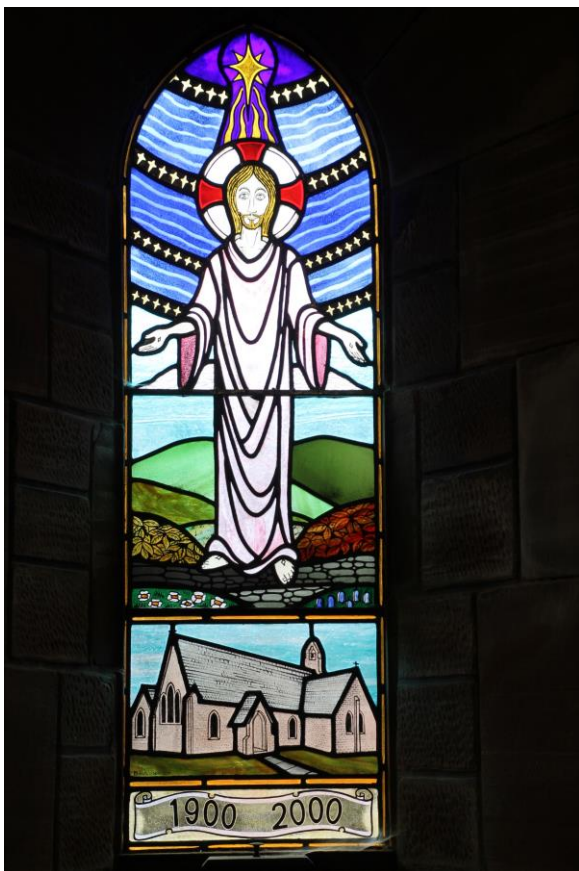




For where two or three are  
gathered in my name, there  
am I among them  
Matthew 18:20

*The Church looking towards the Vestry*



*Our Centenary Window*

**Sept 2022**

Issue 413

Scottish Charity No.  
SC014212

## PROSPECT

### Magazine of Stepps Parish Church

#### Contact Us:

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0141 779 5742

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Session Clerk: Lorraine Robertson

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Church Organist / musician:

Alastair Sim 0141 779 1101

**Watch us on YouTube each  
Sunday at 11.00 am.**

**Follow us on Facebook.**

[www.steppsparishchurch.org](http://www.steppsparishchurch.org)

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

To submit an item for Prospect please  
email Lorraine on

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



## Steps Parish Church

### Minister



Rev Gordon MacRae (BD  
MTh)

Tel: 0141 779 5742

### Session Clerk

Lorraine Robertson

Tel: 0141 779 5838

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



## Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

As we move into the next phase of the pandemic 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

For individuals, including ministers, staff and volunteers in churches this includes:

[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 Steps Parish Church YouTube channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW\\_qMKKjcXAw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_qMKKjcXAw)



Charity No: SC014212

## Pastoral Letter Rev. Gordon MacRae

Dear Friends,

As the children return to school and church activities pick up and we slide from summer into autumn I have a quick question. What was the most important event that happened last Autumn?



Now, no taking time to think, no googling. What took place in Glasgow on the 31st of October? Score nothing if you said Halloween!

Score 10/10 if you said Cop26.

So much was made of this event. There was 24-hour news coverage.

Glasgow was the focus for the whole world.

Climate Change was a hot topic!

What about today as we approach another autumn following the hottest summer ever? As the UK faced its hottest temperatures on record in July 2022, the warmer weather sparked more and more conversations about environmental issues. Seven of the ten hottest temperatures in UK history have been recorded since 2003. All this hot air; (pun intentional!) spoken, but what have we done about it? The manse family are trying its best.

In a few weeks we will take ownership of a new car, one powered not by burning fossil fuel but by electricity. Thinking of that, as I drove my petrol burner along the polluted M80 I decided to count how many electrically powered vehicles I encountered. We used to do that to amuse the kids, how many blue cars how many red? So, I played a solitaire game of *how many "green" cars*. Journeying all the way from Pollokshields to Stepps. Guess How many??

Yes, you are correct. **NONE**

Now I know that such vehicles are expensive but as fuel prices rocket and the planet gets hotter and hotter, I believe we made the right choice.

What does the bible say about climate change. The bible says much about God's Good Earth but the writers could have not possibly imagined what we humans would do to that Good Earth.

However, in my studies I stumbled upon this marvelous modern paraphrase of Isaiah 57:16-19 written by Donna Schaper a senior minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City who writes in EarthBeat a website that looks at environmental issues from a Christian persecutive.

***"You messed up. Then you messed up again. Then you started to believe that you were a mess. Then you started to believe that other people were a mess. You placed one negative thought after another into the universe ... and you really pissed me off. I created you. I made you. I wanted to have fun with you. Instead, I have a lot of whining and crying and impotence and febrility and fragility. Seriously? I could walk out right now and just leave you cringing in your well-accessorised corners. But instead, I am going to surprise you. I am going to stop being angry at you, the way you always want me to be angry. I am going to give you another chance to be peaceful. I am going to restore praise to your chapped lips. I am going to make your heart grateful again. Then maybe you'll go out and win a game or two for the rest of my people."***

In all the games of life the toughest is facing up to this mess we have made. The largest problem we are facing is climate change. It will turn into race and class wars and many innocent people will lose their lives. Some rich people will even lose their lives.

**Why? Because we have Messed Up and we have messed up BIG this time.**

As I write we are hearing of massive rises in the Cost of Living, driven by the almost exponential rise in the cost of fossil fuels. We see a winter of great misery for many of us and especially for the poor of our society who spend, by far, the largest proportion of their earnings on fuel and food. In the short term we must do something .... something big to mitigate this scourge on the weakest of our sisters and brothers. In the long-term God demands we do something to pull ourselves back from climatic catastrophe.

Okay Jesus does not say much, if anything, about Global Warning, the bible says little about rising temperatures or wildfires. It does say something about eternal fire! Now, I have never believed *the fires of hell* were intended to be anything more than metaphor but I do believe we as humans along with all of God's Creation face *'Hell on earth'!*

So, as we approach the first anniversary of Glasgow's Cop 26, let us read again, the modern-day paraphrase of Isaiah's ancient words. Ponder over them, pray with them and consider how we who follow God's Word can lead the world to wake up and see what we are doing to God's Good Earth.

***"I am going to give you another chance to be peaceful. I am going to restore praise to your chapped lips. I am going to make your heart grateful again. Then maybe you'll go out and win a game or two for the rest of my people"***

(Donna Schaper)

Gordon x

## Session Clerk Letter

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this I will hopefully be sailing off into the sunset in sunnier climes on a much longed for vacation round Europe journeying through and visiting some of the Mediterranean Isles. A trip that was postponed last year during Covid restrictions and a much-needed break away from the everyday stresses and strains of work and cluster meetings.



It has been a busy time of late, many meetings that at times has had me and a few others nearly driven to distraction with talk of mission plans, priority status and ministry allocations.

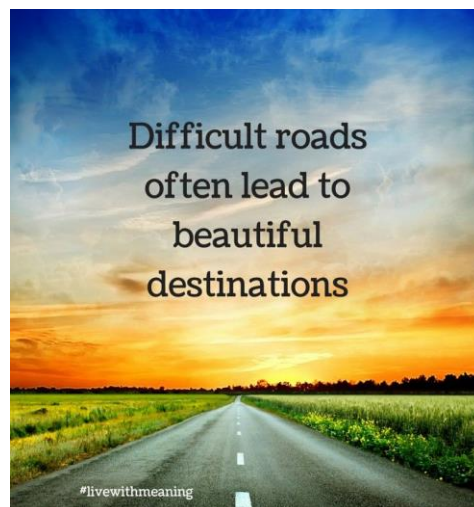
In fact, as I write, Liz along with a few others are busy trying to pull together as scribes the many thoughts and ideas from our cluster meetings ongoing since early June. To say that at times we have gone round and round in circles would be an understatement. We at times got ourselves into a right '**Burach**' as Gordon often called it. A wonderfully onomatopoeic Gaelic word meaning '**a right mess**' ... a word that I think will stick with me forever now.

Out of all the chaos, confusion, soul searching and at times what seemed almost shambolic updates and directives from Presbytery we are almost there with our Cluster Mission Plan. I must pass on my enormous thanks to all who have been on this journey with me and for sticking with the process. It has certainly not been easy and we will await the outcome of these early thoughts once Presbytery reconvenes later this month and deliberates all the cluster submissions.

If approved what next, I hear you ask? Well, that is the million-dollar question... and so will begin another journey as a cluster, as we discern how we bring 5 congregations together as one worshipping community with limited ministry personnel. Well, I'm sure it won't all be plain sailing, pardon the pun! but with everyone pulling together I hope this difficult road ahead leads us onto new and exciting and calmer waters ahead.

With Affection

Lorraine.



*Image courtesy of Pinterest*

## We're starting back!

### Dates to note

#### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 Enrolment Evening

Come along and complete all the paperwork for the new session. This is a good time for new start parents to come along and find out more.

#### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Company Meets



Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast. (Hebrews 6:19) From original King James Version

### Enrolment Reminder

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August Enrolment

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August Session Start  
**Games Night (No Uniform)**

## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here

THE BOYS' BRIGADE IN THE EAST END OF GLASGOW  
ARE RECRUITING !



If you are age 5 to 17 and live in  
or around **Steps** area ?

There is a place for you !

Find out more by searching online for  
190th Glasgow Boys' Brigade

or email: [captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com](mailto:captain190thglasgow@hotmail.com)

Based at  
**Steps Parish Church**  
17 Whitehill Avenue  
G33 6BL



<https://m.facebook.com/190thGlasgowBoysBrigade/>

September	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
4 <sup>th</sup>	S. Gowans	A. Macdonald	J. Hope
11 <sup>th</sup>	R. McGovern	S. MacLean	J. Thomson
18 <sup>th</sup>	F. Shields	C. Skinner	L. Ashmole
25 <sup>th</sup>	J. Thomson	E. Watson	H. Baker
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	L. Ashmole	H. Baker.	S. Baker

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

*June Thomson*



**Congregational Roll**

**Death:** Mr. David Wilson 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022



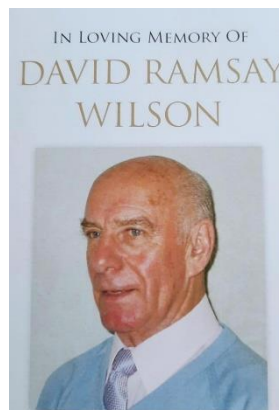
*Floral tribute at David's Pew*

***“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged”***

(Deuteronomy 31:8)

***And so “in peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone Lord, make me dwell in safety”***

(Psalm 4:8)



***Farewell, true and faithful servant now at peace with the Lord.***

Fundraising for

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

After much consideration, I regret that I find myself unable to host our annual coffee afternoon, due to ongoing health issues. If anyone feels able to take over the mantle of organising this very worthwhile community event, then please let me know, and I will assist in whatever way I can.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, you can give this to myself or to Lorraine at church or contact me at 0141 779 4056 / 07964 393321. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be forwarded to Macmillan at the end of September. Alternatively, you can donate directly to Macmillan Coffee Morning if you so wish. May I take this opportunity to say how sorry I am that I find myself in this position, and to say a huge thank you to all who have given of their time and talents, so generously in the past.

*Margaret Crawford*

**The Friendship Club** will resume on Monday 3rd October 2022. The Club is open to anyone who is free on Mondays from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm and we meet in the lesser hall in Stepps Parish Church.

We look forward to meeting up with our usual members and to welcoming anyone who would care to join us for tea or coffee and, as ever, something lovely to eat.

*Kate Houston*



We are now back to some normality and to our routine of having flowers in church each Sunday. These are funded by donations and purchased and arranged by our floral team, who volunteer their time to beautify our church. They are then distributed to members and friends after each service.

Our volunteer numbers have greatly reduced, as have our donors. If you feel able and would like to donate, or take a turn at "doing the flowers," then please let me know. Please don't be intimidated or feel daunted by this. A simple vase of flowers is all that is required.

To those who already contribute their time and effort, many thanks.

May I also take this opportunity to thank Liz Ashmole for arranging and distributing the flowers each Sunday, during my absence due to illness. This is much appreciated.

Thank you

*Margaret Crawford*

Please contact me via email or telephone.





## Holy Communion Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept

We will once again celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. Currently, it is still not permitted to share common elements. Therefore, common cups will not be used and plates will not be passed from person to person. Instead, we will be serving the elements in individual glasses, after observing good hygiene practices and washing our

hands. A glass of wine and a piece of bread in individual glasses and condiments will be collected by individual worshippers.

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We are delighted that Marvyn has now been formally approved and signed of as a recognised worship leader with Glasgow Presbytery having successfully completed his training with Trinity College. In addition, to his already many commitments with the Iona Community, Marvyn has also joined the Chaplaincy team at the Lodging House Mission supporting many of its service users. Over the years, the chaplaincy team has provided an invaluable tool in helping people turn their lives around. The team understand the highly complex and sensitive nature of the problems facing the service users and will do everything to support all in need. For some of their users, spiritual support doesn't matter but for many - it's an important part of the empowerment process.



*Marvyn MacKay*

The Lodging House Mission provides dignity, love and respect to those who come through its doors - regardless of their faith and we are enormously proud that Marvyn has seen fit to offer his wisdom and experience in supporting others.

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The Lodging House mission is currently seeking a Treasurer to join the board of Governors and to take the work of the LHM forwards. This is an exciting time for LHM as we re-launch and re-brand ourselves in September of this year.

If you feel that God is calling you to this work, please contact Roger Sturrock (Chair of the board of Governors) who will be delighted to discuss this further. His contact details are email [RSturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:RSturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk)



Firstly, a huge thankyou to everyone who has donated items for the LHM over the last 2 months. Due to work commitments, I have been unable to collect them as quickly as I would like but do not worry, they will get to those who need them. The support that our congregation gives to the LHM is amazing and the recipients are so grateful for every item they receive from you. The next appeal that the LHM will be running is the annual Harvest Donations. Among the items requested are sweet breakfast cereals e.g., coco pops and Frosties, tins of fruit cocktail or peaches, dried herbs, spices salt and pepper as well as stock cubes, Bisto and tomato ketchup.

On a more serious note, the Scottish Drug and Alcohol related death figures for the last year were published this month and they make depressing reading. Drug deaths were pretty stagnant with a slight yearly decrease from 1339 to 1330 a decrease of 9 and alcohol related deaths increased from 1190 to 1245 and increase of 55. To put these figures in context for the whole of the UK deaths involving drugs were 67 per million however in Scotland it was 245 per million, 4 times higher of which 2 thirds were 35-44-year-old men. These figures would have been much, much higher without the partnership working between the LHM, Glasgow City Mission, the Simon Community and the HSCP's to name but a few.

Can you all please take a moment to add the families of these victims and those who are still struggling with addiction to your prayers over the coming months.

On a brighter note the LHM are looking for a hall manager and if you know of anyone interested, please tell them to get in touch with June or Helen at LHM. Glasgow city Mission are recruiting as well for the Overnight Welcome Centre which will run again from December 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> information on the GCM website [Jobs - Glasgow City Mission](#). Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested as it's an amazing project.

The Annual Homeless Service is being held on Friday September the 9<sup>th</sup> in the LHM first floor sanctuary and the guest speaker shall be the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the Church of Scotland and service users will also be participating. Doors open at 6.45. Following the service there will be hospitality provided and a chance to meet those who use the LHM, to hear their stories and what LHM means to them.

I will leave you with this thought which I have been using a lot this month.

**MISTAKES ARE PROOF THAT YOU ARE TRYING**

God Bless. Jacqueline



## Whitehill School Former Pupils

In 1922, three former pupils of Whitehill School got to discussing old times and colleagues and the suggestion was made that a former pupil's annual dinner be held. This year we celebrate 100 years of the FP Dinner Club, with a special gathering at the House for an Art Lover, Bellahouston Park, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

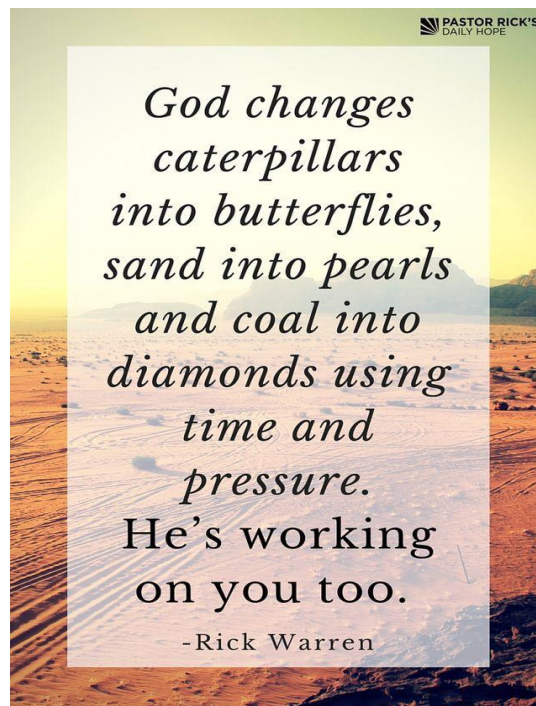
We will have welcome canapes and bubbly, followed by three course dinner with coffee and mints. There will be some speechmaking, but it will be kept to a minimum to allow folks to have a blether.

The cost will be £30 per person.

If you are interested and would like to find out more and be included on the mailing list, please contact the FP Club secretary, Iain Callander email [secretary@whitehillfp.org](mailto:secretary@whitehillfp.org) or tel: 0131-337-9400



*Whitehill Secondary on Whitehill Street  
Dennistoun in the early 1970's*



*Image courtesy of Pinterest*



*Courtesy of Getty Images*

## A prayer for Autumn

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colours of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

***Amen***