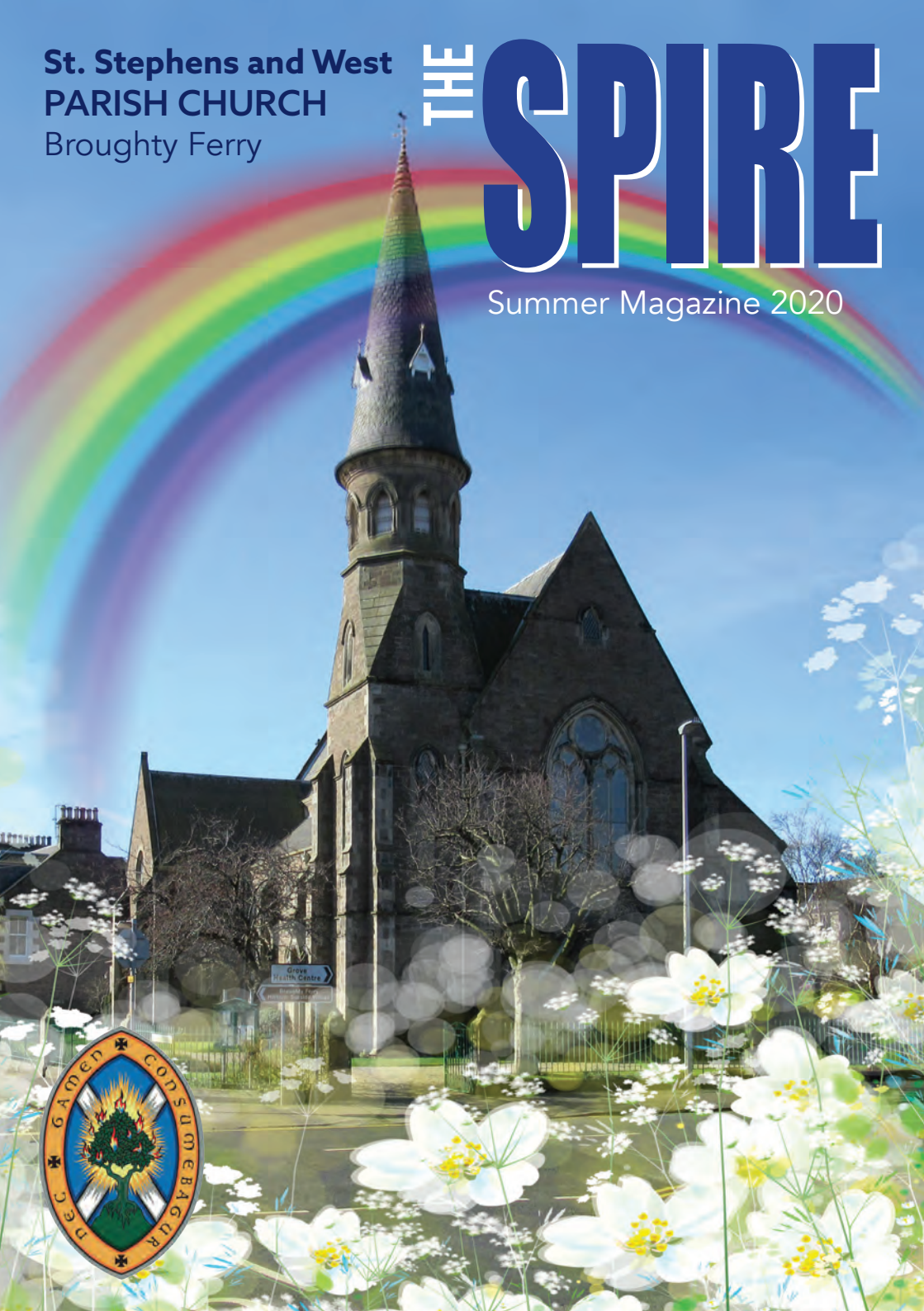


**St. Stephens and West  
PARISH CHURCH**  
Broughty Ferry

# THE SPIRE

Summer Magazine 2020



# **This is the Time to be Slow**

*(John O'Donohue)*

**This is the time to be slow  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.**

**Try, as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light.**

**If you remain generous  
Time will come good  
And you will find your feet  
Again in fresh pastures of promise  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning.**

Contributed by *Shirley Thomson*



# Welcome to this new issue of **THE SPIRE**



Welcome to this the summer edition of The Spire. With the lockdown still in place and worship suspended at the kirk it is even more important that the church magazine is produced and distributed to the members.

The plan for going forward is to produce a magazine in March, June, September and November. To keep safe it has again been decided to post out the summer edition of the magazine. As you can see from the back page the rota has been planned from the end of June and hopefully we will be back in the church in the not too distant future. Once we are back in the church I will contact all of the distributors and arrange the normal hand distribution to the members.

This edition includes an article from Norman titled Brothers in Arms which I am sure you will find very interesting. For your information the report regarding the recent quinquennial visit from Presbytery is also included.

I am always looking for contributions so please contact me in the first instance to discuss.

My contact details are on the back page.

Keep well and stay safe.

Warmly and sincerely,

*George Anderson*



# SERVICES OF WORSHIP



**Morning Worship** commences every Sunday at 10am and is conducted by The Minister. Our style of Worship is traditional without being stuffy or wooden. The Third edition of the Church of Scotland Hymn Book is the sole source of congregational praise. Visitors and, friends who reside in our community, are most welcome without any obligation whatsoever to become communicant members. Our policy is that of "The Open Door."

Please note that once the current "Lockdown" has been lifted and provided Providence is kind, we shall Worship again in our beautiful Sanctuary without impediment.

KFH

## Latest information regarding a return to Sunday worship.

**On the 28th.May the Scottish Government announced a relaxation of the lockdown restrictions and moved into phase one of a route map with a four-phase plan.**

The route map provides an indication of the order in which the restrictions will be gradually lifted, but does not attempt to specify dates for all of the different phases. Rather as we move beyond the first phase, future phases will be based on meeting particular criteria, including those set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

**In Phase 2** the plan is for places of worship to be able to open for private prayer with physical distancing and hygiene safeguards. Plans also to allow marriages, civil partnerships and other types of ceremonies to take place with a limited number of attendees.

**In Phase 3** places of worship can open to extended groups subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

Mass gatherings are not permitted until **Phase 4** of the plan.

## **BROTHERS IN ARMS** *(contributed by N.A.)*

Reading the Courier's supplement to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, many of us found a measure of relief from the woes of Coronavirus. Though it took place a generation ago the sense of thankfulness and joy that the war in Europe had ended is not hard to imagine.

And amongst the tales of heroism on land, sea and air the story of the Rae brothers of Broughty Ferry stands out. The Military Cross for exceptional gallantry is second only to the Victoria Cross, yet between them three of the brothers were awarded four of those prestigious decorations. Their story is of special interest to members of St. Stephen's. For many years Ian Rae was a well-liked Clerk to the Board until his death in 2005.

Ian's M.C. was awarded in October 1944 in fierce fighting near the Dutch town of Venray as the British army pushed towards Germany. He was commended for outstanding leadership and courage under sustained defensive fire.

Bruce, the youngest of the four, joined the Gordon Highlanders, determined to avenge the capture of his brother. He was to win the equivalent of two Military Crosses. The first was for his cool and selfless courage during the North African campaign, He led his men in a daring bayonet charge on an enemy position.

Bruce earned a second M.C. for heroism with the Gordon Highlanders while crossing the Rhine, despite having been seriously wounded a short time earlier.



Fighting near Perugia in 1945 Stanley was awarded the Military Cross during an epic advance which forced the Germans to retreat towards Rome. He had risen to Lieutenant Colonel by the war's end.

The fourth brother, Douglas, served with the 51st Highland Division until he was captured at St. Valerie in 1940. Asked some years ago for his comments on being taken prisoner, he replied, "They marched us a hundred miles. I was lucky- I had a new pair of boots!"

*Footnote: Last year, to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the start of hostilities, the four Military Crosses from the Rae family were presented to the McManus: Dundee's art gallery and museum.*

# CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

## **Meru** is a county in Kenya, which is a country in eastern Africa region.

It is situated along the equator which cuts the county into two halves. The equator cuts across Mt. Kenya which is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second largest mountain in Africa continent.

Meru has a climate that is tropical mountain climate because of Mt. Kenya. it has luxuriant and lush forest vegetation covering about 1/3 of the county. This makes Meru an agricultural county where cash crops like coffee, tea, wheat are grown. Maize, bananas, beans, peas among other food crops are grown.

Tourism is also another economic activity in the region. The county has two main national parks i.e. Meru National Park and Mt. Kenya National Park. The neighbourhood also has Samburu National Park. The parks boasts of the big five animals. These are lion, buffalo, cheetah, rhino and the elephant. Other small animals like the wild beasts, hyena, warthogs, zebras. etc. are numerous.



To find out more or to donate to the Meru /Dundee partnership, please contact: [scemcluckie@btinternet.com](mailto:scemcluckie@btinternet.com)

The people of Meru rely on fresh produce directly obtained from their Shambas. Green fruits and vegetables are readily available in open air markets.

Almost all families have small kitchen gardens. Big farmers also cultivate French beans, product, wheat and horticultural products which are exported to the United Kingdom and other European nations.

The main sporting activities include football, volleyball, athletics and many other social activities. We have numerous cultural activities like traditional songs, a strong cultural government called NJURI NCEKE which is recognized by the Kenyan government and mainly charged with sorting land matters and handling social conflicts e.g. family matters.

With the global outbreak of corona virus, the Meru people and the county at large is struggling with the pandemic.

Schools have closed and social and economic activities are put on hold. People are staying at home and movement of curtailed. Kenya has recorded 1192 cases of the pandemic but Meru County has recorded 2 cases, also churches have been closed. People are praying individually or at family levels.

People are working hard to fight the pandemic but It has however led to loss of food and other basis.

Eventually people are afraid of this uncertainty as if may cause poverty and emergence of social crimes.

We pray to GOD that this pandemic may end and spare the world.



## Email recently received from Elijah

Dear Sheila

Greetings in Jesus name. Hope this email will find you both in good health. We are well too. We feel happy and encouraged whenever we get a message from friends like you. We are now living in fear and worry globally due to this mysterious disease called Covid-19. The figure of those infected in Kenya continue to rise. In these circumstances we only need to take good care of ourselves by self quarantining. I hope you and other friends are exercising maximum care. Our prayer is to call upon God to intervene. God is our protector. Psalms 121.

All learning was suspended and schools closed as you know. Therefore I could not give you any report. However I and on the behalf of the church wish to appreciate your continued concern, prayers and support for the school. When Life is back to normal I will give you the progress.

May you enjoy your time as you quarantine yourself. Pass my love to Joe and our friends.

*With love, Yours in Christ  
Elijah.*

### **Our friends in Meru have been in lockdown for several weeks now and this has resulted in only 2 cases of coronavirus in Meru county compared with 1192 in Kenya as a whole.**

Social isolation has resulted in schools, churches and markets being closed and cultural and sporting activities cancelled.

Meru folk have been tending and developing kitchen gardens so that they are self sufficient but there has been an increase in poverty and petty crime.

Teachers are sending pupils paper home assignments rather than relying on the internet which many can't access.

People are worshipping and praying at home and we are in their prayers.

Lucia Karimi who trained girls to make some of the jewellery I've sold to help girls with secondary school fees has suffered a stroke and is in hospital. She was finding it very hard to feed the orphans she was looking after when this pandemic began and has been under considerable stress.

All in all it can't be easy in Meru, but with their customary resilience and faith in God they are making the best of things and apparently controlling the spread of the virus

I hope that this finds everyone well and that we will soon see one another again in St Stephens.

*Sheila*



Margaret Duffy and I with Hellen the chair of St. Stephens in Meru wearing the hats etc gifted to us



## KALUNBA

### Our Hungarian partner a refugee charity in Budapest.

We received a very positive email from Dora and our partners at Kalunba in Budapest and thought you might like to hear how they are coping at the moment. **WRBF** managed to send £348.30. made up of donations received to help with there ongoing costs.

**Email from Dora:**

### Thinking of you in Hungary:

Our community centre is closed since 2 weeks. Our teachers are doing an amazing job setting up the families to be able to adopt to the online school schemes. We distributed our office computers to the most needy families so kids can cope. Now the lessons are running well, never is there a cancelled class. The kids and families appreciate the attention and soak in the screen time with our teachers. They are doing tutoring and more than that as the public schools are not always coping the best way with the situation some of the public schools really under-perform in this online school function. 3 of our social workers rotate and visit most needy clients regularly and distribute food items for them. We do a lot of online health coaching and safety coaching. Many have lost their jobs and we try to fill in and submit unemployment benefits, but only a very few are entitled as you must have had 365 days of work in the past 3 years in order to benefit. Most who arrived in the past year clearly don't match that and they are mostly in financial direness. We try to negotiate with home owners to lessen the rental fees and we are just about to send out a call for financial support for our international church partners to receive some funds for helping to back up these families.

Our social farm project is booming in its initial setup as you can see in the photos. (potato planting, the new well and the new tractor).

Thank your congregation for keeping us in your prayers and thinking of us. We appreciate it very much. Be safe and greetings and blessings to all in your community.

*Dora - 29 May 2020*





mary's  
meals

a simple solution  
to world hunger

## Mary's Meals Update

I thought you might be interested to know that during the Covid-19 pandemic Mary's Meals has managed, working with local volunteers to organise a distribution of food to parents who collect the equivalent of 1 meal a day for a child while the schools are closed.

All this is done with strictly observing social distancing and hygiene to keep all involved safe. At the moment it is happening in Malawi Zambia and Kenya but they are also in urgent discussions with other countries.

Our backpacks will be ready for distribution in schools once they reopen.

*Jill Oakley*

*29 May 2020*



## Dundee Starter Packs SCIO

.....Supported by Churches

As a result of the ongoing situation the starter packs has been virtually closed over the lockdown period. June should see a return to as near normal as possible and it is anticipated that a substantial number of items will be required to help put the starter packs together. It is anticipated that the demand for these packs will be high and after all the spring cleaning that has been carried out do you have any items that could be donated. Among the items required are tin openers, cutlery, childrens furnishing ( not clothes).

If you are not sure if items you have are suitable or not then please give Liz a phone on: 01738 779923.

There are no problems with storage of the items as Liz has plenty of space.

## WRBF (With Refugees Broughty Ferry)

### **Clothes collection for refugees.**

Thanks to all who have collected clothes. Because the usual method of donating is on hold, I would be grateful if you could keep them for the moment or if this isn't convenient let me know. Either way please call: 01382 736278.

These will be desperately needed when they can be sent to the camps.

# The Sunflower

(Contributed by The Minister)

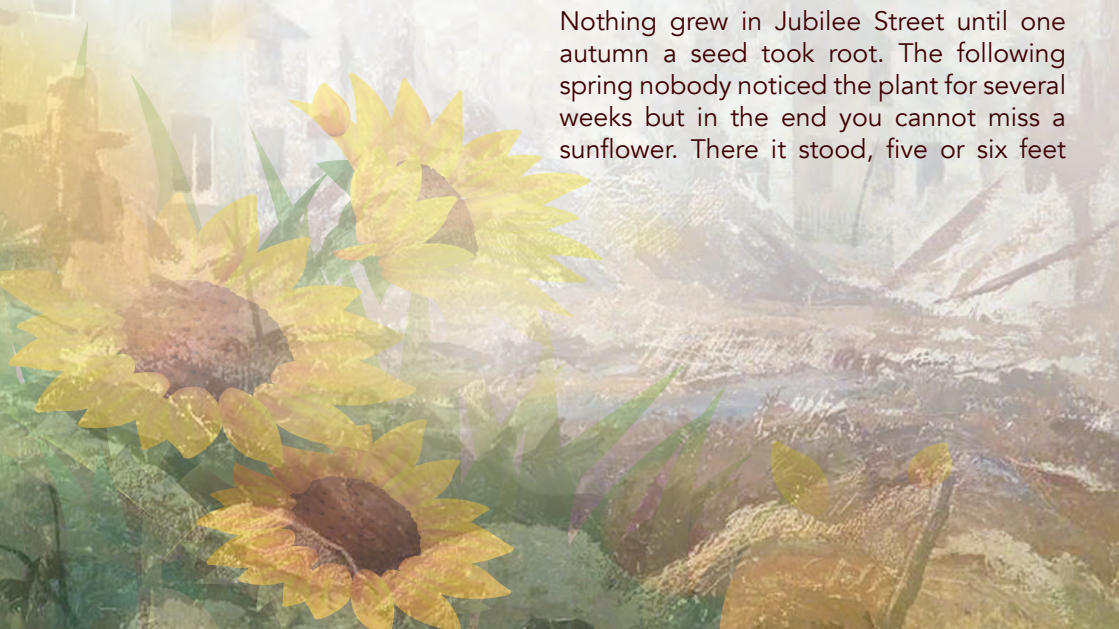
All about was desolation. The stale smell of the canal, the old Victorian tenements, the streets with the rubbish of last month still piled in the gutters, the lamp-posts broken. Some of the flats were boarded up, others had their windows smashed, all or nearly all, looked sad, tired and as if they should have been pulled down years ago.

At first glance or even second or third glance, there was nothing of beauty to be seen anywhere. There was no grass, no trees. Some of the children had never seen trees. Yet, if you looked hard, you might catch sight of a geranium in a high-perched window-box, while on the end of one terrace someone had painted a large mural of

mountains and fields and birds flying in a blue sky but the "NF Rules OK" scrawled across it did not fit in with the original design.

At the end of Jubilee Street the desolation was complete. For thirty years the bomb site had been there ever since a German incendiary had fallen on old Mabel and Arthur asleep in their bed in the front room downstairs. No one had ever been able to persuade them to go to the shelter in the air raids. No one had ever found their bodies. For thirty years the bomb site had been their only memorial, empty, broken, bearing no inscription. No one had ever put any flowers there. It was covered instead with broken pieces of masonry and the inevitable litter. It defeated even the most vigorous and persistent weeds.

Nothing grew in Jubilee Street until one autumn a seed took root. The following spring nobody noticed the plant for several weeks but in the end you cannot miss a sunflower. There it stood, five or six feet



tall, with its heavy, golden head. When the sun was out its yellow was so intense that people would shield their eyes against it but on dull days and most days were overcast it shone almost as powerfully as if a strange light of its own burned within its petals.

It caused quite a stir. Most of the locals had never seen a sunflower and if they had, they had not seen one quite like that. Nothing had grown in their bomb site before. They would gather round in small groups looking at it, wondering what to do with it. There were a few who were cheered by its beauty. Some were changed by it.

That sunflower lifted them out of the drabness of their world and their own drabness fell off. You could tell by the way they walked. They no longer had that tired, dejected stoop so characteristic of the inhabitants of those streets.

Most people, however, remained bewildered. They did not know what to make of the flower. It was so out of place. It did not fit and you could write, "NF Rules OK" all over it, to make it fit.

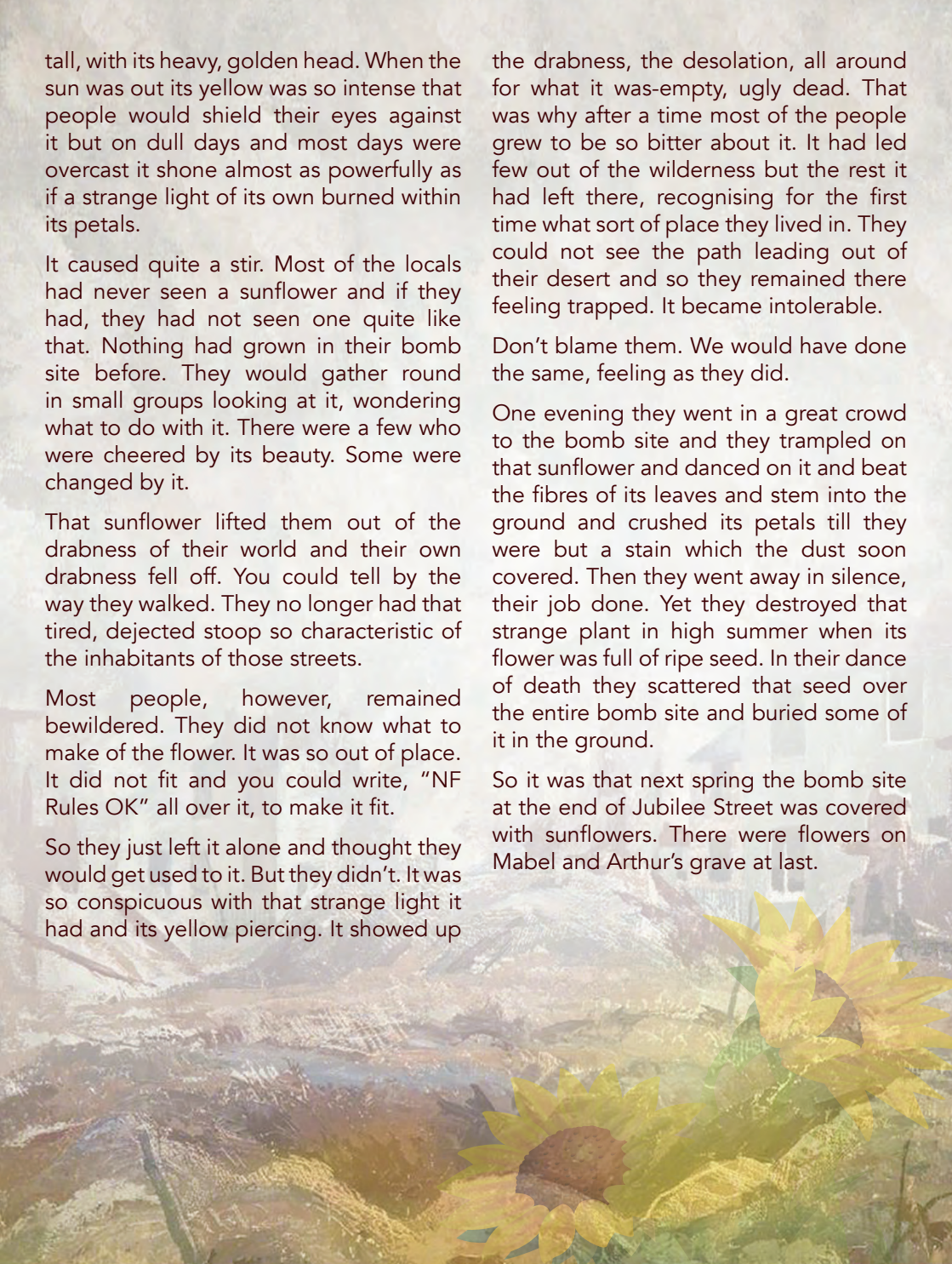
So they just left it alone and thought they would get used to it. But they didn't. It was so conspicuous with that strange light it had and its yellow piercing. It showed up

the drabness, the desolation, all around for what it was-empty, ugly dead. That was why after a time most of the people grew to be so bitter about it. It had led few out of the wilderness but the rest it had left there, recognising for the first time what sort of place they lived in. They could not see the path leading out of their desert and so they remained there feeling trapped. It became intolerable.

Don't blame them. We would have done the same, feeling as they did.

One evening they went in a great crowd to the bomb site and they trampled on that sunflower and danced on it and beat the fibres of its leaves and stem into the ground and crushed its petals till they were but a stain which the dust soon covered. Then they went away in silence, their job done. Yet they destroyed that strange plant in high summer when its flower was full of ripe seed. In their dance of death they scattered that seed over the entire bomb site and buried some of it in the ground.

So it was that next spring the bomb site at the end of Jubilee Street was covered with sunflowers. There were flowers on Mabel and Arthur's grave at last.



A quinquennial visit was recently carried out.  
**Detailed below for your information is the final report  
recently received from the Presbytery.**

**St Stephen's and West Local Church Review. March 2020**

The Presbytery team consisted of Robert McCallum, David Jamieson, Catherine Coull and Cathy Brodie. We had a personal meeting with the Minister, before meeting with the Kirk Session on 19th February, then with the congregation following the service on 1st March.

**CURRENT SITUATION:** In 2013, St Stephen's and West was formally linked with St Mary's under the leadership of Rev Keith Hall. This seemed like a 'good fit' in terms of preferred style of worship, priorities and the congregational profile. Rev Hall conducts a service at St Stephen's at 10am then travels to St Mary's for 11.15. Rev Hall is content with the current situation. He feels that the churches are very supportive of him and appreciative of his ministry. He regards the congregation as his friends, and they look to him to safeguard and provide worship that they are familiar with, something that they fear will disappear when he eventually retires.

**WORSHIP:** Worship at St Stephen's is formal and liturgical. Music is an important feature of their worship together, and the church has a committed and enthusiastic choir with CH3 being used for the hymns. Many members are retired professionals or academics who are nevertheless quite active and happy to contribute to the life of the church – financially and in other ways. Congregational returns show that 50% are over 85; 40% over 65 and 10% over 45. Attendance on Sunday mornings can number up to 75 (there were about 60 on the morning we were there) but young people, children and families were conspicuous by their absence.

**FELLOWSHIP/ PASTORAL:** The congregation would describe themselves as friendly and welcoming. Church is 'family' to them, and the importance of their sense of belonging was emphasised as we talked to them. The fellowship time in the Hall after the church service when the members sit down to tea/coffee and home baking and share social time together is clearly an integral part of their Sunday morning. We heard from those who had arrived as newcomers, but who were quickly integrated and accepted and now feel quite at home. However, the Action Plan submitted by the Session states that they could be more active and 'persuasive' in inviting others to come to church.

**ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH:** The Church has a sizeable hall with a good kitchen, and it is well used by internal and external organisations. There is a Friendship Group, carpet bowls for men and women and a thriving badminton club which meets regularly. The sense of community is strengthened by their annual fund-raising events which include a Coffee Morning and afternoon Cream Tea and a Bridge Drive. There is a strong level of engagement with, and support of, local community events and initiatives: Foodbank, Home Start, Men's Shed, and hosting the local AA group were some instances of this. There is also a commitment to overseas mission through their financial and practical support of Meru Church and School in South Kenya.

**PRESBYTERY PLAN:** The members of St Stephens are settled and very satisfied with the status quo – with their minister, the form of worship, the level of fellowship that they

enjoy and the community engagement which there is. They have been agitated and alarmed at the December 2019 version of the Presbytery Plan which proposes 'one united church' in central Broughty Ferry, consisting of the current New Kirk, St James, St Luke's & Queen Street and St Stephen's & West. They are particularly aggrieved about the lack of consultation prior to the decisions regarding their future and there is a great deal of consternation that the aspects of the church that they cherish – the formal worship and the close fellowship they enjoy – would be lost to them.

**FUTURE POSSIBILITIES:** For them, the Presbytery Plan conjures up the proposition of one united service in a style which the majority of the congregation feel they would find uncongenial and alienating. However, they now understand that a new Presbytery Plan will be developed to take effect from 2022 onwards, and they have been encouraged to think creatively about what the future might be for them, and for Broughty Ferry in general, and to engage with the Presbytery Plan Committee in its deliberations.. The visiting team attempted to describe a range of possibilities and options open to the united churches, with the allowance of the two full-time equivalent staff/ministry members in the current Presbytery Plan. Discussion took place with them about the possibility of building a team, serving the four Broughty Ferry churches, where a range of gifts and skills would be represented – including, very importantly, someone whose remit it would be to work with young people.

**FINANCE:** There is also a great deal of frustration and exasperation at the perception that although their own church is healthy financially and contributes generously towards the wider church, it is being penalised for the economic difficulties experienced elsewhere. We often heard the phrase: Bite the hand that feeds you. They also point out that the land the church is built on belongs to the congregation, so would be theirs to dispose of and benefit from.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH PROCESS:** There have been some grass-roots initiatives among the other churches in central Broughty Ferry to explore ways in which they might share worship and witness in the community. The Session Clerk at St Stephen's attended joint meetings as an 'observer'. However, it is encouraging to note, in the Action Plan which has been submitted, that there a willingness to meet with other congregations, and there is an openness to sharing services.

#### **DELIVERANCES:**

- Commend the commitment of the Minister, Rev Keith Hall, to his congregation, and note their warm appreciation of him and his leadership.
- Congratulate St Stephen's and West for the strong sense of community within the congregation, and their desire to share their facilities with the wider community.
- Affirm the involvement of members of the congregation in a variety of community initiatives.
- Urge St Stephen's and West to engage with the other central Broughty Ferry Churches in exploring possible directions and solutions for the future.
- Urge St Stephen's and West to consider creative and realistic proposals regarding their future, and engage constructively with the Presbytery Planning Committee in their deliberations regarding the Presbytery Plan from 2022 onwards.

## Thank you for all the help during this period of uncertainty.

James Robertson 6, Queen Street ,Broughty Ferry is housebound and would like to thank May Masson for keeping in contact and also the excellent home baking. Plus Petra McMillan for the supply of delicious soup.

If you have any stories about the coronavirus outbreak and how it has affected you or if you would like to acknowledge those who have helped you during the pandemic then please contact George Anderson. Details on the back page.

## Notes

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## STOP PRESS.....

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### Magazine distributors

Due to the current situation the June magazine edition has been posted out to members of the church rather than the usual method of distribution by the team of volunteers.

Hopefully we will be back to the kirk soon.

## AND LASTLY.....



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we begin our journey to the release of lockdown and, hopefully, a return to church on Sundays, I thought it would be helpful to say a few words about the church's finances.

Firstly I must say we are very lucky to benefit from generous payments from our members direct into our bank account. In addition, and due to the prudent stewardship of Treasurers past, we own a significant investment portfolio.

Our dividend income will be lower in the coming months and we are unable to rent our hall for the time being, nevertheless our financial position is stable.

However if you or someone you know would like to make a donation to the church, for example to cover offerings that cannot be made in church or perhaps an extra payment in these unique times then please use the following bank details:

Account Name: St Stephens and West Parish Church  
Sort Code: 83-18-33  
Account: 00255084

We may also be able to claim an extra 25% of your donation through the Gift Aid Scheme if you pay tax.

For information on this or any other questions please contact me on:

**[tonimcnicoll@outlook.com](mailto:tonimcnicoll@outlook.com)**

**Tel: 01382 452217.**

Toni McNicoll  
Treasurer and Clerk to the Board.

# ST. STEPHENS & WEST PARISH CHURCH

## BROUGHTY FERRY

### CONTACTS

Minister

Rev. Keith F. Hall

33, Strathern Road, West Ferry, DD5 1PP

Telephone: 01382 778808

E-mail:

internos@keith-hall.uk

Session Clerk

Mr. Ron McPherson

49, Rossie Avenue, DD5 3NQ

Telephone: 01382 730786

E-mail:

ronald.mcpherson2@btopenworld.com

Clerk to the Congregational Board  
and Treasurer

Mrs. Toni McNicoll

55, Craigie Street, Dundee DD4 5PE

Telephone (home): 01382 452217

E-mail: tonimcnicoll@outlook.com

Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. Alex Perry

56, Dawson Road, DD5 1PY

Telephone: 01382 776905

Magazine Editor

Mr. George Anderson

2, Green Lane, Monifieth DD5 4EX

Telephone: 01382 530299

E-mail: george.anderson12@btopenworld.com

### Door Duty

*2020 St Stephen's & West Parish Church*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Door Duty</b>		<b>Elders Duty List</b>
Sun 28 Jun	10:00	P Wakefield	Mrs A McNicoll	<b>Beadle</b> A Justice
Sun 5 Jul	10:00	Mrs M Knight	Mrs S Grinyer	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 12 Jul	10:00	Mrs E Mussen	Mrs M Masson	A L MacKenzie
Sun 19 Jul	10:00	Mrs A McNicoll	R Stewart	R S McPherson
Sun 26 Jul	10:00	C S Smith	Mrs S Thomson	K Matheson
Sun 2 Aug	10:00	A Justice	Mrs S Grinyer	Mrs L Parry-Richards
Sun 9 Aug	10:00	Mrs E Mussen	Mrs M Masson	P Wakefield
Sun 16 Aug	10:00	A L MacKenzie	Mrs M Knight	Mrs S Thomson
Sun 23 Aug	10:00	Mrs S Rough	Mrs A McNicoll	R S McPherson
Sun 30 Aug	10:00	Mrs S Grinyer	Mrs L Parry-Richards	C S Smith
Sun 6 Sep	10:00	K Matheson	A Justice	R Stewart
Sun 13 Sep	10:00	R S McPherson	Mrs S Rough	P Wakefield
Sun 20 Sep	10:00	Mrs E Mussen	Mrs M Masson	A L MacKenzie
Sun 27 Sep	10:00	Mrs Fiona Watt	Mrs M Knight	Mrs S Thomson