



*Let us build a house  
where love can dwell*

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

*In this edition there is all our  
usual features with updates  
from the Boys Brigade, LHM  
and information on how you  
can support Christian Aid  
week.*

*Elsewhere in the edition we  
bring you some congregational  
news.*

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

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**May 2022**

Issue 410

Scottish Charity No.  
SC014212

**PROSPECT**

**Magazine of Stepps Parish  
Church**

**Contact Us:**

Minister: Gordon MacRae

0141 779 5742

[minister@steppsparishchurch.org](mailto:minister@steppsparishchurch.org)

Session Clerk: Lorraine Robertson

[sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com](mailto:sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com)

Church Organist / musician:

Alastair Sim 0141 779 1101

**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**

[sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com](mailto:sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com)



## Stepps Parish Church

### **Minister**



Rev Gordon MacRae (BD MTh)

Tel: 0141 779 5742

### **Session Clerk**

Lorraine Robertson

Tel: 0141 779 5838

Email:  
[sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com](mailto:sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com)



## Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship or while attending a marriage ceremony, a civil partnership registration, or a funeral. Face coverings however remain an important part of stopping the spread of coronavirus. Although regulatory requirements to wear face coverings in places of worship and at marriage ceremonies and funeral services was removed from 4<sup>th</sup> April, the Scottish Government continues to strongly encourage the use of protective measures to reduce risk, including wearing face coverings where appropriate to help keep each other safe. Infection rates are still high and a minority of the population remain vulnerable despite the vaccinations and the antiviral drugs which have been developed and deployed. Please help us to reduce spread by please isolating if you have any symptoms.

You can now choose whether to wear or remove your face coverings as you feel best suits your circumstances.

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_qMKKjcXAw)



Charity No: SC014212

## Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae

**O**n the **Maundy Thursday** morning I was in the church hall entryway looking at our "Read Books Library". I wondered if there was a book, I might take with me to our holiday at Kinlochranoch. I was attracted to one in particular. The initial reason my eye stuck on it was that it was a "real book", hardback in a lovely binding and perfect hand size. Then I read the title



### ***"Salmon Fishing in Yemen" by Paul Torday.***

Now I had heard of this book and I know some who have seen the film, but I didn't imagine it was 'my kind of book'. However, the idea of holding this 'real book' in my hand intrigued me so I took it with me. To my great joy I found it the perfect holiday read; amusing, heartwarming and thought provoking.

The plot is basically what it says on the cover. A sheik from Yemen has the notion of taking salmon from Loch Linnie to a wadi in Yemen and having tourists flock to fish for salmon. It sounds crazy but he has loads of money and is willing to spend it. So, no matter how crazy the idea is, if he is willing to give us loads of money, then why not? Yes, he's crazy. it's unlikely to succeed but he's loaded, so let's give it a go!

As I write I am preparing my sermon for Sunday. The text I am working on is the last chapter of the Gospel according to John; the Risen Jesus appears on the lakeshore and calls out to Peter and the others who have had a luckless night fishing. They might as well have been trying to fish for Atlantic Salmon in the deserts of Yemen. Jesus cries out "why not try casting your nets on the other side?" I wonder at their initial reaction. Peter maybe thought "Jesus is my master, he is a great teacher he heals the sickest of souls he was a carpenter but what does he know about fishing? This is crazy! It was useless fishing all night now, heat and glare of the morning sun, it will be hopeless. Yet, they need some hope. Still, even after seeing their risen Lord in the Holy City of Jerusalem, they doubted. Can Jesus be here in our ordinary everyday places. Part of our everyday lives?

We all need hope. I know I do.

So many things have changed some will never be the same. There is the most savage of wars in Ukraine. Horrific images flash on our TV screens and the news today is that Putin threatens conflict across the whole of Europe.

We need hope. The Church of Scotland, the Church in Scotland is facing an existential crisis. We have to choose whether we stand back and watch the church as we know it fizzle to naught or take radical steps to change the way we "do church".

Cast your nets on the other side! Do Something New. Take a risk.

Crazy! Radical! It won't work! You might as well ask us to Fish for Salmon in Yemen! Yes, we have said all of this and we will hear folk say it until our ears are sore.

Yet Peter followed his master's bidding and the catch was immense, amazing, extravagant. Miraculous

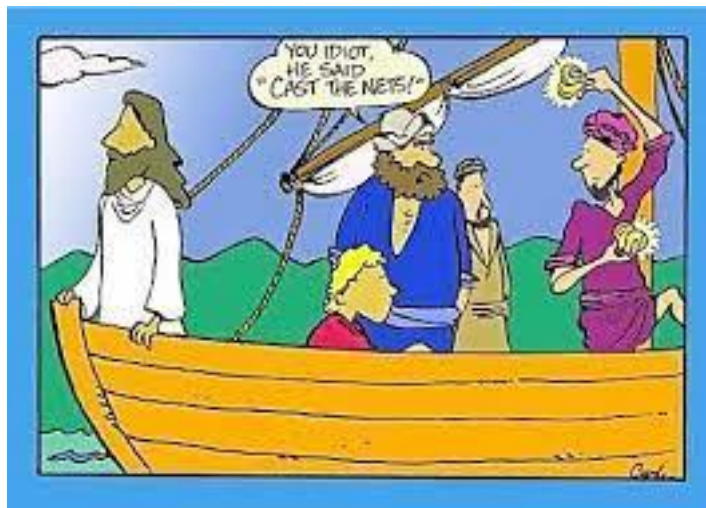
Do you remember way back at the outset of our journey through Luke's Gospel?

Mary is told that she will carry the Son of God in her womb. Now anyone might say that is just crazy, but The Angel says to her

"Nothing is Impossible for God"

Cast your nets on the other side! Do Something New. Take a risk.

We need hope. Hope is come among us and is here in our place among us in our everyday living. Jesus tells us to keep fishing. We are to go out into deeper water.



We are to search for new fishing grounds to partner with other boats and we are promised that the catch will be: - **immense, amazing, extravagant. Miraculous!!**

*Love Gordon*

## Session Clerk Letter

**D**ear Friends,  
May is just round the corner and I hope in many ways is a slightly calmer month than its predecessor. Not only did I succumb to Covid in April but there were many demands on my time as conversations and meetings pretty much dominated the start of the month for Gordon and myself and a small task group involved in the next stage of the Presbytery Mission Plan Process.



I couldn't have got through it without Gordon's support and that of my fellow trustees doing some of the leg work for me in visiting and establishing some very early links with our neighbouring congregations as a deadline loomed for our congregations decision.

The decisions and ministry allocation for each zone will be announced more formally at a meeting of Presbytery next week Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and once formally reported and approved, we will be able to share this news with you all. It was a difficult and emotional process for those at the heart of it. Initial friendships made, some re-visited and conversations were heard and considered at length before we arrived at our decision via a private ballot.

Looking at the wider picture aspiring where our church will be in 5 years time and where we can best fulfill the **"Five Marks of Mission"** being at the heart of the decision making process surprised a good few of us afterwards.

We never anticipated this to be an easy process and have made no secret of the fact on how precarious each congregations position is during this period ourselves included as we head into a vacancy very soon.

Throughout it all we have been encouraged to be open and honest with each other whilst soul searching our position. In all of this we believe that **God's** plan was always there for us guiding us along the way. We hope that you will all appreciate just how challenging this process has been and will ultimately be happy. Arriving at our decision was taking with you all in mind and I hope will meet with your approval, knowing that the life of our church was at the very core of our conversations.

As Gordon has said we have been asked to cast our nets wide, have been asked to do something new and partner with others who go out into unknown and uncharted waters in search of the right catch as we do.

***"Come, follow me , " Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people"***

(Matthew 4:19)

***"Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take"***

(Proverbs 3: 6)

With affection

*Lorraine.*



190<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW COMPANY,

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Contact: [captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com](mailto:captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com)

April has been much interrupted by holidays however we have still managed some memorable evenings.

Particular thanks to Grant MacLean for his Self Awareness and Defence Classes which were not only informative but good fun and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The Easter Bunny received a donation of Easter Eggs which were delivered to all Boys and the messages received as the Bunny made his journey were really good fun. It was fun as we arrived at the houses where Boys were home when they opened the door for their eggs. Not a Thank You missed.

We have moved on to planning and preparing for Parents Night, last night we spent some time practicing and planning how we could surprise and entertain you. We will not say too much as the surprise will be all the better on the night.

Parents' Night will be Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May, times to follow.

All are welcome to come and join us.

Next Monday 02/05 Company Section are off to the Glasgow Climbing Centre for a trip. We will have photos of that for next time.

Anchor Boys' and Junior Section have been taking part in crafts and other activities to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and enjoyed a trip to City Kids soft play over the Easter break.

New members always welcome: Anchor Boys (P1-P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6) are on Monday 6.00pm to 7.00pm, and Company Section (P7 and above) Mondays 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Many Thanks for all your support this session!

**Christine Copeland**

**Lieutenant**

[E-mail colingoodall91@hotmail.com](mailto:E-mail_colingoodall91@hotmail.com)

**Colin Goodall**

**Captain (tel. 07828 932807)**





**Christian Aid week**

**May 15-22nd May 2022**



**Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them...**

...But she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger.

- Jessica.



***Jessica (right) poses outside her house with 3 of her children - Christian Aid / David Brazier***

## **'So painful and disheartening'**

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival.

Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger.

Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

You can help this loving mum turn hunger into hope

It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give.

Once before, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food but she came home with nothing.

Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we stand with Jessica.

***"My children give me the power to go ahead... I pray they have a better future."***

***- Jessica.***

**This year Christian Aid week runs from 15-21 May to collect for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable families. There will not be door-to-door collections however there are different options to donate:**

1. Christian Aid envelopes are now available to collect from the church and halls and can be returned to church on a Sunday morning.
2. Visit [caweek.org](http://caweek.org) for a fast way to donate online
3. Call 08080 006 006

The money you donate will give hope to families like Jessica Mwedzi who is a kind and loving mum who only wants the best for her family. But in rural Zimbabwe, drought makes every day a struggle for survival.

'The scorching sun burnt my crops,' she says. 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide.'

By giving you can help her grow seeds that will survive in the harsh climate. She'll have the chance to grow fresh food so her children can live full and happy lives, free from hunger.





## Latest Bulletin

Dear Supporters,

We have been focussed on outreach and visiting homeless accommodations with the message of Easter Hope, chocolate eggs and an invitation to join our activities program.

The staff team have been developing a **full week's activities program** supported by our volunteers and with partners. Our football partnership with Street Soccer is going well and we have now added Boxercise training. We have pool, table tennis, bingo, a team quiz, dominos, guitar club, singing group and literacy group. As well as fitness and well-being these activities improve confidence, provide positive feedback, build healthy routines, develop team work and create conversations about healthy eating patterns. The activities program creates space to build healthy and supportive relationships with our guests that lead to preventative intervention. To get involved call Mark Smyth on 0141 552 0285.

March saw a rapid increase in demand for our breakfast service and meals overall;

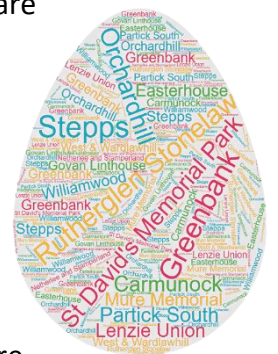
Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Meals	687 (+227)	1328 (+298)



At the beginning of Lent we launched our **Easter Egg Appeal**. We are delighted to report **almost 2000 chocolate eggs**, with church messages of HOPE, were donated during lent. These are being shared with our sister projects, hostels and accommodation centres. During Holy Week over 20 projects, more than 1000 potential service users will receive their gift and message of Hope. Importantly we have been spreading the word amongst projects that we are; open, have a full activities program and our intervention services are

available to them. Blessed!

**To all our egg-xtraordinary supporters  
(many named in Easter egg) our heartfelt thanks.**



**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](#)

During Holy Week we also set aside a time of **MORNING PRAISE**, at 8.30am in the IT room off the main hall. Being blessed as we started our day, listening to the Lord's Prayer and other praise songs and spending time in the Lord's presence. We would like to continue to offer this short worship time on a more permanent basis. To do so we would need more chaplaincy volunteers. If you can spare time to be alongside our guests, listening to 15 minutes of praise music, and enjoy companionship, and after a free breakfast, then please speak to our chaplain Claire.

We offer our **prayers** of gratitude in this season of Easter. We give thanks for the beauty all around us as we venture out to our parks and open places seeing them begin to flourish in the warming weather. The generosity of support for our appeal over 1000 chocolate eggs were received. The potential of our outreach to 20 projects and partners. The joy as our guests received their eggs and were blessed. For new volunteering opportunities which mean our service is busy. For our board and members as our AGM remembered the blessings during the hardship of the year gone by.

As the disciples were blessed by the resurrected Christ (John 20:19),  
I wonder what are you grateful for this Easter time?

*Deacon Claire Herbert,  
Chaplain to LHM.*



As you will see from the latest newsletter it has been a very busy month at the LHM. Claire and the team have been distributing the easter eggs that we all donated, to over 20 homeless services in Glasgow. This allowed the LHM team to meet with those who may not currently use the services available at the LHM but may do so in the future. Outreach work is such an important feature of ministry and we give thanks that Claire was able to undertake this work over Holy Week.

Claire is also looking for chaplaincy volunteers to help her in Morning Praise, if anyone has a spare 30 minutes any weekday morning then please get in touch. There are more details in the bulletin.

On a personal note I would also like to thank everyone for their best wishes with regards to my new role.

God Bless

Jacqueline xx

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## **New Presbytery Elder**



*Mr. Jim Hope Elder*

The Kirk Session are delighted to have Jim Hope (Elder) step forward in our quest to find a new Commissioned Elder to represent the congregation and Kirk session for the session 2022-2023 at Presbytery.

Jim continues to have many other commitments demanding of his time whilst still working part time but is willing to set aside more of his precious time to attend Presbytery when the new session commences in June. Presbytery is the court of the Church and as Presbytery Elder Jim will be able to keep the Kirk Session up to date with all things happening at a wider level and be able to contribute and act as a link between our congregation and Presbytery. This is a particularly important role knowing that soon

Gordon our Minister will no longer be able to represent us following his retiral in early 2023. Jim is a very competent debator and has enormous business experience that will serve him well and will be a huge asset in any of the Presbytery committees that is expected of the role of a participating Elder. We thank Jim most sincerely in acting as this vital liaison for us in these changing times. We offer our thanks and appreciation to Liz Ashmole who served most diligently as our Presbytery Elder for several years.

I know that Jim's strong singing voice will not be out of place at the start of the new session and we wish him well and look forward to Jim offering his time in serving his church.

	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	F.Shields	C. Skinner	H. Baker
15 <sup>th</sup>	E. Watson	H. Baker	S. Baker
22 <sup>nd</sup>	S. Baker	Mgt. Crawford	J. Burns
29 <sup>th</sup>	S. Gowans	A. Macdonald	J. Hope
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	R. McGovern	S. MacLean	H. Baker

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

*June Thomson*

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### Cradle Roll



Baptism: Christopher Gordon Cooper 24/04/2022

***"Through water and the word you have become a child of God and are sealed as Christ's own forever"***

(Galatians 3: 26-27)

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Sunday club is open for all children age 3 and upwards. We are a very safe group. Tables and chairs are sanitised before children come into Sunday club and after they are gone. We were very saddened by the war in Ukraine, especially the effect it is having on the children. When we heard about the efforts being made by the local Brownies and Guides, we decided to help. Many thanks to all in Sunday club and some Church members who donated lots of stationery goodies for the children. A great effort and much appreciated. Our next event will be a Sunday club outing. Discussions with the children will take place soon!

*Left to right: Rachel, Esther, Ryan, Lewis, James, Madison, Joshua, Linda. Photo taken by Arainn*

*Anne, Esther, Linda and Arainn*



**The Stamp Appeal** is an easy way for your congregation to get involved in the world mission work of the church.

***"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."***

*(Galatians 6:9)*

In Lebanon, and in response to the financial collapse in the country, the pastors in Syria and Lebanon initiated in 2021, a scheme where they gave half of their salary to establish a relief programme as an expression of support to the neediest families around their congregations.

The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (**NESSL**) employs more than a thousand people including their pastors. The economic crisis in the country and the consequences of the huge explosion in Beirut has struck hard and the Synod is struggling to pay salaries for pastors which range between £100 to £150 per month. Some pastors have left their vocation to take other jobs as they are unable to provide for their families. Others are really struggling to make ends meet. Pastors are key people supporting the spiritual and institutional life and ministry of the Synod and deserve to be supported.

NESSL is a partner church of the Church of Scotland and has churches in both Lebanon and Syria. The church has been able in the past to support pastors from money raised by running fee paying schools. In the last few years as the economic situation has deteriorated, many families are finding it hard to pay school fees and the knock-on effect on the financial situation in the Synod has affected the ability to pay pastors salaries. Despite the hardships experienced, pastors are reaching out to the needy in their congregations in a sacrificial way. This has prompted the Synod to reach out to partners around the world to support the various ongoing project work and to include in this the support of pastors.

This year the Stamp Project proceeds aim to raise enough funds to support a pastor for a full year's salary. You can be part of supporting the work of this project that is changing lives simply by collecting your stamps.



Just for Fun..... Are you a fan of the Sewing Bee programme ? Then this is for you!

**Then and Now....**



*ADVICE FROM A SINGER SEWING MACHINE MANUAL  
FROM 1949*

*Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do.....Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates.*

*Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that mind is free to enjoy your sewing.*

*When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that visitor will drop in or that your husband will come home and that you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.*



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