

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

THE SPIRE

Spring Magazine 2023



All services are at 10am unless shown on the rota which is on the back cover

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
22nd April
2.00pm. till 4.00pm.

Cake & Candy stall and Raffle

The Great Invocation

A Prayer For All Humanity

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men,
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men,
May Love return to Earth

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men,
The purpose which the Master knows and serves

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth

KFH

Welcome

to the Spring issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Spring 2023

Welcome to our March magazine full of articles which I hope you will find interesting. As a congregation we support so many organisations and charities not only locally but in the wider world and the articles demonstrate the measure of our support.

You feel a sense of normality returning to church life with Communion, as we knew it before Covid, being celebrated in April. In the magazine there is an open invitation for us all to join together at the end of April and take part in the act of Communion.

There are a few events coming up in April details which are in the articles including the return of our own Cream Tea event which will include a stall to help fund further projects in Meru. Looking forward already to the home baking stall!

Have a happy Easter and with best wishes from the Editor.

George Anderson



Broughty Ferry RNLI Easter Fayre

A date for your diary. The fundraising group are holding the Easter Fayre at St. Stephens and West hall on Saturday 8th April. Details regarding time etc. will be posted on notice boards and in shops over the coming weeks.



Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM •••••

**"Into the sacred Three, I baptise thee
Into their power and peace, I place thee
May their breath be yours to live
May their love be yours to give."**

February 19, 2023

February 19 Christina Yvonne Jacqueline Milne, infant daughter of Evette Golden and James Milne, 7a Rossie Avenue, Broughty Ferry. Christina was baptised by her great uncle, the Rev. John Duncan who has become such a fine friend to us all within the family of St. Stephen's & West.

MARRIAGE •••••

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned."

December 31, 2022

Sara Redford to Gus Sinclair. Sara is the daughter of Ailsa and Graeme Redford, 21 Balmossie Terrace, Barnhill.

IN MEMORIAM •••••

"The Eternal God is thy refuge and strength, a very present help in every time of need."

November 20, 2022

Shelia Grieve, Bridge View Care Home, Thomson Street, Dundee.

January 21, 2023

Jean Symington, 2 Maryfield Lane, Broughty Ferry.

Pastoral letter

Dear Friends,

It is, I believe, a daunting privilege to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament especially in days of increased and increasing pluralism. As a critical, orthodox, moderate and however one deplores labels, on occasion they are necessary to sharpen thought, clarify issues and stimulate discussion. If clarity, precision and comprehension fail to press upon the mind of contemporary preachers with urgency and insistence, then the whole ecclesiastical enterprise is grossly diminished. I, no doubt like others of kindred spirit, struggle week by week to develop and express a credible Christian apologetic in the face of many current dissuaders. On such is the sheer congregationalism of the Church.

Have we, I often wonder, become so wrapped-up in ourselves, so enveloped by the problems of buildings, finance, inflexible practice and procedure, dated dogma and the like, that we shut people out?

Have we in the church retreated so far from the 'maddening crowd' that we are no longer equipped "to go out into all the world" and have reached the point of almost failing to provide sufficient quality of care so as to help absorb the slings and arrows of human predicament?

Are we still concerned in the Church with the ultimate mysteries of human life

and if so, are we effective and enriching agents of grace and goodwill?

These are the kind of questions which gnaw away at what cerebral tissue I happen to possess: questions about which I am greatly concerned because I believe that primarily people are the very *raison d'être* of the Church, people of all sorts and conditions who deserve to have their humanity affirmed and their individual worth valued and cherished.

Of course, I do not believe that I shall ever be able to adequately implement what I perceive to be the function of the Church in the world today, but hopefully I will continue to be a stumbling-block to those whose Christianity is all locked up in an infallible book and in an infallible building. Of a truth, I find immense personal satisfaction from being allowed to enter a little into the lives of those who belong to what Gerald Priestland once called "The great anonymous Church of the Unchurched." To be sure there is within our city and beyond its borders, a host of very fine people who would not wish to be affiliated to any specific congregation but who are nevertheless, acutely spiritually aware. They too are the salt of the earth and on these occasions when I feel frustrated by the tedious parochialism of myopic congregationalism, they have trumpeted the very voice of God.

Ever sincerely yours.

Keith F. Hall.



The Son of God

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain claimed on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty – three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting the achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best-known celebrity on Earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God?



COMMUNITY NEWS

Broughty Ferry Churches Group

A Christian Aid coffee morning is being held on Saturday the 13th of May from 10a.m. till 12 noon in the New Kirk big hall. It is a great chance for us to work together and be able to contribute to CA who are needed even more to work in countries torn apart by war and natural disasters.

Further details will follow but if interested in helping in any way please contact:

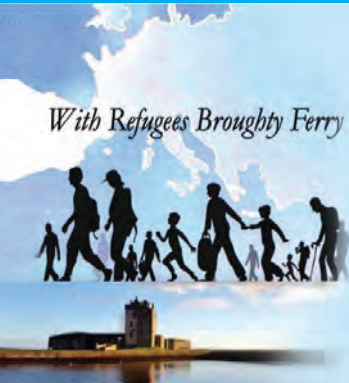
Jill on Tel:
01382 736278.



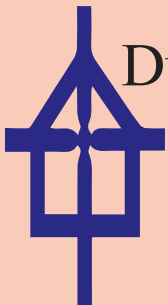
With Refugees Broughty Ferry

We continue to support refugees in Dundee and areas. Working to help those wanting to improve their English and integration informally with befriending and also helping them towards employability. We are fortunate to be able to network with many groups who are working to support refugees.

At the moment our support is much more local and we have welcomed a few more on our group who are all very enthusiastic. We are always looking for more volunteers to join us, so if you are interested in helping in this field please let me know. *Jill Oakley*



Dundee starter packs SCIO



Dundee Starter Packs SCIO

.....Supported by Churches

Shirley is still looking for donations of kitchen ware, childrens furnishings (not clothes) and if you have any items please give Shirley a phone on:

01382 776776

or on email:

thomson.s10@sky.com

Items can also be left in the vestibule at the church door.

Meru update

The difference fundraising makes to Limbene

I was asked by a friend what difference the fundraising since 2008 had made to the pupils at Limbene in terms of their achievement. I felt I gave a very inadequate response as it was a direct question I had never asked. So - I asked Mercy and below is the reply she took time to write on Christmas Eve. It has no statistics nor career destinations but I feel it gives an idea of the difference made through your support over the years . I am immensely grateful to you as my boss will tell you I couldn't get Limbene out of my mind after my first visit as the disparity between what we take for granted in educational resources here and Limbene was huge.

'Hi Sheila - to explain about the great change in Limbine I might miss the right words, because there is much positive impact from each project initiated by you. To begin with the classrooms: from the old tainted iron sheets to new stone built ones, the warmth, more spacious and very conducive. Outrightly this made the kids happy and ready to learn , the water basins improving hygiene and easy cleaning despite the old fashion they were accustomed to carrying jericans The books and new modern lockers, for an individual, no more congesting in one desk which was being shared by 4 pupils per desk, and now the digital world of literacy, waah, this has brought great impact. They used to hear of cyber cafes, but now they have the gadgets right in their school where they can operate them on their own. This has left a legacy in Limbine and will help moulding many generations for the future. Many thanks to you Sheila and the generous supporters. God bless the work of your hands.'



This photo, sent by Silas, brought home to me the difficult choices faced by parents in the Meru region after years of drought. The mother is paying her son's secondary school fees with her goat, for the students to eat, rather than her family consuming it. She has had to choose her son's education over her family having meat.

Since 2012 Silas has completely, honestly and altruistically been my conduit for funds sent to Limbene PS which has now reached the heights of offering computing skills to pupils.

Silas was a Pastor and a Guidance teacher at Meru school in 2012 but is now Principal of Kiriatha mixed secondary.

Visiting Limbene for the 2nd time I was very distressed that I had barely improved the school's lot and in a moment of illumination Silas was the individual I asked to manage the funds for Limbene. In spite of being the busiest and happiest man - radiant with his faith- I know he took on that responsibility wholeheartedly. He has never asked for anything for his school in spite of my persistence. Yet it only has one toilet for hundreds of girls and no dining hall so students sit outside under trees for lunch.

Our link with St Stephens via the Rev Elijah continues and funds sent for Christmas were used to give maize, flour, fat, sugar etc and a Christmas gift for the children in the most needy care families. There has been insufficient funding for the kindergarten to re open because of droughts and famine but we hope things will improve.

Meantime there will be another opportunity to support Meru at the Cream tea where I have been asked to have a stall. There will be a wide range of antique and new Jewellery; original paintings by professional and amateur artist; knitting and craftwork as well as a selection of items from Kenya sent by Elijah. A golden opportunity to buy unique gifts at a reasonable price.

Elijah handing out supplies



Thank you for your ongoing support with the Meru plate at coffee time and for your contributions to my Meru raffle before Christmas and the monthly mid month toiletries collection for vulnerable women and families. Delighted if you leave something by the hedge outside 47 Camphill Rd mid month. This is now the start of the third year of collecting.

Easter blessings and joy to you all.

Sheila

Flowers in the church and also outside

Every Sunday flowers are placed on the communion table and this work is carried out by a small group of ladies. It helps brighten up the sanctuary and also after the service the flowers are given to members who may be ill, celebration of a special anniversary, grieving a death or maybe just as a reminder that the church is thinking about them. Donations can also be made to the flower fund for a display on a significant date. Could you help boost the numbers of those arranging the flowers? Flowers are supplied therefore there is no cost for assisting. No restrictions on age or gender and if interested please speak to an Elder on duty or telephone Shirley Grinyer on 775743.

Outside the church the bulbs should be in full bloom by the time this article is read. An added feature this year is the display of new tulips and additional daffodils in the area running down the boundary wall in Brook Street and also the area next to the railings in Westfield Road. 500 tulips and in excess of 100 daffodil bulbs were planted recently to brighten up these borders and our thanks to RMcP. for arranging and carrying out this work.



Annual General Meeting

Restrictions prevented the AGM of the church being held in 2020,2021 and 2022 and we are now in a position to reinstate this meeting. The plan is to call a meeting of the congregation after the 31st.March and to present the financial statement for the church. An intimation will be made with regards to the date of the AGM.

Easter week services

The list of services during Holy Week has still to be finalised. When received the list will be displayed on the notice board at the front of the church and also put on the website.

Can you bake or supply some hot cross buns?

The distribution of hot cross buns to shoppers in Broughty Ferry will take place on Good Friday. If you would like to donate or help with the provision on the day please contact Jill: 01382 736278.

Invitation to Communion

It is hard to believe that the last celebration of communion held at St. Stephens and West was in 2019. COVID regulations put paid to many of the activities and celebrations in the church but hopefully now behind us and we start to get back to a sense of normality. "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 30th. 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.

Some interesting information regards our Website

If you haven't had the chance to visit the web site for the church then I would direct you to the link: ststephensandwest.org

The web page is regularly updated to reflect what is happening at the church and also some general information regarding our church here at St. Stephens and West.

The history of the church has recently been updated and I would recommend that you have a read of this section as it gives a detailed history of our church from the 1870's to the present date.

It is interesting to read the statistics for the website, how often it is being read, the pages that are most read and also where in the world our web page is of interest.

Some facts that you might find interesting:

On average we have between 350 and 400 visits per month and that is by definition an individual visitor to the website who proceeds to browse the website.

The most viewed pages on the web site are the sections for contacts, adult groups and church services.

The most interesting information is where in the world the page is viewed and the countries that are the main lookers.

Top of the list is USA followed by Great Britain, China, Canada and Russia. This is followed by another 19 countries across the world.

To take this further an invitation will be put on the home page of the web site asking those who look at the site from another country to make contact with us and maybe let us know what it is that is of interest on our site. If there is a response to this it may be possible to create a link with others from abroad and establish a common theme.

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

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

2023 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 2 Apr	10:00	Toni McNicoll	Fiona Watt	Peter Wakefield
Sun 9 Apr	10:00	Sandra McMillan	May Masson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 16 Apr	10:00	Syd Smith	Alan Justice	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 23 Apr	10:00	Ron McPherson	Shirley Grinyer	Sandra McMillan
Sun 30 Apr	10:00	Simon Davidson	Sybil Rough	Kenny Matheson
Sun 7 May	10:00	Peter Wakefield	Toni McNicoll	Fiona Watt
Sun 14 May	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Thomson	Alan Justice
Sun 21 May	10:00	Simon Davidson	Shirley Grinyer	Ron McPherson
Sun 28 May	10:00	May Masson	Margaret Knight	Sandra McMillan
Sun 4 Jun	10:00	Sybil Rough	Toni McNicoll	Syd Smith
Sun 11 Jun	10:00	Fiona Watt	Peter Wakefield	Kenny Matheson
Sun 18 Jun	10:00	Ron McPherson	Simon Davidson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 25 Jun	10:00	Margaret Knight	May Masson	Alan Justice
••••• HOLIDAY NO SERVICES THROUGHOUT JULY •••••				
Sun 6 Aug	10:00	Sybil Rough	Toni McNicoll	Shirley Thomson
Sun 13 Aug	10:00	Ian Justice	Margaret Knight	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 20 Aug	10:00	Ron McPherson	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 27 Aug	10:00	Simon Davidson	May Masson	Kenny Matheson