not let us be tempted by the easy path, be with us in our times of weakness, and in the stranger may we meet Christ on the journey.

*(Adapted from Matthew 6:13)*

**Deacon Claire Herbert,**

**Chaplain to LHM.**

## Presbytery Planning

The Presbytery Mission Plan Creation Group held the last in the series of zone meetings on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. Representatives from churches across the presbytery had positive and constructive discussions about matters such as the allocation of posts to zones and how to identify neighbours for possible local clusters. We in Stepps Parish Church find ourselves in the difficult position of deciding if we cluster with Zone 2 or Zone 3.



*Image taken from the Church of Scotland website*

Across the zones the allocation of ministry posts are expected to drop by almost 50%. Zone 2 where we currently sit has 29 congregations and will reduce to 13.5 ministry post allocations but does also have the highest proportion of Urban Priority Areas (UPA) congregations and so will be slightly higher with some churches having protected status. Zone 3 will drop from 22 posts to an allocation of 10.5.

We are asked to consider and submit our cluster response by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April to Presbytery and submit a work in progress report (by mid May) based around the 5 Marks of Mission. With our final submission for a Cluster Mission Plan by the end of June this year.



### **5 Marks of Mission**

Facilitators will help us to devise our Gospel Mission plan once we have agreed upon which cluster or zone we see ourselves having the most in common. Where we share or see our common values around mission with neighbouring congregations as Gordon has already alluded to in his letter.

The ultimate aim is to see a 100 new worshipping communities throughout Scotland.

“Every community of every size in every location within Scotland is part of a Church of Scotland Parish. While population should no longer be the only principle in shaping Presbytery Plans, it still remains the starting point. ***Our calling as a church is not primarily to resource congregations: it is mission to everyone in the land.***”

The church has ***“a commitment to maintain worshipping, witnessing and serving Christian congregations throughout Scotland.”*** One of the ways in which the gospel finds visible expression is in committed congregations under the power of the Holy Spirit. They both express the gospel and commend the gospel. In their Planning, Presbyteries will identify congregations that are outward looking, which engage with their communities and the wider church and consider how they might build on these strengths”.

***(Extract taken from the Presbytery Planning Task Group, Faith Nurture Forum Report, with input from the General Trustees)***

The emphasis from the Zone meetings was very much directed at Mission and sharing the Gospel to help shape a robust plan for gospel and mission development. However, we were also asked to consider other things such as our assets, what our financial modelling looks like, the sustainability and viability of our buildings, what our running costs are and the number of our worshipping members not merely the numbers that are on our roll. All of this will be closely considered and reflected upon by the Presbytery Plan Creation Group (PPCG) who are ultimately tasked to bring the proposals to Presbytery for the September Session.

We have been asked to be ***‘Creative’*** and advised ***‘Vision’*** is required.

***There needs to be structure and a proper way for it to work whilst also being realistic.***

To say that time is up against us is an understatement. The task is huge and decisions are difficult.

- Do we form a Union or Link with one, two or three congregations?
- Who do we work with?
- What is our Development for Mission plan?
- Where do we see our church in five years time?

I feel very much burdened and still seek to know where I see our future lie. I ask as Gordon does that you pray for the future of your church and ask for God to enlighten us to his plan for us in this most difficult of processes.

***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”***

(Jeremiah 29:11)

## **Volunteer Role Description for Chaplaincy Team Volunteer: Prayer Support**

At LHM we want to ensure that those who are experiencing homelessness, social isolation or exclusion have a place where they feel that they belong, a community for those who come through the doors. Food provides us with a perfect opportunity to engage with people and allow us a chance to build relationships and trust whilst assessing their needs. We are able to provide support to people in-house for a number of issues they may be facing and those issues that we are not able to deal with internally, we can signpost to and even support a meeting/contact to ensure a smooth transition for the vulnerable person.

The Prayer Supporter Role is a new volunteering opportunity being set up at LHM to increase the Christian presence and support available for the work and people of the Mission. Your role as part of the chaplaincy team would be to provide prayer support in a variety of settings. This role has two main purposes; to support our mission aims through prayer for the events, activities and people of Lodging House Mission, and secondly to provide and oversee the provision of a prayer space for guests of the Lodging House Mission to support their prayer life.

### **You will be carrying out tasks such as:**

- Offer a Christian presence and provide specific prayer support to our staff, volunteers and guests.
- To maintain a welcoming and invitational prayer space for our guests.
- Support and encourage participants in their use of the prayer space and introduce available prayer activities and materials as appropriate as part of a three person team.
- Provide a listening ear and the ability to pray with and for those using the space if required.
- Participate in a regular prayer meeting for the events and people of LHM.
- Support the Chaplain in communication of prayer needs to our supporting churches.

### **The skills and attributes you should have:**

- Kindness, compassion and empathy are three key attributes – a friendly face makes people feel welcome and wanted
- An active Christian faith and openness to engage with those of other faiths or none.

- Being enthusiastic about the role you are undertaking
- To have a tolerant and non-judgemental attitude in the face of indifference or hostility
- To be able to work as part of a team as well as on your own
- Be over 18 years of age

### **How much time would you need to commit**

This is something that we can discuss depending on your circumstances and our needs at the time. We would recommend that you commit to one prayer meeting per month as a minimum to build relationships and connect with the team.

Our day centre runs from 8.30am until 3pm. The aim would be for the prayer space to be open to guests between 10 and 2pm. In addition, we would ask that you are able to take a regular slot within that time period. At the moment we are open Monday to Friday but hope to reinstate our weekend provision at some point in the near future.

### **What support can you expect?**

- A taster session to see if this is the place for you.
- An induction session
- The Chaplain will be the point of contact for guidance and pastoral support ☐ Training as necessary/required

### **What are the benefits to you?**

- Being part of a friendly, dynamic team
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in someone's life

The chance to use and develop existing skills and learn new things ☐ A learning, missional community in which to live out your



## Introducing our new LHM Representative



I was extremely flattered when Liz asked me if I would consider taking over the role of Lodging House Mission representative. For those of you that don't know me I thought I should introduce myself and a bit about the work I do. I am a Mum to 2 teenagers Callum (19) and Sophie (16) and for the last 3 years I have been lucky enough to work in a field I have so much passion for, working with the homeless people of Glasgow. This career change away from retail was triggered by my involvement with the Lodging House Mission which started about 2015.

Initially I volunteered with LHM from 2015-2018 helping at lunchtime, sorting out the harvest donations and just being there incase someone wanted to talk. During this time, I became aware of Glasgow City Mission who were given the use of the LHM building from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> March each winter, to run the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter. You may have seen pictures of this, 40 mattresses on a floor with about 6 inches between them and a sleeping bag per person. Every night for 4 months up to 40 people (known as guests) would queue up outside in the freezing cold to be allowed in at 10pm for some sanctuary and respite. It was meeting these guests who stayed on for free breakfast cooked by Archie and Mark every morning that made the biggest impact on me. None of the almost 700 guests that came through the doors over those 4 months wanted to be there, they hadn't chosen to be street homeless they didn't wake up one day and say I am going to chose to be an addict / have mental health issues etc. These people were all children once with dreams and wishes like our children and Grandchildren but something along the way took these dreams from them and left them an empty shell of who they once were. What struck me the most was how these people who had nothing would support each other. They looked after each other and would share what little they had with those who had less than them. This all took place in the safe space that is the Lodging House Mission but run by the amazing charity that is the Glasgow City Mission. (They have an informative website for those looking for more information on their work)

This for me was a revelation. Within a year I had taken a leap of faith and gave up my job and joined Glasgow City Mission on a 4-month temporary contract to work in the Winter Night Shelter, which was still based in the LHM. This was in November 2019 and since then so much has changed within the homeless sector in Glasgow but the LHM have continued to support those in need even during the pandemic.

I am now on my 3<sup>rd</sup> winter working with Glasgow City Mission and in between these winter contracts I continued working with those most in need, initially in one of the hotels set up

by the council to house street homeless during the pandemic (75 bedrooms) and then a 17 bedded residential project for women who are homeless, unfortunately there is no shortage of work in this area.

After having to shut early due to covid in March 2020 the night shelter name was changed to Overnight Welcome Centre and is now in its second year being based in a hotel for the 4 months the project runs. This means that each guest now has an ensuite room instead of a mattress on the floor and the service is now open 24 hours a day 7 days a week allowing staff to support the guests during the day as well. For those of you who are interested in figures as of 20/3/22 the Overnight Welcome Centre has given a bed to 375 individuals (a lot less than the 700 guests 3 years ago) with the average number per night being 29 guests and average length of stay 8.5 days.

These figures are important because the Lodging House Mission although not housing the homeless in Glasgow overnight still support them and the Glasgow City Mission by delivering lunches to us 5 days a week. My maths isn't the best but 29 guests 5 lunches a week for 18 weeks its over 2610 lunches that they have delivered free of charge since December, as well as sending lunches for staff on top of that. This is in addition to their own lunch service that they are still providing at East Campbell Street. That is why the LHM is so important to Glasgow and why I have agreed to be our Church representative going forward.

For those of you interested in homeless figures in Glasgow there are currently 6 known rough sleepers who are being supported by the Simon Community Scotland and Glasgow City Mission outreach services. These people are reluctant to engage and have been offered accommodation but don't want to come in from the cold. There is around 500 people in temporary B&B accommodation in Glasgow and then there are about 1700 temporary furnished flats that are being used as well as all the projects like Wallace of Campsie run by the Salvation army across from the Lodging House Mission in East Campbell Street. Homelessness is increasing year on year in Glasgow but is hidden as there are very few rough sleepers at present. The biggest increase that I have seen over the 3 years are those in work who are presenting as homeless and women who prior to the pandemic would have stayed in unsuitable situations but have decided to leave as they feared for their lives. This is far removed from the stereotype many people have of the homeless in Glasgow.

If anyone would like to know more about the work, I do or would like to get involved please feel free to contact me.

**Jacqueline Hoy**

**LHM Representative**



## Join us for Holy Week Services

**Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

7.00pm in the Sanctuary

**Good Friday Service 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

7.00 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Holy Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

(No service)

**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

11.00 am Family Service.

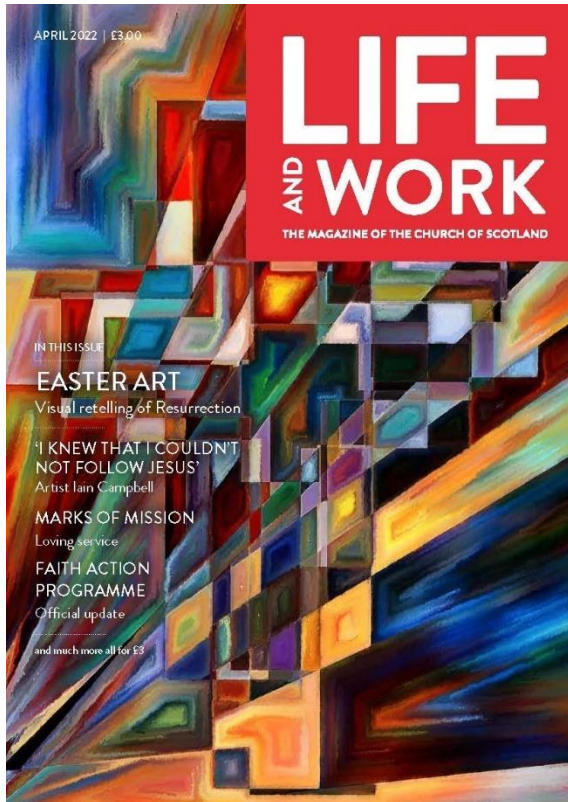
**All welcome.**



*Image courtesy of crosswalk.com*

***“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!’ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.”***

(Mathew 28: 1-6)



Do you read Life and Work? Have you seen the new monthly insert focusing on the work of our Faith Action Programme? Have you read the weekly Climate Justice Diaries on the Life and Work website? Why not subscribe to stay connected with the Christian community in Scotland and further afield? You will also be supporting the vital and vibrant work of the Church of Scotland.

**Print:** 12 issues for the price of 10. Offer price: £30

Use promotion code EAST22 to receive the £6 discount.

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No code required – simply select the introductory offer option.

To take advantage of these savings (valid until 30 April 2022), [please visit the Life and Work website](#).

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Sunday Club will be having an Easter fun morning on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April just before the Easter school holidays begin. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Esther, Anne, Linda & Airain.**



**The 2022 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be a hybrid event, with a mixture of in-person and online commissioners.**



*Assembly Hall in Edinburgh*

Under the measures, agreed at a Commission of Assembly today, an in-person Assembly will be held in Edinburgh, but at least a quarter of the Commissioners will attend virtually. Non-voting attendees, such as youth delegates and corresponding members, will also be able to elect to take part online if they wish.

This will enable numbers in the Assembly Hall to be capped at 550, leaving every second seat vacant.

The convener of the Assembly Business Committee, the Rev Donald McCorkindale, told the Commission of Assembly: “Legal restrictions have passed, but Government advice calls for personal responsibility. We may meet in person. A risk assessment has been carried out and established that with safety restrictions, we would require to cap on site attendance at around three quarters of commissioners and other participants.

“We also understand and hear that many commissioners would choose not to be in a crowded context.”

The measures were passed almost unanimously, although a requirement that presbyteries submit exact numbers of online and in-person commissioners as directed by the Committee was deleted.

Presbyteries must notify the Principal Clerk’s office which of their Commissioners will be attending online by April 8, and other participants who wish to do so by April 15. There will however be provision for people attending in person to switch to online before or during the Assembly, for example if they test positive for Covid-19.

This year’s General Assembly, which opens on Saturday May 22, will be the first in person Assembly since 2019. 2020’s Assembly was cancelled apart from a short ceremony to install the Moderator, and last year’s event was held virtually, with only the Moderator, officials and speakers in the Hall.



## Congregational Roll

**Death:** Honor Breckenbridge 22/03/2022

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”



(John 14:2)

## Cradle Roll



**Baptism :** Ryan Francis McGovern 20/03/2022  
Adam Francis McGovern 20/03/2022

“You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight”.

(Psalm 139)



	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	R. McGovern.	S. MacLean F. Shield	J. Hope
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	F. McGovern.	C. Skinner E. Watson	H. Baker
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	S. Baker	S. Gowans M. Crawford	J. Burns
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	J. Hope	A. Macdonald R. McGovern	S. Baker
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	F. McGovern	F. Shields S. MacLean	J. Hope

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

*June Thomson*



## Ukraine Appeal

The Church of Scotland has been in regular contact with our partner churches, including the Reformed Church in Hungary and the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine ((Egyházkerület Kárpátaljai Református).

### *Church calls for ceasefire in Ukraine*

to come together and pray jointly for peace as different denominations in the region are now doing.

"It is crucially important to demonstrate in the society that Christians from different ethnic backgrounds, representing both minorities and the majority express their wish for peaceful solution to the crisis using diplomacy instead of weapons."

As well as reaching out to partner churches, the Moderator and other Scottish faith leaders are urging our government to welcome refugees from the conflict and to reconsider the controversial Nationality and Borders Bill, that will criminalise those who reach the UK without prior permission.

You can [donate to the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid emergency response](#).

You can also donate through the Church of Scotland - Royal Bank of Scotland Church of Scotland. Account Number: 00134859, Sort code: 83 06 08. Reference RCHA donation and the donor's name.

If eligible, please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration form by following this link to the [HMRC gift aid form](#), ensuring the Charity Name is completed as "The Church of Scotland". The completed form can be returned to the Church of Scotland by email to [sfadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sfadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk). Alternatively a cheque can be sent payable to The Church of Scotland with an accompanying letter and completed gift aid form.



*Candle for Ukraine*

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## Lighting a Candle for Peace

Each week during the conflict we are lighting a candle in a sign of unity and solidarity with the people of Ukraine and as a symbol praying for peace to be restored and an end to the suffering.

We will light it each week until peace is once again restored.

**UNITED FOR UKRAINE**  
LIVE PERFORMANCES BY  
**STEPPS SONGSTERS**  
AND THE  
**JAM AT THE INN BAND**

**THURSDAY 21 APRIL @ 7pm**  
**GARFIELD HOUSE HOTEL**

2 course pre-concert dinner £15 with £2 in every meal going to the Ukraine charity.

**RAFFLE**

Tickets £10 available from  
Clare 07863 158307  
Facebook @Stepps songsters or  
email Stepps.songsters@yahoo.com

Compered by Judith Ralston  
(Queen of BBC weather)



## United for Ukraine

Local community choir the Stepps Songsters along with local Jam session musicians are hosting a special evening of musical entertainment in a show of solidarity to support of the people of Ukraine. The Stepps Songsters is an all age mixed choir who meet each week on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm at the Garfield House Hotel and welcome singers of all ages and have a repertoire of a wide range of music...

The Jam at The Inn is a weekly jam session held in the lounge of **The Stewart Inn** on one Thursday and in the **Dug 'n' Duck**, Millerston on the next, and so on....

Tickets Cost £10 and are available by contacting Clare on the number listed or by emailing [Stepps.songsters@yahoo.com](mailto:Stepps.songsters@yahoo.com).

Why not make an evening of it and book in for the 2 course pre-concert dinner with £2 from each cover booked going directly to the appeal. It's certain to be

a great night for a very worthwhile cause.

## News from the Transcarpathian Reformed Church



The Bishop's Officer from the Transcarpathian Reformed Church in Ukraine has written this letter to us. The funds sent to the Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RHCA) from Church of Scotland congregations are supporting this social ministry at present:

"I would like to share with you some information from our daily life here. We always said that Transcarpathia is the island of peace, but yesterday and before yesterday we had an air-raid alarm here and it was at night or very early in the morning. So many refugees reached our region.

"The capital city of Transcarpathia, Uzhgorod, accommodated more than 30,000 refugees and cannot receive more. The city is filled. Nearly the same situation in Beregovo as well. Our Reformed congregation also has refugees from different parts of central Ukraine, mainly from Kiev and Harkov. Our pastors, elders and volunteers try to accommodate them in different ways as comfortably as they can. Mainly mothers with little kids, even with little babies.

"Thanks to our foreign partners, congregations and different natural support we can give them help to maintain social kitchens and prepare hot meals for refugees. We also have to buy washing machines, refrigerators, boilers, etc. These are necessary tools for refugee shelters.

"Last Sunday we organised a church service for Ukrainian refugees. We had nice worship, sang Ukrainian songs, and prayed together with them. Our mission has started. They were afraid a little, but at the end of the worship they said that it was the first day after their long journey that they could smile and take a real rest. Bless the Lord."

***Extract from the Faith Impact Forum***

Church of Scotland

Lord, be with and protect the citizens of Ukraine and let justice and peace prevail in the current conflict.

**Amen**

