



The Church of Scotland

stepps parish church

# PROSPECT

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

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



**Scottish Charity No. SCO14212**

**April 2016, Issue 351**

## *Pastoral Letter*

*Luke ends his gospel with one of the most beautiful incidents in all the New Testament. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus being visited by the Lord Jesus has been described as a “wonderful, unique, spellbinding” story. We do not know where*



*Emmaus was. Many villages contend to be the site and, if you visit the Holy Land, you will find churches and places that claim to be the original site of the revelation. Neither do we know who Cleopas' companion was. Was he some random, unnamed 'other disciple'? Was she Cleopas' wife? Was he, as some have even speculated, a young Luke taking his earliest steps in discipleship? I prefer to think that Luke, in his skilled writing technique, purposely leaves the second person unnamed because he/she is you or me, or any follower of Jesus.*

*So, here we are, walking away from Jerusalem, walking away from death, walking away from grief and loss. And.... what a long hard walk that is. There is no harder longer more difficult walk than the walk away from a grave. So many thoughts. So many regrets. So much anger. So many 'if onlys'*

*Then, then we are joined by a third companion. We do not recognise him. How many of us, how many people in today's*

*world fail to recognise Jesus? Who really sees him anymore,  
let alone recognises him for who is?*

*Do we in the church acknowledge him as we should?*

*Do we introduce him to those we walk beside on life's path?  
As we walk along the road do we recognise Jesus? Do we see  
him in the everyday things of life; in the broken people of our  
world, in the refugees scattered across Europe, in the homeless  
woman sitting outside Greggs, in the countless unfortunate  
casualties of everyday living who are casted aside by our so  
called austerity measures? There, in them, we meet our risen  
Lord*

*It is still Easter it will always be Easter because ours is an  
Easter faith conceived in the death of our Lord on a cross one  
Friday afternoon and born in a woman's visit to an empty  
grave one Sunday morning. That Easter faith tells us that Love  
conquers all. That faith tells us that Love is Eternal. That faith  
calls us to walk together along life's path and welcome all  
whom we meet and ask them to walk with us for there we will  
surely meet Jesus*

*Gordon*

## **4U@SPC**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition season is now upon us and Easter sees the first of our girls heading out for her expedition. We are indebted to the support and expertise of North Lanarkshire Council who provide us and the girls with the necessary training, equipment and supervision.

We continue to be amazed at the response we have had for the appeal for clothes for the Syrian Refugees. This appeal is on-going and the crisis looks as though it will continue for many years to come. This appeal has resulted in well over 50 bags being handed in which are about to be delivered to 'Glasgow, the Caring City'. We are also very grateful for the monetary donations of £68.00 which will be used to off-set the cost of transporting the containers out to Syria. Many thanks to all who have donated. All donations continue to be welcome!

*Les and Mhairi Moore*

## **Friendship Club**

After the Easter break our first meeting is on Monday, 4th April when Mrs. Margaret Tooth of Blythswood Care is coming along to tell us about the work this charity undertakes with refugees.


18th April we are delighted to welcome Christine Reid and, perhaps, John to entertain us again in word and song.

2nd May is a public holiday so there will be no meeting.

9th May is the date for our Spring Bus Run when we are going to Loch Lomond Shores to check out the shops (and coffee shops). After that we will stop for lunch: we will let you all know where beforehand.

*Kate Houston*

## Take Stepps



The Kirk Session recently discussed a draft Mission Plan that had been put together in conjunction with Rev Hillary McDougall, from Glasgow Presbytery. Hillary has been helping us to define what we want to achieve. We will have an interim review in October 2017, which means we have 18 months to make some in roads in to achieving what we aim to do. This will help to ensure that at the end of the 5 year review we will be able to continue to have a full-time minister. When finalized, the Mission Plan will be put before Glasgow Presbytery for approval.

There are four areas that we are hoping to work. Any comments will be gratefully received by Rev MacRae or Marvyn Mackay who are leading on the development of the mission plan. The areas are:

**Discipleship** In a similar way to last year when we had our Season of Stewardship, this year we will have a Season of Discipleship. This will let us think about how we can deepen our commitment to God, not only on a Sunday but throughout the week. In a similar way to our Prayer Diary which includes a short prayer for us to say each day, we will be looking to encourage reading short passages of the Bible during the week. We will also look at how study groups can develop. We recognize that different people like to think, study and draw close to God in different ways and so we aim to try different styles and different times for meditation, Bible Study and discussion groups that stimulate a deepening of personal relationships with God.

We also want to encourage all our worshippers to become more involved in sharing their Faith through actions and words with their neighbours.

Outreach and Messy Church Messy Church is a different style of church that takes a more 'hands on' approach to worship. It is more activity based, often through crafts and games but also allows spirituality to develop through a shorter worship time than a usual service. The aim is for children and adults to become intrigued by a story or topic and question and explore what it means to them during the practical activities. Messy Church can be for all ages, though usually it will be families that attend together- young adults can be involved in helping with craft activities and others can be involved in providing refreshments and a listening ear. Most Messy Churches run once every 4 to 6 weeks- and not always on a Sunday. We are hoping that this can be something that we can develop in conjunction with St Joseph's Church. At present we are aiming to establish a Messy Church in autumn this year.

Secondly, we are hoping to undertake a research project to help plan some future activities that will help to promote a sense of belonging to those that live in our community.

Community We hope to build on the events such as Christmas star trail, family barbeque and Commonwealth Games events that we have had in previous years, again to promote a sense of community amongst those that live in Stepps. Our aim is to hold 3 events each year; 2 of which will be linked to Christian festivals. Presently we are working to hold a church birthday party around Pentecost- 15th May 2016. More details will be in next month's

Prospect. We have already pencilled in to hold a mining festival at some point in 2017.

Worship As a church family our worship continues to evolve. In recent years we have seen the overhead screens be used more often- not just for song words but for provoking our thoughts through pictures, images and short film clips. We have been broadening the range of hymns and songs that we sing during services. We want to continue to evolve- perhaps by introducing drama on occasions or having other instruments join the piano during worship. We have a great team of folk that read from the Bible and can lead parts of worship at particular services. We want to encourage more involvement and creativity from all ages during worship time and to ensure our older children/young adults feel comfortable as part of the larger worshipping community.

As you can see we have much that we want to do to build up the church in Stepps, so that it is well equipped to share God's love with our community. It will take everyone contributing what they can, for us to achieve our potential. We will need people that are willing and able to help plan or man our community events; we will need everyone to say hello to the face next to them in church that they don't know; we will need to encourage one another whilst we take on new challenges; we will need an openness to trying new things both during services and during the week (not everything we try will work but we need to be patient with changes while we do). Finally we will need to listen closely to what God is saying to us and trust in Him as we take our next Steps.

# Christian Aid week



This year Christian Aid week runs from 15th May to 21st May 2016. We aim to help distribute and collect envelopes again this year in as many streets as we can with in Stepps. This involves popping envelopes through the door at the beginning of the week and returning later in the week to collect .Sometimes

writing the day of the week you are going to come back on the envelope make for a smoother collection.

If you are able to help with distributing envelopes then please speak to either Lorainne Tedeschi or Ailsa Macdonald.

Thank you!

## Welcome group for April 2016

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

April 10 C. McLaren. J. McLaren. S. MacLean. B. McNeill. J. Thomson

April 17 M. McWilliams. M. Mitchell. A. Neilson. A. Orme. D. Wilson

April 24 C. Skinner. J. Thomson. D. Wilson. H. Baker. L. Ashmole

May 1 S. Baker. J. Bennie. J. Burns. H. Corbett. H. Baker

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

## Tea rota April 2016

April 3 Ellen Baird, Emily Watson, Jean Christie.

April 10 Helen Baker, Anne Green, Jean Christie.

April 17 Janet Wilson, Mgt McWilliams, Sandra McLean

April 24 Christine and Jean McLaren, Jean Christie





Minister: Gordon Macrae 0141 779 5742 [GMacRae@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:GMacRae@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
Session Clerk: Ailsa Macdonald 0141 779 1427 [sessionclerk@steppsparishchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@steppsparishchurch.org)  
Church Organist/ musician: Alastair Sim 0141 779 1101  
Editor: Yvonne Wallace, [yvonwall@gmail.com](mailto:yvonwall@gmail.com)  
[www.steppsparishchurch.org](http://www.steppsparishchurch.org)  
Find us on Facebook as Stepps Parish Church