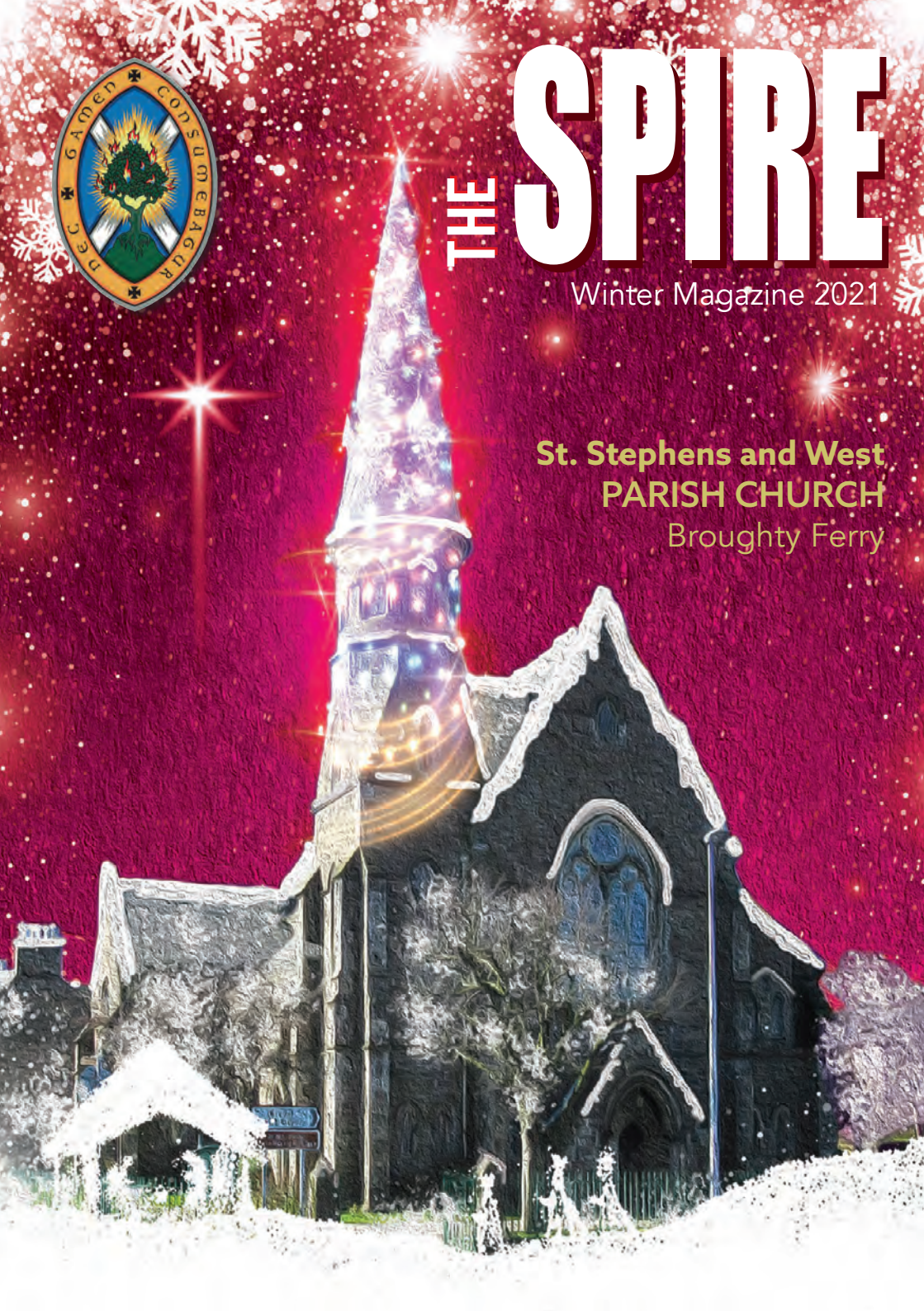




# THE SPIRE

Winter Magazine 2021

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





# Christmas Waiting

God will come like the last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
Has played the trees to bone and earth  
Wakes choking on the mould,  
The soft shroud's folding.

God will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth opens  
On mist, to find itself arrested in a net  
Of alien, sword-set beauty.

God will come like the dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet and penny-masks  
Its eye to yield the star-snowed fields of sky.

God will come like crying in the night.  
Like blood seeping, like flesh tearing  
As the earth writhes to toss him free.  
God will come like a little child.

KFH

Welcome  
to the Winter issue of

St. Stephen's & West Kirk  
Magazine  
Winter 2020

# THE SPIRE

It has always been a pleasure to put **The Spire** together as a means of communication for the members of **St. Stephens and West** and indeed I am pleased to be putting together a winter edition for the year 2021.

It has been another difficult year for us all as a result of the pandemic and hopefully in the following weeks and months we can still keep the momentum up to get back to some normality. Already our church hall is back in business with numerous organisations and clubs restarted and also we have now resumed our friendly cup

of tea or coffee after the service. Downside is the home baking is still not permitted, but there are plenty of biscuits etc.

I hope you like the magazine and as always look for your comments (good or bad), suggestions and ideas.

I would also take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

*George Anderson*



I have taken over Starter Pack from Liz Mussen. I just want to remind everyone that there is a basket in the vestibule for any donations that can be brought to the Church. If however items are too big to bring I am very happy to collect. My telephone number is **01382 776776** so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The items needed are:

Crockery, cutlery, pots pans, utensils, casserole dishes, mugs, tumblers, storage containers, bed-ding, towels, curtains.

*Shirley Thomson*



# Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

## BAPTISM

**"A little child shall lead them."**

October 31, 2021

Eva Coreen Griffiths, infant daughter of Kate & Rhydian Griffiths  
c/o Helen & John Crawford, Ballgillo Road, Broughty Ferry.

## MARRIAGE

**"Love suffers long and is kind."**

September 18, 2021 - Rory McNicoll to Allison Scott  
c/o Toni and Euan McNicoll, Craigie Street, Dundee

October 8, 2021 - Paul Neighbour to Catriona Ingram  
c/o Nina Cowan, Beaumont Crescent, Broughty Ferry.

## IN MEMORIAM

**"The Eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are everlasting arms."**

March 19, 2021

Robert Samson, Tigh-na-Murin, Monifieth.

March 29, 2021

Ronald Grieve, Bridgeview Care Home,  
Thomson Street, Dundee.

Sept 7, 2021

Christine Murray (Campbell)  
Westerton Avenue, Broughty Ferry.

Sept 9, 2021

Scott Murray, Westerton Avenue,  
Broughty Ferry.

Sept 15, 2021

Anne Walker, Windsor Court,  
Broughty Ferry

Oct 29, 2021

Norman Allan, Stratheden Road,  
West Ferry.

## FOUR NEW MEMBERS

**Mrs I M Brodie**

(Joined 6th Dec 2020)  
16 Hamilton Terrace  
Broughty Ferry DD5 2PR

**Miss Afsoun Khodadad**

(Joined 6th June 2021)  
16b Church Street  
Broughty Ferry DD5 1EZ

**Mrs Evelyn McKay**

(Joined 17th Oct 2021)  
7 Ogilvie Court  
Broughty Ferry DD5 1LR

**Desmond J M Martin**

87 Godstow Road  
Wolvercote  
Oxford OX2 8PF

## St. Stephens and West web page

For information the address for the web page is now:

<http://ststephensandwest.org/>

It was necessary to find a new provider and hence the change in the web address. The web page is updated at regular intervals and church rota, Meru update, Broughty Churches update, hall users etc. can all be found on the web.

It is interesting to note who shows interest in our web site and also from where in the world. In just one month we have had 128 hits from USA and other hits from Canada, Russia, Sweden, Germany, Italy, China, France, South Korea, Greece and Japan.

St. Stephens and West has gone global!!

## On the web page you can find more information regards :

**Meru** - money being raised to continue the work started in 2008. Recent craft fair raised more than £1000.

**BFCG** - ideas for a community fridge getting great support. With refugees Broughty Ferry still require donations for setting up home and also clothing for winter.

**Hall users** - full details shown regards who uses the hall and when. Plus contact details should you be interested in joining as a user.

## Tea and coffee After the church service

We are now back in the hall after the morning service for a friendly cup of tea or coffee plus biscuits etc.

Unfortunately home baking is still not allowed to be served but it is so nice to see a few come back after the service.





## Thank you Norman

It is exactly 2 years since Norman Allan retired as the editor of the church magazine, something that he did for 50 years. It was at his presentation that we recognised his 50 years of outstanding loyalty and imaginative journalism. Taking on the post of Editor was going to be a tall order but over the past 2 years Norman was a great source of encouragement to me because he was aware of the importance in keeping the magazine going.

Over the past 2 years he provided me with a few articles and I now have the greatest pleasure in printing the last 2 items that I received from him before his passing. His sense of humour and his recognition and gratitude to others are in his last two articles. A piece called 'THE CHRONICLES OF NAMRON THE PROPHET' and his recognition of the work carried out by Mary Saunders.

Thank you Norman for all that you did in the 50 years as editor.  
GA

## Mary Saunders



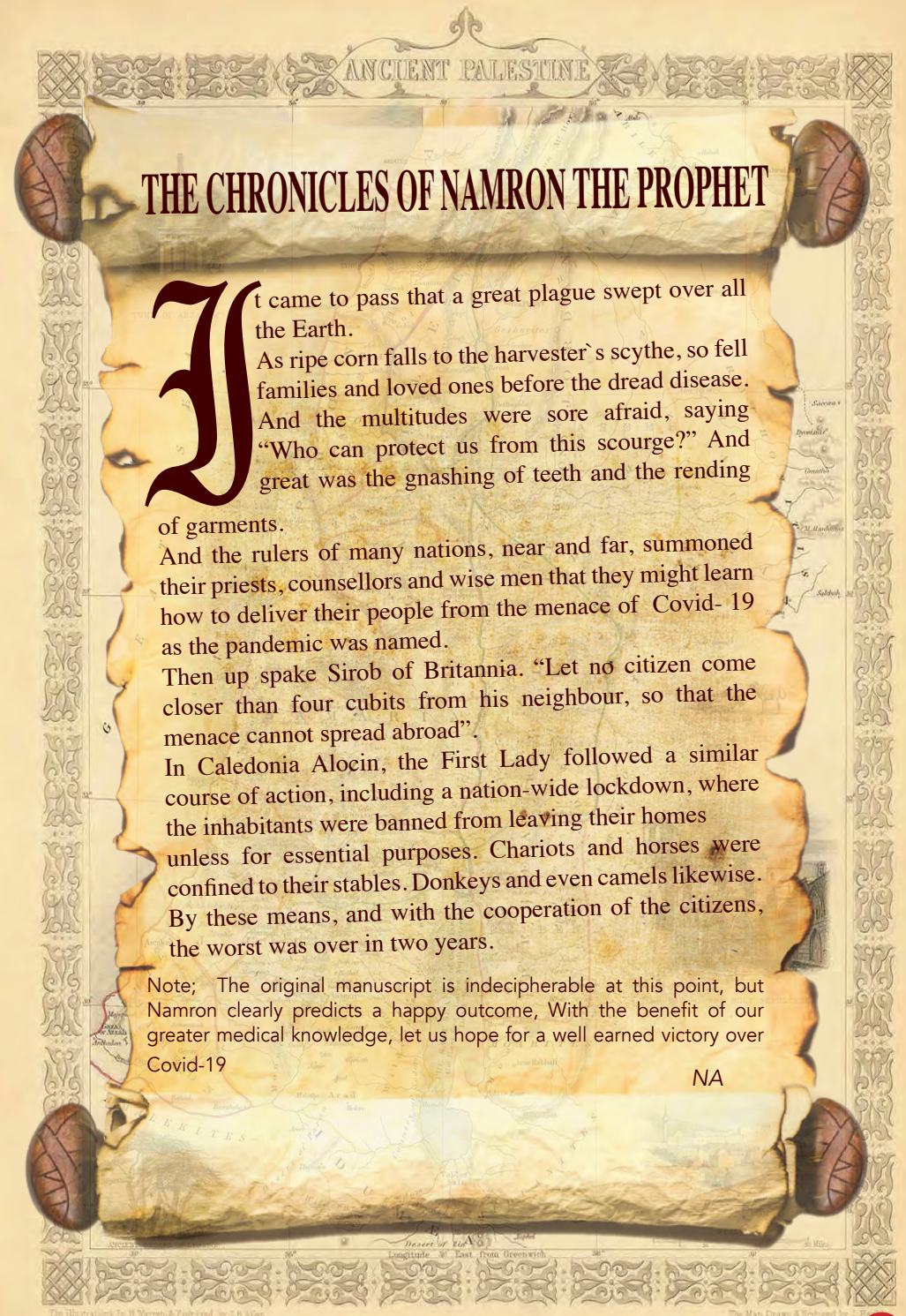
Mary Saunders, a long term Clerk to the Board of St Stephen's, is to be commemorated with a special tree in a prominent area of the Barnhill Rock Garden.

Mary was a founder member of the popular gardening group and also of Broughty in Bloom.

There are also plans to install a boat/flower planter at the Castle Green, to be named: "The Mary Saunders"

### A message from the Allan family

Hazel, Howard and Murray wish to express their thanks to their friends here at St. Stephens and West Church for all the cards and letters of sympathy which they received on the sudden death of Norman. They are much appreciated. Thank you.



## THE CHRONICLES OF NAMRON THE PROPHET

It came to pass that a great plague swept over all the Earth.

As ripe corn falls to the harvester's scythe, so fell families and loved ones before the dread disease. And the multitudes were sore afraid, saying "Who can protect us from this scourge?" And great was the gnashing of teeth and the rending of garments.

And the rulers of many nations, near and far, summoned their priests, counsellors and wise men that they might learn how to deliver their people from the menace of Covid-19 as the pandemic was named.

Then up spake Sirob of Britannia. "Let no citizen come closer than four cubits from his neighbour, so that the menace cannot spread abroad".

In Caledonia Alocin, the First Lady followed a similar course of action, including a nation-wide lockdown, where the inhabitants were banned from leaving their homes unless for essential purposes. Chariots and horses were confined to their stables. Donkeys and even camels likewise. By these means, and with the cooperation of the citizens, the worst was over in two years.

Note; The original manuscript is indecipherable at this point, but Namron clearly predicts a happy outcome, With the benefit of our greater medical knowledge, let us hope for a well earned victory over Covid-19

NA



# The Ground of our Hope

## Advent 2021

Isaiah 40:1-8 & 10-11 St. Luke's Gospel 1:39-55

Is faith honestly possible for people today? Has the idea or notion of God not become a piece of dreary doctrine surviving from the realms of antiquity? Or, is it possible to perceive in Christianity the expression of a reality so assured that we can trustingly give ourselves to it? Is faith, in the world as it is, anchorable, unshakable, enduring, ultimate?

Here's my dilemma, what happens when the apparently trustworthy grows elusive? To whom shall we go when the spark within us flickers and fades, when our personal impetus for life and living, when our spirit falters and flags, when the very object of our being is blurred? To what, to whom, do we cling?

In short, do we have grounds for Hope?

Hope is not easy to define: perhaps we might say that hope is like an open space in front of a person. Into that space a person can project his or her dreams, his or her aspirations. That space provides room for manoeuvre, for growth, so that an individual may develop their potentialities. Without such a space, personal development is arrested, stunted. As long as we are prepared to rise to the challenges and responsibilities of life, we have hope. Our work, our leisure, our family life are all lived in hope and very often the roots of that hope lie too deep for words.

But in order to have some semblance of meaningful hope, don't we need memory?

A history that forms us, moulds us into who and what we are. To be denied a past can be a thoroughly dehumanizing experience. To be rootless, anonymous, bereft of the dignity of a tradition reduces us to a paralysis state of deprivation and fear.

Hope is humble. It contains no

guarantees, does not render the living of our days a slouch but rather affords us the strength to cope with the awkward, the difficult, the allegedly insurmountable.

Among my many books, there are two slim volumes of which I am very fond: one is called, *The Humility of God* and the other, *The Humanity of God*.

Humility and Humanity are closely related.

Latin grammarians tend to believe that the words, "humilitas" and "humanitas" are derived from the word, "humus", meaning, the earth.

Humble people remain close to the earth: human beings are formed from the dust of the earth. Thus, whether we are thinking of the Humility of God or the Humanity of God, we in fact focusing our attention on his earthliness.

In the past, faith as tended to dwell on the remoteness of God, his transcendence, his almightiness, his heavenliness. But, God is, if he is to have any impact at all, God of the earth.

Certainly, he is the Lord Most High but through the Incarnation (which is after all what the season of Advent is all about) he was pleased to make himself known as Lord and Father of the Most Low.

Mary sings of that in *The Magnificat*:

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree. In the remembrance of his mercy, he has helped his servant Abraham and his prosperity shall never end.

Of such is the ground of our Hope, this Advent and always.

*Keith F Hall*

*The Night Hope Was Born*







## EARLY MORNING WALK

*Sun Rise at Broughty Ferry Beach 1990*

I turned my steps eastwards as dawn was just breaking  
And slowly the vista unfolded,  
Such breath-taking beauty of utter perfection  
That no human hands could have moulded.

Magnificent colour bathed white curly clouds  
Beribboned with bands of pure gold,  
The river, reflecting the glory above,  
So still as the picture unfolds.

Just visible now, the golden red ball;  
The colours are changing again,  
Horizon on shadow – dark – far away,  
Encompassing beauty in frame.

In the blink of an eye it is over and gone,  
How I wish that the magic could stay,  
For a few precious moments, I glimpsed the Devine,  
At the start of another new day.

*Margaret Young*



## History of Holly

Before holly was hung in houses to accompany Christmas trees, it was considered to be a sacred plant by the Druids. While other plants wilted in winter weather, holly remained green and strong, its berries a brightly coloured red in the harshest of conditions.

The Druids regarded holly as a symbol of fertility and eternal life, thought to have magical powers. In Druid lore, cutting down a holly tree would bring bad luck. In contrast, hanging the plant in homes was believed to bring good luck and protection. Holly was also thought to protect homes against lightning strikes. Romans associated holly with Saturn, the god of agriculture and harvest, and decked the halls with its boughs during the festival of Saturnalia.

Early Christian calendars mark Christmas Eve as *templum exornatum*, meaning “churches are decked,” though supposedly Saturnalia celebrators didn’t allow some Christians to hang boughs in honour of Christmas. Christians adopted the holly tradition from Druid, Celtic and Roman traditions, and its symbolism changed to reflect Christian beliefs.

Today, Christians consider holly symbolic of Jesus Christ in two ways. The red berries represent the blood that Jesus shed on the cross on the day he was crucified. Legend states that holly berries were originally white, but that the blood Christ shed for the sins of humankind stained the berries forever red. A holly’s pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns placed on Jesus’ head before he died on the cross.

Holly is known as *christdorn* in German, meaning “Christ thorn.” Both of these symbols are meant to serve as a reminder to Christians of Jesus’ suffering, but they aren’t the only stories tying holly to Jesus. One claims that the cross on which Jesus was crucified was constructed of holly. Another says that holly sprang up from his footsteps. Less

common symbolism includes the holly’s white blossoms representing purity, and the idea that if the holly used to decorate a home for Christmas is prickly, the man will rule the house for the coming year; but if the holly used is smooth, the woman will rule.



# 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.)

#### 2022 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

#### Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 2 Jan	10:00	Mrs S Grinyer	R S McPherson
Sun 9 Jan	10:00	Mrs M Masson	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 16 Jan	10:00	Mrs S Rough	Mrs S Thomson
Sun 23 Jan	10:00	R Stewart	Mrs S McMillan
Sun 30 Jan	10:00	S Davidson	Mrs L Parry-Richards
Sun 6 Feb	10:00	Mrs S Grinyer	P Wakefield
Sun 13 Feb	10:00	Mrs M Knight	K Matheson
Sun 20 Feb	10:00	Mrs S Rough	C S Smith
Sun 27 Feb	10:00	Mrs S McMillan	A Justice
Sun 6 Mar	10:00	Mrs S Thomson	R S McPherson
Sun 13 Mar	10:00	Mrs M Masson	Mrs Fiona Watt
Sun 20 Mar	10:00	Mrs L Parry-Richards	A Justice
Sun 27 Mar (BST begins)	10:00	P Wakefield	K Matheson