



A winters morning at Stepps Parish Church

***Welcome to the February 2022
edition of Prospect***

*In this edition there is all of our
usual features with updates
from the Boys Brigade, LHM,
Friendship Club and updates on
our Christmas Collection.*

*Elsewhere in this edition we
bring you a special Tour of
Stepps and much more beside.*

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

February 2022

Issue 407

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

**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



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Sunday Services

Morning Worship at 11am

(Services will be reduced and limited in numbers until further notice)

Whilst many of the legal restrictions previously in place have been removed, we have decided for the time being to continue with the 1 metre physical distancing in the Sanctuary. The pandemic is not yet behind us but things are looking more optimistic.

It is still a legal requirement that people wear a face covering when attending a church for worship. Unless you are medically exempt or under the age of 12, everyone needs to wear a face covering when entering and leaving our church, when you are seated in our pews and when you stand to sing. It is recommended that congregations continue to ask people to check-in to a church building. There is the opportunity to visit the Sanctuary each Thursday from 10.00 am- 12.00 noon.



Charity No: SC014212

You can now check into our buildings using the Test & Protect Check In Scotland App using your smartphone (see page 12 for details)

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 services on our Stepps Parish Church YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_gMKKjcXAw

Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae



As I settle down at the computer to write to you, I am aware of two things, one I am late in writing this letter! and two, and much, more importantly, today is ***Holocaust Memorial Day***. We cannot be but saddened when we think back to the atrocities of the Holocaust to the millions murdered, the millions of lives destroyed and families torn apart forever, and then to think of the many atrocities since, even today, as women are raped and murdered along with their menfolk in Ethiopia and the world is uninterested. It would be very easy to mire in the darkness of the world today, the lies of politicians, increasing poverty, the lack of care for our planet, it would be too easy in this wintertime which doesn't even feel like winter, to lose hope, to let go of the light.

Here we are still in the aftermath of Christmas, still the glow from the star the noise of the animals in the stable, the tinkle of the bells on the camels, the joy of those singing and dancing shepherds and the single cry of a newborn child that breaks the night and rises up to chase the darkness away. We must never let go of the memory the reliving of that moment when one is born who not only brings the light into the darkness but brings it with singing and dancing and joy.

Yes joy, something that we are not very good at, yet we are called to be - joyful. Joyful, not just on the good days but in the bad, bringing the light with every joyful word we utter and every joyful step we take.

Today on ***Holocaust Memorial Day*** there is solemn mourning but also quiet joy in those who kept the faith, those who gave their lives, those who never gave up, the many who put their lives in danger to help, in the smallest and the most life changing of ways. So many people who were not Jewish who sacrificed themselves to save those in danger, who became engaged with the idea that whatever this Holocaust was it was evil, and it was of the darkness, and it should be stood against.

As I look out on the world tonight, I see so many things in which we are not engaged, the atrocities in Ethiopia, the war in the Yemen are we even engaged in what is happening in Afghanistan or the streets of Glasgow? Edmund Burke said a long time ago that for evil to exist it only needs a good man to keep silent. Yet silent we seem to be. If I ask anything of us all this year it is that we will no longer be silent and that when we speak, especially against Evil, we shall do so with joy of the child born in a manger, born in our hearts,

With All God's Richest Blessings.

Love Gordon.

Session Clerk Letter



Dear Friends,
I hope this finds you all well.

We are fast approaching February. A month often referred to as a hiatus between winter and spring. There are signs of the days lengthening and yes indeed getting brighter and we take great comfort from that. January can be such a long bleak month and so we welcome the lighter evenings and the signs of new growth outside. We have not yet seen an end to the winter chill and indeed there is still probably more to come with snow predicted but despite the added restrictions imposed on us by the Omicron Covid variant in December we are slowly looking forward to some light at the end of an exceptionally long 2-year tunnel.

My family know me well and laugh when I remind them that January is a hard month, but it has been for so many of us. As a congregation we have recently lost some of our older members in close succession, whilst others have or are facing very personal challenges and we think of those among us as they face those difficult and challenging times.

We are grateful for being able to stay connected week to week despite the restrictions a stark contrast to last year when our church remained closed and we are thankful that we are now more freely able to meet up again allowing our church activities to resume after a delayed start to the year for many of them. The ability to keep going through these tough and challenging times is what tests our resilience and boy have we been tested. It is at times like this we must look to these brighter days to strengthen our resolve and help us get through the darker times. We remember with love all those this month that need our friendship and prayers and hope they take courage and strength from the love and prayers we offer them. ***We are family! ... a beloved community*** of like minded individuals who share in each others pains and delight in each others joys. We are blessed by that love for each other. May that long continue.

"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength"

(Philippians 4:13)

With affection

Lorraine.



**190th GLASGOW COMPANY,
THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

Contact: captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com

Happy New Year to All!

A little late but none the less heart felt for it.

Despite the constantly changing world the work of the company has continued at pace.

Before Christmas some activities were postponed (a Flipout trip for Anchor Boys and Junior Section, and a Murder Mystery Night for Company Section) but will be re-scheduled as soon as possible. The Reverse Advent Calendar gifts will be forwarded and if you have anything you wish to donate please leave them for us in the hall before 07/02/2022 thereafter we will arrange to delivery.

The above cancellations and postponements do not mean that we stopped! New Year Activity Packs were distributed to all members across the sections and the results were Brilliant! Staff were delighted by the response see the selection of pictures below.

Nutella Cookie challenge being particularly popular with Company Section



Whilst design a doughnut was equally popular with the Anchors and Juniors.

A recurring theme here!





The build a BB badge challenge allowed creativity to run wild from pasta to the clothes on the bedroom floor and good old cardboard. The entries were amazing.

Bag tags and origami were included and again the artistic efforts were superb.



Anchor Boys and Juniors started back last week with a Zoom session whilst the Company Section met at our favourite outdoor location beside Hogganfield Loch. We had an 'Up Huggy Loch Aa'



celebration including building, setting afloat and burning 'Viking' Longships. Tasted 'Viking' food and tried some 'Viking' energy bites not bad in an hour.

I have no photographic evidence of the food but I think that says enough!

This week we are delighted to be back in the hall and will continue our 'Viking' theme for another week. Swiftly moving on to Chinese New Year on 31/01/2022 with a return to a more normal programme on 07/02/2022.

Badge work has continued to progress as we make use of the materials and facilities we have available to us. All the Boys promoted from Juniors have earned their COMPANY badges and everyone else is progressing towards completing their badgework.

We are currently exploring opportunities for more outdoor and overnight experiences and will update everyone when we are able to confirm them.

We will also launch publicity for Company fundraising shortly so watch this space.

We continue to be open to new members:

Anchor Boys for Boys in P1-P3, Monday 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Junior Section for Boys in P4-P6, Monday 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Company Section for Boys in P7-S6, Monday 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Colin Goodall

Captain

E-mail captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com

<https://m.facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade/>



Latest Bulletin

Dear Supporters,

We continue to operate our day centre services for those people who experience homelessness, exclusion and social isolation across the city. On weekdays we offer breakfast between 8-10am and lunch between noon and 1.30pm with sufficient cleaning time between to protect our guest. We continue to make emergency clothing and food parcels available to partner agencies by prior agreement for collection at 2pm. Due to the generosity of our supporters prior to Christmas we are not currently accepting clothing donations.

Here is a roundup of the varied support the team at LHM has been able to provide with your continued support through the December festive period,

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Sit in	302	572
Take out	79	210

Emergency Food Parcels	Essentials Toiletries packs
24	15

Our Kitchen team continue to produce fresh packed lunches daily and deliver them to the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre (formerly the Winter Night Shelter) from 1st December to end of March. Through our partnership with Social Bite we cooked and packaged 55 additional Christmas lunches for Wallace of Campsie Hostel. On Christmas day our own day centre was open from 10.30-2.30pm providing , three course Christmas dinners, through a combination of sit in and take away options. We served a total of 63 lunches and 10 of these were take-away options. We even had a visit from Santa who had gifts for everyone. We were grateful recipients of several meal donations as a result of cancelled office Christmas in city centre hotels.

GOWC Lunch packs	Christmas Lunches	Christmas Gifts
400+	118	150

We continue to receive regular referrals for help and assistance from various agencies.



Over the festive period this included a number of clients who were asked to isolate for seven or more days with Covid. This has led to a partnership with Health Protection Scotland who are providing Covid-19 Vaccines, Boosters and Flu jabs in a clinic in our building. We are delighted to be able to do our part to make access simpler and more convenient for our guests, volunteers and staff.

Our Interventions team has given, in person and over the phone, assistance related to welfare rights advice, support, homelessness assistance, emergency food, essential toiletries, clothing and winter weather packs. Our chaplaincy phone line remains available for prayer, support and assistance on 07864 705 668.

In the month ahead we look forward to resuming our sports activities including our football tournaments with Street Soccer Scotland. A focus on Spring cleaning our resource cupboards and food stores after Christmas. We ask for your prayers for God's strength as the team continue to engage with vulnerable people, and are available to offer support to the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre until end of March. Pray for protection during this pandemic and beyond as we strive to keep our doors open and provide essential services to those in most need.

"May God bless you as you have blessed the least of these brothers and sisters of Christ".
(Matthew 25:40)

Deacon Claire Herbert.

Chaplain to LHM.

Friendship Club

Programme for February / March / April



February	7 th	A.G.M. plus Scots Wurdz Quiz
	21 st	Our Minister (To be confirmed)
March	7 th	Seven Lochs Update (To be confirmed)
	21 st	Marvyn MacKay: Talk about joining the Iona Community
April	4 th	Campbell Provan: Talk about the Stepps Heritage Trail (To be Confirmed)
	18 th	Easter Monday No Meeting
	25 th	End of Session - Lunch at Garfield Hotel,

Kate Houston

It was with great sadness that the ladies of the friendship club attended the funeral service to say farewell to one of their regular members on Wednesday the 26th of January at Daldowie crematorium. Mrs Catherine Evans more fondly known as **Rena** passed away after a short illness in Gasgow Royal infirmary on the 9th of January. **Rena** was a loyal attender over many years and will be fondly remembered for her contribution to the club and sense of fun. Memories were shared with her family at the Garfield Hotel afterwards. She will be missed by all her friends.

May her family find peace and comfort in the months ahead.

February Welcome Duty



	Welcome at Door	Track & Trace	Beadle
February 6th	H.Baker A. Macdonald	R. McGovern	J.Hope
13th	F. McGovern S.MacLean	F.Shields	H.Baker
20th	P.Watson E.Watson	C.Skinner	S. Baker
27th	H.Baker J.Hope	S.Gowans	J.Burns
March 6th	A. Macdonald S.MacLean	R. McGovern	J.Hope

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

June Thomson

Congregational Roll

DEATHS:	Phyllis Hughes	01/12/2021
	Agnes (Nan) McBride	11/12/2021
	Catherine Evans	09/01/2022
	William Livingstone	17/01/2022



“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)

Christmas Charities

A grand total of £430 was collected from our retiral offerings from our Christmas Eve and Boxing day services and will be divided equally between our 2 choosen charities. We thank everyone who donated so generously. Your generosity will help to make a difference to the lives of some of our most vulnerable both at home and overseas.



Church Christmas Post



A belated thank you to all the volunteers who delivered the cards collected and sorted by the Christmas Post Team (Honor, Flora, Sandra & Angela) and delivered to individuals within the communities of Cardowan / Stepps & Millerston.

The amount of £190 approx. was raised for church funds. While this may not be a profesisonal post office service it is intended to be an efficient one.

Feedback is welcomed and appreciated. If you wish to comment on improving the service please Contact: **Angela Orme on 0141 -779-2206.**

“Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells” Here’s to next year’s Christmas Post





Stepps Parish Church has a Facebook Page. This shouldn't be news as we have been up and running on Facebook for quite some time but we always welcome new followers to boost awareness of our church. Over the festive period, we posted (via Presbytery) verses and images from our favourite carols. We also post links to our Sunday Worship Services and to Gordon's Wednesday Reflections from the Manse as well as to our Prospect Magazine. Other posts include sharing news from the Church of Scotland, from Christian Aid, from the BBs, from the Community and from other appropriate sources.

If you aren't following our Facebook posts, give it a try and recommend us to others who may be interested.

During the period from 20th December – 16th January, our Facebook posts reached 789 people and 265 of those people actively engaged with us....a not insignificant reach but please help us to reach further.

Anyone wishing to submit an item or idea for Facebook should contact

Liz Ashmole.

Prayer For Ukraine

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, are asking all of us to pray for those who are frightened and at risk in Ukraine.

*The news can be difficult to listen to
and to read.*

*When that news relates to faces we
know*

*And to voices familiar to us,
It becomes all the harder to hear.*

Lord God,

*We ask you to hold the people of
Ukraine deep in your heart.*

Protect them, we pray;

From violence,

*From political gamesmanship,
from being used and abused.*

Give, we pray,

*the nations of the world the courage
and the wisdom*

to stand up for justice

and the courage too,

to dare to care – generously.

Lord in your mercy,

Take from us all,

The tendencies in us

That seek to lord it over others:

Take from us those traits

*that see us pursuing our own needs and
wants before those of others.*

Teach us how to live in love

And dignity

And respect – following your example.

In your name and for your sake,

Amen



Painting of Robert Burns

(Photo Wikimedia Commons)

BURNS TOUR OF STEPPS

**The Ladies Association by “some devilish cantrip slight”
guided Robert Burns through Stepps last week!**

At their first meeting in 2022 and led by Jim Hope, the Ladies considered the Scottish Enlightenment, its influence on Scotland and the UK, and the fulsome praise it received from Voltaire and Winston Churchill. Key to this world-renowned era was the Church of Scotland and its policy on having a school in every Parish. Church, education and free thinking surely influenced Hume, Smith and Burns in their attitude to life and their fellow man, perhaps best described By the Bard, thus

“Nae treasures or Pleasures,

Could make us happy lang,

The herts aye the perts aye

That keeps us right or wrang”

The presenter droned on and on, and so to dream.....The Ladies “met” Rabbie at the Dug and Duck. After we pointed out the Stepps equivalent of the ***“auld clay biggin”*** and convinced him the car was perfectly safe (even if driven by a woman – authors note), we explained much to his amusement what the green patch of grass with white posts (University Playing Fields) were and how they housed our most popular sport. (Great joke told here – anyway I thought it was funny – author).

Drove to Loch Road, where Rabbie was told that although his Poem ***“Afton Water”*** was famous we also have a famous burn which once flowed across the road and could be crossed by a number of Stepping Stones. Now conducted under the road by pipe it flows into Frankfield Loch then on to Hogganfield Loch as its only supply stream, proving surely the historians are wrong by claiming the Molindiner rises in Hogganfield, (Cue local efforts for a blue plaque in Stepps!)

After waving to Stepps most famous resident, Paddington, the tour paused at the former Public Hall (previously Union Hall) in Cardowan Drive. Knowing Bards love for Freemasonry ***“The Masons Apron”***, it was explained Lodge Stepps No 1213 was founded here in 1920, was still extant and meeting in Riddrie. On to Cardowan, the Bards sense of fairness was heightened by the story of how St. Joseph’s, our oldest Church was sited well up a remote farm track so that a lady travelling on the main road (at the time) would not be offended by having to pass it daily. The lady’s road is long gone and St. Joseph’s has a prominent position on the main access road to Cardowan and Graigendmuir.

Up to Craighendmuir Farmhouse. Burns eyed the farmland spread before him and was astonished to learn that Stepps and Millerston once had 11 farms. (Prize to first person who can name them – only £5 donation per entry). He was also intrigued to learn that one farmer moved from Stepps to Gartmore pre-WW1 on foot, driving his stock on a journey lasting 3 days. He paused at the Miners Memorial and recounted ***“My Collier Laddie”*** before remarking the Wee Pub would be no use to ***“Tam o Shanter”*** as it had no hitching rail for ***“his grey mare Meg”***. He was dismayed to hear the Buchanan Business Park was once home to a whisky bottling plant producing thousands of bottles of ***“inspiring bold John Barleycorn”*** on a daily basis. He remarked that when ***“O Willie brewed a Peck o Malt”*** the process took many days with associated dangers such as headaches and hallucinations facing Willie and pals in their noble pursuit,

Entering Blenheim Avenue, he was interested to learn the excellent Stepps Pharmacy had been a Bank. The Bard had cause to dislike banks and could not resist quoting his short poem on a banknote ***“wae worth thy Pow’r, thou cursed leaf!”*** Passing the War Memorial, he selected verses from ***“Does Haughty Gaul Invasion Threat”*** by way of compassion for the ultimate sacrifice made by the men and one women men listed there. At our modern Dentist Practice he exclaimed ***“my curse upon your venom’d stang, that shoots my tortur’d gums alang”*** from the ***“Address to the Toothache”***

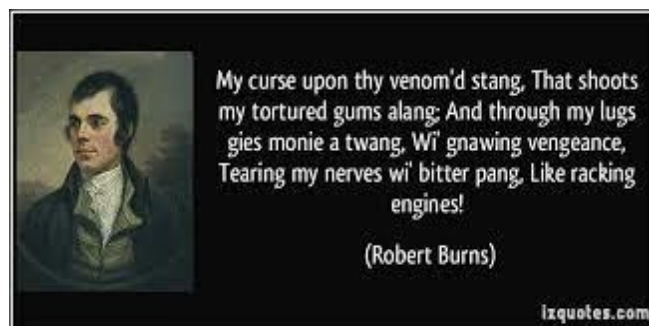


Image courtesy of Quotesgram.com

Pausing at the well-presented Bowling Green and Tennis Clubs, he revealed he had been a curler and recited his Poem about the death of a curler cronie. ***“Tam Samsons Dead”*** He was interested to learn the previous Boling Club building was formerly the Stepps Curling Club premises, sited near Frankfield Loch.

His last visit was to our Church. With his ready humour he launched into ***“To a Louse”*** which he once spotted crawling in the hat of woman worshipper. He was told that was dated as far as SPC was concerned. Our multi- tasking Elder Jim Hope had noted, whilst listening to the sermon, that there were no hat wearers in Church last Sunday. Rabbie went on to describe his sometimes-rocky relationship with the Church. Not surprising for he was forced to sit on the ***“cutty stool”*** for public rebuke.

A man with a strong attachment to God, Burns railed against the oppressive nature of the Church.

He ridiculed the followers of the ***“Auld Licht”*** preferring the progressive ideals of the ***“New Lights”***, often using satire to make a point, as in ***“Holy Willies Prayer”*** and ***“The Holy Fair”***. His words were often directed at the powers that be with veiled and not so veiled suggestions they were out of touch with ordinary people (plus ca change.....?).

So, Burns was asked how he felt about Stepps and its people. He did not like the creeping urbanisation taking place, bemoaned the lack of farming activities and wondered if he could ever have written ***“To a Mouse”***, ***“To a Mountain Daisy”*** or ***“The Wounded Hare”*** in such a place.

He was upbeat about our community focus, and with our support to Lodging House Mission, Christian Aid, MacMillan Nurses etc. etc. He was impressed with the work of volunteers to the Bowling and Tennis Clubs for over a hundred years, for the Boys Brigade (115 years) Scouts (108 years) and to the churches St. Josephs (151 years) and Stepps Parish (121 years).

He quoted various verses from his brilliant poem, ***“A Cotter’s Saturday Night”***, and felt the ethos of that poem was still very evident in Stepps, with the most appropriate stanza being

***“From Scenes like these, auld Scotia’s grandeur springs, that makes her loved at home,
revered abroad.”***



A Cotters Saturday Night

Image Courtesy of Burns Scotland

With that Robert Burns departed, the ladies emerged from their pleasant reverie to see you know who was still droning on.

A well, maybe he will come back next year (**Rabbie that is!!!**) for another Stepps adventure.

By Jim Hope

Letters from the Congregation



Festive support for LHM

Thanks to all who supported the Lodging House Mission over the festive period, always a difficult time for its service users and now that difficulty is magnified by Covid. We are grateful to those in our church who bought LHM Christmas cards, to those who knitted scarves and hats, to all who donated food items, to the Chestnut Café team who donated a large quantity of surplus soup tins and to those who made financial donations in response to the Christmas Cracker Appeal. Sincere thanks one and all!

Liz Ashmole

Belated congratulations to one of our church members Mrs Margaret Moore who celebrated her 93rd birthday on the 2nd of January. Best wishes for her health and happiness in 2022. May blessings of love and laughter surround her.

Angela Orme



As I write this Christmas is a very long way away but I still remember how well the Sunday School did when, led by Linda, they performed a Nativity Play written in rhyme. It perfectly suited the small number of children and was a delight to both watch and hear. Linda was excellent as she narrated the Christmas story. Many congratulations to all involved.

Kate Houston

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you all for the cards, flowers and prayers that I have received. I am missing so much being among you all and not being able to worship in church while I am shielding before my surgery.

My Church family mean so much to me and I appreciate all your kindness.

God bless you all.

Jean Christie

Have your Say!

If you would like to share any news / letters or comment on any articles please feel free to share with your church family by sending your letters to Gordon or Lorraine or pop them in the post box.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

From 21st February- 6th March 2022

- For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.
- Last year's festival saw campaigners, shoppers, students and businesses come together in a show of support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From online panels to bake-offs and coffee mornings over 50 virtual events took place as part of our virtual festival.
- Our 2022 festival will be online again, however, if you want to and feel comfortable to run a local public event in your community then please do!
- Spread the word and order some free posters and materials.
- **THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS**
Buying Fairtrade is easy. There are over 6,000 Fairtrade products from coffee and tea to flowers, beauty products and gold, so when you shop, look for the **FAIRTRADE Mark**. Many of our everyday supermarkets including **Aldi, Co-Op, Morrisons, Sainsbury's M&S and Tesco** and many more.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers, Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.

Choosing Fairtrade means standing with farmers for fairness and equality, against some of the biggest challenges the world faces. It means farmers creating change, from investing in climate friendly farming techniques to developing women in leadership.

With Fairtrade you change the world a little bit every day. Through simple shopping choices you are showing businesses and governments that you believe in fair and just trade.



FRIENDLY REMINDER:



It's perfectly okay if the only exercise you get today is flipping the pages of a book or stirring your tea or smiling with friends. Wellbeing means your **WHOLE** body. Make sure your soul is getting as much exercise as your glutes.

Image Courtesy of NotSalmon.com

A SIMPLE HELLO

A simple hello can be so sweet.
One recently received in a card
From a friend,
Here's what she wrote.

The word HELLO means:

H = How are you?
E = Everything alright?
L = Like to hear from you.
L = Love to see you soon.
O = Obviously I miss you.....
So, HELLO



(Taken from Social Media Post)

The Love of God Comes Close

The love of God comes close
Where stands an open door
to let the strangers in,
to mingle rich and poor:
the love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease,
to ease the lives forlorn:
the peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears:
the joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised or bent:
the grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

John L.Bell and Graham Maule

Love
Joy
Peace
Of God

Let us Pray

