



The Church of Scotland

stepps parish church

PROSPECT

www.steppsparishchurch.org

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



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Pastoral Letter



*When I'm worried and I
can't sleep
I count my blessings
instead of sheep
And I fall asleep
counting my blessings*

*When my bankroll is getting small
I think of when I had none at all
And I fall asleep counting my blessings*

*It may be somewhat unseasonal but I remember this song
from the old movie White Christmas.*

*Have you counted your blessings recently?
Each night while I pray in thanks for my day I fall asleep
counting my blessings. Compare my life with that of the
majority.*

*Nearly half of the world's population live on less than \$2.50
a day, 1 billion children are living in poverty. 22,000
children die each day due to poverty. I choose to buy
bottled sparkling water when I can get clean fresh water
free from my tap and, meanwhile 750 million people lack
adequate access to clean drinking water.*

*Each night while I pray in thanks for my day I fall asleep
counting my blessings.*

*This year, during Lent, Christian Aid is asking you to Count
Your Blessings. Each day we are asked to consider a 'world
justice' issue and compare those less blessed than ourselves
and then to give an amount of money in thanks for those
blessings we have. Each week we are asked to pray over
issues pertaining to Climate Change, World Emergencies,
Education, Finance, Gender and Hunger. Each of these are
problems that trouble all of us but those of us who live in
the developing, poorer, more oppressed and challenged
areas of God's world are troubled to a greater extent.
Each night while I pray in thanks for my day I fall asleep
counting my blessings.*

How much has Jesus blessed you and your family?

Reflect on your life,

*Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will
surprise you what the Lord has done*

Each night this Lent count your blessings.

I guarantee you will fall asleep before you get to the end.

See the Count your blessings website at

www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent/count-your-blessings/

Gordon

Annual Stated Meeting

Rather than ask people to attend on a dark evening, we are going to try holding the annual stated meeting after the church service on Sunday 13th March at 12.15pm. This will be accompanied by tea and coffee in the large hall. We thank the Sunday Club for being accommodating and allowing us to hold this meeting after church. There will be an opportunity to review the church accounts and to ask office bearers any questions you have regarding the running of the church and our future plans. We are grateful to the treasurer for preparing the accounts promptly; allowing us to arrange this meeting at a time that is hopefully suitable to those interested in attending.

Lenten and Easter Events

This year our services during holy week will be held in Stepps Parish Church. Services will be held on

Thursday 24th March 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Friday 25th March 7.30pm Good Friday Reflection

Sunday 27th March 9am Early Easter Service at Hogganfield Loch

11am All-age worship

Sunday Club

Sunday Club continues to meet every Sunday of term time at 10.50 in the main church hall. All children from age 3 to Primary 6 are welcome to join us.

Our Lenten Journey this year takes us through 7 weeks from 14th February to Easter Day on the 27th March. We are looking at some sad and upsetting stories that might make us feel like crying, as Jesus did. So each week we are making and decorating teardrops, and we are creating a road of tears to represent our Journey to Jerusalem. On March 20th, Palm Sunday we invite everyone to join us in Church where we shall be turning our Journey of tears into Flowers of Joy in preparation for the joy we will feel on Easter Day knowing that Jesus rose to be with us.

So far we have looked at the story of Jesus in the wilderness and the temptations that he had to face. We have also discussed how Jesus is like a hen who gathers us together to shelter, teach and love us.

Sunday Club is on Holiday on April 3rd and 10th and resumes on April the 17th.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of the Leaders with any questions you may have. The Sunday Club contact details are on our updated page of the Church Website.

Jacqueline Hoy

Situations Vacant

Congregational Board

Two opportunities have arisen for people interested in helping in the administration of the church.

Treasurer

For the past year, I have been combining the roles of Treasurer and Chair of the Congregational Board. However, it is not good practice to have these two roles being undertaken by one person and, therefore, the Board is wishing to appoint a Treasurer as quickly as possible.

In some churches, the Treasurer is responsible for counting and banking the Sunday collections and also for writing all the cheques. In Steps, we have split these duties and we are very fortunate to have two Board members who have taken responsibility for these very important functions. The main duties of the Treasurer are to keep the cash book up-to-date and report on the financial situation of the church at every Board meeting, to prepare the final accounts and to be the linkperson between the church and the Church of Scotland's finance team in Edinburgh. The cash book is currently held on a spreadsheet, which links to the financial report to the Board and to the templates that produce the final accounts. While experience of finance and financial systems would be an advantage, anyone with a reasonable degree of experience of using spreadsheets should be able to perform this very important task for the church.

Clerk to the Congregational Board

After many years of service, Jim Hope's many other commitments have meant that he has reluctantly said that he wishes to retire as Clerk to the Board.

The main responsibilities of the Clerk are to take the minute of Board meetings and issue them to Board members, to distribute information to Board members, to receive correspondence to the Board, and to follow up actions as necessary.

Both posts are vital for the smooth administration of the church and offer the chance of those with skills in these areas to serve the church in this way. Please contact me if you are interested in either of these posts or wish to find out more about what they involve.

Les Moore

Boys' Brigade

Michelle Welsh, captain of 190th Glasgow Boys' Brigade has asked if anyone has an interesting job, would they be willing to come along to speak to the boys about it? Alternatively, do you have a skill or hobby that you could pass on to the boys over a night or several nights? We have had some response and would be grateful if others could speak either to Michelle Welsh, Ailsa Macdonald or Les Maxwell to arrange.

Michelle has had support from Eastern District to continue to run the company section on a Monday evening due to a shortage of leaders. If anyone feels they can help or has previous experience that they can bring please give careful consideration to enthusing the boys in their continuing BB journey.

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer will be held in St Barbara's Church, Muirhead on Friday 4th March at 7.30pm. The service will focus on Christian women living in Cuba. Amy Somerville has more details.

4U@SPC

The girls are continuing to work at various levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and are involved in activities ranging from quidditch to youth work, and a whole load in between!

Once again, many thanks to members of the church and wider community for supporting the 4U@SPC clothing appeal for the Syrian Refugees. As you know we had a tremendous response last year and have been very heartened by this recent appeal. Thank you to all who have contributed. The clothes and donations received will be sent to 'Glasgow, the Caring City'. We are happy to take any further donations of clothes or money.

Les and Mhairi Moore

Forthcoming wedding

Saturday March 12 @ 2.30pm

Lauren Rennie to Jason Bryce

Welcome group for March

Mar 6. B McNeill. M Mitchell. A. Neilson. A. Orme. J. Burns

Mar 13. C. Skinner. J. Thomson. D. Wilson. L. Ashmole. H. Corbett

Mar 20. H. Baker. J. Bennie. J. Burns. H. Corbett. A. Green

Mar 27. S. Baker. M. Crawford. K. Davidson. G. Green. J. Hope

April 3. J. Hamilton. J. Hope. L. Moore. R. McGovern. L. Maxwell

If you are unable to be present on any of the above dates please arrange a substitute.

Tea rota

March 2016

Mar 6 June Bennie, Flo Shields, Jean Christie.

Mar 13 Christine and Jean McLaren, Jean Christie.

Mar 20 Margaret Crawford, Ella Corbett, Sandra McLean.

Mar 27 Easter Sunday



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