



A field of Poppies

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

In this edition there is all our usual features with updates from the Boys Brigade, LHM as well as our congregational news and an update on the Presbytery Planning process.

There is also an invitation to join our friends at St Enoch's Hogganfield for their Autumn Fundraising Lunch and details of our Remembrance Sunday Service.

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

November 2022

Issue 415

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**

sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com



Stepps Parish Church

Minister



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Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

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 and the support you offer communities.

[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 if you have symptoms or 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 Steppe Parish Church YouTube channel

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



Charity No: SC014212

Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae

Dear Friends,

As autumn leaves change from green, through shades of brown and yellow and fall to the ground, so our thoughts turn to the Season of Remembrance.



I can recall so many Remembrance Sundays, from earlier days as a scout standing for an age in my uniform in the pouring rain. (In my day coats and anoraks were banned) to leading community acts of remembrance in so many locations.

This year I am so aware that there is a distinct difference in this year's gathering around our war memorial. When we stand in silence the noise of war in Europe is at its loudest. For the first time in my life there is war on the continent of Europe.

As I write we approach the 250th day of war. In those days over 6 thousand have been killed and millions have been injured or displaced. Images that are reminiscent of warfare, of historical European conflict, come into our living rooms; each fallen building the loss of a family's home. Each explosion carries the threat of death. War is real. War is always real, but today our remembrance is infused with a tangible significance.

As the autumn leaves fall so winter creeps in and with that the prospect of armies bogged down in mud; an entrenched war nearer to a Great War experience for those at the front. There is a great fear in war and the fear of escalation of the conflict and the subsequence of other nations being drawn in grows.

In each Sunday we have lit a candle to mark our remembering of those suffering in Ukraine. This Remembrance Sunday, as we gather, as we stand in silence may Jesus the Prince of Peace be with us at the memorial as he is now and always with all who suffer from wars present and past, in Europe and across the world.

Gordon x

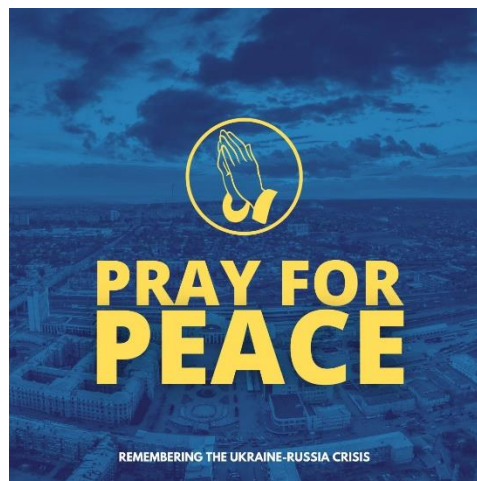


Image courtesy of facebook.com/watpen/photos

Session Clerk Letter

Dear Friends,
November is once again upon us and is a month that we automatically associate with Remembrance and memories. The slow transition from Autumn to Winter the night's drawing in and colder days ahead. The



weeks then just seem to forge ahead with all the planning and preparations that go forth from there as the season of Advent looms ever closer. There is some information in the following pages of some of these early preparations as our friends from St Enoch's Hogganfield look forward to hosting their Christmas Tree Festival for the first time in 3 years and have invited the cluster congregations to be a part of it. A lovely way to bring us together but before that they are hosting an Autumn lunch to fundraise for it. Please consider going along to support them as we look to start establishing new friendships and coming together as a cluster.

November also marks the welcome return to our Chestnut Café activity sessions with some Line Dancing to warm the soul and loosen you up and cheer a dreich morning. It is great to hear that the café attendance goes from strength to strength and the return of the popular activity programme will hopefully encourage some newcomers.

I also draw your attention to the lengthy yet I make no apologies for the important update on what is happening with the Presbytery planning process as we await news of what happens next as the draft plans are considered at the central Church. For now, I am putting it to the back of my mind and instead looking forward to a bit of respite in my beloved Northumberland retreat before the hard work begins in earnest and the implementation phase begins.

As always, I thank all those who have been there with me on the journey these past weeks and months and to you all for continuing to offer your support in these uncertain times but for now I look forward in faith to the coming weeks and season ahead. I leave you with the very apt words of this beautiful South African song that rang in my head long after Liz and I left the Presbytery meeting heavy hearted into the afternoon sun.

"Walk with me for the journey is long, walk with me for the journey is long, walk with me for the journey is long..."

Wild Goose Publications

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCB6uGFYYzk>

Lorraine x

Presbytery Planning Report

The Presbytery of Glasgow met in person on Saturday the 8th of October and again online on the 11th of October to consider the Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) as presented in a series of deliverances from the PMP Creation Group (PMPCG). Our congregation along with the other congregations in Zone 2 was cited to attend for interest with each congregation being entitled to respond to the report through the contribution of one person representing each congregation.

The five geographic Zones into which Presbytery had been divided, created for administrative convenience, had been allocated posts on a population basis and within these Zones, congregations were invited to form Clusters to discuss how to work together. The formation of Clusters led to some variation to the Zones, after which each Cluster was allocated posts on the joint basis of Cluster population and level of Ministry & Mission contributions to the central church – the latter as a comparable indicator of church health. Clusters were tasked with presenting mission-based plans for utilising their allocated posts with indications of how they saw the future of their buildings (the choice being between long term retention or disposal).

It would be easy to simply report that in due course, the Zone Cluster proposals and the full PMP were duly approved but that does not tell the full story of the debate. It is important to give you a feel of the overall mood of Presbytery. Whilst the Cluster Proposals were all agreed, the overall feeling was one of resigned acceptance combined with concern at the process in general. This was stressed while levelling no criticism of the PMPCG who were given a thankless task of implementing instructions from the General Assembly within a set timescale and that, so far as Presbytery can go, has been achieved. Several congregations made eloquent speeches expressing the concern they had of how the reduction in personnel would impact their work and questioned how mission could be enhanced. To say that Liz and I were moved as we empathised with our neighbouring congregations who fared less favourably than ourselves would be an understatement.

The full report for our cluster along with our property scoring and wider presbytery report is available to read in full on our website under News or click on the link to access:

<https://www.steppsparishchurch.org/news/>

The first meeting disposed of 4 out of the 5 Zones. Zone 5's discussion was prolonged beyond the allotted time on account of a motion to add a 0.5 post to the Cluster which included Church House (one of 5 projects supported by Presbytery); Church House had a full post in the old Plan but only 0.5 in the proposed PMP. The additional 0.5 was to be taken from the recently agreed central posts and this was passed after a long discussion and an

amendment deleting the central post proposed for removal with an instruction to the PMPCG added requiring it to consult with the relevant Committees and bring a proposal for sourcing the Church House supplementary allocation to the November Presbytery. Presbytery agreed that Church House should retain the level of support it had previously enjoyed so that its vital work amongst deprived families in the East End of Glasgow could continue unaffected. Zone 5 approval was deferred till the meeting on the 11th of October along with a reworded deliverance to approve the full PMP subject to the decision on sourcing the Church House post in November. Thus, the process to get the PMP fully approved would not be delayed. Consideration of these remaining deliverances was duly completed on 11th October.

Stepps as you all know will cluster with St. Pauls Provanmill, St, Andrews East, St. Enoch Hogganfield and Garthamlock & Craigend parish church. Our Cluster was awarded 2.0 FTE by way of staffing allocation with a further 0.9 for the two Priority areas (Garthamlock & Craigend and St Paul's).

After detailed and facilitated discussion, it was agreed that the Priority Area allocation of 0.9 should be divided by 0.4 being allocated to Garthamlock & Craigend and 0.5 being allocated towards St Paul's. Recognising the vital youth work undertaken at St Paul's, a further 0.4 will be added to St Paul's from the Cluster allocation, giving them a total of 0.9 and leaving a staffing allocation of 1.6 FTE to be employed across the Cluster. Some input across the Cluster will be expected from the priority area staff (job descriptions to be agreed).

The remaining 1.6 FTE allocation would go towards one full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament (1.0 FTE) and a part-time (0.6 FTE) Associate Minister to work across the Cluster.

There is a commitment to pursue joint mission work and share the burdens of ministry throughout the Cluster. Our Cluster comprises five churches and five manses.

We propose that all five Church buildings are categorised as provisionally B (to ensure fairness) pending further investigation and discussions, as has been reported to the Kirk Session.

Our Cluster is minded:

- a. That the future of all five buildings is subject to review, and St Andrews East is not in a separate category: and
- b. That the creation of the united parish might take place a little later, to allow clear discussions about the future of the five church buildings

We propose that all five of our Manses are categorised B, all but one of which can be disposed of within the next five years, retaining only one (yet to be identified) for a MWS.

A motion is to be brought to November's Presbytery seeking to formally submit a series of concerns about the PMP and its implications in the form of supplementary comments on the PMP. The proposer suggested that the whole idea was based on a false premise that the Church of Scotland is capable with its reduced ministerial complement as envisaged to continue to minister to the entire population as embodied in the so called "Third Article Declaratory". The motion goes on to contend that in an attempt to comply with this aim, the Church is spreading itself so thin as to be in danger of ministering effectively to nobody.

Should the PMP be approved centrally, it is anticipated that the embargo on Calls (in place since the 2021 General Assembly) would be lifted but how the restriction on building development to "wind and watertight" work would be treated remains to be seen and the lifting of this will probably be restricted to buildings listed A in the PMP for retention.

Those employed as MDS staff have not the same protection and Presbytery was advised that the central church intends to issue redundancy notices at the end of 2023 to all MDS employees whose posts are not included in the PMP. It is feared that many such will choose to look for more secure employment well before then and the work they are doing will cease; this will particularly impact Priority Area Congregations where most MDS posts are to be found.

The PMPCG implied in their report that the PMP as it stands is being treated as just the first stage in an ongoing process and this gives some optimism for the future. There is an in-built requirement for the PMP to be reviewed by Presbytery annually and this will give space for Cluster Plans to be refined, developed, improved and even changed over a less pressurised time period.

Most importantly, Stepps must not believe we have "got away lightly" in this process and that we can therefore carry on as before particularly as we move into vacancy come March 2023. The Cluster concept opens up opportunities for mission work in collaboration with our neighbours and initiatives can be devised anywhere in the Cluster utilising the strengths of the Cluster as a whole, not just those of the individual congregations and we should be grateful to our Cluster neighbours for agreeing to that but we must also engage with them in furthering the Kingdom as best we can in this new shape in which the church finds itself, firm in the belief that God can and wants to work alongside us as we move forward into the new future with faith, hope and love.

(Adapted with Kind Permission from Stuart MacGill: Eaglesham Parish Church)

**LIFE
AND WORK**
THE MAGAZINE OF THE
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Life and work annual subscription will cost £42 for twelve issues in 2023. Cash or cheques (made payable to Stepps Parish church please). Payments can be placed in the collection plate. Please mark envelope LIFE AND WORK

To have payment uplifted please telephone Mrs. June Bennie on 0141 779-2994. ***New Subscriptions Welcome!!***

To order a copy please telephone June Bennie before the 5th of November 2022.

An Invite from our friends in our cluster congregation of St Enoch's Hogganfield Parish Church in aid of the Christmas Tree Festival (see page 14 for more details)



St Enoch's Hogganfield Parish Church
850 Cumbernauld Road, Glasgow G33 2QW



LHM
NEWSLETTER
October Issue
SCO 17263



WELCOME

October has been a busy month for our team. Due to increased demand for our sit in service we have discontinued the take away options for now.

Harvest donations have been arriving and our dedicated volunteers have been helping.

We continue to need more volunteers to serve at tables on weekdays. Whist our Harvest

Service was cancelled following the death of Her Majesty the Queen we are delighted to say the moderator will join us for Christmas Carols on 15th December at 2.30pm.

CAFÉ CATCH UP

The SUCCESSFUL Harvest Appeal 2022 has filled our stores. Making possible our free meal service for the year to come. This month we served 789 Breakfasts and 1439 Lunches.

THANK YOU for supporting our Harvest Appeal 2022



VOLUNTEERS

This month we are keen to showcase 'Space to Breathe' a room for quiet time, listening ear and prayer. Every Thursday we need volunteers to staff the room between 10-2pm. Contact chaplain and add your name to the rota

Chorbertchurchscotland.org.uk

PRAYER AND REMEMBERING

Thursday 24th November 10.30am we will hold our annual service remembering those who have died without a place to call home. Please pray strength for all the organisations taking part and comfort for those bereaved.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." Romans 12:15





I have received a lovely letter from Claire Herbert Chaplain LHM thanking us for our generous Harvest donations and the financial donation of £50 and also £100 Aldi vouchers. All of this will assist them in their work with people who have lived experience of homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion and are guests at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow. I will leave a copy of the full letter at the rear of the church for those that wish to read it.

The latest update is below and I would like to highlight a few of the items. Firstly, there are two dates for your diary the rescheduled Annual Service to remember the homeless on Nov 24th and the Carols Service on 15th Dec where the Moderator shall be in attendance. They are also still looking for volunteers to help serve lunches as every guest is personally served while seated at their table and as winter approaches the numbers are increasing.

The final item I would like to point out is the Space to Breathe initiative. Claire is looking for a rota of volunteers on Thursdays (10-2) to facilitate this. I shall be joining the rota and I would strongly encourage anyone who has a few hours to give (If not serving at the Chestnut café!!) to do the same. From my experience those guests who use the LHM and similar services across Glasgow just need someone to listen to them, not to give them answers or solutions but just to hear their voices. I remember the first time I prayed with a homeless gentleman who had been rough sleeping and had come to shelter to the Winter Night Shelter to get out of the freezing winter weather. No one had ever prayed with him before and how much it meant to him to have a complete stranger pray with him is something that cannot be put into words and is something that I still reflect on when looking at how I can serve.

As I write this, I have just been informed that Covid has yet again hit our household with Chris testing positive. The rest of us are currently symptom free and Chris only has mild symptoms at present, but it just shows that this virus has not gone away and I would urge everyone who is eligible and able to, to get boosted this winter to protect themselves and those around them.

Stay Safe

Jacqueline.

November	Tea Duty	Tea Duty
6 th	L. Robertson	E. Corbett
13 th	S. MacLean	H. Baker
20 th	S. Gowans	L. Robertson
27 th	H. Baker	E. Watson
December 4 th	S. MacLean	E. Corbett



November	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
6 th	E. Watson	S. Baker	H. Baker
13 th	S. Gowans	J. Hope	S. Baker
20 th	A. Macdonald	R. McGovern	J. Burns
27 th	F. McGovern	S. MacLean	J. Hope
December 4 th	F. Shields	C. Skinner	J. Thomson

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

June Thomson

With Thanks



Jackie, Fiona and Andrew MacKirdy would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the Stepps Parish Church family and to the many friends of their much-loved mum Nancy, for the kind words of support and cards received following their recent bereavement, and for joining them for Nancy's beautiful service.

Friendship Club



We are meeting fortnightly. We have no speakers at the moment, so we will just be having a cup of tea or coffee and a blether to catch up on any news. Next meetings: -14th November 28th November, 1:30pm in the small church hall. All welcome.

Janet Hyslop



NEEDED...

PRAYER ROOM VOLUNTEERS

@ SPACE TO BREATHE!

~~~~~

Starting a THURSDAY ROTA

**24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**10AM-2PM**

Do you have a listening ear?  
Do you have a heart for people?  
Are you looking to serve God  
in a far reaching ministry?

Volunteer for this vital ministry with the power to change lives!  
Our Volunteers need to have a heart to listen with people  
and pray with them in a non-judgmental way,  
sensitive to their Bereavements and Childhood Trauma.  
We do not offer counselling or an advice service.  
Join a team of Christians offering an opportunity to be heard.

  
LODGING HOUSE MISSION

cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk  
Telephone: 0141 552 0285

REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC017283 |

## Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November



*Image Courtesy of Pixabay*

This year we will be returning to the War Memorial in Stepps Park for a short act of Remembrance with our friends from St. Joseph's RC Church. We will gather at 10.50 am to mark the eleventh hour and have our wreath laying ceremony before returning to the church at 11.15 am for morning worship. We will be joined by our youth organisations and members of the community as well as our invited dignitaries.

Remembrance Sunday is a time for us all as a nation to acknowledge corporately the sacrifice of those who have gone before us this year into God's hands, whether national figures, such as The Queen, or our own loved ones; people who were important figures in our civic, military and private lives. This time allows us to focus on those whom we miss most, while at the same time saluting those who gave their lives serving our country in the cause of the freedom we enjoy. Join us on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Stepps War memorial Bluebell Park @ 10.50 am.



*Stepps War Memorial*

## St Enoch's Hogganfield Christmas Tree Festival

The time has come for us to be getting the final details made for our Christmas tree Festival and to let you know what we would like you to do.

The Festival will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December With the Church open most of the days and folk will be Able to come along an see our Trees. There will be a Carol Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

So what do you need to do. We will provide the Christmas Trees To be decorated and we just need you to decorate your tree the way you want. We will ask you to provide battery operated lights as we don't Have a lot of electrical sockets. We will also want to you put a name of your group/Church on the Tree. These can be decorated during the week before the 16<sup>th</sup>. Further times will be confirmed nearer the time.

We do need to know when suits you as we will need volunteers. We will produce posters that we can give you to help advertise In your Churches/Groups.

If you have any questions please get in touch on [aggsbaggs@sky.com](mailto:aggsbaggs@sky.com) Or 07914573087

Alllison





## **190<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

All Sections of the Company resumed the new Session after the Summer break, and we have been pretty busy so far.

We have had a huge number of new recruits to the Anchor Boys, which has been great to see, and we've expanded our programme of activities on a Monday night for both Anchor Boys and Junior Section.

Company Section are also well into their programme. Some trips are planned to international rugby matches over the next couple of months.

The Company will be leading a special service for Dedication and Founder's Day on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, with hot rolls and tea and coffee served afterwards, all are very welcome to come along.

We will as always be participating in Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

We have some new members of the leadership team. David McIvor and Ryan Melly from my other Company have joined us as Warrant Officers and have been a great help to us in working with our expanded numbers. Our own Benjamin Griffiths has progressed to Staff-Sergeant and contributes a great deal to the Company Section programme. Senior Boys Ben Heriot and Alex Guthrie, who are working on their President's Badge, have been promoted to Lance-Corporal, alongside James McLaughlin, who is working on his Queen's Badge and helping out with the Anchor Boys.

All Sections meet on a Monday evening. Anchor Boys for Boys in P1-P3 are from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, Junior Section for Boys in P4-P6 from 6.30pm to 8.00pm, and Company Section for Boys P7 and above from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. All recruits welcome.

Colin Goodall

Captain

[colingoodall91@hotmail.com](mailto:colingoodall91@hotmail.com)

Find us on Facebook



# Chestnut Café

The Chestnut Café is open every Thursday from **10.00am - 1.00pm**. Now well established with many regular customers, although there is still room for new customers who would like to come along. The Café has a menu of eight barista style coffees incl. decaff, a variety of teas and hot chocolate with scones, pancakes and a choice of cakes. In addition, from **12.00noon** soup and bread rolls are served for lunch. Payment is by donations only.

In November, after a long absence for a variety of reasons, activity sessions will resume on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November with a four-week session of Line Dancing in the Large Hall from 10.00am to 11.00am. As this activity Leader is not taking any fees for these sessions, they will be free of charge, and we hope some of our regular customers will come along and try their skills at this popular activity. Next month in the three weeks leading up to our Christmas break, there will Christmas Craft sessions led by Liz Ashmole. There will be a donation charge for these sessions to cover the cost of the craft materials. Do come along and join in these activity sessions before or after your coffee. You will be made most welcome.

Finally, the regular team would like to thank the volunteer helpers, Linda and Gary Swan, Florence Maxwell and Helen Baker who have covered for the holidays and absences of the regular team and without whom it would be difficult to sustain the regular frequency of opening.

More volunteers would still be welcome and anyone who would be able to assist should speak to a member of the Team.

**Jim Burns, Esther Hyndman, Iain Hyndman and Marvyn Mackay**

**The Chestnut Café Team.**

# Not.

by Erin Hanson

You are not your age,  
Nor the size of clothes you wear,  
You are not a weight,  
Or the colour of your hair.  
You are not your name,  
Or the dimples in your cheeks,  
You are all the books you read,  
And all the words you speak,  
You are your croaky morning voice,  
And the smiles you try to hide,  
You're the sweetness in your laughter,  
And every tear you've cried,  
You're the songs you sing so loudly,  
When you know you're all alone,  
You're the places that you've been to,  
And the one that you call home,  
You're the things that you believe in,  
And the people that you love,  
You're the photos in your bedroom,  
And the future you dream of,  
You're made of so much beauty,  
But it seems that you forgot,  
When you decided that you were defined,  
By all the things you're not.

*Image courtesy of Pinterest*



## Church Christmas Post Service

### Advanced Notice

“Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells” Yes! Christmas is coming and so time to give dates for the posting of Christmas cards to your friends and neighbours in Stepps, Cardowan, Crowwood Grange, Red Deer Village, Stepphill and Millerston.

Post boxes will be located in the church and at the entrance of the halls over the following dates:

**Church:** From Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Halls:** From Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Cards will be delivered during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> December

N.B: All cards must have the correct name and full postal address and house no.

**Donations suggested for this service 30 pence per card of 4 for £1.00**

Volunteers will be required for delivery of cards and to assist with sorting out the cards.

If able to help please speak to Angela Orme or contact on 0141 779 2206.

Thank you for your assistance.

**Angela Orme.**