



The Church of Scotland

stepps parish church

PROSPECT

www.steppsparishchurch.org

At the heart of our community,
celebrating faith and life to the full,



Scottish Charity No. SCO14212
November 2020, Issue 395

Pastoral Letter



*Dear Friends,
Jesus said, "let me tell you a story. 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by thieves'". So begins one of Jesus' best known stories:-*

The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

So many sermons have been preached on this one story, each and every one of them, with different insight showing both the simplicity and the intricacies of this story. For those who first listened, the most stark and shocking detail was that the story focuses on the Good Samaritan when, for the majority there, there was no such thing as a GOOD Samaritan.

Now, let me tell you a story.

Mohammad Salman Hamdani was born in Karachi, Pakistan and moved to America with his parents when he was only 13 months old. His mother Talat taught English at a middle school in Queens and his father Saleem was the owner and operator of a convenience

store in Brooklyn in 2001 he worked at the Rockefeller University and had a part time job driving an ambulance. He was an New York Fire Department certified Emergency Medical Technician and a New York City Police Department cadet.

It is believed that on the morning of September 11, 2001, while on the way to work Hamdani witnessed the smoke coming from the Twin Towers and hurried to the scene to aid victims, using his fire department identification to get through the restricted traffic.

At first Hamdani was listed as missing and there were media reports that he was under investigation as being possibly involved in the attack. Mr. Hamdani was being falsely accused of being involved in the WTC attacks only because he was a Muslim.

In October 2001 an unidentified body along with Hamdani's medical bag and identification were found at Ground Zero, it was later identified by DNA profiling, confirming his identity

He was declared a hero by Congress that October, 45 days after the attacks.

The citation read:-

Many Arab Americans and Muslim Americans have acted heroically during the attacks on the United States, including Mohammed Salman

Hamdani, a 23-year-old New Yorker of Pakistani descent, who is believed to have gone to the World Trade Centre to offer rescue assistance.

Need I say much more

When asked who acted as neighbour the lawyer who is in such disgust that he cannot even mouth the word Samaritan says

"The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

"Go and do likewise." That is Jesus command for all to do likewise all to act as neighbours. To whom? To all, all you like all you do not like to those who are the same those who are different yes he says even the Samaritans. All are neighbours all live in the world village. And if we see all even our enemies as neighbours then we are on our way to that village world being God's kingdom.

Gordon

Macmillan Fundraiser

Sadly, we were unable to come together this year for our annual Macmillan Fundraiser afternoon. However, it did not go past, unnoticed. Amy Sommerville, single handedly (or should I say two footedly) decided to do Stepps/Steps for Macmillan. She walked 2000 steps daily in the local swimming pool. This was no mean feat/feet. 🦶🦶🦶🦶🦶 Many of the community who normally attend our coffee afternoon, sponsored Amy. She raised £640.00. Others also donated and this took the total to £1000.00. A cheque was sent to Macmillan Cancer Support in the name of Stepps Parish Church. I am sure they will be delighted to receive this during these unprecedented times, when their fundraising has been impacted dramatically.

A very big thank you to Amy, and to all for their generous donations to such a worthwhile cause. Your response was very much appreciated.

Thank you All

Margaret Crawford

LHM News

In recent weeks and months, the LHM Board has been faced with many difficult challenges and decisions arising from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the way it is able to deliver its services. LHM has had to restructure its operations which has sadly compelled it to embark on a programme of lay-off/redundancy of some of its staff. Having carried out a thorough and detailed Covid Risk Assessment for potential re-opening, the LHM Board reached the unanimous conclusion that it would be impossible to do so without placing staff, volunteers and clients at unacceptable risk of contracting the virus.

This is NOT to say that LHM has ceased operating – *far from it* – but rather that for the foreseeable future until the inherent risk declines to an acceptable level, it shall instead deliver the bulk of its services external to the Day Centre building in East Campbell Street.

LHM will continue, as it has been doing successfully since March, to work in partnership with other charitable agencies to ensure a joined-up approach to the provision of food, clothing and toiletries as well as outreach and pastoral

support to those in most need scattered throughout the city. In this way, it can best assist greater numbers of the most destitute.

New staff positions are being created to meet this different way of working and it is hoped that some of the existing staff will fit into these new roles.

As a registered charity, it is incumbent on its Charity Trustees to ensure that its limited resources are used for the optimum benefit of its service users, the hungry and the homeless, and until the risks associated with Covid-19 recede, their needs can be most safely met in the manner outlined above.

LHM asks for our understanding and continued support as they adapt their operations to meet the challenges of these difficult times, assuring us that they will strive always to meet their stated objective “to alleviate the conditions of life amongst homeless people and those vulnerable to homelessness, of any gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, faith or denomination and whether able-bodied or disabled in the City of Glasgow”.

LHM Christmas Cards

This year more than any other is perhaps not the year to drop the practice of sending Christmas cards as our family and friends, from whom we have often been separated due to the pandemic restrictions, will all the more appreciate a festive greeting and message in the post.

LHM Christmas cards are now available to order. Brochures are available in the church or can be dropped off at your door by phoning Liz on 779 1086. The cost of P&P can be avoided by ordering via Liz who will deliver them safely to your door. Alternatively, they may be ordered online at www.charitycardsonline.com/lhm

Glasgow Winter Night Shelter Arrangements

In recent years, the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter has been hosted by LHM in its premises at East Campbell Street, providing overnight accommodation for rough sleepers during the harshest winter months. Given the current pandemic, it would be unsafe to operate the dormitory-style Shelter as in previous years and arrangements are underway to secure hotel accommodation for such guests and to re-name the supporting organisation as the Glasgow

Overnight Welcome Centre (GOWC). Guests need much more than a warm bed - they require food, clothing, housing and financial advice, pastoral care and above all, a friendly face to talk over their problems with.

LHM will be joining with other charities in the City to ensure the necessary support is available to those who will present themselves as homeless. LHM plans to provide weekday lunches to the GOWC and anyone wishing to assist can donate any of the following items : woollen hats, scarves and gloves or individually wrapped biscuits. Any such donations can be delivered by phoning Liz on 779 1086.

World Mission : Helping Beirut

The Church of Scotland has pledged £40,000 to help rebuild the Lebanese capital, Beirut, following the devastating explosion which killed more than 200 people and which we all probably were shocked to watch on our TVs. The money – partly drawn from restricted funds used to support overseas work - has been given to Near East School of Theology (NEST) and the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon.

(NESSL). It will be used to assist people left homeless or injured in the blast on the 4th of August and to repair badly damaged buildings used by the [Kirk's two partner organisations.](#)

August 4, 2020, 6:07 pm was a date and time that Lebanese people will never forget. The disaster, which came at a time when Lebanon is dealing with political, economic and health crises, reduced the port area to rubble in just a few minutes, destroying homes and livelihoods. Around 6,500 people were injured and an estimated 300,000 were left homeless.

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, said: “It is vital for the Church to support those in the world who are most in need. The loss of life, injuries, and devastation of property caused by the Beirut blast has impacted greatly on the work of our partners in the area. By standing with them materially, as well as spiritually, we show our solidarity and compassion as they do all they can to support the rebuilding of the city.”

Church Missionary Society Magazine

We have a creative God

Who is able to do immensely more than we ask or imagine

Ephesians 3:20

Anon

Annual Accounts and Report

The Trustees of the congregational board met via Zoom on Thursday the 22nd of October where they were formally able to discuss and approve our Annual Report and Accounts. The annual report was completed by our former Session Clerk Mrs. Ailsa Macdonald and the year-end accounts were completed and presented by Mrs. Janey McQuade. These will now be passed over for independent examination by our appointed accountant for inspection before formally being submitted to OSCR the charities regulator and the General Trustee's. Once these have been inspected and verified by our accountant, they will be made available to the wider congregation via our new website or a hard copy can be made available on request.

Our thanks and appreciation were expressed to both Ailsa for her time in completing the 2019

Annual report and to Janey who despite having a young baby did an enormous amount of work in collating and preparing all the accounts for 2019.

News from the General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has approved a cut of 18% to the amount of money churches are expected to contribute to the central organisation next year.

The cut in ministry and mission contributions is designed to help struggling congregations which have fallen behind in their contributions this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Assembly Trustees report warns that the Church's total annual income could potentially fall by £30 million this year due to Covid-19, although convener the Rt Rev Dr John Chalmers admitted that it was too soon to judge the impact of the pandemic on church life at all levels.

The Assembly also approved targeted cuts of £4m to the budgets of the two central forums – Faith Nurture and Faith Impact – but even so was warned that the Church would need to take £8m from reserves next year.

In his speech, Dr Chalmers said that the church had 'made a start' on addressing the challenges

identified in recent years, but that the Trustees were asking permission to go further: “We have changed our Council structure and we have been developing a new way of working with a Faith Action Plan which will incorporate the whole work of the church. But the Trustees wonder if we have done enough: so, we are also asking for the liberty to consider more effective and efficient ways of setting our priorities, funding the essential work we have to do at every level, and working smarter to be all that we want to be as a church.”

“That might mean holding to what we have, but equally it might mean further co-ordination across the Forums and across other agencies of the church...

“A very different shape of church lies ahead and against the extraordinary challenges that we face, we have to be ready, lean and fit for purpose.”

The Trustees won the support of the Assembly to explore the implications of unifying the two forums – which were only formed in January – into a single body, defeating a counter motion from the Rev Peter Johnston that would have put the work off for another year. Dr Chalmers said: “We have not made up our minds on this, we want to consult, but we need to do it now.”

The Assembly also rejected an attempt by the Rev Roddy Macdonald to suspend the review of presbytery planning (in which presbyteries assess the number and location of churches and ministers in their areas) for this year. Mr Macdonald argued that there was not sufficient time for presbyteries to conduct the ‘robust oversight’ called for by the Trustees, and that the Covid-19 crisis meant that many people would need be able to take part in consultations. However, Dr Chalmers said: “A church with over 200 vacancies, many of which will never be filled, needs planning. We can’t use anything, not even Covid-19, as an excuse for inaction.”

Earlier, during the presentation of the Trustees, Chief Officer Dave Kendall told the Assembly that, when asked whether he saw a positive future for the church, his answer was ‘a resounding yes’, and that ‘what will matter most in taking us forward will be the vision, quality, enthusiasm and ambition of the staff and the willingness of the Church, as people of God, to engage with the changes on our journey’.

The Hug

It's wondrous what a hug can do,
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say, "I love you so."
Or, "Oh, I hate to see you go."
A hug is, "Welcome back again."

A hug can soothe a small child's pain,
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The HUG ! There's just no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
IT must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, yuck for brothers.
Chances are some uncles and aunts,
Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them, puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.
A hug can break the language barrier,
And make the dullest day seem happier.

No need to fret about the store of them,
The more you give, the more there are of them.

So stretch those arms without delay,
And give a VIRTUAL hug today. 🤗

(Author Unknown.)

Just because we cannot be tactile with each other
at the moment, I'm sending you all a virtual hug
🤗.

Hope you can feel it.

Margaret Crawford

Life and Work

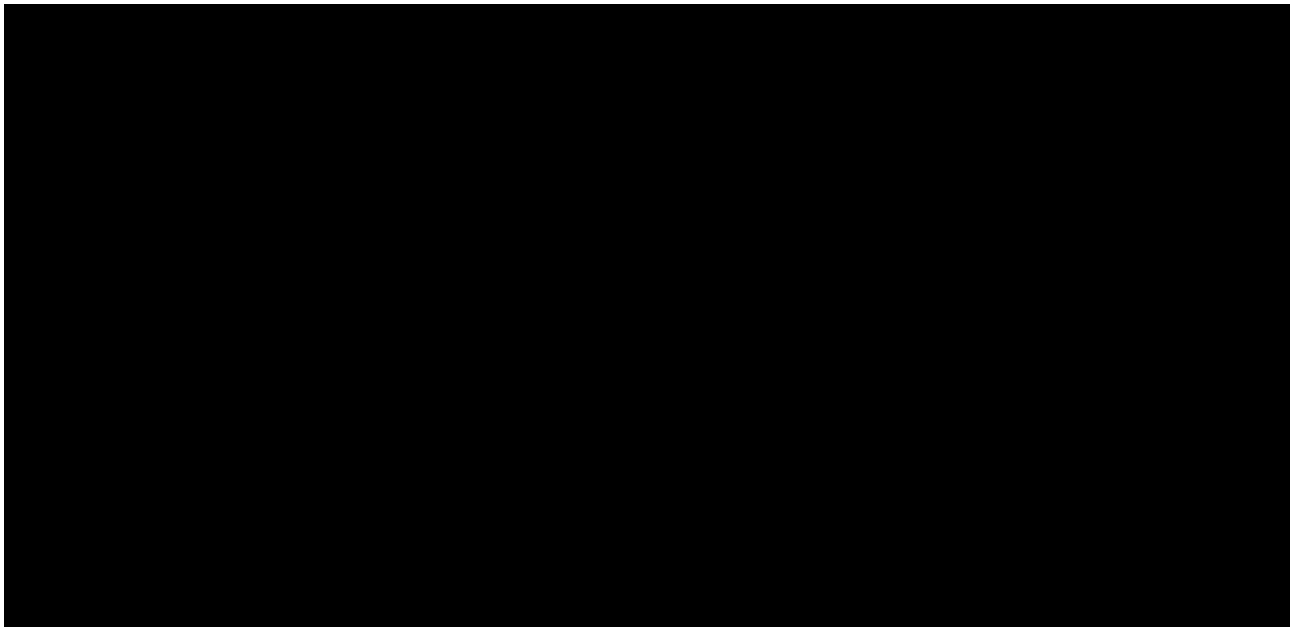
Life and Work will cost thirty six pounds for 12
issues in 2021. I would appreciate payment by
Sunday 22nd November cash or cheque
{ cheques made payable to Stepps Parish Church
please}. Payments can be given to me in church
any Sunday.

New subscriptions also welcome.

Kate Houston

SCDT Foodbank

The Stepps Community Development Trust (SCDT) Foodbank will continue to serve the community of Stepps and District now until Wednesday the 9th of December offering essential food supplies, household, and personal items. The Foodbank is open every Wednesday in the Church Hall, Stepps Parish Church from 1.00-2.30 pm on a drop-in basis. If you would like to learn more about SCDT, Foodbank or other assistance, please contact the Foodbank Team on **07726 - 862415**. Home deliveries can be accommodated if needed by arrangement.
arrangement.



SCDT Foodbank Stepps Parish Church Hall

Tree Planting Ceremony

We were blessed with a break in the weather after a whole day of torrential rain on the Saturday to all gather in the church gardens after our Jubilee Harvest service and bring to a close our Narrative of Generosity Earth Series and dedicate our Tree Planting Ceremony to our Youth Organisations. Senior Representatives from both the Girls and Boys Brigade assisted by Gordon planted two new trees in the front church garden. Our huge thanks go to Mr. Harry Corbett for his hard work in preparing the ground ahead of the ceremony and for his care and attention tending to some of the more mature shrubs in the church grounds. Can I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. & Mrs Hyndman who tidied up the Sunday school garden and to a couple of mystery gardeners who replanted some of the pots at the entrance to the church. You know who you are?

Rev. MacRae & Mrs Gillian Barnes 80th Glasgow GB.



Rev. MacRae & Callum Hoy 190th Glasgow BB.





Queens' Badge Presentation

We were delighted and honoured to play a part in the planning and arrangements for the presentation of the Queens Badge for one of our Company Section boys of the 190th Glasgow Boys Brigade. Callum Hoy was awarded his badge after waiting almost 6 months

from completing all the necessary activities whilst covid-19 postponed the original ceremony. **A huge well-done Callum we are enormously proud of your achievement.**

The Queen's Badge is the highest award that may be gained by a member of The Boys' Brigade. To achieve the Queen's Badge a young person must complete the



following activities:

Hold the President's Badge

Attend a Candidate's Meeting

Participate in skills-based training

Take responsibility within the BB or Church

Provide voluntary service or support to others outside the BB or Church

Develop Interests (Skills, Physical, Expedition)

Participate in a Completion Residential and Record Activity.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Following national guidance surrounding the necessary measures required to be adhered to for our Remembrance Worship Service. The kirk session concluded the need to pull back from our usual practice of coming together with our sisters and brothers from St Joseph's RC Church this year at the community war memorial and instead return to the Sanctuary as in previous years whereupon the Act of Remembrance will be marked in the Sanctuary. Further information will be intimated during the lead up to Remembrance Sunday on our church website and FB pages and the service will be live streamed via our Stepps Parish Church Youtube channel.



Image Courtesy of Pixabay

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow
old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

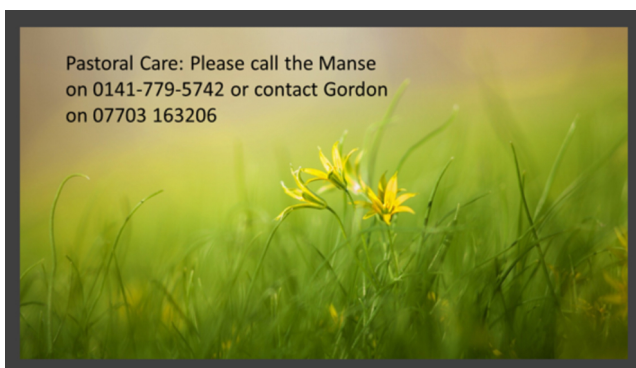
*(**The Ode** comes from **For the Fallen**, a poem by
the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon)*


Situations Vacant

Editor: We are currently looking for someone to take over as editor of our monthly parish magazine Prospect. If you have some time available or are perhaps interested, please speak to either myself or Yvonne Wallace.

Treasurer: Do you have any book-keeping or accountancy skills. If so, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact either myself or a member of our Finance Team.

Lorraine Robertson
Session Clerk.



We are now able to offer our dial in worship service each Sunday via our On-Demand telephone service courtesy of Greyfriars Parish Church in Lanark who host the service of us. Simply dial **0141-815-1335** to listen in live to our Sunday morning worship service. All calls are charged at your local call rate and can accessed from your home telephone. 



Many of us would have been disappointed when we heard Professor Jason Leitch the National Clinical Director advisor to the Scottish Government on the Covid-19 pandemic talk about a digital Christmas and what that meant exactly. Already we have seen a return to the tighter restrictions in many of our shops with places like M&S allowing us to book a shopping slot with an App on our phones. None of us relish the return to queuing outdoors as numbers are restricted in shop premises. If the thought of Christmas shopping fills you with dread and like many of us resort to online shopping. Then we are now able to receive donations from the AmazonSmile programme which will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible purchases to us as a registered charity. Simply click the following link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC014212> to shop through our designated Amazon Smile account or type in Amazon smile and start shopping.

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 net

purchase price (excluding VAT and other shipping fees) of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organisations selected by our customers.

Thank you for your support from everyone at Stepps Parish Church.

Sandra Helen Cameron Mackay deceased 6th October 2020

Marvyn and Kevin would wish to thank most sincerely all members and friends of the congregation of Stepps Parish Church who sent cards and messages of sympathy, condolences and support at the passing of Sandra, our charming and loving wife and mother. Your heartfelt and warm messages are a great source of comfort and reassurance to us during this time of bereavement and grieving. The kind thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated.

Many who may have wished to pay their respects by attending Sandra's Funeral followed by her Committal and Natural Burial at Killearn Woodlands Cemetery on Tuesday 13th October were unable to do so due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We are planning to hold a Commemorative Event in Celebration of Sandra's

life on Zoom later this month hosted by the Iona Community. Any members and friends who would like to be sent the Zoom link once it becomes available should contact Marvyn, e-mail:- marvynmac@gmail.com giving him their e-mail address and permission to share this with the Iona Community for this sole purpose only, after which it will be deleted from our respective records.

Love and Peace, Marvyn and Kevin Mackay.

Congratulations to Margaret and Alistair Crawford on their golden wedding on 27th November. We wish them every happiness as they celebrate their 50 years of marriage.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marvyn Mackay and his family as he grieves for his wife Sandra.

Bible Class

The next meeting will be a Bible Class/Film Night on Friday 6th November. Look forward to seeing our young people from P7 to S6 from 7pm to 9pm in the large hall. If you are able to come along please either email Anne at

anne.bunyan87@googlemail.com or text
07709125124.

Sunday Club

Sunday club has resumed after the October holiday. We meet every Sunday for children age 3 to Primary 7. We are very safety conscious in this Covid 19 situation. All tables and chairs are sprayed with anti bacterial spray before Sunday club begins. Children are asked to go into Church with a known adult. After the children's address, we go into the small hall. Everyone has to wash their hands then use hand sanitiser. Each child has their own poly pocket containing all the stationery items needed. All adult leaders wear masks all the time in Sunday club. Gloves are available for children and adults. Social distancing is adhered to in the hall. When Sunday club is finished, adults collecting their children are asked to stay outside the hall. When children leave, all tables and chairs are sprayed with anti bacterial spray. Sunday club is a time for stories, crafts, fun and friendship. Come along and join us.

Anne, Esther and Linda

190th Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade



We are happy to announce that our resumes face-to-face activities have continued and the Boys are having a great time. We meet every Monday in local parks for a variety of activities, and have so far been able to brace the weather.

A group of Boys and Staff represented the Company at the Harvest and Dedication service, following which we took part in a tree planting ceremony.

During the service we were delighted to be able to present Callum Hoy with his Queen's Badge. This had to be deferred from May due to Covid, but our supportive friends in Stepps Parish Church included the presentation in the service, allowing us to finally give Callum the award he worked so hard to gain. We are all very proud of him.

Anchor Boys for P1-P3, and Junior Section for P4-P6 currently meet at the playing fields off

Mount Harriet Drive on Mondays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Company Section for Boys in P7 and over meet at Hogganfield Loch on Mondays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. New recruits always welcome.

Colin Goodall

captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com

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