



Autumnal Colours



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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
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Sunday Services

Morning Worship at 11am

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

Scotland moved beyond Level 0 on the 9th of August 2021. Although it is now possible to offer a range of seating options, the Church of Scotland's Covid-19 group suggest that for the next few weeks congregations may wish to stick with the 1-metre physical distancing rule which was so recently put in place. We will continue with that suggestion for the next few weeks as we monitor the rates of infection within the community. We can safely accommodate between 55-65 people within the sanctuary depending on whether individuals or couples are sitting together or if there are slightly larger family bubbles sitting together where we can stretch the number a bit more. There is also the opportunity to visit the Sanctuary each Thursday from 10.00 am- 12.00 noon.



You can now check into our buildings using the Test & Protect Check In Scotland App using your smartphone.

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 Steps Parish Church YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OlvW_qMkKjcXAw

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Session Clerk Letter

Dear Friends,

DAs I write the news seems dominated by fuel shortages, talk of rising energy prices, potential disruption to services, the lack of skilled HGV drivers, with talk of bringing in the armed forces to help with fuel deliveries or ambulance journey times. It all makes for fairly depressing news. In the midst of all that there are also examples of people showing acts of extreme kindness amongst the selfishness of so many others. It is heartwarming to hear the simple acts of kindness meaning so much to others. This week I have been reminded thanks to the daily posts on our Facebook page of **Gratitude** and what we are all thankful for.



We soon approach the season of what would traditionally see us marking our Harvest service but this year we are instead encouraged to participate in a National Giving's Day, where we can reflect on God's Presence and offer a different way of Thanksgiving back to our Church either locally or nationally.

There is so much we can all be grateful for. For the love of family, friendships, being there for one another. Recognising the simple things that may seem insignificant but mean so much to others. Taking the time to engage in conversation with others, or time out of our day to listen or offer some respite from the everyday routine. A word of encouragement, an invitation to share a meal or a simple phone call to someone who is on their own. None of us can truly know the struggles or worries that we all face but sharing is caring. Thinking of others before ourselves. A simple smile can make new ventures seem less daunting, a first day in a new job or preparing for a hospital visit. We've all faced these situations with anxiousness, worry or dread but being mindful of how we treat one another can go a long way to easing that stress or worry. Kindness costs nothing but a simple random act of kindness can have a positive impact on others. I was moved by the quote from the American Poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou who said

"... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"

I think we can all relate to incidents when the way in which someone treated us left us feeling upset. So let's all remember the small simple things as we face whatever new challenges lie ahead.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant"...

Robert Louis Stevenson

God Bless.

Lorraine.

LODGING HOUSE MISSION AND HARVEST

Our church food contributions to LHM have understandably fallen during the lockdown months but now that both the Mission and our Church are trying to get back to normal, and particularly as we approach the Harvest season, it seems an appropriate time to remember the work of LHM which seeks to feed the hungry in our City. Those attending church worship may, as before, leave any food donations at the back of the church for uplift. Alternatively, any donations may be dropped off direct to the Mission at 35 East Campbell Street or to our LHM Representative Liz at 2 Alexandra Avenue. Monetary donations are also welcome to enable fresh produce to be bought on a daily basis.

See below a List produced by LHM of those items needed. Kindly avoid those items listed as not required at present.

Items needed by LHM

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Meat / Fish
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	Peaches	Tuna/Salmon
Weetabix	Pears	Corned beef
Rice Crispies	Pineapples	Ham
Sugar Puffs	Mandarins	
Frosties	Fruit Cocktail	Other
Coco Pops	Rice	Brown Sauce
Cheerios	Custard	Vinegar
		Tomato Sauce
Jars/Pastes	Other	Mayonnaise
Pasta bake sauces	Full fat UHT milk	Dried peas
Curry Sauce/paste	Coconut Milk	Lentils
Tomato paste	Drinking Chocolate	Olive oil
	Diluting/fresh juice	Vegetable oil
Dried Goods	Coffee	Bisto
Mixed herbs		Stock cubes/boullion
Garlic powder		Broth mix
Ground turmeric		Jam
Chilli powder		Sugar
Crushed chillies		Jelly

Ground coriander		
Salt and black pepper		

Not Required List

Pasta	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Grapefruit
Pearl Barley	Muesli	Prunes
Marmalade	Alpen	Tea Bags
Porridge	Long Grain Rice	Any tinned soup/veg

Christian Aid Appeal



Unfortunately we will not be able to run our Harvest lunch for Christian Aid again this year, but know how many of you are dedicated supporters of this charity. Envelopes are available in the church and hall entrance if you wish to make a donation to their Harvest appeal or you can donate at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/harvest-appeal>

This year Christian Aid is focusing on the support to a women's group supporting business development in Malawi, where the Makande Women's Group have united to transform their lives. Janet remembers the love, friendship and sense of community she felt when she joined the Makande Women's group, a local co-operative of female entrepreneurs: 'I gave birth to my third child just after joining the group.' says Janet, 'Guess what? The group showered me and my baby with gifts, which was the first time I had experienced that since I got married. This was the turning around of my story.' As well as a sense of solidarity between the members, the women in the group are transforming their lives through an innovative, sustainable baobab juicemaking business. Supported by Christian Aid's partner, Eagles Relief and Development, the women received training, equipment and a low-cost loan to set up and grow their business. Now the women make up to 6000 bottles of baobab juice a month, and have increased their income tenfold. In the wider community 188 jobs have been created through the women's enterprises. As more women join the group, they learn valuable skills from other members, improving the lives of more women.



Janet, Ida & Edina use the baobab fruit for their innovative, sustainable juice making business.

We think a Christmas card is a perfect way to stay in touch, possibly with people you haven't seen face to face for a while. It's a lovely way to let them know you are thinking of them, and possibly to remind them of the baby born in the manger, who gives us hope.

By buying your Cards and Calendars from CrossReach, not only are you receiving beautiful, high quality cards at reasonable prices to bless family and friends with, you are also being part of the great mission of CrossReach to "seek to support people to achieve the highest quality of life which they are capable of achieving at any given time."

Every single day someone in Scotland desperately needs support from one of our services which cover areas including substance misuse, counselling & support, homelessness, mental health and specialist care. Your purchase is helping make an incredible difference to someone, giving them the hope of a better future. While you may never meet them, we can't tell you how much it means to us all. So, thank you for buying your Christmas Cards and Calendars from CrossReach, and making a difference.

This is because all the profits CrossReach receive from the sales from this Catalogue goes to help our caring work across Scotland.

Check out the Christmas selection on the [CrossReach Web Shop](#)

Congregations are being encouraged to participate in a National Giving Day on the day of their choosing between Sunday 5 September and Sunday 31 October 2021. This will provide people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God.



Money received through this initiative will remain with participating congregations who will choose how to use these gifts. This money may be used to fund specific work, to launch a new project or simply to offset deficits, taking into account the challenging financial circumstances faced by many of our churches over the last year. Congregations can use the money locally or direct it towards projects at home or overseas, provided that it will be

used in line with the charitable objectives of the Church.

This year we thought we'd bring our gifts along in a joint service coinciding with the time of our Harvest celebration during the month of October.

Look out for more information during our Notices and on our church website for confirmation of dates.



I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Church for the beautiful flowers sent to me on my recent big big birthday. The hatbox with flowers nestling inside was just exquisite and very much appreciated.

To the many people in the congregation who brought flowers and cards to my door I repeat my thanks. I have been quite overwhelmed by all the kindness shown to me. I would thoroughly recommend getting to 90 to anyone as I have enjoyed all the fuss and attention it has brought. My daughter tells me I have been a right old diva about all the fuss!

Kate Houston

Friendship Club Programme for October



Monday October 4th : First meeting since March 2020 so a reunion with tea & lots of chat.

11th Beetle Drive

18th Denis from Voice of Experience – A talk on the advantages of Power of Attorney.

25th Tea & Chat

Looking forward to seeing you all there from 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

Kate Houston

October Door Welcome Duty



	Welcome at Door	Track and Trace	Beadle
October 3rd	J. Hope, Ailsa Macdonald	A. Macdonald	H. Corbett
10th	R. McGovern, S. MacLean	F. Shields	J. Burns
17th	C. Skinner, Mgt Crawford	J. Hope	S. Baker
24th	F. McGovern, E watson	P. Watson	H. Baker
31st	J. Burns, F Shields	S. MacLean	J. Hope

If you are unable to do your weekly rota. Please ensure you arrange someone to cover. Apologies to anyone who thinks they are on duty too often but, there is of course a shortage of names available.

June Thomson

Commissioning service

We are delighted that Stepps Parish Church has been asked to host the Commissioning Service for Rev. Muriel Pearson on Tuesday the 26th of October at 7.00pm when Muriel will be formally inducted as Associate Minister of St Andrews Jerusalem and Tiberias, Church of Scotland. The service will be attended by ministry colleagues from across Presbytery as well as with Ministers from 121 George Street and members of Cranhill Congregation. The service is expected to be very busy and will be live streamed for those not able to travel. More information to follow once all the details and Order of Proceedings have been finalised.

Sacrament of Baptism



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

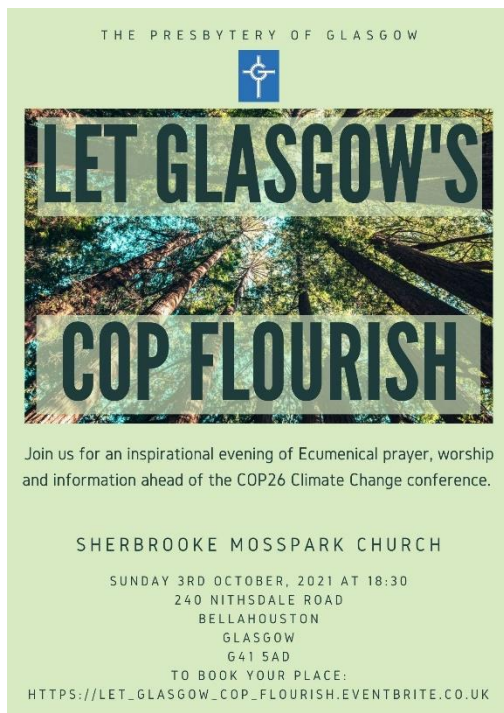
Psalm: 139

The church was delighted to welcome the family and friends of Jai Joseph Boyd McKinney who was baptised in a private service on Sunday the 26th of September, 2021. The service was able to be live-streamed to allow family unable to attend in person to share in this special day for his Parents Cherryl and Jordan along with his twin brothers Zac Lee and Jac Marc who were baptised in the church in 2014.

Gearing up for COP26 Climate Conference

The Presbytery of Glasgow is hosting an Ecumenical Service to be held on 3rd October at 18.30pm in Sherbrooke Mosspark.

To book a place at the service use this link for Eventbrite, you will not be able to attend unless you have booked on Eventbrite as spaces are limited and we need to know numbers in advance for health and safety reasons.



GLASGOW: Nov. 1-12, 2021

Join hundreds of others in opening your home to a visiting activist, scientist, or policymaker. All you need is a floor and an open door!

All you need is a floor and an open door. Help support the movement by hosting a climate justice guest with the COP26 Homestay Network. This could be one of the most impactful ways you can contribute to the movement, as well as having great conversations and making new friends from around the globe. [Find out how to become a COP26 host.](#) The COP26 homestay network allows people in Glasgow and the surrounding areas to [offer space in their private homes](#) as overnight accommodation for visitors from the climate justice movement during the COP26 conference. Visitors to the COP26 can then [book and stay](#) in these spaces.

Through this homestay concept, we hope to start more conversations around the climate emergency, foster connections between the movement and local communities, and be able to offer affordable accommodation to those who need it most.



Rise to the moment Prayer and Action for COP26

COP26, the UN's climate change summit, which was to take place in the UK in November 2020, remains on target to take place on the rescheduled dates of 1-12 November 2021. This year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To rise to the moment, we must underpin it in prayer and action.

We're joining the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) in a pilgrimage for climate justice. You can help amplify their calls for change, by creating a prayer boat. **We are building a fleet of prayer boats that will set sail for climate justice and cannot be ignored by world leaders.** [Join this month's prayer chain to pray for climate justice.](#)



Enjoying the Outdoor Cafe

The Re-opening of the chestnut café got off to a great start and were blessed with some nice weather for their 1st Thursday back on the 2nd of September allowing the team the opportunity to make good use of their new outdoor seating space allowing for more space for social distancing which will remain at 1 metre indoors with face masks also still required before taking seats indoors. All customers, whether sitting indoors or outdoors will be asked to supply contact details for NHS Scotland Test and Protect. Staff will always wear masks and there will be hand sanitising facilities available on arrival and at all tables for your convenience and safety.

If you have not visited us yet, please give it a try. You will be most welcome and can have an enjoyable snack. You can also try the range of 8 barista-style coffees, a variety of teas, or hot chocolate. Scones, pancakes, toasted tea loaf and sweet cakes are always on the menu and from about 11.45am soup and rolls in the winter and sandwiches in the summer are served. Payment is by donations only. Free Wi-Fi is available.

Everyone is welcome!!!

Jim Burns, Esther and Ian Hyndman and Marvyn Mackay

The Chestnut Café Team



It is now possible to **Check In** to our Halls and Sanctuary using the Test & Protect NHS App. Simply scan the QR code with the camera on your smart phone. This will assist our door duty team as services get busier and for any new visitors attending worship. A weekly count will help to monitor our numbers.

Help stop the Spread.

Get a head start on your Christmas preparations.

Thinking of starting your Christmas shopping early ? With all the talk of HGV lorry driver shortages and possible disruptions to supply chains affecting our stores why not start early and consider supporting our Church by shopping with Amazon and selecting Stepps Parish Church as your designated AmazonSmile Charity. Simply [click here](#) to shop through our designated AmazonSmile account or type *amazonsmile* in the search bar and follow the steps below.

How does AmazonSmile work?



When first visiting smile.amazon.co.uk customers are prompted to select a charitable organisation. Amazon will give 0.5% of the purchase price (excluding VAT and shipping fees) to the charitable organisation selected by you.

As Trustees we were able to meet in person in August for the first time in eighteen months and managed to present the Church Accounts for year ending December 2020. Mrs. Sarah Bell has done a power of work this year, in difficult circumstances, to compile and produce our accounts in the space of a few months. We thank her and the patience of the Finance Team who assisted her and to Premier Accounting in Kirkintilloch who audited and examined our books without charge. We thank the entire team for their tremendous efforts.

Lorraine.

Session Clerk

From everyone at Stepps Parish Church we thank you in advance for your support.

We had hoped to have been able to contemplate proposals to improve the facilities within the Sanctuary to make our buildings more accessible and adapt the space within our buildings to be more flexible. Unfortunately our application for funding from the Adapt and Thrive Application was declined but we will continue to think of other ways / Grants to raise funds that may allow us to revisit our proposals.



Living God,

we need Your presence here on planet earth.
In these strange days throughout the world,
we call on Your Spirit to fill us with love.
Help us to wash the feet of our communities,
going the second mile, giving the cup of cold water.
Help our churches to be loving,
reaching out to all we meet.

Holy Spirit,
guide us in our finances,
to wisely use the resources You have given us,
to plant fruitful seeds for Your kingdom.
Where there is division between us
heal us with Your uniting presence.
Help our churches to be communities where we live in peace,
not the peace of differences hidden from sight,
but the peace of discussion and dialogue and mutual respect.

Creator God,
Shape us into a people of prayer,
whose first thought in the morning is praise,
whose watchword is kindness,
and whose last thought of the day is peace,
the deep peace of God.

Nationally and locally,
let Your Spirit rule,
so that our church may be joined in love and service.
We ask all of this, in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who through His lifelong journey of love
showed us God's kingdom come,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen