



The Joy of Harvest Thanksgiving

***Welcome to the October 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.*

*Elsewhere in the edition we bring you
some news from Rev. Muriel Pearson
as well as information how you can
support our Harvest Appeal or
Christian Aid Partners.*

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

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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
email Lorraine on**

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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 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 Stepps Parish Church YouTube channel

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



Charity No: SC014212

Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae

It seems that so many things have happened since I last wrote my letter to *Prospect*. However, nothing could prepare us for the loss of our Queen. Similarly, to loss of any older friend or relative we all knew the inevitability of her passing. The great difference was the massive, unprecedented grief felt by individuals, nation, commonwealth and the world.



Much has been said in our own special services of worship and across the media about our memories of her long life and service.

All of this these 70 years of service were grounded in her own personal faith.

What we are yet to reflect upon are the transformations in our society our culture, our world in these 70 years.

What will we mark as evolutionary in the so called “Elizabethan Age”

What will be highlighted as the most remarkable events in our great grandchildren's history books?

‘For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ’s words and example.’

Elizabeth II, Christmas Address 2000

Will we remember a time of massive advance in technology, or will the seismic change in culture and social values be seen as far more significant?

Will the age be marked by the development of the microchip or the influence of pop culture?

The massive changes in our cultural life cannot be detailed here, nor can we, without decades of reflection, measure the full scale of that change.

I think what we can say is that institutions and the norms that were the frameworks shaping our living will never be the same and the many things we all hold dear are threatened now more than in any time.

‘In difficult times we may be tempted to find excuses for self-indulgence and to wash our hands of responsibility. Christmas stands for the opposite... we need to go out and look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than ourselves, even if that service demands sacrifice.’

Elizabeth II, Christmas Address 1980

You might remember these purple 'cards' that we used in our Platinum Jubilee service back in June. They came from our friends at The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity who had looked through all of our late majesty's Christmas addresses and found some words of great inspiration.

Reflecting on her long reign she had spoken of change and remarked that we all need a framework that will steady us and affirm us as the winds of change blow and threaten what we regard as sure and steadfast

For Elizabeth that framework was found in her faith in and her accountability to God

As we move on from time of mourning, as we approach another testing and challenging time for our families, our nation, or church, we might take her example and cherish as her guiding legacy

Gordon xx

Session Clerk Letter



Dear Friends,
October is here and heavens! what a memorable few weeks it's been. The death of Queen Elizabeth the II certainly shook us and although expected almost came unexpectedly having seen her welcome a new prime minister only 2 days beforehand. A new head of state with King Charles III stepping into the shoes of her majesty, a change of government and further economic fallout following a mini budget exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis.

It is enough to drive you a little bit mad. When I referred to my letter from last year little had changed apart from the change of monarch of course.

October traditionally is a month with a particular focus on tackling poverty. Monday 17th October is the United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and 3-9th October is Challenge Poverty Week. Times are hard, and getting harder, for hundreds of thousands of people across the country. A rising wave of living costs is dragging more and more people towards poverty. We hear of many churches throughout the city now running warm banks; offering safe, warm and welcoming places where local people who can't afford to heat their homes can go and spend time. Within our own cluster we have 2 congregations who have priority area status (those in the 5% most deprived parishes) for whom these challenging times must be more troubling. I know this is something that preys heavily on Gordon's mind and we look to his wisdom to see how we can work alongside our cluster partners to help those who are most in need this winter.

This year our Harvest Appeal seems to take on even greater importance and there is information in the coming pages on how you can support our friends at the Lodging House Mission or perhaps donate to the **Christian Aid Harvest Appeal**. However small all donations are greatly appreciated. You can also find information of how you can support both of these organisations through our church website on the Footer or on our Notices page.

We also prepare ourselves to hear more of the Presbytery Mission Plan in the coming weeks and how we go forward into the implementation phase of this now that cluster draft plans have been forwarded for approval and we are asked to attend a special meeting later in the month. While we all face difficult and challenging times let us not lose sight of God's plans for us all and the good, we can do for others as in the words of Hymn 237 we

"Look forward in faith. All time is in God's hands. Walk humbly with him and trust his future plan. God has wisely led his people by his power. Look forward in hope, he gives us each new day."

As always

Lorraine x

Local Churches Pay Tribute to Late Queen



St. Margaret's Church

CHURCHES across Scotland have mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and taken part in the accession of King Charles III.

Bells tolled at many Church of Scotland churches and the national anthem was sung (with new wording, changing 'Queen' to 'King') was sung as many gathered for worship and prayers.

At Edinburgh: St Margaret's, candles in the shape of the letters 'ER' were lit next to an image of the Queen.

At Stepps Parish Church in Glasgow, the flowers from the morning service were laid at the local war memorial.



Stepps War Memorial

(Extract from Life and Work Magazine News section Monday September 12, 2022)



Thousands of mourners gather at the Kelpies to remember the Queen

Thousands of people attended a "Service of Reflection" in front of The Kelpies near Falkirk in honour of Her Majesty the Queen on the eve of the State funeral.

The gathering in the shadow of the largest equine sculptures in the world was led by Very Rev Dr Martin Fair, the former Moderator of the General Assembly, who knew the late monarch and spent time with her and the Royal Family at Balmoral.



A total of 96 lanterns, one for each year of Her Majesty's life, were lit and lowered into the Queen Elizabeth II Canal's pool of reflection.

Wreaths were laid, between 3,000 and 4,000 mourners silently paid their respects during the national minute silence at 8pm and lone piper, Euan Thomson, played "A Salute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II".



Dr Fair, who was the Moderator of the General Assembly 2020-21, said the Queen served her people tirelessly for 70 years and was a rock of stability amid the tumult of an ever-changing world.

"She was just there, unchanging, unflinching, resolute and calm," he added.

"Through it all, she stood on the rock that was her Christian faith which she acknowledged publicly over and again.

"Just last month, she declared: 'Throughout my life, the message and teachings of Christ have been my guide and in them I find my hope.'

"In that and so much else, she has been an inspiration.

Committed to serve

Dr Fair, minister of St Andrew's Parish Church in Arbroath, Angus, said at the heart of the Queen's life was an unwavering sense of duty and public service.

"Martin Luther King once said, 'Anyone can be great because anyone can serve' and he was spot on," he added.

"From Kings and Queens to you and me, we can all serve."

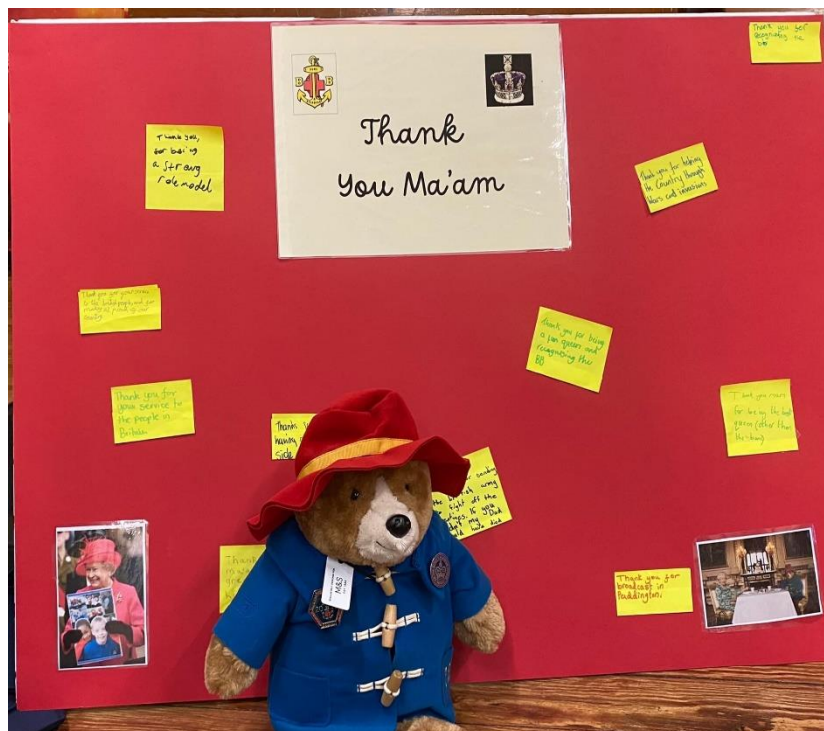
"What if the lasting tribute to our Queen was more than processions and ceremonies?"

"What if we, like her, committed ourselves to serve?"

"We've acknowledged that the Queen was servant-hearted."

"Might you and I be likewise?"

"That would be worth more than any statue and my guess is, the Queen would agree."



BB Tribute to her late majesty Queen Elizabeth the II



Latest Bulletin

Dear Supporters,

We have had a busy summer season and are now making our preparations for the Harvest season and the launch of our Harvest Appeal. As many of you know, LHM lost a substantial amount of food during August due to an electrical fault which defrosted all of freezers. Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters who donated to our Facebook appeal to replace our food and donated sufficient funds to repair the electrical fault. August has been kept busy with folks using our free meal provisions and significantly our guests are finding they can reduce their energy costs while at LHM.

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Meals	879 (+246)	1485 (+189)

Following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September LHM'S Annual Service for Homelessness was postponed. We hope to welcome Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, moderator of the Church of Scotland, later in the year.



LHM Harvest Appeal has now been launched. If you are able to volunteer to sort donations, please call our office or email June.

Our food list is available on our Facebook page, from presbytery office or your church representative. LHM will be accepting donations of Harvest Foods at our East Campbell Street premises Monday - Friday. Please call ahead to ensure our team can provide adequate support. In order to advertise the Harvest Appeal, we have a short promotional video which can be shown as part of school or Church Harvest Services, follow the link; https://youtu.be/qMA_7omZGdI

With thanks to our activities co-ordinator Mark, our guests have enjoyed summer outings to Largs, Jacobean train – Fort William to Mallaig, Burrell Collection, fishing, go karting and Kelvingrove Bowling Green. Much fun has been had, friendships deepened and memories made. As we move back indoors Mark is keen to add new activities. We would be grateful for any donations of unwanted Xbox or PlayStation consoles and games, badminton rackets, indoor bowls, or if you have other suggestions give us a call 0141 552 0285 and ask for Mark.

As we approach this Harvest Season, we pray that the Harvest is plentiful and that the Harvest Appeal provides nourishment for us throughout the year. We pray for richer and fuller lives for all. We pray for the royal family following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.



So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. Gal 6:9 GNT

Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain to LHM

Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2022

Thank you for your continued support for LHM, we really appreciate it. We have put together a list of things that would be useful for us in the kitchen. Ideally, we would love fresh produce to allow us to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches for those who use our service, but we understand that this may be difficult for you. Additionally, we would welcome the card system mention in the link provided. This would allow us not to stockpile food, risking things going out of date and being wasted. It would also allow us to buy only what we need when we need it. <https://vouchers.aldi.co.uk/products/orange-voucher>

We hope that you find this list helpful when choosing something to donate. Again, thank you from all of us here at LHM, however you decide to support us.

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	Porridge oats

Pasta bake sauces	Full fat UHT milk	Dried peas
Curry Sauce/paste	Coconut Milk	Lentils
Tomato paste	Small juice cartons	Olive oil
	Diluting/fresh juice	Vegetable oil
Dried Goods	Coffee	Bisto
Mixed herbs	Biscuits	Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Garlic powder	Crisps	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	Long grain rice
Salad Cream/Mayonnaise	Red Kidney Beans	Chickpeas



Image courtesy of gdlmachurches.co.uk

We will celebrate our Harvest Service on Sunday the 9th of October



Dear Friend

Launch of Harvest Appeal from LHM

LHM Harvest Appeal launched on 9th September 2022. At LHM, we seek to make a positive difference to the lives of those we support. The provision of healthy breakfast and lunch 5 days a week, is often the beginning of a trusted relationship leading to intervention and support. Our Day Centre offers shelter where individuals know they will not be judged and can always find companionship.

Our Harvest Appeal replenishes more than 2/3 of the food we require to run our café and hot food service for the year ahead and enables us to continue to provide hot meals throughout the coming winter months.

We are very aware that LHM can only carry out the mission to those on the margins through the generosity of supporting churches and organisations such as your own. On behalf of everyone at LHM, we encourage you to share and support our Harvest Appeal through your church community and parish.

In order to advertise the Harvest Appeal, we have a short promotional video which can be shown as part of school or Church Harvest Services, follow the link; https://youtu.be/qMA_7omZGdI

We have attached our food list, which is also available on our Facebook page, from presbytery office and through your church representative. LHM will be accepting donations of Harvest Foods at our East Campbell Street premises Monday - Friday.

Please call ahead (0141 552 0285) to ensure our team can provide adequate support for deliveries.

If you are able to volunteer a few hours to sort donations, please email June, manager; june.macleod@lhm-glasgow.org.uk.

This year due to generosity of our supporters WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING any further donations of toiletries, clothing, bedding, duvets or towels.

Let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. (Gal 6:9 GNT)

May God Bless you as you have blessed us.

On behalf of LHM.

Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain LHM



October	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
2 nd	L. Ashmole	H. Baker	S. Baker
9 th	S. Gowans	J. Hope	J. Burns
16 th	A. Macdonald	R. McGovern	J. Hope
23 rd	F. McGovern	S. MacLean	J. Thomson
30 th	F. Shields	C. Skinner	L. Ashmole
November 6 th	E. Watson	S. Baker	H. Baker

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

June Thomson



Congregational Roll

Death: Mrs. Agnes Hepburn 23rd August
Mrs. Nancy McKirdy 22nd September



*Floral Tribute at Nessie's
pew*



Nancy as we remember her.

Photo Courtesy of Family

"Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love"

(Lamentations 3:32)



190th GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The Company have started back for the new Session and moved straight into the new BB award scheme.

We're delighted to have gained a great many new recruits to the Anchor Boys.

A sombre and unexpected part of our programme focused on the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and some consideration of thoughts and feelings about her passing. She was of course the much-loved Patron of the BB. It was interesting to learn a little more about what she did for us all.

We're planning a number of trips and activities, more news to follow.

Anchor Boys for P1-P3 and Junior Section for P4-P6 are on Mondays 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Company Section for P7 and older is on Mondays 7.00pm to 9.00pm. New recruits are always welcome.

Colin Goodall

Captain

captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com

Tel. 07828032807

Also find us on Facebook.



Harvest Appeal



Bidale and his failed crops

At Harvest, we celebrate God's gifts, the food we have grown, and the wonderful things we have to eat.

But right now, millions of people in East Africa - across Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya - are unable to grow crops as the climate crisis rages on.

After the worst drought in 40 years, they are facing the threat of famine. People like Bidale are taking desperate measures to survive extreme hunger, and urgently need your help.

With your gifts this Harvest, you can help give lasting hope, and help people build a life free from poverty and injustice.

You can Donate today to give lasting hope this Harvest on the following link

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-003920>

With your gift, we can help stop this widespread malnutrition and hunger.

Christian Aid supports the Pakistan Flood Appeal: The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has launched the Pakistan Floods Appeal. The appeal will support those affected by the devastating floods, exacerbated by the climate crisis, which have left more than 1,000 dead and over 1,500 injured, and damaged more than one million homes. Christian Aid will play its part in supporting the appeal and will also contribute £50,000 to the ACT Alliance Pakistan Appeal to help our faith-based partners respond in Pakistan.

Christian Aid is not present in Pakistan, so they aren't responding directly. DEC charities operating in Pakistan are better placed to support those communities and we, therefore, encourage donations to go to the [DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal](#).

Pakistan partners devastated by flooding



In recent weeks, torrential rain has led to rivers bursting their banks and causing the worst floods Pakistan has seen in a decade. An area roughly the size of Britain has been flooded. More than 1,000 people have been killed while millions have been displaced. Officials say at least 700,000 homes have been destroyed from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the north to Sindh in the south.

Our partners at the Diocese of Hyderabad and Community World Service Asia have reported on the emergency, asking that they are remembered in our prayers as unprecedented monsoon rains have wreaked havoc throughout the Sindh province.

“The flooding in urban and rural areas has affected normal life in the entire province and our community in rural parishes have been struggling a lot as the consistent rains have destroyed the crops and they have lost the means of earning their livelihoods.”

The above image was sent by our partners at Community World Service Asia, showing the extent of the flooding. Please keep our friends in your prayers as they cope with the ongoing floods.

We are once again delighted to be able to offer some after church fellowship with a welcome cup of tea or coffee

after the service served in the Lesser Hall. Our tea co-ordinators are Sandra MacLean and Rebecca McGovern who have kindly agreed to oversee the rota and volunteer list. If you are keen to get

involved or are able to assist in the setting up or clearing away, then please speak to either Sandra or Rebecca who would welcome your assistance.

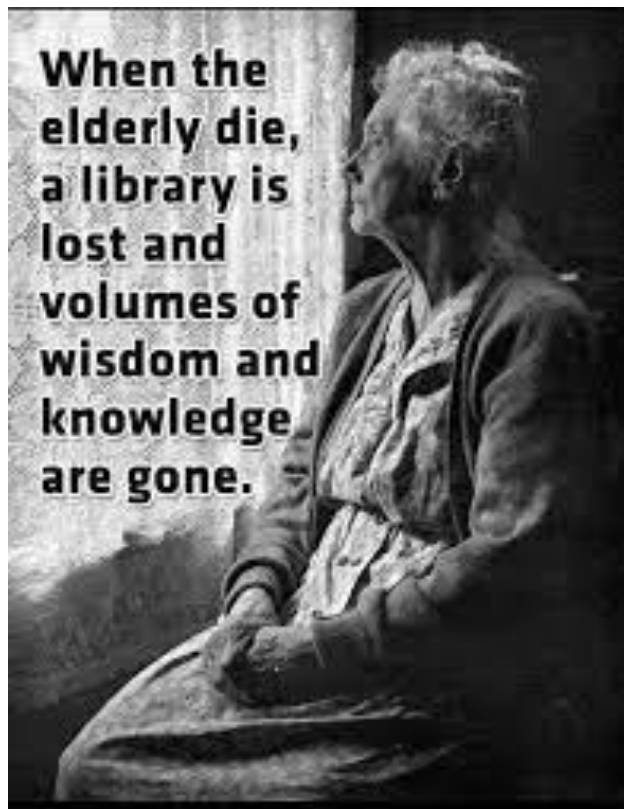


Image courtesy of Facebook.com

We as a church have recently lost so much.