

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

THE SPIRE

Spring 2024



CREAM TEAS



St. Stephen's and West Church's
Social Committee is pleased to
announce the return of our

**fabulous
Cream
Teas**

Tickets
£3 for adults
£1 for children
Pay at the door

Saturday 25th.
May from 2.00pm.
to 4.00pm

Cake & Candy stall, Meru Stall and Raffle



SummerConcert

Saturday
22nd June

Ticket details etc. to be
provided at a later date.

St. Stephens and West Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

Entertainment by The Noteables Community Choir
Guest artist Fiona McRobbie

In aid of Broughty Ferry RNLI and all proceeds going to the station.



Welcome

to the Spring issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Spring 2024

Thank goodness we are coming to the end of a very wet winter and hopefully a bright spring and summer.

The magazine has a bit of everything this time round and I am always looking for articles from readers. The Meru update includes details of Sheila's plans to visit the location in August this year and we wish her well for the planned trip with her colleague. A photograph of the first trip in 2008 is included in the article.

The situation with the Broughty churches continues to move along and details are given of the present position especially the vacancy that has been created as a result of the unions.

Details regards dates for your diary in May and June are also given with posters and further details being available nearer the time.

Enjoy your summer. *George Anderson,*
Editor



Magazine delivery

Could you help deliver a few magazines to members of the church? There are a few locations where I could do with assistance in the distribution of the magazine. If you have the time to help, there are 3 magazines per year and I would be allocating on average 5 to 7 households for the delivery of the magazine. Please contact the editor directly and contact details are on the back page. Alternatively have a word with me if you are at the church.



Breaking News

There's been a fight in the biscuit tin, a lad called Rocky hit a Penguin over the head with a Club, tied him to a Wagon Wheel with a Blue Ribbon and made his Breakaway in a Taxi.

Police say Rocky was last seen just After Eight in Maryland with a Ginger Nut known to police as Rich T.

They didn't leave a crumb of evidence so the Jammi Dodger got away with it!!!!

Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

IN MEMORIAM

“Awhile our moral blindness may miss God’s loving kindness,
And grope in faithless strife.
But when life’s day is over,
Shall death’s fair night discover
Fields of everlasting life.”

December 21, 2023 - Liz Mussen, 6 Douglas Terrace, Broughty Ferry.
January 9, 2024 - Colin Heriot Macdonald Walker, Windsor Court, Broughty Ferry.
February 5, 2024 - Malcolm Davidson, 7 Seaforth Road, West Ferry.

St Stephen’s and West Church 2023 Financial Actvites

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Offerings	£ 24,275	£ 25,983
Tax Recovered	£ 6,368	£ 6,679
Legacies	£ -	£ 1,000
Use of Premises	£ 14,353	£ 12,905
Organisations	£ -	£ 1
Fundraising	£ 1,562	£ 583
Interest/Dividends	£ 11,029	£ 12,225
Other	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
	£ 57,586	£ 59,376
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Church of Scotland	£ 23,729	£ 30,857
Presbytery Dues	£ 658	£ -
Pulpit Supply	£ 900	£ 400
Salaries	£ 6,965	£ 7,500
Organ	£ 426	£ 355
Maintenance	£ 13,884	£ 23,392
Other building costs	£ 14,948	£ 16,424
Organisations	£ -	£ 106
Other expenses	£ 3,600	£ 4,590
Investment Management	£ 4,985	£ 4,580
External Examiners	<u>£ 792</u>	<u>£ 720</u>
	£ 70,886	£ 88,924
Deficit	<u>£ (13,299)</u>	<u>£ (29,548)</u>

Financial position at 31st December 2023

I present the income and payments for the church for 2023 including the 2022 figures for comparison. Our income was down slightly on 2022 although we enjoyed a significant increase in the income from the hall rents and our fundraising efforts. Our expenditure was down by quite a bit as the formula for our contribution to the Church of Scotland was revised and we avoided costly maintenance items. Overall there was a deficit of £13,299. We believe we hold sufficient cash to cover our expenses for 2024 and our investment portfolio has shown signs of recovery.

Toni McNicoll, *Treasurer*

Balance Sheet at 31 December

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Investments	£ 425,092	£ 370,151
Cash	<u>£ 36,418</u>	<u>£ 105,270</u>
	£ 461,510	£ 475,421

The recent deaths of Liz Mussen and Malcolm Davidson

The church lost two great supporters of St. Stephens and West both being very good friends and I would like to recognise their contribution to not only the church but the wider community here in Broughty Ferry.

Liz Mussen

Liz was a long standing devoted member of the church here at St. Stephens and West and a regular attender until health prevented her from doing so.

I met Liz through our common interest which was the RNLI where she worked tirelessly supporting the local station not only with commitment of time but also financially. She was the local Chairperson of the Lifeboat Management Group for a number of years and always supported fundraising activities for the station. Her enthusiasm for the RNLI was there to see and she will be greatly missed.

GA

Malcolm Davidson

Malcolm was educated at Eastern Primary School and Grove academy. He was very sporty and he played for the school at football, badminton and cricket. When he left school he became a naval architect at Caledon Shipyard. He met his wife Moira at Broughty Ferry Operatic Society where their excellent tenor and soprano voices were heard in many leading roles over the years. When they married they set up their first home in Downfield where their daughter Jill was born. Malcolm then moved back to Broughty Ferry and went to college to train as a teacher in technical subjects. His teaching career progressed and when he retired he was in the post of headmaster of the now named Baldrigon Academy in Dundee.

Malcolm was very loyal and valued member of our church choir over many years. As well as with Moira, he will be sorely missed by Jill, his son in law Graeme, his grandchildren Jilly and Calum and indeed all of us who knew him.

Provided by Syd Smith
A very close friend of Malcolm

I Heard Your Voice In The Wind Today - Unknown

I heard your voice in the wind today
and I turned to see your face;
The warmth of the wind caressed me
as I stood silently in place.

I felt your touch in the sun today
as its warmth filled the sky;
I closed my eyes for your embrace
and my spirit soared high.

I saw your eyes in the window pane
as I watched the falling rain;
It seemed as each raindrop fell
it quietly said your name.

I held you close in my heart today
it made me feel complete;
You may have died... but you are not gone
you will always be a part of me.

As long as the sun shines ...
the wind blows ...
the rain falls ...
You will live on inside of me forever
for that is all my heart knows.



Meru update

The good news is — Marjorie Kerr and I have booked our flights to visit Meru in August. You may remember Marjorie , as PT Geography at Grove , initiated the curricular link that first took me to Meru in 2008 , when I was Grove Depute Head. Again she has spurred me on!

The bad news is —that Rev Elijah of St Stephens church was hit by a motor bike in Meru town in February and spent a week in a Nairobi hospital , but is now recovering at home. Elijah looks after us and manages all the logistics for us in Kenya, so please include him in your prayers.

Our August visit will allow me to revisit the three projects -Limbene Primary where we can try out the new computing lab; Meru St Stephens church where we can meet the congregation and the children we support ; and the Meru women's project initiated by Soroptimists and run by Ciford where we hope to volunteer with the girls' projects on self esteem and sexual health while staying in their guest house. I gave the final talk at the last meeting of Dundee Soroptimists by zoom earlier this month.

I am very grateful to church members for your contributions to the Meru plate after our morning service which have raised over £400.

As a thank you I would like to invite you to lunch at 47 Camphill Rd DD5 2JG on Friday April 12th anytime between 11.30 and 2.30pm. There will be the usual variety of homemade soups and savouries costing £5 or a donation and a Raffle and a gift stall. All proceeds to Meru children.

Please let me know by end of March if you would like to come along so that I can cater properly. Thanks.
Please phone or text: 07847934529.

Easter blessings
Sheila



Invitation to Communion

"This is the Lord's table: it is open to all". This is the great invitation that is offered to everyone. Isn't it a relief to know that you don't need to be perfect or pious or even on the membership roll of the church to participate in Communion?

The Communion tokens from two centuries ago are an interesting piece of history. They were also a reminder of the times when the Elders of the Kirk Session could - and did! - decide who would be given a token and was thus allowed to take part.... and who was excluded.

That was then... this is now: thankfully, no one needs any cards, tokens or pieces of paper. If you have some understanding of the significance of what you are about to participate in, then you have a place at the table here at St.Stephens and West.

So, if you've thought about coming to a Communion service but are hesitant, for whatever reason, please put your doubts aside and accept this invitation to join us. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who haven't been for a long time.

This is your invitation to join us on Sunday 28th. April at 10.00 a.m. Coffee and tea plus home baking and biscuits are served in the hall after the service and a maybe a chance to forge new friendships.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Broughty Ferry Churches Group

The Good Friday - hot cross bun giveaway is being held again this year on 29th.March. Churches are asked to donate either packets of traditional hot cross buns, (not fancy) or a money donation towards them. New Kirk hall will be the base, open at 9 am for buttering and distribution and they are looking for volunteers to help with this. Please contact Jill Oakley 736278

For Easter Services in all the Broughty ferry churches there is a notice in the hall giving details and all are welcome to attend any of the services.



With Refugees Broughty Ferry

We continue to support refugees in the Dundee area and further afield. We have four volunteers working for Inspire, Project Scotland helping refugees to prepare for working.

We were delighted with the response for donations of clothes for new asylum seekers arriving with no warm clothing. Thank you for all who responded. We are looking for football boots to enable these men to play.

For those of you who want to continue to donate clothing etc for refugees you can donate to Tayside and Strathearn Help for Ukraine. They are based at Errol airfield and collect donations whether large or small from all over Scotland. They pack container lorries and then driven to Ukraine where the goods are still desperately needed. The collection point in Dundee is John Clarke Volvo, Dryburgh Industrial Estate, DD5 3XH.

With Refugees Broughty Ferry



The T&SH Facebook page has a lot of up-to-date information. We donated £400 to them recently which was used towards transport costs.

Dundee starter packs SCIO



**Dundee Starter
Packs SCIO**
.....Supported by Churches

Dundee Starter Pack is a voluntary charity supported by the Churches. It helps the homeless and needy in the area.

People are referred for different reasons but have one thing in common and that is financial hardship. Referrals are from young people leaving the care system having been given their first tenancy, families that have separated or have had to leave quickly and have few belongings or those living in poor conditions and have no funds

to provide themselves with replacement items. The organisation supplies everyone in need with a Starter Pack of essential household items, bed linen and curtains.

This help enables people to sustain their tenancy, make a house a home and rebuild their lives.

Can you help? If so, please contact **Shirley Thomson on 01382 776776**

An Easter Homily

Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays, the high point, the apex, the crescendo of our faith.

What we are celebrating in this celebration of celebrations is the compelling discovery of the liveliness of Jesus which persuaded a tiny band of faithful followers and friends that the crucifixion at Calvary and the burial in a tomb were not terminal events. Death could not put an end to Jesus of Nazareth. He was, in effect, Somebody Plus!

What then does the Easter event tell us about the nature of God?

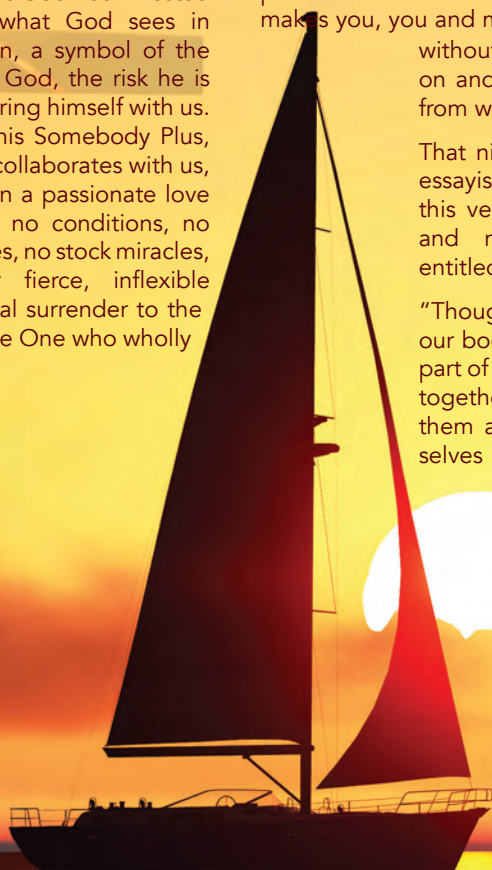
For me, Easter affirms the quite extraordinary worth that God has invested in people. Worth is what God sees in us. The Cross is a sign, a symbol of the sheer extravagance of God, the risk he is prepared to take in sharing himself with us. God, through Jesus, this Somebody Plus, entrusts himself to us, collaborates with us, invites us to enter upon a passionate love affair where there are no conditions, no hard and fast guarantees, no stock miracles, no manipulations or fierce, inflexible confinements, save total surrender to the One who attracts, to the One who wholly persuades.

Easter is rather like being caught up in an absorbing love affair with a mysterious artist. By that I mean not simply a matter of being in love but an acute sense of being loved, cherished, of being given the opportunity to become involved in exploring and sharing those feelings and emotions which cannot be bought or sold. This intense love affair with a mysterious artist is an ennobling, enhancing, empowering experience: the very opposite to all that alienates and dehumanises.

Another way of thinking about the Easter event affording us a sense of personal worth is to say that "Personality" is a vehicle of eternal dimensions. That is, while our earthly frames are prone to fade and decay, our spirits, that which makes you, you and me, me is set on a journey without ending, a road that goes on and on down from the door from whence we were hewn.

That nineteenth century English essayist, Samuel Butler, makes this very point in a rather crisp and neat piece of writing, entitled, "Our Trivial Bodies."

"Though we think so much of our bodies, it is in reality a small part of us. Before birth we gather together our tools, in life we use them and thus fashion our true selves but what we are consists



not in our tool box but in the work we have achieved with our tools."

Without doubt, we have been co-opted by a Creator God to play our unique part in helping complete his unfinished symphony. There is so much worth, value, excitement, challenge in this world, that we are made to feel engaged in hugely big business.

All of the cosmos, from the miracle of an infant's birth to a piece of music by Mozart, from the colouring of the tiniest budgie to the puzzling play of distant galaxies, demands as much credulity as we can possibly muster.

Essentially, what appeals most to me about the entire Easter narrative is that it has absolutely nothing to do with ecclesiastical religiosity and everything to do with the preservation and further evolution of what it means to be human.

Consider this scenario:

Imagine you are standing on the seashore. A ship in the bay lifts her anchor, spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts out upon the ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and you stand and watch her until she hangs like a speck of white cloud where the sea and the sky mingle.

Then someone says, "there she's gone."

"Gone where?"

"Gone from sight that is all."

She is just as large in the masts, hull and spars as she was when we saw her last and just as able to bear her load of living to its destination. The diminished loss of sight is in us, not her.

At that moment, other eyes are watching and other voices taking up the glad refrain, "There she's coming."

That my friends is Easter, the launch of a whole new adventure bursting with fresh beginnings.

KFH

Tea or Coffee after the service

Please consider coming back to the hall after the 10.00 a.m. service for a tea or coffee and a biscuit or home baking. A number already come back to the hall and have a chat .

Morning tea or coffee after church is a tradition in most churches, at least morning services. There is something great about the concept, and not just because we love a good cup of tea or coffee. It reflects the reality that the church is not all about the formal service. The church is the people. The informal gathering after the formal one gives the opportunity for those who are at church to welcome and greet one another and to build one another up.



Broughty Churches update

Since the last magazine the Presbytery of Perth have approved the union of the churches of St.Margarets Barnhill, St.James, St.Lukes and Queen Street and the New Kirk. A service of union has been held and St. Margarets is now a worship centre of the Broughty Ferry Parish Church which is the name of the unified churches. From what I understand only St.Margarets and the New Kirk will be used for church services on or after the 7th.April.

With the creation of a new church to serve Broughty Ferry a vacancy has now been created and a group has been working to put a parish profile together which, once approved by presbytery, will be used for trying to attract a minister or ministers to the new parish church of Broughty Ferry.

Of course here at St.Stephens and West the union has been deferred until a vacancy occurs and Keith has already intimated that he has no plans for retirement.

In the meantime services will continue to be held at St.Stephens and West every Sunday and we will continue to reach out for new members.

Our good friend the Rev. John Duncan has been appointed the interim moderator for the Broughty Ferry Parish Church and will guide them through the vacancy and until the appointment of the new minister or ministers.

John has been invited to our church on the 17th.March to give some details with regards to the vacancy procedures and this will include the following:

- His appointment is for dealing with vacancy business only
- Ensuring a nomination committee is formed
- Nomination committee will number 13 in total
- St.Stephens and West will have 2 representatives on the committee
- Requirement for our Session to vote with regards to Act1 of 2015 which deals with the civil partnership, same sex marriage laws of the church. This could be controversial and involves the voting by two separate kirk sessions. Broughty Ferry Parish Church and also St.Stephens and West. If both vote differently then this would certainly restrict applications for the vacant post/s. The vote has also to be approved by presbytery
- The appointment onto the nomination committee of 2 representatives from St.Stephens and West to be agreed. The appointment is for the duration of the vacancy which is concluded when two ministers have been appointed.

I would suggest that this plan of action could take some time and it could be easily a year plus before the new Broughty Ferry Parish Church has a new minister.

In the meantime and as previously stated, we look forward to continuing as we are which is a welcoming church family and a place where all feel comfortable and benefit from the way we worship. Our church has a lot to offer to the community.

GA



Visit to Iceland January 2024

On a recent visit to Iceland a place we visited was the Hallgrímskirkja church a dominating building perched on the hill overlooking the city. Pronounced hatl-krims-kirkya was named after poet Reverend Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614–1674), who wrote Iceland's most popular hymn book: *Passíusálmar* (Passion Hymns).

Hallgrímskirkja is the largest church in the country, and towers over the centre of Reykjavík. Its 73-metre-high tower provides a wonderful 360° view over all Reykjavík, the mountains around and the ocean stretching west to Greenland and the Americas. Because of this, the tower is among the most visited tourist destinations in Reykjavík.

In the church we listened for a short time to a rehearsal by a chamber orchestra for a concert taking place later in the week. Some photographs taken may be of interest to readers and also a copy of the poem displayed beside candles available for lighting.

Do not let darkness prevent you from seeking the light!

And when you have found it let other people see, re-think and be convinced.

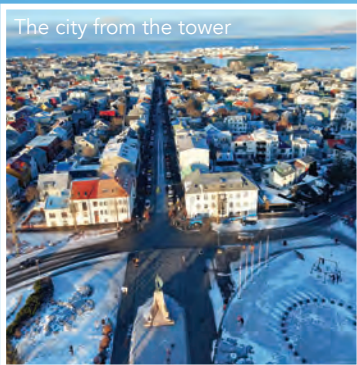
If you want the light to live then give rise to the same yearning in other people.

**Light the light of frankness in the darkness of fear,
light the light of justice in the darkness of corruption,**

**light the light of faith in the darkness of denial,
light the light of hope in the darkness of despair,
light the light of love in the darkness of death**

Light the light!

Bo Setterlind



The city from the tower



Inside the Church



Outside the Church

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
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

(One duty elder with transport should offer to distribute flowers.
Please arrange a substitute if any date is unsuitable for you.)

2024 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 7 Apr	10:00	Simon Davidson	Rhona Anderson	Fiona Watt
Sun 14 Apr	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 21 Apr	10:00	Syd Smith	Sandra McMillan	Alan Justice
Sun 28 Apr (Communion)	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 5 May	10:00	Simon Davidson	Toni McNicoll	Syd Smith
Sun 12 May	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Shirley Thomson
Sun 19 May	10:00	May Masson	Sybil Rough	Sandra McMillan
Sun 26 May	10:00	Fiona Watt	Rhona Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 2 Jun	10:00	Margaret Knight	Toni McNicoll	Ron McPherson
Sun 9 Jun	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 16 Jun	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 23 Jun	10:00	Alan Justice	George Anderson	Ron McPherson
Sun 30 Jun	10:00	Linda Parry-Richards	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield
Sun 7 Jul (Holiday)	10:00			
Sun 14 Jul (Holiday)	10:00			
Sun 21 Jul (Holiday)	10:00			
Sun 28 Jul (Holiday)	10:00			