



The Church gardens looking towards the Vestry

Welcome to the July - August 2022 edition of Prospect

In this edition there is all of our usual features with updates from the Boys Brigade and LHM as well as a 4 page pull out supplement from Life & Work Magazine.

Prospect will be taking a break over the summer but will be back in September until then wishing you all a lovely time whatever your plans are.

July - Aug 2022

Issue 412

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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Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

As we move into the next phase of the pandemic the Scottish Government have removed all COVID rules and restrictions, but the virus has not gone away. Instead of legal constraints the government are asking people to use 'COVID sense' to help protect themselves and others. The same principal of using 'COVID sense' should apply to our church buildings, congregational activities

For individuals, including ministers, staff and volunteers in churches this includes:

[Getting your vaccine](#) when offered to ensure you are fully protected

Staying at home and resting if you have symptoms

Opening windows when meeting indoors

[Wearing a face covering](#) in indoor public places, and encouraging the use of face coverings in church buildings wherever possible.

Washing your hands to protect each other

Taking an LFD test before visiting someone in a hospital or care home

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_qMKKjcXAw



Charity No: SC014212

Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae



What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

These words, from the poem *“Leisure”* by WH Davies were written over a hundred years ago, yet, despite the massive shifts in technology and culture we still cheat ourselves of time to “stop and stare”.

I can imagine the poet dreaming of a future time when technology might transform our living, slowing us down offering more leisure, more opportunities to reflect on what it is to be a human or just **to be**.

Confounding that dream, technology has done the opposite. It has filled our activities even more. We might stop and stare but we stare at the TV, our laptops our tablets. Children's lives are all about packing in so much; activity, activity, this group, that club, the next sport activity with no time offered just to be at peace, quiet, just thinking.

We followers of Jesus are encouraged to stop and stare. Jesus said

“And why do you worry and labour? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these”.

Take time, stop, stare and.....

Pray (and prayer doesn't always mean to prattle on without leaving space to listen)

Our lives are busy, frenetic and always on the go and God didn't create us to withstand that constant tsunami of information, technology and communication.

God offered us Sabbath; time, not exclusively a Sunday, when we can contemplate and pray deeply about things. We need to read our Bibles, sit silently and see that Jesus often went off to 'a certain place' to pray with God, to reflect to make space for God and stop and stare.

If Jesus needs that then we must follow His example.

I beg you to take space, take time, grasp opportunity to just stop, stare and see and listen for what God has for you

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

And

Consider the Lilies

Gordon x

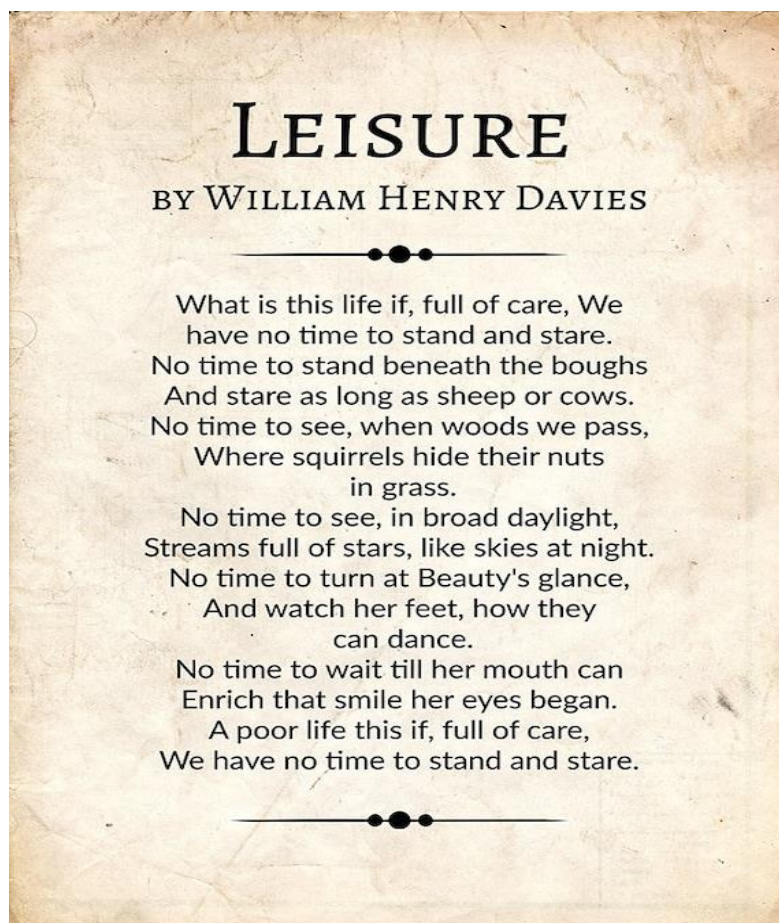


Image courtesy of Etsy.com

Session Clerk Letter



Nothing quite sums up the summer for me more than Glastonbury.... a time that marks the start of Festival season. Revellers of all ages congregate at Worthy Farm and soak up the unique atmosphere of the worlds' most famous music festival. Headliners and Legends... young and old. Music to suit all styles and so much more to boot. For many there is something quite mystical and spiritual about the place. Steeped in history dating back to the days of **King Arthur** and beyond with the nearby Abbey ruins claiming to have been his final resting place.

Legend also suggests that the Holy Grail: the cup Jesus Christ used at the Last Supper, which was said to catch his blood at the crucifixion may have made its way to Britain under the watchful arms of **Joseph of Arimathea** a disciple of Jesus.

Entrusted with Christ's burial, **Joseph of Arimathea** is reportedly believed to have either sent the Holy Grail back to Britain with his followers, or brought it personally in his role as a missionary. Another story suggests that Jesus himself may even have come here as a boy, again in the company of **Joseph of Arimathea** - who was a travelling merchant and is said to have also visited Somerset and Cornwall in earlier life. The poet William Blake wrote of this in **Jerusalem** (1804):

“And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On England's pleasant pastures seen!

more fittingly, Glastonbury Festival veteran **Van Morrison** wrote of the same in his song **Summertime in England**:

“Did you ever hear about Jesus walkin'
Jesus walkin' down by Avalon?”

If all that mud and mystery isn't a good enough reason to one day attract you to visit this special place then maybe the music will attract you to visit or in my case, for now at least enjoy in the comfort of my living room. It always marks the essence of summer for me.

Whatever, your plans I wish you all a safe and restful summer. Please afford yourselves some time to pause as Gordon has instructed us all, myself included to stop and stare and enjoy all of God's glory around us.

Prospect is taking a short break but we will see you all in September.

Love Lorraine. X



190th GLASGOW COMPANY,
THE BOYS' BRIGADE

After a busy period getting ready for our annual display, we are now in our summer programme, running up to the summer break.

The display went very well indeed, although all of us were a little out of practice. We were unable to hold displays in 2020 and 2021 for obvious reasons, so it was great to resume a BB tradition. The week after we held a Jubilee Garden party for Boys and parents. Both events went very well indeed.

Company Section have taken part in a bushcraft session and a cave walk and have an outdoor cooking night next week to round off the Session. Anchor Boys and Junior Section meanwhile have a trip to Heads of Ayr Farm Park.

Thank you on behalf of all Boys and Staff to everyone for their support this year, and over the preceding two very difficult years. I am glad to say that not only have we come through Covid fairly well, but we have also managed to deliver a full BB programme and have even gained new members.

All sections will be off for the summer and will resume late August with an enrolment night.

In the meantime, please spread the word about the BB to family and friends, as new recruits are always welcome!

Anchor Boys for P1 to P3;
Junior Section for P4 to P6;
Company Section for P7 and over.

Colin Goodall
Captain

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LODGING HOUSE MISSION UPDATE

Yet again another busy month at the Lodging House Mission. There has been a fishing trip, a day trip to Millport as well as a trip to Fiddich Glen. It is great that these outings are now becoming a regular part of the monthly programme. The weekly pool tournament is proving to remain very popular, and Angela is running Bingo afternoons on a regular basis. Claire is currently on Annual Leave, so I don't have a monthly newsletter from her this month.

We are still looking for donations of men medium boxer shorts additionally we need food items that can be prepared by just adding water such as Pot Noodles, Instant Noodles, Cup a Soup and Just add water pasta. This is because some of the people we support do not have access to proper cooking facilities just a kettle and sometimes a microwave. Anything you can add to your weekly shop and leave for me to collect at the box at the rear of the church would be much appreciated.

Jacqueline

Even though there are days,
I wish I could change some
things that happened in the
past, there's a reason the
rear view mirror is so small
and the windshield is so big,
where you're headed is
much more important than
what you've left behind.



Unknown

	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
July 3rd	R. McGovern	S. MacLean	H. Baker
10th	F. Shields	C. Skinner	S Baker
17th	E. Watson	H. Baker	J. Burns
24th	Mgt. Crawford	S. Gowans	J. Hope
31st	A. Macdonald	R. McGovern	J. Thomson
August 7th	F. McGovern	S. MacLean	F. Shields
14th	C. Skinner	J. Thomson	H. Baker
21st	E. Watson	H. Baker	S. Baker
28th	S. Baker	Mgt. Crawford	J. Burns
September 4th	S. Gowans	A. Macdonald	J. Hope

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

June Thomson



Congregational Roll

Death: Mrs. May Stark 12th June 2022

“He heals the broken-hearted and bandages their wounds”

(Psalm 147:3)

Transfers: Kadamanpathalil Vargieghese Mathew

Annie Mathew

Rojy Mathew

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light. We have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us all from sin”

(John 1:7)

Birthday Celebration



For those of you who don't know we send very special birthday wishes to Jean McLaren who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 27th of June. Jean one of three siblings devoted her career to education, spending many years in teaching and later in a more senior role as Head Teacher. Having lived most of her life in Stepps, Jean has been a church member for many years and has served her church during this time putting her teaching skills to good use and leading many a youngster through the Sunday School. I'm sure she could tell a few tales about some of you.

Her Brother William, an ex-190th BB Sergeant, afforded another opportunity for Jean to volunteer some of her time by helping out the Life Boys in the 1950's, teaching them among many things, Scottish Country Dancing. Not content at that Jean was also a loyal and most devoted Clerk to the Congregational Board from 1979 until 2004 (*I'll let you do the maths*) where I am reliably informed minutes were diligently and meticulously handwritten. Jean along with her sister Christine have also helped to beautify our church over the years, keeping it looking lovely as part of the Flower Team. She is a regular in the pews most Sundays and can often be found enjoying a blether with her many friends in the Chestnut Café on a Thursday. Jean celebrated her special day with afternoon tea with friends, where a very special 12-year-old made her birthday cake. What a fitting tribute to a remarkable lady who has devoted so much of her life to children.

I know you will all join me in wishing Jean the warmest of congratulations on this remarkable milestone and wish her many more birthdays to come.



Jean and her beautiful cake.



Stepps Community Development Trust (SCDT) want to say a huge thank you to all the local residents and their families that came along to support the Jubilee Afternoon Tea and Family Fun Day. The bouncy castle and assault course were busy all afternoon whilst others waited patiently for face painting.

There was plenty of chatter with neighbours over tea, scone, cream and jam thanks to the **Chestnut Cafe** team who served fresh tea, coffee and cakes for the whole event. The Chestnut Cafe runs in the halls every Thursday from 10am - 1pm.

It shows the great community spirit that Stepps, Cardowan and Millerston has with over 390 people attending the afternoon.



Some of our Heroic Chestnut Cafe Team Volunteers





The Queen's
Jubilee

70



PIC•COLLAGE

Cluster Conversations



Stained Glass Splendour using some from of our Cluster churches beautiful windows.

The second of our cluster meetings was held in the sanctuary on Monday the 27th of June. Representatives from all five congregations came together to continue to explore our common mission goals for the future in preparing our Mission Plan, required to be forwarded to Presbytery by the end of July. An initial ice breaker allowed everyone to introduce themselves, thereafter each church shared some of their successes and hopes for the future. A strong common desire was voiced about the importance of retaining a local church identity within each parish while recognising that a coming together in shared worship was needed to strengthen a sense of working collaboratively as a wider church

community. Our people are our strength and together we can achieve so much.

Being flexible with our worship styles, embracing new expressions of church was talked about as well as hosting more regular, social gatherings and common events to forge relationships and bring our congregations together, generating energy and enthusiasm. Going forward we need to consider what our assets are and what each congregation in the cluster brings to the mission plan. Responses will be collated and submitted as a single document for us all.

Our next meeting is planned for the 11th of July where we need to set out what we see as essential requirements to allow us to achieve our mission plan. Already we know that we have been allocated 2 FTE's ministry posts for a parish area totalling 33,000 of a population. Urban Priority Area (UPA) status for some of our cluster churches will see an additional 2 posts as yet undecided being allocated to us which may include Ministry Development Staff (MDS), personnel such as Youth Worker/ to add to the 2 FTE posts. However, we recognise that involving others in worship is needed. Already some of the cluster church elders lead worship regularly and this is likely to need expansion with appropriate training being offered to those who are keen.

Gordon wisely said that having a larger critical mass affords greater opportunities and is a time of great excitement for us all. We hope that before the end of the year we will start to put into place some of our plans to come together as a larger worshipping community.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

(Hebrew 10: 24-25)



Let us Pray

Image Courtesy of ruthvelerio.net

May we make our homes places of relaxation,
joy, love, peace and safety.

May we be generous and considerate,
not thinking only about ourselves,
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts
during these months of summer and vacation days.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.

Amen

Prayer sourced <https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com>