



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
March 2020, Issue 388

Pastoral Letter



*Are you
Paying
Attention?*

I can still remember the teacher shouting at me out of my day dream, “Gordon Macrae, are you paying attention?”

Of course I wasn't, I was way off somewhere in my own Wee Gordon place.

In these past few weeks, in worship, we have been ‘paying attention’ to the subject of Discipleship.

Being a Disciple is all about paying attention to Jesus. We watch Him, we listen to Him, we

Mirror His actions; striving to be more like Jesus.

it is all about paying attention. we are called to pay attention: -

to God

to Self

to Others.

We have set out on a new approach to our Thursday morning bible time.

We call it Christian Mindfulness.

Christian Mindfulness is paying attention. It is noticing what you are doing, feeling and thinking at the time you are actually doing, feeling and thinking it. Because God is part of our everyday lives, paying attention to God and focusing on God's kingdom is a fundamental practice of Christian mindfulness.

God want us to pay attention in the moment—to listen and watch, and then to act on what we hear and see.

Jesus asks, “Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?” God's kind of remembering is not just nostalgic dreaming or remorseful musing. God-commanded remembering is a kind of present-directed mindfulness; It is re-mem-bering, putting back together the dismembered pieces of our lives.

It is the beginning of the season of Lent. As we countdown the 6 weeks until Good Friday and Easter, we are called to pay attention to God.

That is the original intent behind the 'giving up' of stuff for Lent. We 'give something up' so we

can pay more attention to the things of God. It may be chocolate that distracts or other stuff that takes your attention from God. Whatever it is, we must do our level best to pay More Attention to God. Be it through listening intently to the Sunday Sermon, attending on Thursday mornings or through personal prayer and bible study. Be it through just paying more time, just looking at the wonder of God's Creation.

In these Lenten days let us listen more attentively for God. look more closely for God and seek first the stuff of God

You never know what you might discover!

God Bless you in your attentiveness

Gordon

Despite all the technical difficulties that storm Ciara caused us on Sunday 9th February and being low in numbers due to inclement weather. Our "Getting to know to You" sandwich lunch had 35 people attend after a hasty retreat into the church Hall to enjoy the warmth and fellowship of worship with our Baptismal family and friends. The first of these lunches was a great opportunity to break down some initial introductory barriers before engaging in some more meaningful conversations with each other. What secrets did you learn about each other?

It certainly made for some interesting discussions and brightened up a wild morning.

The theme of **Relationships** will continue to weave its way through the coming weeks service's before concluding with a second lunch on Sunday the 1st March. If you weren't able to attend the first of these informal gatherings then please note the date in your diary for the next one. I for one look forward to meeting and learning more about our **Relationship** with each other and with God.

This month we had the pleasure of welcoming **Mr. Stuart Harbinson** among us as he begins a 3 month period of discernment.

Over the coming alternate weeks Stuart will be guided by Gordon and participate in worship with us while he considers his calling to the ministry after serving most of his career as a Paramedic.

I know you will all join me in supporting Stuart and making him feel welcome among us at this most crucial of times for him.

Monklands Replacement Project

NHS Lanarkshire has launched its process of further public and staff engagement about the new proposed sites for a new state of the art University Hospital Monklands.

The engagement process gives the community the chance to provide feedback on the shortlist of sites for the hospital - Gartcosh- Glenmavis & Wester Moffat- before a site evaluation process is undertaken on March 10th through a formal scoring event which will include a representative group of members of the public and NHS staff.

Get Involved

It's vital that members of the community across the whole of Lanarkshire get involved in the engagement process.

Whilst it may be on short notice to attend the meetings there is still the opportunity to submit written evidence or attend the People's Hearing. Details below:-

Community Discussions

18th February 2020: Gartlea Community Centre, Airdrie, 7-9pm

19th February 2020: Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, 7-9pm

25th February 2020: Cornerstone House Centre, Cumbernauld, 7-9pm

27th February 2020: Conforti Institute, Coatbridge, 7-9pm

Places are limited and require you to register your interest at MRP.Team@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
Include Community Discussion and Venue in the subject line or call 01236-713348

People's Hearing

2nd March 2020: Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie
10am-8pm

If you do not wish to attend the people's hearing but would like to submit written evidence for the panel to consider, please provide this material by **the 24th February** to the same email address.

Please state however that you will not be available to present this information at the People's Hearing.

The formal Community & Staff scoring event is scheduled for **the 10th March 2020: Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie,12-4pm.**

190th Glasgow Company, The Boy's Brigade

The Company section took part in the Eastern District Novice Drill Competition on Friday 14th February, coming second, which was a great result. The boys did very well indeed. We will also be taking part in the Battalion Competition on 13th March.

Our recruits will be taking part in the Compass Badge Challenge on Friday 21st February, a competition for boys in their first year including drill, bible knowledge and BB history.

We are also planning a 5-a-side football night with the 94th.

The company will be taking part in a major fundraising event run jointly by local BB Companies and the Guild 'Growing Together' offering plants and flowers for sale on Saturday 16th May or by home delivery. There is an advert included in this issue of Prospect. If anyone would like an order form they will be available in the church on Sundays (see Ailsa) or I can email one to you; please get in touch using the contact details below.

The Company meets on Monday nights; Anchor Boys 6.00pm-7pm for p1 to p3, Junior Section 6.30pm-8.00pm for p4-p6 and Company Section for p7 and above. New recruits welcome.

Colin Goodall

colingoodall91@hotmail.com

07828032807

G33 Messy Church



G33 Messy Church is going to shake things up a bit and our next session will be held on **Friday 6th March between 3:15 and 4:45pm at Stepps Parish Church Halls**. This will be a new home for us and we hope the timing will allow more families to come and share time together engaging in activities. We will be learning about the role roads and journeys play in our life and in the Bible. There will be the opportunity to participate in games, crafts, construction games, stories and a time of reflection. There will be a snack time mid way through the session.

We plan to hold our next G33 Messy Church event on Friday 1st May, again at Stepps Parish Church.

For those for whom Friday evenings aren't suitable, our neighbouring church in Millerston UFC will be holding their Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month between 4 and 6pm.

Festive Thanks From The Lodging House Mission

Dear Friends,

I am writing to acknowledge and thank your congregation at Stepps Parish Church for their generous Christmas donations to assist us in our work with homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded persons at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow. Be assured that your monetary gifts will be spent wisely to improve the lives of those we strive to help.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many of the individuals we work with, some of whom are estranged from their families and far from home, so your congregation's thoughtfulness in remembering them at this time means a lot to them and us.

Through such generous donations, on Christmas Day we were able to serve over 80 individuals a three course, table served, Christmas lunch and we were also able to make joyful memories as each person received a Christmas gift.

We are very aware that we can only carry out the work we do at LHM thanks to the generosity of supporters such as yourselves. On behalf of

everyone at LHM, please accept our grateful thanks for this kindness which helps us to make a difference to the lives of those experiencing homelessness and social exclusion across Glasgow.

May God bless you, as you have been a blessing to the least of these our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Matthew 25:40)

*Yours Sincerely,
Claire Herbert
Chaplain*

Soup pots, Shortbread and Baked Beans Galore

The above items were amongst many car boot loads transported last year to the Lodging House Mission from our generous congregation. Whilst at this time of the year, LHM's foodstore is relatively well stocked following last year's Harvest gifts, there are always items needed.

Current items particularly needed are instant coffee, shaving foam and ham stock cubes. Donations of these and any other items can be left at the back of the church and will be taken to our friends at LHM.

World Mission

Glasgow meets Hyderabad: In November last year, three members of Glasgow Presbytery travelled to Pakistan as part of the Presbytery's twinning relationship with the Church of Pakistan's Diocese of Hyderabad. During their visit, they visited six different congregations at worship as well as many other groups, schools, hospitals and enterprises. They met young people participating in a demanding training course and women's groups which discuss relevant issues and empower marginalized women.

It was eye opening for the Glasgow delegation to visit rural health programmes which are making a significant difference to the health of rural communities. They are educating and mobilising local villagers to deal with hygiene, infection control, sanitation and drinking water issues and many women have been trained as birth attendants, significantly lowering infant mortality and assisting women with pre and postnatal care. The Diocese' Audio Visual Centre at Mirpurkhas is a base for innovative outreach to tribal Hindu villages. Small teams of linguists working in nine tribal languages are translating scriptures which

are then available on a mobile phone App. Stories are a most effective way of communicating faith in the Sindhi oral culture so every month 60 story tellers rehearse and present a new Bible story around the villages. Tribal people don't want to hear long speeches or preaching but they will listen to music all night, so outreach teams present the Christian faith in culturally relevant ways through songs. Some songs and themes are accompanied by 'Bollywood' style videos. What a lesson for us to learn in Scotland.

2020 Stamp Appeal: In 1986 a remarkable, visionary woman Pearl Stephen began a women's project in the garage at Scots Kirk in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Her husband George was the minister. Out of that garage an organisation grew to become the Women's Development Centre (WDC). Pearl set up a school for disabled children to provide special education and rehabilitation. Community development work included work with commercial sex workers who were vulnerable to HIV. But WDC is best known for its work with victims of sexual violence. brutalisation of society caused by three decades of war between the government and the Tamil Tigers. When the

Sri Lanka justice system gets involved the abuser is charged with statutory rape and the girl can be referred to WDC. Girls come from all over Sri Lanka, they include Sinhalese and Tamils, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians. They can stay until the court case is resolved, which can take a few years in some cases. Sashi and her co-workers help the girls care for their babies, train them in crafts and weaving so they can learn skills that will help when they leave. Parents of the girls come for counselling so they can rebuild their relationship with their daughter. Other girls are admitted to local schools so they can return to education. In 2009 WDC started the social enterprise called 'Sthree', which means 'woman' in Sinhala and Tamil languages. This women's initiative provides a market for Sri Lankan women and differently-abled entrepreneurs to sell their hand-made products. The latest development is the Sthree Cafe. A travel company has underwritten the costs for developing the back of the building and fitting out a kitchen. The tables and chairs were all made at the WDC vocational training centre and the cooking and serving is all done by women from WDC's programmes. The food is all grown locally, there is minimal use of plastic and maximum use of recycling and

composting. Already the cafe is drawing more customers into the original craft shop. Sashi and her team at WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do. Every penny raised by the Stamp Appeal this year will go towards supporting these women who have been through so much and will help towards giving them hope for the future.

(Used stamps for this Appeal can be left at the rear of the church or in the Halls foyer for onward transmission)

Friendship Club March

Monday 2nd Rev. MacRae and Rev. MacRae

" 16th A.G.M. and gift envelope day

" 23rd Jean and Chris Scott - Film

Clips from favourite T.V. shows

April 6th Kilsyth Singers, Margaret Welland, conductor.

Christian Mindfulness: Stepps Parish Church, Thursdays at 1000

Mindfulness is Paying Attention To God To Self To Others



What is Christian mindfulness ?

Mindfulness is paying attention. It is noticing what you are doing, feeling and thinking at the time you are actually doing, feeling and thinking it. Because God is part of our everyday lives, paying attention to God and focusing on God's kingdom is a fundamental practice of Christian mindfulness.

God want us to *pay attention* in the moment—to listen and watch, and then to act on what we hear and see.

Jesus asks, "Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?" God's kind of remembering is not just nostalgic dreaming or remorseful musing. God-commanded remembering is a kind of present-oriented mindfulness; it is re-remembering, putting back together the dismembered pieces of our lives.

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his*

Welcome Rota for March

Mar 1 M.Crawford, A.McDonald, R.McGovern, O.McIntyre, J.Hope

Mar 8 S.MacLean, A.Neilson, E.Watson, P.Watson, F.Shields, J.Thomson

Mar 15 C.Skinner, J.Thomson, H.Baker, S.Baker, L. Ashmole

Mar 22 J.Bennie, J.Burns, H.Corbett, M.Crawford, H.Baker

Mar 29 A.Green, J.Hope, E.Korus, M.Korus, S.Baker

April. 5. A.McDonald, F.McGovern, O.McIntyre, S.MacLean, J.Burns

Tea Rota March

Mar 1 getting to know you lunch - team

Mar 8 Bennie, Jean Christie

Mar 15 Margaret Crawford, Jean Christie

Mar 22 Kate Houston, Sandra McLean.

Mar 29 Ella Corbet, Jean Christie.



Minister: Gordon Macrae 0141 779 5742

minister@steppsparishchurch.org

Session Clerk: Lorraine Robertson

sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com

Church Organist/ musician: Alastair Sim 0141 779 1101 Editor: Yvonne

Wallace yvonwall@gmail.com