



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

May 2016, Issue 352

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

*Each year at this time we
holiday at*

*Kinlochrannoch, the
place we stay is so close
to the Loch that you can
almost reach down from
the balcony and run your
fingers through the
water. A little piece of
heaven, and you know, it*



seems we are almost always blessed by good weather. I find myself out on the balcony with my morning coffee, returning to sit there as much as I can during the day until in the gloaming, when the liquid in my glass is amber coloured I gaze and the words of so many hymns rise and fill my mind as I look out on the glory of nature, a glory which surely witnesses to the wonder and joy of God's love for us which is beyond my imagination. 'All heaven declares the glory of the risen lord', 'the whole earth shall cry glory'. There before me, changing every minute, never the same, in loch and hill and sky is the Glory of God, a glory which takes your breath away. God's Glory fills you with a joy that is so deep it causes tears to spring into your eyes just because you can be there and you have eyes to see the beauty of this land, the indescribable beauty which surely witnesses to the presence of our creator God. 'The whole earth shall cry glory' and it does. The Whole Earth, every part of creation, all of our life, every element of God's creation should declare Glory to God.

All of creation does so. The grandeur of Schiehallion the wondrous mountain that I gaze upon as I write, the beautiful butterfly, or the bumblebee who flits from flower to flower.

Each declares glory to God.

And as I sit here I ask myself

"How do I glorify God?"

Maybe the obvious answer is in coming to church on Sunday, in singing the great hymns of praise. There I give glory to God. Maybe in acts of charity and volunteering, my church service, my prayer time, visiting and other church activities: there I give God glory.

But what about the every humdrum everyday ordinary things of life?

What about glorifying God at the shops, at your place of work or play taking the kids to school? What about being a 24/7 God Glorifier?

That is what we will be thinking about in these weeks to come in this Season of Mission and Discipleship, on the Sundays and Tuesday's during May and June we will be looking at a study course called Fruitfulness on the Frontline.

Come along to Worship on Sundays. Check out the Church Website. Attend the meetings on the Tuesdays in May. Even if you have never come to a bible study before I would encourage you to come. We need to learn how to be missionaries on the frontline, where we live, where we are, if we do not our church will fade way in our generation.

Let us give God Glory.

Gordon

Bible Class

At the start of the Easter Holidays the Bible Class went on an outing to Lazer Planet and Scot Go Kart in Clydebank. Thirteen young people and three Leaders enjoyed a great day out. There was great rivalry and competition among the young people to get the highest score in the two sessions of Lazer Quest and to achieve the fastest lap and overall first place in the Go Karting. The leaders were just sure they could not match any of competition and so kept a watchful eye on the side-lines!



After all the excitement, it was time to relax over a snack meal at the usual favourite, McDonald's. The competitive spirit lived on as the group pooled their

McDonald's Monopoly tokens to try and win a major prize. Realisation dawned when an overwhelming accumulation of tokens for Pall Mall meant no big prize was likely. Nonetheless everyone seemed to get at least one token for a

free goodie, so much so that the leaders thought we would never get them home. All eventually arrived home safe and sound, excited still and full a tales to tell family and friends. A great day out for all and with an outdoor adventure and family barbecue to come before the end of the session, we hope the young people can remain enthusiastic and excited.
Marvyn Mackay, Leader.

Summer Holiday Club.....advance notice

This summer, holiday club takes place on Monday 1st August until Thursday 4th August. Mornings only. The title this year is "Guardians of Ancora". Helpers are needed to make this fun week a super experience for children from pre-school to Primary 7 . Please help. Let me know if you can help. Just speak to me on Sundays or phone me. 779 2118 . No experience needed, just willing to join the children and help them have a great time.

Esther Hyndman

Take Stepps



You may remember reading last month about our Mission Plan. Here is a quick update on what we have done or are planning on doing in the next couple of months.

Discipleship A new discussion group series is starting on Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm looking at how our aim of following Jesus impacts on our lives and the lives of those around us. It will be held at the church. Topics for discussion are taken from a series called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' distributed through the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity. Each session is approximately 1 ¼ hours long and will have film clips to stimulate discussion (but you can just come and listen if you wish). If you are interested in a taster then there is a short clip on the church website home page at www.steppsparishchurch.org. This discussion series will take us up to the summer break.

Outreach and Messy Church Three volunteers attended an event for those already running Messy Churches in and around Glasgow at the end of April. This was an opportunity to hear from others how they went about setting up Messy Church, what they find works for them and to get inspirational ideas for games, crafts & worship. We are hoping to be able to go along to one or two churches to see

Messy Church in action before we embark on our own version in autumn.

We are at the early stages of planning an event that is open to all in the church, however we will specifically invite those we know in our family that are living alone and those that attend local lunch clubs, friendship and pensioner clubs. We will hold an afternoon tea to mark the Queen's 90th birthday in the afternoon of Sunday 12th June between 2 and 4pm. This will be held at the same time as the Patron's lunch that is being held in The Mall that day. We will be able to join in the atmosphere on the big screen in the church hall and have some celebrations of our own. We would be delighted if you are able to help that day, either by

- serving afternoon tea
- transporting some attendees to and from their homes
- contributing to a short entertainment programme

If you are then please have a word with Ann Green or Ailsa Macdonald.

Community Plans are in full swing for the Pentecost Party on Sunday 15th May. This is to mark the wider church's birthday with party games, bouncy castle, birthday cake and plenty of fruity fun. The service at 11am that day will have a celebratory feel and be family friendly. Younger children will be able to make some fruit themed crafts during the second half of the service. Then the party will be in full flow from 12.15pm to 2.30pm. To make this a real fun church family day we would love for all worshippers to stay after the service to share in the celebrations. We would love it if you are able to help supervise at a craft table or at a games table after church that day and help create a party

atmosphere. Please let Gordon, Marvyn Mackay or Ailsa Macdonald know if you are able to help with this.



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. Envelopes will be available for collection on Sunday 15th May. If you are able to help with distributing envelopes then please speak to either Lorainne Tedeschi or Ailsa Macdonald.

Friendship Club

By the time this reaches our readers we will have had our final speaker for April - Christine and John Reid. Needless to say that right now we are all looking forward to this very much.

There is no meeting on 2nd May as this is a Public Holiday. 9th May is the date of our Spring outing. We are off to Balloch for a wee cruise on Loch Lomond then along to Loch Lomond Shores for Lunch at the Kilted Skirlie and, time permitting, a look at the shops.

16th May is the date for Mr. Alistair Aitchison's visit to tell us about working on Talking Newspapers.

23rd May is our closing date when we go along to the Garfield for a lunch.

After that we are on holiday for the summer and hope to return in good form in October.

Kate Houston.

Thank You

With kindest thanks for your words, thoughts, cards and flowers after our recent bereavement. They have been of great comfort following the loss of my husband John.

Margaret Clark & family

Girls Brigade

At the time of going to print we are preparing for our Annual Display/Parents evening.

Girls are eagerly awaiting presentation of their Awards and Trophies.

We have had a very busy Session taking part in Harvest-Christmas-Easter services with the Sunday Club. Numbers throughout the Session have remained steady and we have had lots of fun and also enjoyed great craft evenings.

All of our activities can be seen on our Facebook page : 80th Glasgow Girls Brigade.

Thanks to Jean Christie, Margaret Crawford, Christine Skinner for all their help and support this Session.

To all Officers and girls have a great Summer and we hope to see you all back in August!!

Gillian Green

Captain



Family friendly fruit
themed games

Bouncy Castle

Make your own fruit
sundaes

Arts and crafts

We would be delighted if
you can join us
beforehand to celebrate
the church's birthday at
11am in the church

ALL INVITED-

SUNDAY 15TH MAY

12.15PM-2.30PM

**PENTECOST PARTY- A
FRUIT FILLED
CELEBRATION**



JOIN US AT
Whitehill Avenue
Stepps, G33 6BL

www.stepsparishchurch.org

Find us on Facebook at Stepps
Parish Church

Welcome group for May

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

May 8 M. Crawford. K. Davidson. A. Green. J. Hamilton. J. Burns

May 15 J. Hope. L. Maxwell. M. Moore. R. McGovern. H. Corbett

May 22 C. McLaren. J. McLaren. S. MacLean. B. McNeill. A. Green

May 29 M. McWilliams. M. Mitchell. A. Neilson. A. Orme. J. Hope

If you are unable to be present on any of the above dates it is important that you arrange a substitute, if you are also on tea rota and are unable to change the rota it would be appreciated if you could attend the door once kitchen duties are complete

Tea rota May 2016

May 1st Angela Orme, June Bennie, Jean Christie.

May 8th Flora Shields, Margaret Crawford, Jean Christie

May 15th to be advised

May 22nd E Patrick, Ella Corbett, Sandra McLean.

29th May E Watson, Betty McNeil, Jean Christie.

Minister: Gordon Macrae 0141 779 5742 GMacRae@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Ailsa Macdonald 0141 779 1427 sessionclerk@stepsparishchurch.org

Church Organist/ musician: Alastair Sim 0141 779 1101

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Find us on Facebook as Stepps Parish Church

