



The Church of Scotland

stepps parish church

# PROSPECT

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**Stepps Parish Church**

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## *Pastoral Letter*

*Here are two questions for you all:-*

*1) What is the popular prayer among christians?*

*A) The Lord's Prayer*

*2) What is the most popular prayer among non christians?*

*A) The Serenity Prayer*



*You might not recognise the second prayer from its title but you will surely know the words*

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.*

*The original version of this prayer was written by the great American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) Niebuhr composed the prayer in 1932. The prayer spread rapidly, often without attribution to Niebuhr, through church groups in the 1930s and*

*1940s and was adopted and popularised by Alcoholics Anonymous and other twelve-step programs.*

*The famous prayer asks for God's help achieving something that most people desire but few can achieve: peace and happiness in life. Unlike many prayers that ask for peace or happiness, the Serenity Prayer does not simply ask that God hands us peace. Instead, the prayer lays out specific steps that will help us achieve serenity in our life and asks God to help us find the strength to live by those smaller goals.*

*The Serenity Prayer asks God to help us create peace in ourselves:*

*How do we achieve, peace; real peace and serenity?*

*What do you picture when you think of serenity? A really calm 'chilled out' person? A lovely peace-filled calming place; be it a physical space or a peaceful space in your mind and spirit?*

*Serenity, calm, health, peace. They can all be summed up in the lovely Hebrew word Shalom.*

*Are you serene? Are you at peace? Is your life one of Shalom?*

*I would guess that all of us crave that state of being. In these uncertain times as Covid 19 is 'still out there' threatening to return, as we make efforts to return to the 'new normal' so many speak of. What*

*lies ahead for us? What has to change? What should stay the same?*

*How do we perceive God's Will for us, for our loved ones, for the church, for the world?*

*We take one step at a time. That is what the '12 step' addiction programmes learn from Niebuhr's prayer. One step at a time; one day at a time. Our Lord's Prayer asks:-*

*Give us this day, our daily bread  
today's bread is all we ask for...*

*Jesus says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself, Each day has enough trouble of its own" Matthew 6:34*

*So, what can we learn from Niebuhr's prayer? How do we come to a place of serenity; shalom? By seeking God's will, discerning what we need to hold onto and what we are to let go. By seeking God's help in changing what needs to be changed, retaining that which should stay the same and, by asking God to guide us as we go.*

*So a few more questions for you: What needs changing in you life? What are the essential permanent things in your living? What must you do to allow God to lead you further down the road to Shalom?*

*Peace be with you  
Gordon x*

## **Welcome back to Church: Sunday 30th August**

*Dear Friends,*

*We are delighted to be able to advise that we have now received notification from Glasgow Presbytery and been granted permission to reopen our church premises for worship at a reduced capacity. We will be welcoming you back to worship in our church from Sunday the 30th of August 2020.*

*Whilst we welcome this news it is important to remember that things will look quite different on our return.*

*It is anticipated that we can only accommodate up to 34 people in the sanctuary but up to 50 in total if we overspill into the Large hall. This includes those who will be stewarding the doors, myself and someone operating the AV equipment during worship as well as any families worshipping with their children as Sunday club will not take place in its usual format. Children can however be taken out to the Lesser hall after the Children's address to enjoy some activities. Several of the pews will be roped off in order to comply with social distancing. You will be asked to turn up 15 minutes before the service begins at 11.00am to allow everybody to be seated before the service begins.*



*Your attendance will be noted in a book for us to comply with the NHS Scotland Test and Protect service. Your name and telephone number will be kept on record for 21 days in case we have to notify the appropriate authorities of a potential COVID-19 connection if we identify anyone who has the virus symptoms.*

***If you have a continuous cough, high temperature, or loss of taste or smell you should not attend church.***

*All personal information will remain confidential and be destroyed after 21 days. It should be noted that face masks will be mandatory during the service so we ask that you please bring your own face covering where possible, but some face masks will be available for any visitors or anyone requiring one.*

*A one-way system will operate throughout the church entering from the East door and leaving by the South door with those on door duty assisting you to a suitable pew. Family members can sit together but must remain 2 meters apart from other members of the congregation. If you need to leave the building at any time during the service, you will be asked to take your belongings, but you will be allowed to come back into the church. We must continue*

*to practice good social distancing during the service and of course we should be sanitising our hands on entering and on leaving the premises. We are not permitted to sing or enjoy our usual fellowship after the service in the form of tea or coffees. In addition, we also hope to make the sanctuary available mid-week for private devotions or prayers.*

*Please continue to follow us on our website – Facebook page for more details. We hope that if you feel unable to attend that you watch us on our YouTube channel where our Sunday services will be live streamed and recorded.*

*We will be following all the relevant guidance, should anything change we will be in touch with any developments and continue to keep you all up to date on any changes to the guidance as quickly as possible.*

*For now, please stay safe and well and don't hesitate to contact your Elder, Gordon or myself if needed by telephone or on our email address.*

***Lorraine Robertson***

***Session Clerk***

# Sunday Club is Back!

Hello everyone,

**Sunday club will resume [on Sunday 6th September](#)**

with several changes. Children cannot come into Church hall as normal before the service. We will need them to come into Church with a family adult and sit with them. After the children's address, we will go into the hall. Children will be asked to wash their hands, use hand sanitiser and may at times be asked to wear plastic gloves.

The tables and chairs will be wiped with anti bacterial spray before the children come into the hall. Each child will be given a poly pocket with their name on it . Included in the bag will be a variety of stationery items for their use only. In the Church hall we will have stories, chat and crafts relating to Gordon's address. Unfortunately, we are unable to have any games. When Church and Sunday club have finished, children will leave by the back door. Grown ups are asked to remember social distancing when collecting children.

Anne, Esther and Linda are looking forward to seeing everyone and despite all the changes, we will have a great time at Sunday club.

Stay safe and we will meet [on 6th September](#).

The Sunday club grown ups 😊



## **Smile you're on Camera**

Following our successful grant award from the *Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund*. We have been able to upgrade all our audio equipment and install new NDI cameras in the church during the Summer. This is a new video switching / streaming hardware system with upgraded amplification. In order to get the best location and audio- visual transmission it was necessary to re-fashion one of the pews to create a new AV workspace at the rear of the Nave of the Church. This will allow us to live stream our services on our new YouTube Channel. Simply log onto YouTube and search for Stepps Parish Church and subscribe to our channel. If you'd prefer to remain out of camera shot, you can do so by sitting over in the West Aisle. In addition to the technical equipment upgrade, installation of a comprehensive wi-fi system to enhance the church's use for the wider community has been installed. We now have 4 wi-fi hot spots throughout the premises 2 in the Sanctuary-Vestry and 2 in the hall. This means that if needed we can also transmit and stream the service into the Large Hall allowing us to increase our worshipping numbers to 50 people if the hall is

not required by the children of the Sunday Club. All the upgraded works has been linked into existing loudspeakers and overhead screens which remain of sufficient standard for present and future use but upgraded to digital amplification with new ambient microphones to enhance the audio experience throughout the sanctuary. I hope you will all agree that this upgrade will continue to reach far and wide to our worshipping community and provide improved facilities for the foreseeable future.

If you would like to form part of our AV Operating Team on a Sunday morning or simply like to dabble with technology please contact either Gordon or myself and we would be happy to add you onto a Sunday rota in case cover is required over the coming months during these uncertain times. Together we can come together for the enhancement of everyone's worshipping experience.

## **Macmillan Fundraiser**

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions we will not be able to go ahead with our annual Macmillan fundraiser. I have looked at alternatives and have been unable to find a satisfactory solution, that would permit us to have numbers and adhere to the restrictions on limited capacity. I am intending to send Macmillan a donation on our behalf. If anyone feels able to contribute there are options enabling you to do so. Donate directly to Macmillan Cancer Support in the name of Stepps Parish Church

or

Contact me at [magsc50@sky.com](mailto:magsc50@sky.com) or telephone 07964303321 and I will uplift your donation from your home.

We are very disappointed that we cannot go ahead with this annual community event that is always so well attended and supported. The Stepps Team look forward to seeing you all next year.

Take care and stay safe everyone .

***Margaret Crawford***

## **Narrative of Generosity**

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* Genesis 1:1

*We believe that this Earth was given as a gift to us all at creation. We partner with God as we are led to care for all creatures, to manage Earth’s finite resources and to celebrate our wonderful planet. For God’s Mission, For God’s Glory.*

September sees us enter a new chapter in our Narrative of Generosity Journey as we celebrate the wonders of God’s creation.

*“God looked at creation and said it was very good”* From the start, we were tasked with caring for this generous gift. Never more has this been more apt in these days of climate change, environmental concerns, global warming and weather extremes. We have certainly seen plenty of these extreme conditions recently as parts of the country were battered with torrential rain and thunderstorms with devastating consequences in parts of the country.

Despite these concerns there is much too to marvel over at the beauty of God’s creation around us. We are asked to think how as a congregation we can be more environmentally

friendly or perhaps think of other parts of our world affected by environmental issues.

During the four Sunday's of September we will reflect what it means to be good stewards of the earth's resources and will explore the themes of Earth, Wind, Fire and Water and the importance of each of this elements on our everyday lives and how they are essential for our survival.

This will culminate in our all age Harvest Thanksgiving service where we plan to host a Tree Planting service on Sunday the 4th of October to show our appreciation and concern for God's Earth, whilst remembering how grateful we are for all that God has given us.

So be prepared to get your hands dirty.

*“Let the land produce vegetation: seed bearing plants and tree's that bear fruit with seed in it according to their kind”* Genesis 1: 11

During our prolonged period of closure, it has become evident that some odd jobs may need attention over the coming months in order to maintain the fabric and upkeep of our buildings. If you have some hidden DIY skills, handy with a paint brush or screwdriver, or some other useful skill we would appreciate it if you could make

yourself known to Gordon or myself. We know that we may be reduced in numbers over the coming months so if you would like to perhaps even help on door duty or offer to do a bible reading, we would be keen to have you on board.  
**M a n y   h a n d s   m a k e   l i g h t   w o r k .**



### **Celebration's**



Our warmest congratulations go to Mr & Mrs Bruce who recently celebrated 65 years together. I am sure you will all join me in extending our best wishes to them both on reaching this remarkable milestone.

Lots of good wishes for their health and happiness in the years ahead. Peace and joy to them both.



## **Congregational Roll**

We were once again saddened to hear of the death of another one of our members recently. Mrs Eileen Crichton sadly passed away at home on the 18th of July following a prolonged illness. We remember her Husband Andrew, Daughter Julie, Son Graeme and her extended family and friends in our prayers.

Dr Mary Davidson and Mhairi Moore have been issued transfer certificates. We sincerely thank both Dr Davidson and Mhairi Moore for their service to Stepps over the years. Mhairi's outreach through her work with young people over the decades and her prayer ministry has had a lasting impact on our worshipping community. Her diligence in her duties such as health and safety, safeguarding, GDPR and world mission were second to none.

## **Friendship Club**

The Club will resume on MONDAY 12 OCTOBER (NOT 5TH as previously intimated)

In line with Church of Scotland guidelines please be aware of the following:-

- 1) Face coverings must be worn in the church premises
- 2) Please bring your own cup or mug and take home for washing.
- 3) Please also bring with you whatever you would like to eat at the meeting and this must be a wrapped biscuit or cake (or both)!
- 4) The seating in the large hall will be arranged to allow for social distancing.

As I have already advised everyone I haven't booked any speakers for the reasons we are all learning to live with. However, I am sure we will all enjoy sitting down with a cuppa and having a good old blether

Looking forward to meeting up with you all on 12th October.

Kate Houston

Secretary

## **Life and Work Deliveries**

Would someone in the congregation care to take over from me the ordering and delivering of Life & Work starting December, 2020 (the January, 2021 issue) .

Someone with a car would be the ideal person. Before "lockdown" I was usually able to hand over the Magazine at the door of the church. As this has not been possible recently I have not found it easy to walk down to Millerston, plus the Drives, and out to Crowwood Grange so the copies for these recipients are still in my house unfortunately. We only take 12 copies each month but the district is a bit scattered.

If you are able to help please phone me by the end of September at the latest.

Kate Houston

(779 2960)

## **News from Moodiesburn Parish Church**

Last month, on 6th August, our neighbouring church, Moodiesburn Parish Church, inducted their first minister, the Rev Mark McKeown, to this newly created charge (it previously having been a satellite worship-centre of Chryston Parish Church). Rev McKeown is no newcomer to Moodiesburn Parish Church, having previously

served there as Associate Minister to Rev Mark Malcolm at Chryston. Due to Covid restrictions, his Induction was by necessity a modest event but was live-streamed to his happy congregation. Best wishes were sent by our own congregation to Rev McKeown for every success in his new Ministry.

## **WORLD MISSION**

The Convener of the Faith Impact Forum, the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown has written a prayer which you may wish to use for personal worship as we remember our own situation and that of our sisters and brothers throughout the world during the Coronavirus pandemic.

*These times, Lord God,  
Are a reminder of the one world you created to be  
enjoyed by all*

*But which has become so fractured in so many  
ways.*

*Let your love put us back together again...  
Along with all your people on this earth  
We look to you for strength and hope in these  
times*

*And for the courage to care for others*

*Wherever in the world they are  
For we are one in your Spirit.  
Amen*

## **Christian Aid**

We've been challenged by Christian Aid this autumn to celebrate neighbourly love and vital funds. Normally at this time of year we would be planning our Harvest celebrations including our Harvest lunch for Christian Aid.

Christian Aid share a prayer to unite us-  
*Loving God*

*Come now and make us  
into a global neighbourhood,  
looking out for each other  
Through struggle and crisis,  
reaching out to strangers  
who become sisters and brothers,  
shape us into a caring community,  
strengthening each other  
through every challenge,  
standing together  
until justice comes for all.  
In your name we pray,  
Amen.*

- We are encouraged to write a personal greeting or prayer for our neighbour. Christian Aid provide cards if you are interested- speak to Ailsa Macdonald.
- We are asked to stand up for our global neighbours by asking the UK Chancellor to champion debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries on the world stage this autumn. Do so by visiting
- We are asked to gift support to families to overcome crisis at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/global-neighbours-autumn-appeal> . Families such as Angela and her daughter in Nicaragua. her farm used to provide a good living, but the changing climate means her coffee harvests are shrinking each year. But Angela's community has united. Together they set up a local cooperative to share resources and support their livelihoods. They shifted from coffee production to climate resilient cocoa. Now Angela has hope for the future. 'The income from the cocoa is very important. It means we can buy clothes, medicine and food.'

**Yes, Christmas is happening!**



This past year has certainly been a year like no other, but the good news is that **Christmas is happening!**

Like you, we will be especially enthusiastic about reaching out to friends and family this year. With this in mind, it's a good time to let you know that the CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Collection 2020 will be available from CrossReach [from 1st September 2020](https://shop.crossreach.org.uk).

With new, exciting, bright cards and ever popular traditional cards, there really is something for everyone! [From 1st September](https://shop.crossreach.org.uk) you can see and order the Christmas Cards and Calendars on-line at [shop.crossreach.org.uk](https://shop.crossreach.org.uk)





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