

THE SPIRE

Spring Magazine 2022

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

I halve a spelling checker

I halve a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marcs four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its really ever wrong

Eye have run this potem threw it
I am shore your please two no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My checker tolled me sew



Welcome to the Spring issue of

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Spring 2022

THE SPIRE

Welcome to our spring edition of The Spire and I am sure we are all looking forward to the spring and summer months. The situation in Ukraine is very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Please consider making a donation to assist the refugees who have fled or fleeing their country for safety in other parts of Europe.

We also congratulate our organist Alex Perry for 50 years of service to St. Stephens and West Church as our organist and choirmaster.

The pandemic situation is also allowing a relaxation in the controls including the wearing of facemasks and on Sunday March 27th it will not be mandatory to wear a mask.
Happy Easter from the Editor.

George Anderson



AN EASTER REFLECTION

Quite frankly, the whole event bores me! Same old plot, thieves, robbers, murderers caught in the act: condemned to death, death by Crucifixion.

There were three Crosses but that one on the middle....strange fellow, no resistance, no struggle and such a haunting look in his eyes. When he breathed his last, the Accursed Hill was bathed in light. He was dead yet his death echoed a promise of new beginnings.

"Always I am with you," said this, the Man for Others.

"I will never leave you till all the seas run dry. Listen for me, look for me and the wonder of my touch will gladden your heart."

Happy Easter.

KFH

Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

BAPTISM

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

January 3, 2022

Darcy Helen & Zara Shirley, twin daughters of Zoe & David Linton-Hannah
Inveravon, Ellieslea Road, West Ferry.

February 13, 2022

Alicia Anne, infant daughter of Hannah and Martin Dunning
Dighty Crescent, Monifieth

March 6, 2022

Isabella Loraine, infant daughter of Ruth and Mike Comb
Balgillo Road, Broughty Ferry.

NEW MEMBER

Mrs Elizabeth Nicholl

Mrs Elizabeth Nicholl - Flat 33 St Vincent Court, St Vincent Street.
Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2DA

IN MEMORIAM

"Not one of us lives and not one of us dies to himself alone. Whether we live or die we belong to God and at every turn, life links us to his gracious purpose."

March 4, 2022 - The Reverend Dr. John Urquhart Cameron B.A., B.Sc. B.D. Ph.D. Th. D.
Parish Minister at St. Stephen's & West, 1974-2008. Howard Place, St. Andrews.

Dr. John, as he was so fondly referred to in the Ferry, was, if I may say so, very much his own person. A free thinker, his knowledge and understanding transcended the boundaries of innumerable disciplines. Articulate, well-informed and compassionate, John always sought to give a credible account of Christianity both from his Pulpit and through the Press. Many of our members have remarked on John's kindness and support in their hour of need.

It is for Jill and the family that we feel for most and trust that a wealth of warm memories will help ease the pain of parting.

KFH

Last April

Last April, on a Sunday, we took one of our "nowhere" drives. My husband was quietly driving a back road. I was occupied in the front passenger seat watching the scenery.

I noticed out of the corner of my eye that my husband was straining to look out my window. This startled me, since his eyes should be on the road in front of him. I asked him what he was looking at out the windows, and he quietly replied, "Nothing." His eyes went back to the road in front of him.

After a few minutes, I looked over at my husband and noticed a tear running down his cheek. I asked him what was wrong. This time he told me, "I was just thinking about Pop and a story he had once told me." Of course, because it had to do with his Pop I wanted to know the story, so I asked him to share it with me.

He said, "When I was about 8 years old, Pop and I were out fishing and that's when he told me that the Pine trees know when it is Easter."

I had no idea what he meant by that, so I pressed him for more information.

He continued on... "The pine trees start their new growth in the weeks before Easter — if you look at the tops of the pine trees two weeks before, you will see the yellow shoots. As the days get closer to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form a cross. By the time Easter Sunday comes around, you will see that most of the pine trees will have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest shoots."

I turned to look out the window and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a week

before Easter, and you could see all of the trees with the tall yellow shoots stretching to Heaven.

The tallest ones shone in the sunlight like rows of tiny golden crosses.

May you find your Easter season filled with beautiful golden crosses

and the love of the Man who made this holiday happen.

He is Risen, Christ the Lord.



Alex Perry

50 years as organist and choirmaster

On Easter Sunday 1972 the date being the 2nd April our new organist Alex Perry took over as our organist and choirmaster and on the 3rd April the church will recognise the 50 years of devoted service that Alex has given. A presentation on behalf of the church will be made by Keith Hall at the close of the service immediately after the Benediction followed by a relaxed reception in the hall where food will be served and the chance to meet Alex.



Messages from the Choir



ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
Since Easter Sunday, the above post has been admirably filled by our new organist Alexander M. Perry, LRAM, ARCM, LTCL
Mr Perry, who is principal teacher of music at Kirkton High School, came to us from Strathmartine Church, where he had been organist for 3½ years
He studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and has had 20 years experience. We hope he will be happy at St Stephen's and West
NA

We must have expected him to stay a while because his appointment was the last thing they did before the psalmody committee was disbanded. He brought a bit of fresh air to the music. Up till then the choir had been mainly singing the old "pot boiler" anthems Alex decided that we sing some more challenging modern music. Because of his position in education, he was able to ask several young musicians to perform in place of anthems during May. This was known as "Music in May". Alex and Helen also provided wine and nibbles in the vestry after the final rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Services.

*Best wishes and many thanks from
Syd and Christine.*

First memory of Alex is our wedding 48 years ago when the young organist played and the choirs of St. Aidans and St. Stephens and West combined to sing together. How happy we were when we returned to St. Stephens and West after 40 years in Fife to find Alex still playing each Sunday.

*Congratulations
from Rhona and George
and apologies for not being
there on the 3rd April.*

Alex has been with us for so long. He has put up with the choir and the organ through it all.

*Thank you Alex for your
patience. Nina C.*

Continued Over

Easter Weekend

Maundy Thursday (14th)

19:00 at St Margaret's, shared service of Holy Communion
19:30 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Watching at the Altar of Repose until 23:00

Good Friday (15th)

12:30 Broughty Baptists (St Vincent Street)
14:00 St Mary's, meditation and reflection.
17:30 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion.
19:00 shared service at New Kirk
20:30 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Night Prayer around the Cross

Saturday 16th April

20:30pm Our Lady of Good Counsel, Easter Vigil of the Lord's resurrection

Sunday 17th April Easter Day

8:00am Open air service at Barnhill Rock Gardens, followed by breakfast at St Margaret's hall
9:30am St Luke's garden open air family service
9:45am, 10:00am, 10:30am & 11:00am services in each church
19:00 Easter Praise, Broughty Ferry Churches' joint service at St James'
Several of these are shared services between churches, but you will be welcome at any service at any church.

Choir messages continued

A message from the Davidsons

Mum and Dad used to take long weekend breaks with Alex and Helen back when they were all still working.

They used to take their respective caravans to the Faskally site in Pitlochry.

Alex would get up early on the Sunday morning and drive back to the Ferry to play the organ in St Stephens.

After the service he would get back in the car and make the return trip up the A9 to Pitlochry.

Mum, Dad and Helen would be sitting in the sunshine waiting for him. When Alex had changed out of his "Church" clothes into his "holiday" gear, pre lunch Sherry would be served.

Lunch would follow with a wee wine then a wee walk and a wee sleep!

Malcolm, Moira and Jill

Broughty Ferry Churches Group

1. Services and events for Holy Week and Easter. Everyone will be made very welcome to join in at these services.
2. With Refugees Broughty Ferry:
 - a) Donations for refugees. At the moment Doug McLaren, Dundee Resource and Re-Use Centre 07986971145 is gratefully accepting donations to be given to refugees and others in the Dundee area who are in need of them. As well as clothes he takes other household goods and furniture. Phone him or leave a message and he will arrange when they can be delivered or he will collect them if needed. One or two smaller items can be put in the basket in the church vestibule on a Sunday. Contact Jill Oakley for further info. 736278. Regarding the Ukrainian refugee crisis there are various local groups collecting to send out to the areas of need. WRBF are looking at how best we can respond with help.
 - b) Postponed Event:- Just before the first wave of covid struck we were about to hold a fun day for refugees and the local community. Of course it was postponed but at long last we are proposing to hold a similar event during Refugee Festival Scotland in June so watch this space or better still the church web site!

Jill Oakley 10/03/22

My first meeting with Alex was in April 1972 when he met the choir probably on the Thursday practice night after his appointment. I explained that as I had a four month old baby I could not guarantee my attendance every week. That "baby" is now 50 years old. So I can therefore always tell how long Alex has been with us ie 50 years in April 2022. Choir practices resumed and were always fun, serious but lighthearted. I must say that he had the patience of a saint at times.

Long may he continue.

Anne

Alex's incredible musical abilities have provided the soundtrack to many of the key milestones of my life and those of my family. From my christening, to confirmation, the blessing of my marriage to the christening of my first child, Alex's beautiful organ music has always been there to enhance the moment. It has also been one of my great pleasures to be able to perform in the choir under Alex's skillful (and extremely patient) leadership. Many congratulations Alex and best wishes for the future.

*From Christopher, Vár,
Joseph and Lydia.*

Congratulations Alex.

Fifty years as church organist is a magnificent achievement. Thank you for the many years of enjoyment of choir practices, anthems and Christmas Choir services.

Anecdote

My first meeting with Alex was actually in a professional context. I had requested a replacement piano for our school. Alex as the Tayside music adviser arrived to look at the problem piano. He then proceeded to play the piano in the style of Les Dawson and then, with a straight face, said he could see absolutely nothing wrong with it We did get our replacement piano, however.

Peter and Helen Wakefield

I joined the St. Stephens & West choir as a teenager in the early 2000s and continued to be a member for the best part of two decades until I moved to England. During this time I thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from Alex's choir leadership, mainly due to his humour, enthusiasm, and musical talent. Alex was also kind enough to play the church organ at our wedding in 2019, and made a very special day even more memorable with his brilliant performances of The Prince of Denmark's March and The Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba. Many congratulations on reaching this significant milestone Alex, and all the best for the future!

From Juliet Wakefield and Bobby Coats.

Alex.....it does not seem like 32 years since I joined St Stephens Church Choir.....I just came along to support Carol as a 13 year old when she decided that she wanted to join.....and I just stayed! In the days of choir practices, preparing for the Christmas Choir service became the annual highlight. Alex would bring out the selected music, some of it found in some dark vestry cupboard, some with the pre-decimal price still evident. This always caused some hilarity and often Alex's selection would not readily be accepted by the choir. The Alto tune in particular, well as often as not, there was no tune to it!.. but it always seemed to amaze me how so expertly, Alex would prepare us so well until we were all thoroughly enjoying it and most of the time seemed to present a polished performance for the grateful congregation.

Helen and Alex....I always appreciated the exceptional array of wine and goodies which you supplied after the final Christmas Choir Service Practice!

I have always loved Alex' droll, dry and quiet sense of humour. I'll never understand how he managed to stay upright on his stool and continue with the service one Sunday many years ago. There was a baptism that Sunday and the congregation had soared with the many relatives and friends of the infant's family. The minister at the time announced just before the sermon that it would be completely understandable if the youngest children were taken out of church at that point in the service. We were all amazed when the whole baptismal party got up from their seats and filed out of the church via the centre aisle. From the choir, a wonderful, deaf lady who has long since passed, announced in her stage whisper....."It's a pity he didn't ask for the collection first!" I just remember seeing Alex's shoulders shaking and with a wonderful grin, his eyes fell to the keyboard and he just carried on.

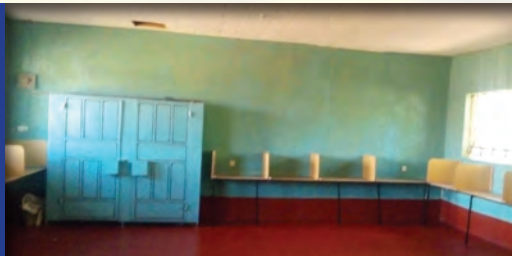
Margaret Knight

Meru Update

Funds raised from Christmas fair provided a computer room at Limbene and resources at kindergarten.

Congratulations to Sheila and her helpers for raising £1800.

Please check out the website for the Meru update in full: www.ststephensandwest.org



Accounts

I present the income and payments for the church for 2021 and I also show the 2020 figures for comparison. Our income was up on 2020 and our expenditure was down. Overall there was a deficit of £11,926 as against £20,255 in 2020. We sold some investments in the year so that we held cash for maintenance work on the church and hall. At 31 December our investments were valued at £479,545 and we held cash of £80,814, a total of £560,359, up £23,550 on 2020.

If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch. Copies of the accounts will be in the vestibule of the church in the next week or so if you would like one.

Toni McNicoll, Treasurer.

**St Stephen's and West Church
2021 Financial Activities**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Offerings	£ 27,236	£ 26,778
Tax Recovered	£ 3,969	£ 2,103
Legacies	£ 2,000	£ -
Use of Premises	£ 5,405	£ 4,939
Organisations	£ -	£ 611
Fundraising	£ -	£ 74
Interest/Dividends	£ 12,534	£ 13,628
Other	£ -	£ -
	£ 51,144	£ 48,134

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Church of Scotland	£ 27,234	£ 31,950
Presbytery Dues	£ 935	£ 889
Pulpit Supply	£ 1,300	£ 60
Salaries	£ 4,300	£ 5,400
Organ	£ -	£ 710
Maintenance	£ 6,137	£ 5,139
Other building costs	£ 15,656	£ 14,672
Organisations	£ 681	£ 120
Other expenses	£ 896	£ 3,840
Investment Management	£ 5,211	£ 4,889
External Examiners	£ 720	£ 720
	£ 63,070	£ 68,389

Deficit -£ 11,926 -£ 20,255

Balance Sheet at 31 December

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Investments	£ 479,545	£ 510,781
Cash	£ 80,814	£ 26,028
	£ 560,359	£ 536,809

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.)

2022 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 3 Apr	10:00	Mrs S Grinyer	Mrs S Thomson
Sun 10 Apr	10:00	Mrs M Masson	Mrs S McMillan
Sun 17 Apr	10:00 (Easter)	Mrs M Knight	Mrs L Parry-Richards
Sun 24 Apr	10:00	Mrs A McNicoll	P Wakefield
Sun 1 May	10:00	Mrs S Rough	K Matheson
Sun 8 May	10:00	Mrs S McMillan	C S Smith
Sun 15 May	10:00	Mrs A McNicoll	A Justice
Sun 22 May	10:00	R Stewart	R S McPherson
Sun 29 May	10:00	K Matheson	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 5 Jun	10:00	S Davidson	Mrs S Thomson
Sun 12 Jun	10:00	C S Smith	Mrs S McMillan
Sun 19 Jun	10:00	A Justice	Mrs L Parry-Richards
Sun 26 Jun	10:00	Mrs Fiona Watt	P Wakefield