



THE SPIRE

Summer/Autumn 2023

St. Stephens and West
PARISH CHURCH
Broughty Ferry

MACMILLAN BIG COFFEE MORNING

The date for MacMillan coffee morning is the 29th Sept and as usual there will be a chance for members to contribute to this very worthwhile cause during coffee after church on a Sunday close to the date.

Please keep an eye open for further information.

Thank you.



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

SOUP AND SANDWICH DAY

Remembrance Sunday

ONLY £5.00 PER HEAD

Proceeds
going to

poppy 
scotland



12th
November

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25th November - 10 am - 12 noon

Adults £3.00

Children £1.00.

Tombola,
Cake and Candy
and a raffle.

Welcome

to the Summer/Autumn issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Summer/Autumn 2023

Hard to believe that August has gone and now we start to think of our autumn activities. The hall continues to be well used by the community with numerous groups taking advantage of the facilities available. All of the organisations and groups using the hall are detailed on the church web site: ststephensandwest.org

I have always been keen to hear about the hobbies of members and was delighted to be invited to a members house to view a model railway which has been collected over a few decades. Have you got a hobby that might be of interest to our members?

I have included an article with regards to the future of the churches in Broughty Ferry and the proposals which are on the table for discussion and approval. It appears to have taken a long time to get where we are now and we can only wait to hear what the next step is and hopefully the article helps explain the present situation.

Details of a few up and coming events which might be of interest are listed and your support would be welcomed. If you would like to have an event publicised in the magazine please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

There are always spare magazines so please use them for passing onto friends or neighbours who might be interested in joining us here at St. Stephens and West.

George Anderson



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Please don't be misled by this heading. Christmas is still more than 3 months away and plenty of time for shopping! However, included in the winter magazine for 2022 were Christmas Greetings from members of the church, an example is shown below and the proposal is to do something similar in the 2023 winter magazine. So, if you would like to take advantage of this all you have to do now is send me an email or give me a call to let me know and I will contact you in November to agree the text for the greeting. Contact details are on the back page of the magazine. There is no charge for putting a greeting in the magazine.

"To all of the members of St. Stephens and West and their families a very Merry Christmas and happy safe New Year from George and Rhona Anderson."

Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

MARRIAGE

"Love suffers long and is kind."

July 8, 2023: Finlay McNicoll to Brittany Rodger within Malmaison.
Finlay is the second son of Toni and Euan McNicoll,
Craigie Street, Dundee

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Jemma Finlay:

1F Hopepark, 15 Victoria Road, Broughty Ferry DD5 1BL

Mrs Janet Frances Hampton:

Hampton Villa, 97D Dundee Road, Broughty Ferry DD5 1JB

Mr Eric and Mrs Trisha Hughes:

28 Selkirk Gardens, Dundee DD4 0JZ

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."*

March 4, 2023

Frances Foley 8c Queen Street, Broughty Ferry.

March 16, 2023

Mary Angus, aged 100, Willowbank Care Home, Carnoustie.

April 3, 2023

Elizabeth Pitcairn Gray Ramsay, 8 Morar Place, Balgillo Park.

April 26, 2023

Joy Griffiths, 52 Albany Road, West Ferry

June 13, 2023

John Stuart, 43 Regent Place, Broughty Ferry.

June 6, 2023

Netta Spence, 9 Gillies Place, Broughty Ferry.

Would you be interested in joining or help start up a

Knit & Natter GROUP

This idea has come from a chat between a few members after the Sunday service. It would be an opportunity to look at maybe knitting or craft ideas and at the same time to just have a good natter over a cup of tea. *If interested please phone Ailsa Redford on:*

07710 089235 or discuss with her at church.



What is happening with regards to the Broughty Ferry Churches?

It all seems to have been going on for a very long time and I wanted to include something in this edition and hopefully after some discussion with our Session Clerk Ron McPherson detail where we are at present.

At St.Stephens and West we are extremely fortunate to have our minister Keith and it should be stressed that our church only becomes vulnerable on the occasion of his retirement. Unlike the other churches in Broughty Ferry where vacancies exist and the plan is to unite the congregations of Barnhill St.Margarets, Broughty New Kirk, St.James and St.Lukes and Queen Street. The whole congregation is to be served by 2 full time ministers and one MDS appointment working in a team ministry.

Progress had been made over a lengthy period of time but it was discovered that Dundee Presbytery had not followed the

process of establishing a union under church law correctly. This resulted in the need to rescind the process and now Perth Presbytery, which now includes the old Dundee Presbytery have started the process again and meetings convened to take forward.

Going forward the proposed worshipping centres are Barnhill St.Margarets and Broughty Ferry New Kirk with St.James and the St.Aidans Centre used for missional purposes. St.Stephens and West remains as it is until it becomes vacant. In the near future we may be asked to convene a meeting of the congregation to accept the union and in our case a deferred union.

We are here because of declining membership numbers nationally. It is pleasing to note that we continue to attract new members to St.Stephens and West and look forward to doing so for a few more years.

GA



Sustained by Recollection

Joshua 4:1-7

Colossians 3:12-17

A recent press release reported that somewhere on the periphery of the city of London, a Victorian rubbish dump had been discovered. From that dump eager treasure seekers were extracting old bottles, bits of crockery, household implements, bricks, tiles and old iron: all the miscellaneous and, one would have thought, useless debris which a century of damp and decay had failed to reduce to dust.

The insatiable demand in our society for anything "old" is quite remarkable. Furniture, bric-a-brac, pots and pans, which a few years ago would have been and indeed were discarded as useless, are now painstakingly refurbished, polished and sold for what would have seemed to those who first used them, quite incredible prices.

The reason for this obsession to preserve those relics of the past is not easy to identify. Part of the reason may lie in a certain sense of disillusionment with so-called progress, or even a loss of nerve, an inner half-conscious fear that things are somehow getting out of hand or that the future no longer holds out an inviting prospect but seems dismal, dull and rather frightening. The brave new world promised not so long ago by scientific prophets now seems "brave" only in the sense that one has to be brave to live in it!

Perhaps that is part of the reason why people are turning from the somewhat chilling prospect of the future to the simpler, more familiar realities of the past, given tangible shape through such pathetic relics as an old bottle on the mantelpiece

or a faded music hall handbill in its frame on the wall. For these items, in however fragmentary a fashion, afford us something of the reassurance that comes from a sense of history, the awareness, if you like, that earlier generations of people like ourselves, though with different difficulties, somehow managed to cope with life. We understand and to some extent sympathise with this apparent hunger for reassurance from the past, for we too are sustained by recollection.

Go, for example, into the eloquent silence of a quaint country Kirk and if your spiritual sensitivities are at all acute, then immediately you will feel enveloped by a vivid sense of the history of that particular sacred shrine. And how much deeper your affinity with that environ when you take the trouble to learn something of the life story of the building, of the background to those whose names are recorded on its memorials or on the faded gravestones in the Kirk yard outside. And how much deeper still, if some of those names belong to individuals whom we have known and continue to cherish.

In an extract from *Memoirs of Childhood and Youth*, Albert Schweitzer concludes:

“We live by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. These significant hours do not announce themselves as coming but arrive unexpected. Nor do they make a great show of themselves, they pass almost unperceived. Often, their significance comes home to us first as we look back, just as the beauty of a piece of music or of a landscape often strikes us in our recollection of it.

Much that has become our own in terms of gentleness, modesty, kindness, willingness to forgive, loyalty, resignation under suffering, we owe to people in whom we have seen or experienced these virtues at work, sometimes in a great matter, sometimes in a small. A thought which had become an act sprang into us like a spark and ignited a new flame within us. If we had before us those who have thus been such a blessing to us and could tell them how it all came about, they would be amazed to learn what passed over from their life into ours.”

In all the flimsy casualness and flippant novelty of a passing day, are we not sustained by recollection? By recollecting the hallowed associations, the enriching intimacies, the raw emotions, the innumerable golden hours we shared with the long, the short and the tall, in our lives are we not held fast and in sacred communion thereby enabled to endure every besetting vicissitude?

That nineteenth century wizard of words, Arthur Hugh Clough, expresses the sentiment in three succinct stanzas:

KFH

**Say not the struggle naught availeth
The labour and the wounds are vain.
The enemy faints not, nor faileth
And as things have been, things remain.**

**For while the tired waves, vainly breaking
Seems here no painful inch to gain.
Far back, through creeks and inlets making
Come silent, flooding in, the main.**

**And not by eastern windows only
When daylight comes, comes in the light.
In front the sun climbs slow, o how slowly
But westward look, the land is bright!**

All aboard!

An article on members hobbies.

I had the opportunity to visit a member of our church who has a great interest in railways and railway modelling an interest spanning over 40 years.

The one thing that surprised me was the level of detail on each model, not only the trains but the buildings etc. as can be seen in the first photograph. Now for those who want to hear about the technical side the track gauge is known as '00' which became popular in the 1950's and 1960's. For many boys it was a dream to become



an engine driver and Frank Hornby's Dublo train sets in some ways realised that dream.

When visiting I was shown all of the stock that had been accumulated over a number of decades and also the track that had been installed in the garden to allow an imaginary route to be constructed. The route is from Edinburgh Waverley to Aberdeen via Stonehaven along the cliffs high above the North Sea from Stonehaven to Aberdeen.



A regular visitor to that line was the Royal Train with six coaches, resplendent in the Royal Household colour of Claret and hauled by the mighty 'Duchess of Sutherland' steam locomotive. This is now modelled in miniature as shown above and makes its way around the garden on the track created.



It is hard to believe that the models are made to an accurate 4mm to the foot scale and I can see why there is so much excitement building and working with models of this size.

For those who find it difficult to imagine what size of engines and buildings that we are talking about just look at the first picture. Above is that picture again but an added finger which gives you an idea of the size.

It was a privilege to view the models, buildings, railway lines etc. that have been collected and constructed over the years and witness the enthusiasm that all the family have in maintaining and building this collection.

GA

Meru update

I was grateful to the organisers of the Cream tea in the Spring who gave me the opportunity of having a table for Meru at this successful event, which was additionally attended by stalwart Meru supporters. Rev Elijah sent several artefacts for the stall which gave it a Kenyan feel and I was ably assisted by Abby aged 8 and Dougray 10

who surprised me with their business acumen. The stall raised c. £200.

I also gave a talk to the local Rotary about Meru which was nerve wracking as I hadn't used technology for a couple of years but thanks to John Watson it went smoothly.

I am very grateful to church members who go back for a

cup of tea or coffee after the service and support the Meru plate raising £450.

A message from Mercy: We are grateful for your church who always remember us in all aspects. Here in Kenya we are undergoing a very hard economic time. Inflation has gone as high as 100% and we can barely afford basic commodities. It is also very windy and cold but we continue praying to God to strengthen the attachment between us.

The funds bought more computers for Limbene PS (picture of the computer lab) so children now have daily computer training: funded education and basic needs for ten orphans supported by Elijah: bought building supplies for a school dining room and gave a boost to McMillan local services. It's good to know where every penny goes.



Having dispersed funds from the Meru charity account I then received £100 from a housebound supporter so my next fundraiser is kick started. Hopefully I will have a stall if there is a Christmas fair. In addition my husband won a huge teddy at a golf club do so I will raffle that before Christmas.

If you would like to support my monthly toiletries collection for Women's Aid. Women in the criminal justice system and men and women supported by the Salvation army, please bring any donations to church around the middle of each month or leave at my door 47 Camphill Road where you will generally see painted stones for donations atop the wall.

My email address is scemcluckie@btinternet.com if you wish to get in touch with me.

I continue to be very grateful for your support of my efforts and the Meru plate.

Thank you

Sheila



The fundraising group are organising a full afternoon tea event to be held at the Masonic Lodge Hall in Brook Street Broughty Ferry.

Date of event:

Saturday 14th October from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are limited in number so buy early.

Tickets priced at £15 per person.

Access for the disabled is available .

Tickets available at the lifeboat shed or

by phoning: **07707 270104**



BFCG

Broughty Ferry Churches Group has been fairly quiet over the summer but we marked the end of gala week with a Songs of Praise hosted by St Mary's Episcopal Church. We were given a warm welcome and there was a large turnout of people from all churches. They were asked to put forward their favourite hymn and as most were known by everyone we raised the roof!

BFCG Jubilee Book. The sub group have been working hard with preparing it for printing before Christmas after the hard work done by each church author. Hopefully we will have a fairly comprehensive book of our churches past and present in the Ferry. It is hoped to be on sale for Christmas.

St. Stephen's and West BFCG reps. I am stepping down now from the committee and so new St. Stephen's and West representatives are needed to give fresh input into this important ecumenical group.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

Jill Oakley 01382 736278

BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

I apologise for mentioning Christmas at this time of year but this is my chance to remind you about this important event that can give such joy and smiles to those who may not get any Christmas presents at all. For many years we have taken part in the Broughty Ferry community appeal for filled shoe boxes which are collected in at the beginning of November. Please look out for further information and leaflets and hopefully once again we will be able to contribute boxes and fillers.

Jill Oakley 01382 736278 for information

Blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/



BFAOS 100
Broughty Opera

21-25 NOV 2023
GARDYNE THEATRE, DUNDEE
BROUGHTYOPERA.CO.UK/TICKETS

THE SHOW YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF

Irving Berlin's
WHITE CHRISTMAS
THE MUSICAL



 **TICKETS**

Or Contact George Anderson

BASED UPON THE PARAMOUNT PICTURES FILM WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN BY
NORMAN KRASNA, NORMAN PANAMA AND MELVIN FRANK
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **IRVING BERLIN** BOOK BY **DAVID IVES AND PAUL BLAKE**
ORIGINAL STAGE PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY **WALTER BOBBIE** ORCHESTRATIONS **LARRY BLANK** VOCAL AND DANCE
ARRANGEMENTS **BRUCE POMAHAC**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

ST. STEPHENS & WEST PARISH CHURCH

BROUGHTY FERRY

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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 3 Sep	10:00	Linda Parry-Richards	Shirley Thomson	Syd Smith
Sun 10 Sep	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Alan Justice
Sun 17 Sep	10:00	Toni McNicoll	Sybil Rough	Ron McPherson
Sun 24 Sep	10:00	Kenny Matheson	May Masson	Fiona Watt
Sun 1 Oct	10:00	Margaret Knight	Simon Davidson	Fiona Watt
Sun 8 Oct	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 15 Oct	10:00	Syd Smith	Sandra McMillan	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 22 Oct	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Alan Justice
Sun 29 Oct	10:00	Simon Davidson	Toni McNicoll	Kenny Matheson
Sun 5 Nov	10:00	Peter Wakefield	Sybil Rough	Shirley Thomson
Sun 12 Nov	10:50	May Masson	Ron McPherson	Syd Smith
Sun 19 Nov	10:00	Fiona Watt	Rhona Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 26 Nov	10:00	Margaret Knight	Kenny Matheson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 3 Dec	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Peter Wakefield
Sun 10 Dec	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 17 Dec	10:00	Alan Justice	George Anderson	Fiona Watt
Sun 24 Dec	10:00	Sybil Rough	Sandra McMillan	Ron McPherson
Sun 31 Dec	10:00	Shirley Grinyer	Toni McNicoll	Syd Smith