



The Church of Scotland

stepps parish church

PROSPECT

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



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Pastoral letter

*Dear Friends,
Holding On
It's Advent the
beginning of the
countdown to the
Festival of
Immanuel; the
coming among us
of God in the
Child of Bethlehem.*



For those of us who are worship leaders it also marks the beginning of a new year of the Lectionary, the scheme of readings that we turn to for the preaching God's Word. This year I along with Sunday Club and Bible Classes will also seek the help of "Spill the Beans". This guide through the lectionary is written by a group of Scots based worship leaders. we will begin with our journey through Advent and the writers suggest we focus on the theme of :-

Holding On

Please hold the line. your call is important to us.... please hold we, will answer as soon as possible... you are now 33rd in line, please hold a little while longer"

Holding on the phone, while listening to some strange section of music can be so frustrating. You hang on and hang on. "Should I just hang up?" "Maybe the second I put the phone down they will answer." "I'll just hold on a little while longer."

Holding on

For many centuries the Hebrew peoples had been holding on. They had been holding on to a Promise; waiting for the coming of the one they named the Messiah, the anointed one, to come and bring them into the closer companionship with God. They were holding on to The Word of God; the Word given by the prophets that one day grace, justice and peace will reign across the whole of Israel and pour out from them into the whole world.

They held on, they held on against derision and persecution. They held on when their freedom was threatened and ultimately taken by foreign tyrants. In the end they became weary of holding on and they stopped listening, stopped looking. Meanwhile a few shepherds and some foreigners from the east are all who were there as God answered with the cries of an infant king,

Have you been holding on in anticipation for that moment when Jesus is born in your life or have you put the phone down?

Whether you come to worship Sunday by Sunday, attend now and then or have not been coming to Stepps Parish Church for some time, why not come along during Advent and into Christmastide?

We are all looking for the God of Surprise to do something new for each and all of us.

We are called to hold on; hold on to the Promise of Immanuel, God with us. God among us, God moving into our neighbourhood, as we welcome the Christ Child into our homes and hearts.

Pippa Elaine and I join in wishing you every blessing in this hope filled season

Love, Gordon

Thank you for a Job So Well Done!

As I drive around the village I find it difficult to realise that I have been here for more than five years - they say time passes quickly when you are enjoying yourself! I also cannot quite believe that Ailsa's time as Session Clerk has come to an end. One of the first things I had to do was to find a new Session Clerk and I worried about how I would do this, I needn't have, Ailsa was 'found' for me with so many people quietly saying to me that they thought it should be she. Thankfully she said yes and so began for Ailsa a time of commitment in a particular role and for me a new partnership of service in this congregation. I was a bit concerned about how we would work together because she was so young and every other Session Clerk I have had had been older than me. But I needn't have worried she frightened me just as much as the others! Which is a good thing. Personally I have enjoyed my partnership with Ailsa, and I have always known that she was there to encourage me or calm me down, to support me, to give an honest opinion and at all times she was efficient and reliable and I trusted her.

As a congregation we have all benefited from Ailsa's time as Clerk. She is kind and understanding, easy to be with and totally committed to this congregation and to the Lord.

She has always gone the extra mile, given freely of her gifts and talents, and we are the better for her time as Clerk. We say to Ailsa, Thank You, and in those two words is much love and gratitude for all that you have been to us as Clerk.

We look forward to all the things that Ailsa will find to do now that she is no longer Clerk and to the joy we continue to share together.

You will find an envelope inside your copy of Prospect. If you wish to make a contribution towards a gift for Ailsa then place it the envelope and give the envelope your elder or pop in the offering plate.

Gordon

Christmas Mail

The church Christmas mail will operate again this year. Post boxes will be in the church and hall between Sunday 1st December and Sunday 8th December. A donation of 20p per card is suggested. Please make sure all addresses are correct and shown in full.

June Bennie

G33 Messy Church

G33 Messy Church next meets on **Wednesday**

11h December 3:15-5:00pm in

St Joseph's Hall when we will be sharing the Christmas story.

There will be loads of Christmas crafts and games.



Advent and Christmas Activities

Preparations for our Advent and Christmas activities are now well advanced and the planned events are detailed below. We hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of the activities as we prepare to welcome Christ into our world. the planned events are detailed below. We hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of the activities as we prepare to welcome Christ into our world.

Friday 1st December, the first day of Advent sees the start of this year's **Posada**. This is from a Mexican tradition which has been updated to take the form of nativity figures travelling round the parish from place to place, staying at a different house every night, and finally taking their place in the church Nativity Scene on Christmas Eve,



ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. A diary goes with the travellers in which the hosts write up on the visit with thoughts and prayers for Advent.

**S u n d a y 8 t h
December at 11am in
the Church the Gift**

Service is being held. Please bring a gift, wrapped and labelled that will be donated to ‘**Glasgow the Caring City**’. These will be distributed to the neediest children across our own city, helping to bring a taste of the joy of Christmas.



Saturday 7th December from 2:00 to 4.00pm
Christmas Fayre is taking place in the Church Halls with Christmas stalls and Santa's Grotto. Tickets for coffee and cake are priced £3 each.

On **Sunday 15th December** there is a **Joint Carol Service in St Joseph's RC Church at 7.00pm**. All are welcome from any church or



none to join this time of praise and worship as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Sunday 22nd December at 11.00am in Church the Sunday Club and Girls' Brigade will delight us with their **Nativity Play**.

This will be a family service and all ages are welcome.

On **Christmas Eve** there will be an informal all age **Family Service at 6.30pm in the Church**. After the Service hot chocolate and Christmas Treats will be served in the Church Hall to add some Christmas Cheer.

The Watchnight Service will be at 11.30pm in the Church. Herald the arrival of Christmas Day as we share a time of carols.





On **Christmas Day at 11.00am in the church** we celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child This will be a short, informal **Family Celebration Service**. You are asked to bring along a present that you have received and share together a time of joy and celebration of our Saviour's birth.

“Wishing you all a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas and may your New Year be Happy and Bright.”

Christmas Postal Service

June Bennie has kindly arranged for the Christmas Card postal delivery service to run once again this year. The post box will be in place in the Church hall until **8th December**. There is a suggested donation of 20p per card towards Church funds. Cards will can be delivered to all areas in Steps.



Lodging House Mission News

LHM were delighted and grateful to receive our generous harvest gifts to help re-stock their foodstore for the year ahead. They all the more appreciate this on top of the donations we give regularly throughout the year and they have awarded us a Certificate of Appreciation which can be viewed on the Hall Noticeboard.

The LHM Chaplain, Claire Herbert, was Ordained as a Deacon last month at a special and very moving service conducted by Presbytery within the church at LHM. Her ministry at LHM is a blessing to all there.

Elsewhere in this edition of Prospect you will find Claire's Christmas Letter and details of LHM's Christmas Cracker Appeal. We are humbly asked to go without Christmas crackers on our festive tables this year, not only to protect the environment from the wastage they generate but to donate the amount we would otherwise have spent to LHM to assist in feeding the homeless in Glasgow over the festive period.

Please consider generously supporting this Appeal.

Local Church Review

At Stepps, we have now completed our local church review and a report will be submitted to Glasgow Presbytery. Our report was largely based on the discussions we had as a congregation in May. From that and our meeting with our reviewer, Rev Mark Malcolm, an action plan for the next 5 years at Stepps Parish Church has been developed, which will be presented to Glasgow Presbytery. This is to continue on from our 5 year 'Take Stepps' mission plan since we will undertake our final review of 'Take Stepps' in Spring 2020.

The key areas included in the action plan are:

Church community: Engaging with each other
(Discipleship/ Stewardship)

Participate in the Narrative of Generosity stewardship programme with the aim of better participation of congregation in undertaking roles and tasks around the church and retaining financial stability.

Worship: Engaging with God

Identify courses & programmes that are being run to equip lay person to participate more fully in worship and following from stewardship programme identify people within the

congregation willing to participate more fully in leading worship. The aim is to have members of the congregation who are confident to lead part or all of worship service. We should remember that Rev MacRae will be retiring in 3 years time.

Mission: Engaging with the world

1. Raise profile of Stepps Parish Church as an integral part of community life and promote the building of community by

a. Continuing to host 2 community festivals each year.

b. Supporting and further develop Chestnut café as a social contact point in the community

c. Ensuring church buildings are accessible for wider community use

d. Ensure use of social media and digital platforms is maximised to engage with local community

2. Identify a time and place to offer a first step in a faith journey to those without church ties and establish a connect point through

a. Reflect on impact of Breathing Space.

b. Explore mindfulness/ mediation session

c. Integrate church youth organisations with wider church events

- d. Explore how to support a deepening of faith through Messy Church*
- e. Offer discussion group/ discipleship course on exploring faith*

Belonging: Engaging with the wider church

- 1. Identify and build relationship with mission partner*
- 2. Strengthen partnership working with the Lodging House Mission*
- 3. Develop closer working relationships with neighbouring churches- St Joseph's and Millerston UFC*



In 2020 as part of the Narrative of Generosity we will be starting to explore our church's stories. The Narrative of Generosity programme encompasses 12 stories to share. In our church we anticipate covering 3 stories a year and have identified the first story we want to share is

‘Relationships’. The programme is based on 3 stages

- Sharing our story
- Reflecting on our story
- Acting in response to our story

We will be exploring different ways of sharing our stories over the course of the programme.

WFO 2020

For those who give their church offerings using WFO envelopes, your envelopes for 2020 should be delivered with this edition of Prospect. If you receive envelopes which you no longer wish to use, please return them to your Church Elder. Conversely, if you would like to give in this manner, please contact Liz Ashmole (779 1086) to request a set of envelopes.

Bible Readers



Many thanks to all who read the Bible in church during our morning service. We are always looking to add to our number. The Rota means people read approximately 5 times a year, while those on the Reserve List are called upon (with

advanced notice!) if someone is unable to be at the service when they are due to read. Gordon sends out the lessons to be read well in advance, so there should be no nasty surprises! If there is anyone who would like to volunteer, either to be on the Rota, or as a Reserve, could they please see Mhairi Moore before 15th December?

190th Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade

The Company Section took part in the annual District ten-pin bowling night with other local Companies. Still to add up the scores to see if we have any winners....

All Sections took part in Remembrance Sunday services at Stepps. One of our Boys, Sgt. Callum Hoy, formed part of the contingent of Seniors representing Glasgow Battalion at the George Square Remembrance event.

Two of our Boys, L/Cpls. Benjamin Griffiths and Ross McLaughlin, are undertaking the Santa Dash again this year. This is a sponsored 5k run in Santa suits to raise money for the Beatson

Institute. Any sponsorship donations to this good cause would be greatly appreciated. There will be a sponsor sheet in Church with Ailsa.

Colin Goodall

colingoodall91@hotmail.com

07828 032807

Braehead Choir – 19 December

On Thursday 19 December Cancer Support Scotland have a fundraising stall at Braehead Shopping Centre. This is a great opportunity to tell people about the work that we do, raise some much needed funds and also get people into the Christmas spirit! At the moment, we're on the hunt for choirs or singers who would be able to help out on that day for around 1 hour each (or whatever would suit them) to help us get the crowds engaged. If you know of any choirs, singers or dancers that might be interested, please do let me know as it'd be a massive help!

Unfortunately for many, entering into the festive season doesn't put a halt on the reality of their cancer diagnosis and we are there to help people throughout this time. If you know of anyone that could benefit from our services or have another idea of how we could spread the word of what we do, from Christmas Fayres to choir concerts, then

please let me know and I'd be more than happy to help. We just received our new leaflets in so I will pop a couple in the post for you soon so you can find out more information about the services we offer.

***Lucy Kirkland, Community Fundraiser
Cancer Support Scotland***

Sunday Club

Some dates about Sunday Club events

Sundays 1st, 8th and 15th December. Rehearsals for Nativity Play will take place in the Church at 10 o'clock.

Sunday 8th December. Christmas gift service.

Saturday 14th December. Fun and film show afternoon. 2pm to 4pm. All family members are very welcome to come along and join us for a great afternoon. A special visitor will be coming to visit us at 4pm.

Sunday 22nd December. Nativity Play. All welcome to come and join us on this special Sunday

Sunday 14th January. Sunday Club resumes after Christmas.

Ann, Esther and Linda

Girls Brigade

We have had a busy start to our new session with a visit from Strathclyde Police Dog Branch. Girls were also involved in helping with the Mining Festival and some of the Brigaders are assisting with distributing the Christmas Cards to the community.

We will be having a stall at the Christmas Fayre to help raise funds to assist in paying our Capitation fees which this year are £28 per girl.

Our Christmas party will be taking place earlier this year due to the date set for the General election.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and New Year.

Gillian Green

Friendship Club Prospect items for Dec/Jan

Dec 2 M.A.F. Andy Martin returns to tell us more about the work of this charity.

Dec 9 David Wilson brightens up the winter by taking us on a holiday to see what a beautiful country Austria is.

Dec 16 Festive Lunch at the Garfield (2.00p.m.)

Dec 23 Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies in the Lesser Hall before our short Christmas break.

Friendship Club 2020:

Jan 6 Gem Singers make a welcome return.

Jan 20 N.L.C. Disability Forum

Feb 3 The Anderson Singers join us this afternoon

Kate

Food for Thought

Smile

A simple smile

Costs nothing

But

Can come as an unexpected surprise

To an unknown person passing by

And

May brighten their day

Or lift their mood

A smile

A hug

And

One day at a time

So keep smiling

Each day

And

Brighten up someone's day

nb. Nat King Cole's re Roding entitled 'smile' is very uplifting and worth listening to...

Angela Orme

Poppy Scotland

Amy Ellen Irene Kate and Nan thank everyone in the church and community for their continuing support in donating to their “Knitted “ Poppy appeal. Due to their generosity we have raised £271-50p.a great result for a very worthy cause. THANK YOU.

December Welcome Rota

Dec 01 F. Shields. C. Skinner. E. Watson. P. Watson. S. Baker
Dec.08. J. Thomson. L. Ashmole. J. Bennie. J. Burns. H. Baker
Dec.15. H. Corbett. M. Crawford. A. Green. J. Hope. J. Burns
Dec. 22. E. Korus. M. Korus. R. McGovern. A. McDonald. H. Corbett
Dec. 29. F. McGovern. O McIntyre. S. MacLean. A. Neilson. A. Green

January 2020

Jan. 5. E. Watson. P. Watson. F. Shields. C. Skinner. J. Hope
Jan 12. L. Ashmole. H. Baker. S. Baker. J. Bennie. J. Thomson
Jan.19. J. Burns. H. Corbett. M. Crawford. A. Green. L. Ashmole
Jan.26. J. Hope. E. Korus. M. Korus. R. McGovern. H. Baker

December Tea Rota

Dec 1 Flora Shields, Sandra McLean.
Dec 8 Ellie Henderson, Jean Christie.
Dec 15 Ella Corbet, Jean Christie.
Dec 22 Margaret Crawford, Jean Christie.
Dec 29 Emily Watson, Kate Houston.

January 2020

Jan 5 Christine Skinner, Jean Christie.
Jan 12 Patricia Watson, Jean Christie.
Jan 19 Helen Baker, Sandra McLean.
Jan 26 June Bennie, Jean Christie

◀ November	December 2019					January ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr i	Sat	Sun
						1 World AIDS Day 10am Bible Class 10am Nativity rehearsals 11am Sunday Club 11am Service of Worship 12pm Prayer Group
2 1:30pm Friendship Club 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	3 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club 6pm Girl's Brigade		4 5 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café	6 7 2-4pm Christmas Fayre		8 10am Bible Class 10am Nativity rehearsals 11am Sunday Club 11am Gift Service
9 1:30pm Friendship Club 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	10 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club 6pm Brigader Christmas night	11 3:15pm G33 Messy Church	12 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café	13 14 2-4pm Sunday Club Christmas Party		15 10am Bible Class 10am Nativity rehearsals 11am Sunday Club 11am Service of Worship 7pm Joint Carol Service
16 1:30pm Friendship Club 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	17 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club		18 19 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café	20 21 BB Outings		22 11am Nativity Service
23 1:30pm Friendship Club	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve family service 11:30pm Watchnight service	25 Christmas 11am Christmas Day service	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29 11am Service of Worship 12pm Short Communion Service

◀ December	January 2020					February ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr i	Sat	Sun
		1 New Year's Day	2 Scotland: New Year's Holiday	3	4	5 11am Service of Worship 12pm Prayer Group
6 1:30pm Friendship Club 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	7 10am badminton club 6pm Girl's Brigade	8	9 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café 7:30pm Kirk Session	10	11	12 10am Bible Class 10:50am Sunday Club 10:50am creche 11am Service of Worship
13 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	14 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club 6pm Girl's Brigade	15	16 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café	17	18	19 10am Bible Class 10:50am Sunday Club 10:50am creche 11am Service of Worship
20 1:30pm Friendship Club 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	21 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club 6pm Girl's Brigade	22	23 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café 7:30pm Congregational Board	24	25 Burn's Night (Scotland & N. Ireland)	26 10am Bible Class 10:50am Sunday Club 10:50am creche 11am Service of Worship 12pm Short communion service
27 6pm Anchor Boys 6.30pm Juniors 7pm Company Section	28 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10am badminton club 6pm Girl's Brigade	29	30 10am-12noon Gordon in vestry 10.30am Breathing Space 10am-1pm Chestnut café	31		

30	31 New Year's Eve	G33 Messy Church takes place at St Joseph's Hall Joint Carol Service is in St Joseph's church
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