

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

THE SPIRE

Spring 2025



CREAM TEAS

St. Stephen's and West Church's
Westfield Road, Broughty Ferry,
is pleased to announce the
return of our
**fabulous
Cream
Teas**

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



Saturday 7th June
between
2.00pm and 4.00pm

Stalls - Cake and Candy, Raffle and Meru



Pulmonary
Fibrosis Trust



Children's Hospice

The two charities will be the Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust and CHAS,
this is a children's Hospice in Kinross.

The **MERU STALL**

Stall will be available on the following dates:

Saturday May 24th. from 2.30 to 4pm

Saturday June 7th. from 2.00 to 4pm

St. Stephens and West Hall

Original jewellery, paintings, new knitted items, unique gifts
and many other items.

Welcome

to the Spring issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine

Spring 2025

A warm welcome to readers of this edition of The Spire, a magazine for not only the members at St. Stephens and West but the wider community.

For some reason age features a lot in this magazine with 90th birthday celebrations for two long serving members of the church and also the 150th anniversary in July of St. Stephens and West being used as a church.

Ukraine is featuring a lot in the news and how we pray for a ceasefire. I have included an article about Easter traditions in the country which you may find of interest. Some may want to do something similar in their own homes this Easter?

I wish you all a very happy Easter and now look forward to the summer months and hopefully some good weather for us all.

*George Anderson,
Editor*



Prayer of Approach

"I am the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord.

"I am the One who was, is and evermore shall be."

When the world is too much against us, leaving us feeling hopelessly lost and forlorn, to whom shall we go but to Thee, our most gracious and generous Father God.

O Thou who art the Alpha and the Omega, take us frail creatures of a passing day and equip us to cope with the living of this hour. Renew a right spirit within us, shower us with Easter Love: the Love that knows no bounds, the Love that encourages us to find personal peace and poise in the hollow of thy most tender hand.

Thou providence has not always been kind to us, yet do we trust in the One who was, is, and evermore shall be.

Amen

Financial position at 31st December 2024

St Stephen's and West Church 2024 Financial Actvites

Our finances are in good shape, allowing us to maintain our church and the hall in good condition. below is a breakdown of our income and expenditure.

As of 2024, our investments were worth £432,283 and we held cash of £71,074.

	2024	2023
Income		
Offerings	£ 23,511	£ 24,275
Tax Recovered	£ 8,953	£ 6,368
Legacies	£ 25,000	£ -
Use of Premises	£ 14,330	£ 14,353
Organisations	£ 4	£ 82
Fundraising	£ 708	£ 1,562
Interest/Dividends	£ 11,288	£ 11,029
	£ 83,793	£ 57,669
Expenditure		
Church of Scotland	£ 27,685	£ 23,729
Presbytery Dues	£ 902	£ 658
Pulpit Supply	£ 200	£ 900
Salaries	£ 7,549	£ 6,965
Organ	£ -	£ 426
Maintenance	£ 17,876	£ 13,884
Other building costs	£ 20,105	£ 14,948
Organisations	£ 140	£ -
Other expenses	£ 3,630	£ 3,600
Investment Management	£ 4,909	£ 4,985
External Examiners	£ 792	£ 792
	£ 83,788	£ 70,886
Surplus/(Deficit)	£ 6	-£ 13,217



Easter in Ukraine

Ukrainians have many long-standing Easter traditions in which Christian precepts are intertwined with ancient pagan beliefs.

Preparations for Easter in Ukraine begin in advance when people observe a long Lent. The last week before Easter was called the White Week – during this week, people cleaned the house, washed all surfaces and decorated the house with towels.

For Easter in Ukraine, ritual pastries are prepared – Easter cakes. More eggs are added to Easter cakes to make the dough a deep yellow colour, symbolising the sun. Easter cakes were decorated with bird and flower figures on top to signify spring and fertility.

During the baking of Easter cakes, housewives forbade their household to walk near the oven, ventilate the room, and slam the door – it was believed that the dough would not rise due to a draft. It was considered a good omen if the Easter cake rose high and baked

evenly, which meant happiness and prosperity for the whole family.

Another symbol of Easter in Ukraine is the willow tree. Branches and willows are brought into the house during Palm Week and then decorated for Easter.

The third well-known symbol of Easter is Easter eggs. Painted and dyed eggs symbolise life, the sun and resurrection. The art of Easter eggs – Pysankas a great Ukrainian tradition when people use wax to create meaningful designs on the egg shells.

On Easter Day itself, it is customary to collect various foods, Easter cakes and Easter eggs in a basket. The whole family goes to church for a service and blesses the food. Then, at home, the whole family sits at a festive table, and the meal always starts with an Easter egg. For dessert, they eat Easter cakes.

MERU Udate

Limbene school is in their words about to receive 'many blessings'. With our support Limbene has grown from a school with ramshackle buildings in a dust bowl to the top school in Meru sub county, where the local Head teachers gather for meetings in the computing lab we have built and equipped with 20 computers. The charitable foundation attached to Safaricom, the main local internet provider, has been alerted to their success by an alumni of the school who has moved nearby with his American wife, who has a link to the government. Safaricom has decided to sponsor Limbene and will provide Science labs and a new administration block starting in April. Their resources will take the school much further than I ever could - but pupils over the last 17 years have benefited from our efforts.

Rev Elijah continues to support 12 orphans, living with disabled carers, in Education and our funds raised for Christmas were useful in starting the new term. Thank you for supporting the Meru stall & raffle for Christmas.

Silass small secondary - Kiaritha has enough to start building the dining hall and I will continue to support this. Mercy's bush school benefitted from a new class set of desks and lockers and Limbene from teachers desks and reading materials for early primary pupils. Receipts received for all of this.

There is a possibility of iPads donated to Grove academy staff by the Moira

Stewart Trust during covid and no longer needed being sent to Meru for pupil use. Through Mary Wallace in Perth I have found a company to transport them to Kenya and have raised the funds for this.

Recently a kind neighbour gave me calendars and diaries to sell which raised £120. I also gave a talk at Monifieth Rotary about Meru and am due to speak at Dundee ladies Probus in August.

I'm very grateful to St Stephens for allowing me to hold my Arts & Crafts and gifts stall for Meru. I persuaded my husband to schedule a Spring break



to Sardinia & Corsica to avoid the last Saturday in April and May - the dates of the Cream tea in past years. Unfortunately I'm away on June 7th but as friends and relatives are already busy crafting Margaret Duffy and Marjorie Kerr have agreed to 'man' the stall. There are some excellent gift items at reasonable prices. I've also kindly been given the hall for the stall on May 24 th from 2.30 - 4 pm. It would be lovely to have your support at the Meru stall.

Once again thank you for all your support over the last 17 years. Easter blessings and peace wished for all

Sheila



COMMUNITY NEWS

Broughty Ferry Churches Group

The Good Friday - Hot Cross Bun Giveaway

Each year Hot Cross Buns are distributed to shopkeepers and people in the street on Good Friday. Churches are asked to donate traditional buns or money to purchase same.

Volunteers are also required to prepare the buns and to distribute them.

If you wish to donate or volunteer, please contact Linda P-R (07746 571816). Thank you.

There will be a poster in the hall giving details of the services taking place in all the Broughty Ferry churches over the Easter period.



With Refugees Broughty Ferry

With Refugees Broughty Ferry



There was a marvellous response by all of the local churches to a request for donations just before Christmas for bedding for a group of refugees. Thank you to all who responded. We were also able to hand over a donated bike kindly given by one of our members for use by the refugees.

There will be 'Info and Update' meeting on Thursday 1st May in central Broughty Ferry and you are invited to come along to hear more of our work and how you can help. Lookout for more details of venue and time etc.

We continue our work mentoring and befriending and helping with integration.

Jill Oakley. WRBF

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

christian
aid

This will be taking place on Saturday 17th May in Broughty Ferry Queen Street East Church Hall.



Further details to follow in due course.

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 27th April at 10.00 a.m. Coffee and tea plus home baking and biscuits are served in the hall after the service and maybe a chance to forge new friendships.



90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Ron McPherson



February was the month when after the morning service, 90th birthday celebrations were held in the hall.

The first celebration was for Ron McPherson our Session Clerk and the other later in the month for Professor John Grinyer. Both are long standing members of St. Stephens and West and it was an honour and a privilege for members of the congregation to be able to be part of their celebrations.



Professor John Grinyer



Just out of interest these are a few of the things that happened in 1935 – 90 years ago.

Board game Monopoly goes on sale for the first time.

Ramblers Association founded.

Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engine is first flown at Hucknall Aerodrome.

Speed limit in built up areas reduced to 30 mph.

Reflective cats eyes first used on British roads.

Silver jubilee celebrations for King George V.

The driving test becomes compulsory.

Rowntrees of York produce their first chocolate crisp bars which in 1937 will be renamed Kit Kat.

ON NOT BEING A BUZZARD

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 - St. Luke's Gospel 5:1-11

It was in that exceedingly popular daily newspaper, *The Courier*, that I first found the following amusing, yet telling lines.

Where are the playmates of yesterday, the boys we knew at school?
What has become of the studious one and where, oh where is the fool?

What has become of the orator, whose passion it was to recite and that bashful boy who could not speak for fright?

And what became of the model boy who was always the teacher's pet?

And where, oh where, is that rascal, the one we will never forget?

The studious one, we have been told, is driving a bus these days, while the fool has thousands of stocks and shares and a business that pays.

The orator we knew so well is a humble clerk in a store, while the bashful boy is an MP now, who in Parliament, holds the floor!

The model boy is behind steel bars for cooking the books, they say.

And what you ask is that rascal up to?

Why, he's filling a pulpit, of course!

You can never tell what we shall become.

Possessed of an innate desire to make something of ourselves, we develop, we grow, we change. More and more we appreciate the ability to think for ourselves. After all, who wants to spend life lying on a bed of unexamined assumptions?

Better by far, to refute the theory that nothing should ever be done for the first time!

I'm not an advocate of change for change's sake: not all changes are synonymous with improvement. Changes are often little more than novelties and novelties rarely endure.

But I am an advocate of the type of change that does not shrink from creativity.

Most of us enjoy belonging to an organisation that is pro-active, imaginative, fulfilling and creative. That which is moribund, static, sinking in the sand, is a complete turn off.

The sad consequences of insisting on certainty means shying away from creativity and that diminishes people.

Creativity is not confined to the ingenious efforts of composers, novelists, playwrights, actors and architects. Creativity is not restricted to the gifted few, it stretches far beyond. It is more to do with the art of living, your life, my life. Creativity is about the way we live, how we live, the way we relate, what we are prepared to risk and why.



That was a disturbing incident we heard of in the third Gospel: Jesus calling Peter and Andrew and James and John to follow him.

Without negotiation about salary, perks or pension, they immediately leave their nets, their fishing boats and tackle and go with him!

Don't you find that unbelievable?

It certainly seems quite irresponsible. How could those hard headed fishermen do such a thing, it goes against the grain, makes no sense: hadn't they obligations to meet, bread to be put on the table?

But what Peter and Andrew, James and John did, suggests that much of what we assume is irrefutable really isn't. We can change and that's what creativity is all about.

The image I have come to value most concerning the person of Jesus is the one which suggests he takes enough of the fear and apprehension out of uncertainty, to energise our creativity. He points us to possibilities yet untapped, dimensions yet unexplored, opportunities yet to be taken. He helps us make freedom, love, beauty, mercy, compassion, kindness more real.

There is an appealing story about buzzards: appealing because at heart, it is all about creativity.

The buzzards in the story are the ones who were supposed to be in a scene in the film: Hud.

Set in Texas, Paul Newman was supposed to ride up, discover a dead cow, look up at a branch lined with buzzards and in his distress over the loss of the cow, fire his gun at one of the buzzards. Then all the other buzzards were to fly away into the wild blue yonder.

The first problem with shooting the scene was the scruffy conditions of the local buzzards. So more photogenic buzzards had to be flown in at considerable expense.

The second problem was how to keep the buzzards sitting on a branch of a tree until it was time to fly. The solution was to wire their feet to a branch and when Newman fired his gun, to pull the wire, release their feet and

allow them to fly off. But the camera crew hadn't reckoned with the mentality of the buzzards. With their feet wired, the buzzards had balance problems and kept flopping forward!

After five or six episodes of pitching forward, passing out, being revived and pitching forward again, the buzzards gave up. When the wire was pulled the next time and their feet released, the buzzards sat there with a bemused grin: "we've tried that before, it didn't work, and we are not going to try it again!"

The producer, now at his wits end, had to fetch a high powered buzzard therapist to restore their self-esteem!.

Most of us have had the equivalent experience of the buzzard flop. Like them, we have given up and settled into a less risky, less humiliating life-style.

But following the Master of Men, means taking risks no matter how many times you flop.

Do something with your life for the sake of justice, exercise compassion, create something beautiful, lift someone beaten and broken and bruised.



Iain Crichton Smith, a noted Scottish author, urges us:

**Avoid that man with the book, the speech machine
The rinsed boy who is forever clean.
Keep clear of the scholar and domestic dog
And rather than sunny smoothness, choose the fog.**

**Follow your love, the butterfly where it spins
Over the wall, the hedge, the road, the fence.
And love that disordered man who sings like a river
Whose form is love, whose country is forever.**

KFH

July 14th - 150 years

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first service at St. Stephens and now St. Stephens and West.

A snapshot from the history of the church in 1875, 1925 and 1975 which you may find interesting

On July 14th, 1875, the new parish church of St. Stephen's, Broughty Ferry, was established, and the Rev. James Cooper inducted as the first minister. The church had just over 500 communicant members of whom over one-third were domestic servants — a fact which gives some indication of the social structure of the Ferry. The church was run by two committees: the Kirk Session, made up of the elders, who had control of all ecclesiastical matters, and the Committee of Managers, an elected body who administered the finances and the fabric. The minister was chairman of the Kirk Session but had no position by right on the Committee of Managers. Normally this would be of no significance but during the period of construction it was a potential flash point. It was in fact here that the first signs of stress began to show.

In 1925 a vacancy occurred with the departure of the Rev. Douglas Bruce. As on all previous occasions the vacancy committee chose a man of radically different character. After the effervescent Bruce they chose the Rev. J. C. Conn, a shy, grave, academic from Elgin. The great event in the early years of his ministry was the final major union of the churches in Scotland. After the splits and disruptions of the late 18th and early 19th century, the Scottish Presbyterian denominations slowly came together during the early 20th century. The other churches in the land were not involved. The Catholic Church ministered largely to the Irish immigrant population who numbered around 25% of the total inhabitants of Scotland. The other denominations such as the English Anglicans, Methodists, and Congregationalists, or the Anglo-American Baptists and Unitarians, were merely tiny pockets of individuality. By the late 1920's the essentially Scottish congregations were mainly in two denominations: the Established Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland.



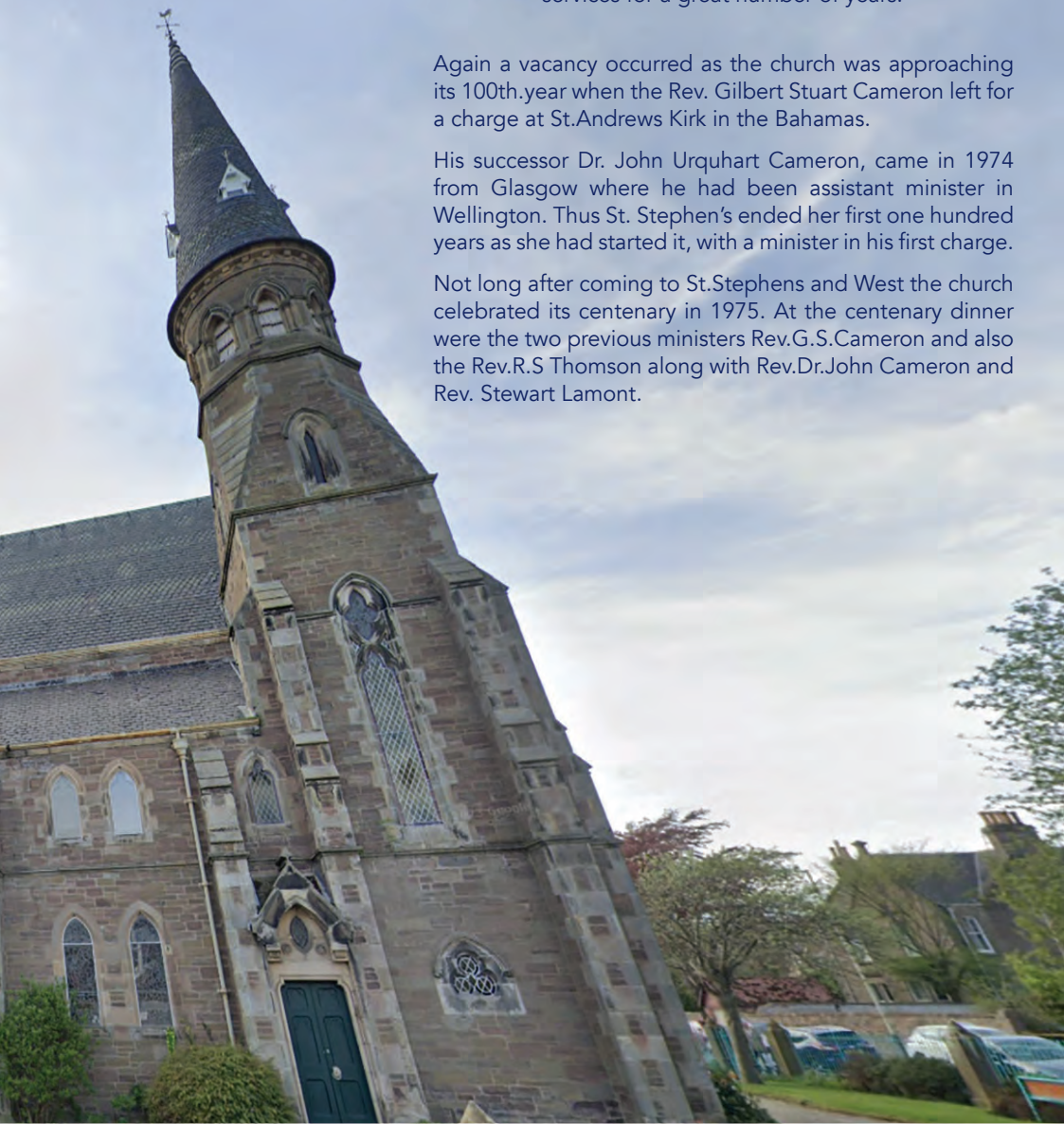
In 1929 they came together to form the present day Church of Scotland. Prior to the Union, there had been two churches serving the West Broughty Ferry area: St. Luke's United Free and St. Stephen's Established. All over the country the two competing local churches either united or else split the parish between them as an interim solution. The latter procedure was adopted in the Ferry, but the two churches held united summer services for a great number of years.



Again a vacancy occurred as the church was approaching its 100th year when the Rev. Gilbert Stuart Cameron left for a charge at St. Andrews Kirk in the Bahamas.

His successor Dr. John Urquhart Cameron, came in 1974 from Glasgow where he had been assistant minister in Wellington. Thus St. Stephen's ended her first one hundred years as she had started it, with a minister in his first charge.

Not long after coming to St. Stephens and West the church celebrated its centenary in 1975. At the centenary dinner were the two previous ministers Rev. G. S. Cameron and also the Rev. R. S. Thomson along with Rev. Dr. John Cameron and Rev. Stewart Lamont.



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.)

2025 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 6 Apr	10:00	Alan Justice	Rhona Anderson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 13 Apr	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 20 Apr Easter	10:00	Syd Smith	Toni McNicoll	Shirley Thomson
Sun 27 Apr Communion	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 4 May	10:00	Linda Parry-Richards	Simon Davidson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 11 May	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Fiona Watt
Sun 18 May	10:00	May Masson	Sybil Rough	Syd Smith
Sun 25 May	10:00	Fiona Watt	Simon Davidson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 1 Jun	10:00	Margaret Knight	Toni McNicoll	Ron McPherson
Sun 8 Jun	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 15 Jun	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 22 Jun	10:00	Alan Justice	George Anderson	Ron McPherson
Sun 29 Jun	10:00	Toni McNicoll	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield
Sun 6 Jul Holiday				
Sun 13 Jul Holiday				
Sun 20 Jul Holiday				
Sun 27 Jul Holiday				
Sun 3 Aug	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson
Sun 10 Aug	10:00	Fiona Watt	Toni McNicoll	Syd Smith
Sun 17 Aug	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Alan Justice
Sun 24 Aug	10:00	Simon Davidson	Alan Justice	Ron McPherson
Sun 31 Aug	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson