



Lenten Cross Courtesy of Istockphoto.com

Welcome to the March 2022 edition of Prospect

In this edition there is all of our usual features with updates from the Boys Brigade, LHM, as well as the latest update on the Presbytery Plans and how you can join us over Lenten time for a time of spiritual discovery.

Elsewhere in this edition we bring you some important dates for your diary including the World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March

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

March 2022

Issue 408

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

Rev Gordon MacRae (BD
MTh)

Tel: 0141 779 5742



Session Clerk

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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

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



Charity No: SC014212

Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae

Dear Friends

Since the close of the Christmas season, I have been telling you all over and over again....

“You are Beloved of God!”



I could stop right there... my message for you for this month....

But you all know me....*I do go on....*so I will...

We have been hearing a lot about the ***Beloved Community***. Much of what I have said about the Beloved Community comes from two sources. Firstly, and primarily, from the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Secondly, from the teachings of one of my great heroes, Henri Nouwen.

Henri was born in Holland and ordained a priest in 1957. He asked permission that, rather than learn more Theology, he studied Psychology with his focus on the relational side of faith. He researched in how we humans process and practice our practical relational engagement with the secular world. He has written so many books. I think I have read a good number of them. I found that Nouwen's writings served as a mirror for my own spiritual searching. Nouwen never claimed to have the answers to the 'big questions' of our faith but he strived to help others ask the right questions. This he did for many years, yet he was never quite satisfied with his strivings.

"I wanted to know how we could integrate the life of Christ in our daily concerns. I was always trying to articulate what I was dealing with. I thought that if it was very deep, it might also be something other people were struggling with. It was based on the idea that what is most personal might be the more universal"

His search took him to work at the L'arche Daybreak Centre in Toronto. There he found 'the answers he sought' not among other academics nor through deep contemplation but in the lives of those he cared for, women and men with profound mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

There, in the simple acceptance of all, no matter who, he met Christ.

There he discovered The Beloved Community and there, Nouwen spent the remainder of his life.

During Lent this year we hope to learn more from Henri. We are asked to read his book ***"Life of The Beloved"***. On the Thursday evenings all are invited to join in our **'Virtual Lenten Book Club'** to discuss what we have read. We pray, that through our readings and discussions we might come a little bit nearer to being and building Jesus' community among those we serve.

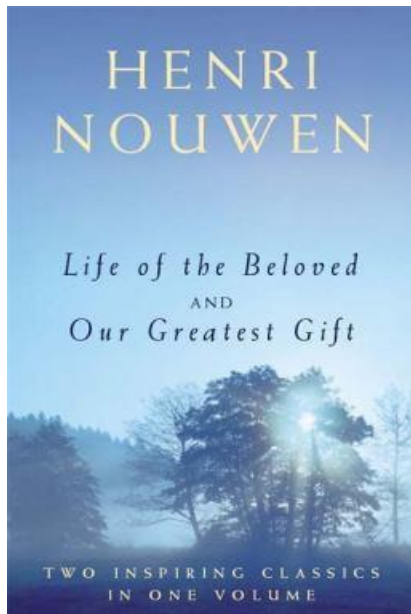
Love Gordon

Lenten Book Club "Life of the Beloved"

Henri Nouwen (1936-1992)

from Thursday 10th March at 19.30 pm

Join us on Thursdays in Lent for our Zoom virtual meetings. When we will share what we have learned from Nouwen writings.



Life of the Beloved Spiritual Living in a Secular World

When Nouwen was asked by a secular Jewish friend to explain his faith in simple language, he responded with his greatest legacy, *Life of the Beloved*, which shows that all people, believers and nonbelievers, are beloved by God unconditionally.

“All I want to say to you is ‘***You are the Beloved***’ and all I hope is that you can hear these words as spoken to you with all the tenderness and force that love can hold. My only desire is to make these words reverberate in every corner of your being — ‘***You are the Beloved.***’”

This personal witness to a God who calls us the Beloved is the fruit of a long friendship between journalist-writer Fred Bratman and Henri Nouwen. Henri is trying to respond to Fred’s concern to live a spiritual life in the midst of a very secular world. A remarkable aspect of this book is that while Henri writes to a personal friend, he in fact found a language that speaks clearly and convincingly to all who search for the Spirit of God in the world. Here is a ringing affirmation that everyone is loved by God and can enjoy “the life of the beloved”. It reveals the wonders of the spiritual journey and renews the fire of faith.

The book can be ordered from online book stores. It is also available in 'Kindle' and other electronic versions.

To register interest email or talk to Gordon or Lorraine. We can order a copy of the book for you and explain how you might join the book club.

Session Clerk Letter



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our March edition of Prospect. A month where a lot seems to be happening. Life slowly returning to normal... well possibly depending on whereabouts in the UK you happen to reside. An end to Covid restrictions for some while for others guidance remains in place while we tentatively await and see if the lifting of and scaling back of these restrictions will prove catastrophic or liberating.

I get it... I understand the desire to remove the need for testing and an end to self-isolation and getting the country back on track but having gone through almost 2 years of living through pandemic restrictions I pray it isn't all too much too soon. Time will tell as we walk into this new wilderness.

I know we have to learn to balance the risks and learn to live with Covid. No one can argue against the desire to return to less restrictions in our life. It has been so encouraging to see our weekly numbers slowly increase week on week and welcome new faces in our midst as we see the cases of Omicron decrease and confidence return for some. Many of our hall users have returned and life resembles a slow return to normal. We all embrace the prospect of starting to make plans for the coming months whether it be a return to the workplace or holidays abroad. Borders slowly opening up was a poignant reminder of just how difficult it has been for the past 2 years with families finally allowed to see each other again for the first time since Coronavirus changed everything.

I do hope going forward into spring and warmer brighter days that more of you all feel able to move forward and perhaps consider being able to come together again. Having had our son isolating for a second time recently and then eventually return into the bosom of his family this week was joyous. A simple thing perhaps but a huge reminder of the enormous impact on physical and mental wellbeing that separation and isolation has on us all.

If you still have concerns about returning back to Church then do please speak to us and we will try our very best to allay any concerns you may have.

Lent offers the opportunity for us to come together and ***“walk humbly with our God”*** and if you feel unable to do so in person we ask you to consider joining us virtually with some Lenten study time or literally as we consider having some organised short local walks to share in simple fellowship. There is information on other opportunities in the issue this month on ways to engage in the the life of the church if not locally then possibly more widely e.g. World Day of Prayer service or listening to a daily Lenten podcast with Christian Aid.

I encourage you all to journey with us in this time of spiritual pilgrimage.

“... come, let us walk in the light of the Lord”

(Isaiah 2:5)



190th GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade

Company Section

We have continued to be very busy and have achieved a great deal in what always feels like a very short time. Each Monday evening seems to pass as quickly as soon as I am ready for it the meeting is finished.

The turnout remains exceptional. Mums and Dads are to be complimented on the smart way Boys present themselves on a Monday evening they are a credit to you and themselves.



Company Inspection

Following our week outside we had a further week looking at all things Viking and celebrated the Chinese New Year. Badge work is covered using various activities within the topics we look at and all Boys are well through their badge work for the year.

Only one week so far into the new timetable but we are having a great time trying different things and experimenting. We have been looking at Mindfulness and art in different mediums, we started with Chocolate Art, fair to say some of them could have graced the Gallery of Modern Art!

Mindfulness is intended to allow the Boys to have a time to think about moving forward into the world and they are divided on age-appropriate lines to ensure they all have a chance to be comfortable.



The school half term resulted in us taking a week off, but we will make up this week by having our Cake Night photos to follow.

In the next few weeks, we will be presenting the 'Target Boys' with their first Company Section badges which were introduced in the new badge structure.

James has successfully completed his Candidate's Conference for Queen's Badge and will attend an external Skills for QB course at Carronvale House later this month to progress this further. He has also been helping with the Anchors and Juniors for his company service.

Anchor Boys and Junior Section

Both Sections continue to meet every week for games, arts and crafts and badge work. We had an 'egg challenge' in which Boys had to build something from household recycling to protect an egg dropped from a great height; mixed results, but surprisingly little egg to clear up afterwards, which is always a good sign.

Our postponed Christmas trip to Flipout is back on, and we will soon be starting a programme of activity for Easter.

New members are always welcome, please spread the word. Anchor Boys (P1-P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6) meet on Mondays 6.00pm to 7.00pm, and Company Section (P7 and older) meet Mondays 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Please get in touch if you know someone who might like to come along.

Colin Goodall Captain

Tel. 07828032807

Captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com

Pancake Day

by Ellen Castelow

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the “Pancake Bell” and is still rung today.



Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9.

This year Shrove Tuesday falls on Tuesday the **1st of March 2022**.

Why not try out your favourite toppings with our featured recipe... go on you know you want to.



Walking humbly with our God

Lent (2 March - 14 April 2022)

Lent has begun. Lent is not equally observed in all churches, but the ideas of reflection and repentance are familiar to all Christians. Pilgrimage has a history of being a penitential undertaken but has evolved over the years to become so much more. It is a literal walking humbly with our God.

Starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday, a weekly podcast (with transcript) will be available for streaming or download, along with questions for reflection and small group discussion.

You can even take yourself out on a weekly walk as we listen and reflect together, but that's optional.

If you aren't already signed up, register to receive our Prayer and Worship e-mail to get a reminder to download the podcast as Lent begins, and to find out about our ongoing prayer and worship resources.

Sign up using the following link: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/pray-with-us/worship-resources-sign-up>

American Pancake Recipe

Ingredients

- 200g self-raising
- flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp golden caster sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 25g melted butter, plus extra for cooking
- 200ml milk
- vegetable oil, for cooking



*Image & recipe taken from
BBC Goodfood*

To serve

- Maple syrup
- Toppings of your choice, such as cooked bacon, chocolate chips, blueberries or peanut butter and jam

Method

- **STEP 1**

Mix 200g self-raising flour, 1 ½ tsp baking powder, 1 tbsp golden caster sugar and a pinch of salt together in a large bowl.

- **STEP 2**

Create a well in the centre with the back of your spoon then add 3 large eggs, 25g melted butter and 200ml milk.

- **STEP 3**

Whisk together either with a balloon whisk or electric hand beaters until smooth then pour into a jug.

- **STEP 4**

Heat a small knob of butter and 1 tsp of oil in a large, non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. When the butter looks frothy, pour in rounds of the batter, approximately 8cm wide. Make sure you don't put the pancakes too close together as they will spread during cooking. Cook the pancakes on one side for about 1-2 mins or until lots of tiny bubbles start to appear and pop on the surface. Flip the pancakes over and cook for a further minute on the other side. Repeat until all the batter is used up.

- **STEP 5** Serve your pancakes stacked up on a plate with a drizzle of maple syrup and any of your favourite toppings.

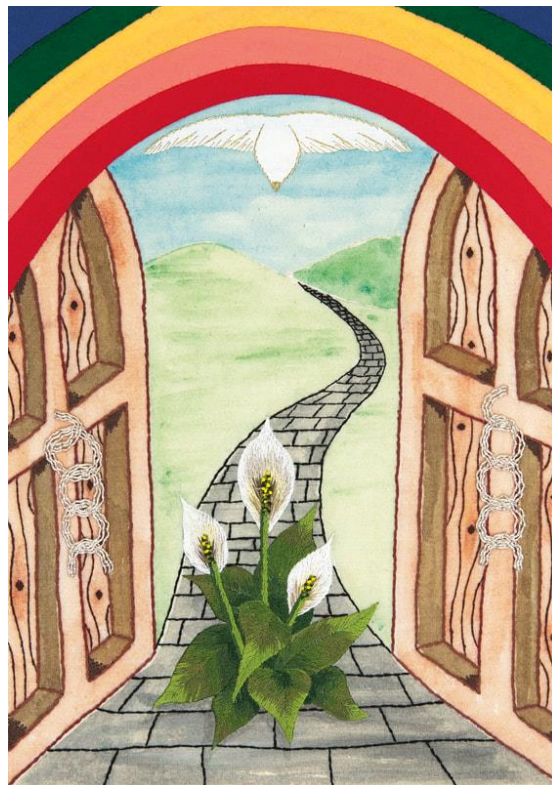


World Day of Prayer: In Solidarity with Myanmar

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by
Christian women
who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

I Know the Plans I Have for You

Program written by the
World Day of Prayer Committee of
England, Wales & Northern Ireland for WDP 2022
Jeremiah 29:1-14



In the midst of all the uncertainties we are living under due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WDP 2022 theme emerges like a balm of confidence. It is an invitation to place our trust in God in times of suffering.

The program is based on the letter that the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia. The exiles were in a context of suffering, uncertainty, and opposing views on how to respond to the moment. Today, we come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded, listen to the fear of a child refugee and learn to see the context of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith society in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI).

For Jeremiah, God's plan was clear, and we share this assurance by singing it. What is your WDP hope? Let the children and the youth guide your response. Then, come to celebrate hope by lighting a candle on behalf of the seven regions of the world, knowing that our prayerful action can bring to life the promises of God who, like a Mother and Father, cares for us all.

We are given a seed of hope to ponder where it needs to be planted in our lives and in our communities. Take this opportunity, to raise awareness on the needs of your community and offer the gifts of prayers and commitment. A seed, nourished by prayers of intercession and actions of love, bind us together around the world.

Our partners at the Council for World Mission are extending an invitation to their global prayer meeting which offers the opportunity to come together and pray for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

This year you can join this very important prayer meeting to mark the World Day of Prayer of Service online via Zoom at 10.00 a.m.



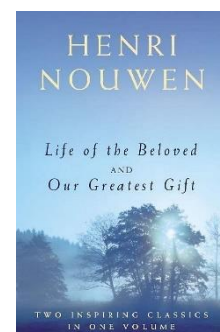
Lenten Candles

Lenten Studies

This year we will be running our Lenten studies again each Thursday evening at 7.30 pm via Zoom beginning on **Thursday the 10th of March**

This year we will be following a study series based on the work of Henri J.M Nouwen book '*Life of the Beloved*'.

All are welcome to attend.



The book is available to buy priced £7.99 in paperback format from various outlets and offer's 2 books for the price of 1 but is also available in Kindle format or Apple books for only £2.99.

For those who are interested we have 6 Ipads available for use by the congregation and a couple of kindles to allow those without one to download the book and join in our Lenten Book study discussions.

The late Henri Nouwen was one of the twentieth century's greatest spiritual writers, and this book brings together two of his most inspirational pastoral works.

Life of the Beloved asks how one can live a spiritual life in a completely secular culture. The greatest challenge, concludes Nouwen, is to bridge the gap between secular and sacred within the human self as a human being beloved of God.

Presbytery Planning

You may recall that last December Presbytery agreed that the work on the new Mission Plan would be done on a zonal basis. Presbytery will be asked to approve these zones on the 8th March, so each congregation was asked to confirm where it saw itself best placed. After careful consideration and by a narrow majority we returned our response stating that we felt Zone 2 was probably the correct grouping for our congregation. We did however express our difficulties in reaching this decision with none of us having any experience in strategic planning and noted that there was some who were unable to attend our joint meeting and that there sadly was no views expressed by the wider congregation in order to influence the final outcome.



Signing Papers

Image taken from the Church of Scotland website

In sending our response back we have asked Presbytery to be mindful of the imbalance in the numbers of congregations represented within the zone and asked if the listed congregations could be re-considered taking into account the well established local communities and boundaries with some of our neighbouring congregations. As a Trustee let me tell you I still feel the burden of the decision and appreciate that some will be disappointed in our decision. From the outset we have tried to remain as transparent as possible and inform the congregation of the whole planning process as much as possible.

Once the zones are agreed, an allocation of posts will then be given to each zone for the further discussions. The Presbytery Plan Creation Group (PPCG) will consult with each zone at a local level to work out how best the plan will be met. The population figures used to make these allocations will be the most recently available to presbytery, which takes its guidance from the Church of Scotland statistician. Given that the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis, it is anticipated that each year the populations in each zone will be revised and the plan updated on that basis.

Congregations have been placed in the same geographical grouping that was given for the focus groups last autumn and we have been advised that the next stage will involve being invited to a meeting later in March to allow us to meet with other congregations and perhaps begin these very difficult conversations that may see a path enlighten before us that reveals where we may be heading as a church.

Our buildings will also be inspected later this month taking into account footfall, accessibility and upkeep of our premises as well as considering our position within the community. We hope and pray that all the dedicated work in caring for our buildings will be looked upon favourably.

“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)



Latest Bulletin

Dear Supporters,

Our day centre is now open 8.30am to 3pm weekdays for those people who experience homelessness, exclusion and social isolation across the city. With our café providing free breakfast between 8.30-10am and lunch between noon and 2pm. We continue to make emergency clothing and food parcels available through our partner agencies.

In January, despite restrictions on mixing due to the omicron variant, we continued to serve;

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Sit in meals	406 January (302 December)	717 January (572 December)
Take-out meals	32 January (79 December)	70 January (210 December)



Our Kitchen team were delighted when Fiona got in touch to say Mackie's Crisps had a large donation of stock to compliment the packed lunches we provide to the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre (formerly the Winter Night Shelter). Big thank you to Mackie's of Scotland and to Fiona and her family for driving to Perth to collect them on our behalf.

We continue to host the Health Protection

Scotland team of vaccinators offering boosters and flu jabs to our clients weekly.



We have Waverley care coming testing on the 23rd February. Waverley Care recognise there are thousands of people in Scotland living with undiagnosed HIV or hepatitis C. Without a diagnosis, people cannot access effective treatments and are more likely to unknowingly pass their infection on. By providing services to suit local needs and highlighting the range of alternative options available together we can reduce barriers to access. We are pleased to be able to support this valuable harm reduction work.



back in to offer Blood Borne Virus

Winter Weather Packs (hats/scarfs) distributed in January
389

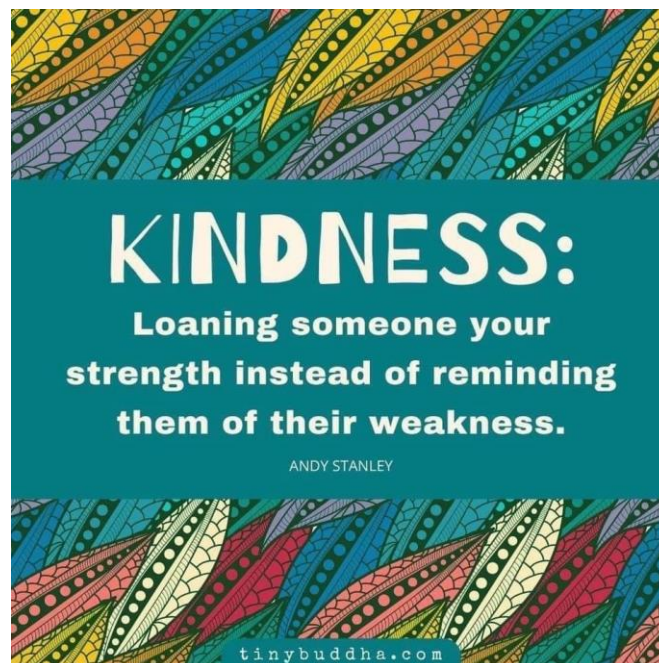
We celebrated Burns Day with a difference, with a visit from the staff of the RASOI, OREGANO & EAGLE LODGE restaurants who prepared a beautiful two course Indian lunch for all our visitors and staff. Great to share our celebrations with such a special treat.



We ask for your prayers as the team seek to advertise in person activities restarting. Pray that the clinical health support we are providing reaches those who would most benefit. As the services pick up in numbers pray our staff and volunteers know Gods equipping.

“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.



*Image courtesy of
tinybuddha.com*

Easter Egg Appeal



Dear Supporter,

As we look forward and make plans for Easter we want to give you the opportunity to support our Mission outreach initiative.

We opened our doors to a full weekday service again on 1st February, providing wellbeing activities such as football, interventions support such as fuel hardship advice, as well as our healthy breakfast and lunch which are free to all our visitors.

To ensure our support reaches all those who are most in need of assistance we are arranging advertising leaflets and posters outlining our services. These will be shared during Easter weekend with the local hostels, Bed and breakfast accommodation and partner agencies/ projects who interact with our client group.

To celebrate this 'resurrection' of community life at LHM - with the possibility of new life, hope and meaning our service offers - we are inviting you to get involved in this initiative. As our church supporters, we are asking if you would make a donation of Easter eggs - during Lent - that can be gifted to those who do not yet know, or need to hear afresh, the Easter message of life, hope and a new beginning this year.

We would ask that you add a sticker/ label to the egg box saying....**"A gift of hope from [insert church name]"**

Reminding people that no matter the situation or isolation being faced, our clients are not alone and Gods people care.

In order to make things as easy as possible in this time of transition, we are asking for churches and individuals to drop off donations of eggs at our East Campbell Street Day Centre between 2-4pm weekdays or at another time, by prior arrangement, calling LHM on 0141 552 0285.

If you are unable to contribute through your local church or would prefer to give a financial donation to support this initiative, all contributions will be gratefully received and you can donate in the usual ways:

- a. Website: www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk
- b. Direct transfer: 82-64-31 30060385
- c. Or send a cheque, made payable to:

Lodging House Mission and posted to 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT.

If you would like to support this missional initiative, by volunteering to speak to projects or deliver eggs, please contact our Chaplain on 07864 705 668.

Please pray for this initiative as the team visit the hostels and projects Pray they might reach new residents and those who are especially vulnerable and in need of support.

Thank you for the great support you give throughout the year which allows us to multiply the impact of our efforts.

Deacon Claire Herbert

Chaplain LHM



Friendship Club

Programme changes for March / April



- March** **7th** Seven Lochs Update (Confirmed)
- 21st** Campbell Provan: Talk about the Stepps Heritage Trail
- April** **4th** Marvyn MacKay: Talk about joining the Iona Community

Kate Houston



	Welcome at Door	Track & Trace	Beadle
March 6th	A. Macdonald. R. McGovern.	S. MacLean	J. Hope
13th	F. McGovern. F. Shields	C. Skinner	H. Baker
20th	E. Watson. H. Baker.	J. Burns	S. Baker
27th	M Crawford. S. Gowans	A. Macdonald	J. Burns
April 3rd	R. McGovern. S. MacLean	F. Shields	J. Hope

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

June Thomson



Learning and Development

with
Trinity College Glasgow and the University of Glasgow



On Sunday the 6th of February our service of worship was led and developed by Marvyn Mackay one of our longest serving Elders. Marvyn successfully completed the module ***Designing and Leading Christian Worship*** as part of his ongoing discernment and commitment to the Iona community. This formal appraisal process formed part of the assessment process required by Presbytery in order for Marvyn to be approved as an authorised Worship Leader. I am delighted to advise that not only was this a very meaningful and successfully delivered service but was met with positive feedback both from the congregation and the Presbytery Assessor meaning that Marvyn will now be formally approved and presented at Presbytery on the 8th of March and authorised as a Worship Leader.

Marvyn, sadly is unable to attend in person that evening but will be presented with a completion certificate in June.

On behalf of everyone at Stepps Parish Church our warmest congratulations to him and our very best wishes for his future calling.

We are immensely proud of your spiritual commitment and all your hard work. Well done Marvyn.



Elder Marvyn MacKay

**Dates for
your
diary.....**

March 1 st Shrove Tuesday / St. David's Day	Pancake Day
Wed 2 nd Ash Wednesday	Start of Lent Midweek reflection
Friday 4 th	World Day of Prayer
Sat 5 th	Elders Conference
6 th	Communion Service
Mon 7 th	Friendship Club - Seven Lochs Update
Tues 8 th	International Womens Day
Wed 9 th	Midweek reflection
Thurs 10 th	1 st Lenten Book Study - 7.30 pm via Zoom
Tues 15 th March	*Safeguarding update
Wed 16 th	Midweek reflection
Thurs 17 th St. Patricks Day	Joint Kirk Session – Cong Board Meeting
Friday 18 th	Red Nose Day
Sun 20 th	1 st Day of Spring
21 st	Friendship Club – Heritage Trail Talk
23 rd	Midweek reflection
24 th	2 nd Lenten Book Study – 7.30 pm via Zoom
Sat 26 th	Lenten Walk
Sun 27 th British Summer Time begins- Clocks go Forward	Mothers Day

* Safeguarding Update Training is for all Trustees and volunteers involved in working with Young people or Vulnerable groups and will be held in person on Tuesday evening the 15th March in the Sanctuary from 7-9 pm. A good attendance is appreciated.

Tea and coffee refreshments will be served from 6.30 pm

Congregational Roll

Deaths: **Fiona Robertson** (Friend of SPC) **31/01/2022**

George Black **22/02/2022**



“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)

Holy Communion



Image courtesy of greekboston.com

The service of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday the 6th of March. Sadly, Covid has meant that the traditional arrangements of passing a plate/ tray of elements or by intinction are not permitted and neither is the use of common vessels. The use of the common cup is only permitted for the celebrant. Similarly, the passing of plates or trays from individual to individual is not permitted. The elements will be prepared by only one person following the strictest of hygiene measures.

Individual disposable glasses with a piece of bread in small disposable cases will be used and you will be asked to collect individually from a table either before the service commences or when asked pew by pew.

‘While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin’.

(Matthew 26:26-28)

Stepps Parish Church news 22/1.....



Stepps is a growing community. Once known as a village it is now classed as a small town with over 7,000 residents. The Church was one of the first groups to realise growth would bring challenges. In 2018 it launched “Stepps Conversations” with local groups to plan for change and an outcome was the formation of Stepps Community Development Trust (SCDT) in 2020. With an enthusiastic local volunteer Board, SCDT have ambitious plans to improve social facilities in the community.

Our Church has not benefitted much from the increasing population, yet it exists to serve the community and promote Christian endeavours. The question why this is so has many answers. One is that we need do more to promote our activities.

With little effort each member/adherent who owns a computer or an i-phone could help to publicise our Church. Simply gather e-mail addresses from friends and neighbours who might be interested in receiving regular SPCnews messages to their e-mail address. Send to the SPCnews Controller jamhp9@outlook.com Messages will be bullet point brief with news about the life of our Church and Parish. If members could target five new addresses each and the SPCnews promoted itself we could reach many people who might not even be aware of our existence.

You will be aware of The Church of Scotland’s Mission Plan. It could pose a threat to the future of the Church in Stepps. A successful SPCnews project with many recipients will indicate the resilience of the Church and strength of support in the Community.

Jim Hope





International Women's Day

Let us Pray

IWD 2022 campaign theme: #BreakTheBias



Image taken from IWD campaign theme 2022

God of hope,
Help us to not to despair
at the brokenness of this world.
Remind us that Your
healing presence is
at all times in all things.

God of mercy,
Forgive us when we choose
to remain complacent and indifferent
to the injustices many women and girls
still experience in their lives.
Help us to follow Your ways of justice for all.

God of love,
Remind us that You have created us
with gentle and courageous hearts.
Inspire us towards a gender equal world
in which women and girls can thrive, and
Your promise of fullness of life for all is realised.

Amen.

Written by Julia Cato, on behalf of Integrity, the Church of Scotland's Violence Against Women Task Group.