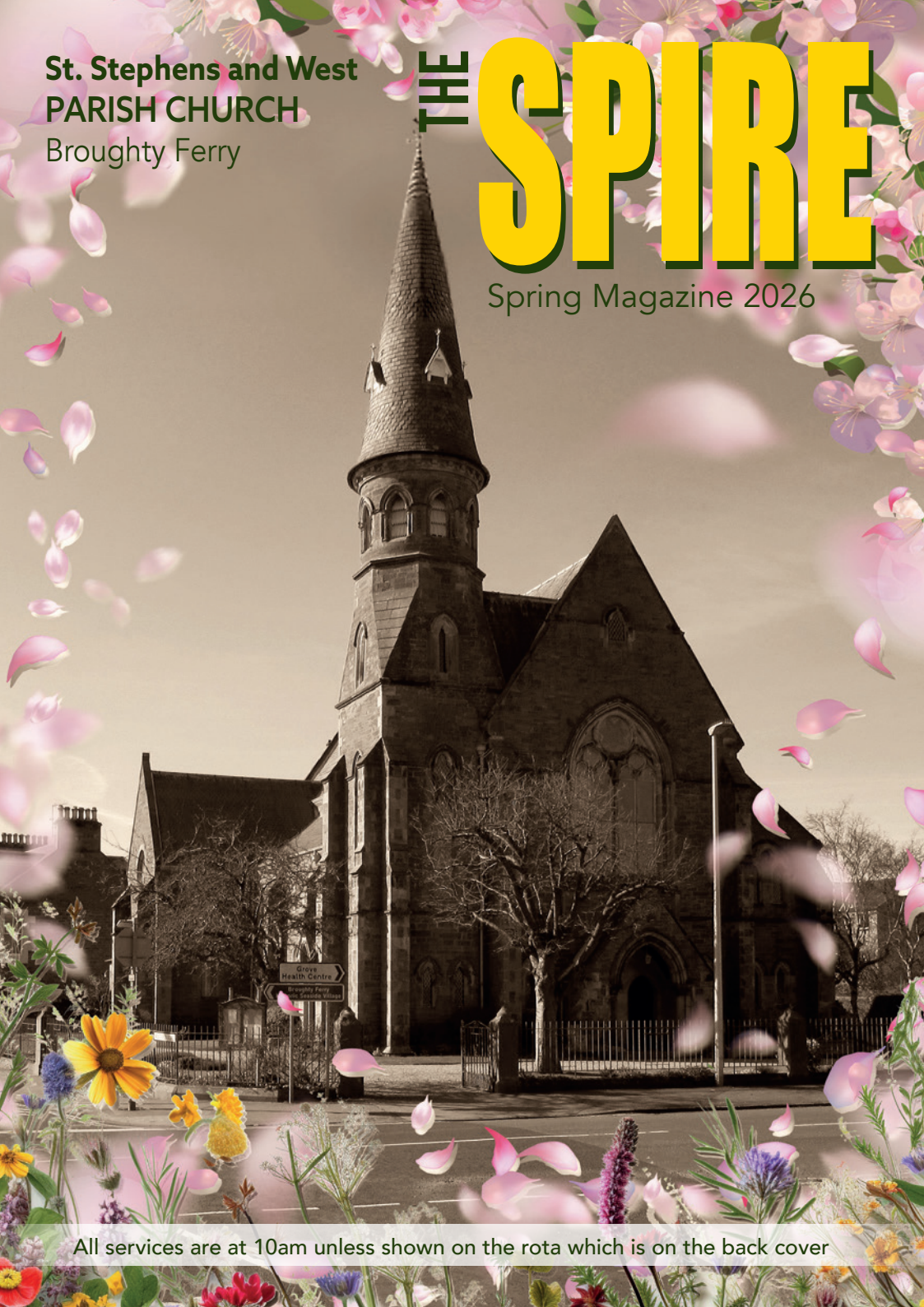


**St. Stephens and West
PARISH CHURCH**
Broughty Ferry

THE SPIRE

Spring Magazine 2026



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

A date for your diary

Coffee Morning!

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

Saturday
6th June

10am - 12noon

All proceeds for a local charity



Welcome

to the Spring issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine

Spring 2026

It's that time of the year when the clocks have jumped forward and we anticipate good weather for the spring and summer months and after a wet winter with changeable weather.

The last edition was all about families and this time I have used caring as the theme for the magazine. The articles that I have

included mainly all have a caring theme and how our church here at St. Stephens and West is involved in so many initiatives both internationally and at a local level.

Our church has over a number of years been at the centre of the community here in Broughty Ferry but is now under threat of closure. I would like to see input from our members with stories about our church which would be of interest and also be a record of our involvement in caring for the community.

I hope you find the content of interest and hopefully a few may wish to contribute for the future magazines.

*George Anderson,
Editor*



Prayer of Approach

Thou art God: the peace of all things calm
a place of shelter from harm.

Thou art God: a light shining in the dark

Our heart's eternal spark.

Amen

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."

December 21, 2025

George Muir

9 Ogilvie Road, West Ferry.

December 22, 2025

Mona Storrar,

22 Beaumont Crescent, Broughty Ferry.

Easter Thoughts.

Presence in Absence.

Are there not occasions when the absence of a loved one can seem stronger than their presence?

When, one by one, our children left home, I found myself touching their toys, going up into the loft and dusting down their three little bikes in an attempt to evoke not just memories but to bring them back.

Quite selfish really!

Of course, we only feel the absence of someone who was once present, once keenly known, cherished still, loved much and now missed intolerably.

Mysteriously, I sense the absence of God in much the same way.

I have never met God, may not always feel sure about his dealings with us, yet feel bereft!

Isn't that intense sense of yearning, longing, a powerful testimony to the reality of his presence?

The sun may go into eclipse but I know it is there behind a cloud.

So it is, I believe, that God is never closer than when we feel his absence.

It has always moved me that Winston Churchill, one of the most captivating orators of the twentieth century struggled with a speech impediment!

Because there were certain words he found difficult to pronounce, the young Churchill learned synonyms he could pronounce and expanded his vocabulary in the process. Slowly overcoming his difficulties, there emerged in him a most appealing strength of character.

TS Eliot clarifies the point for us in a single, striking stanza:

Strange how grit, should turn to gift

Fresh beginnings, not easily won but

Worked from difficult stone.

Isn't that the enduring surprise of the Easter story?

It calls us to a life of fulfilling struggle.

With Refugees Broughty Ferry



We are in the last week of our appeal to all BFCG for donations to TASH (Tayside and Strathearn Help for Ukraine) for their Project Winter. This has been an urgent appeal for certain donations to counteract the extreme cold and provide some light because very many power plants were targeted reducing the ability to provide electricity.

We have had a very good response including our church and Tash are very grateful to all who have given. Thank you.

Although our short sharp appeal is nearly over the need will still be there for a while to come Tash has a very informative and up to date Facebook page where you can see what they are currently needing. Donations can be taken to the John Clark Volvo garage, Dryburgh Industrial Estate, DD2 3XH where they will be collected from. Lorries are driven regularly to Ukraine. Facebook - TASH for Ukraine.

With Refugees Broughty Ferry continue with our other support for refugees where we can. If anyone would like further information on our work I would be happy to have a chat.

Jill Oakley 01382 736278.





Shirleys 90th birthday

It was with great pleasure that we had the chance to celebrate Shirley Grinyer's 90TH. birthday after the service on the 15th.March.

Shirleys birthday was the weekend before but that didn't stop us having a birthday tea for her with the obligatory cake. Her husband John was in attendance along with other members of the church.

We wish Shirley health and happiness for the years ahead.

Shirley does so much work for the church, a lot unseen by others. She has recently handed over her responsibility for the church flowers but something we all look forward to is her shortbread. Available every Sunday after the service and enjoyed by so many. The recipe I am told is a guarded secret.



Flowers in the church

On Sunday 8th February, Shirley Grinyer stepped down from her role as organiser of the church flowers and passed the baton onto me. Which led me to ask Shirley various questions.

When did she first start arranging flowers in church? 1990, she thought, when there was flower group. Then ten years ago, as the congregation reduced in size, she took on her present role. Dates were a little hazy, but her eyes looked full of happy memories of friendships and flowers.

Thirty-six years of being involved. In earlier years she arranged flowers for a month each year. In this last decade, she has been the primary provider of our flowers each Sunday. So, by my very vague calculations, that's flowers provided over 400 Sundays. Probably closer to 500. Quite an achievement.

Flowers in the church, and in the church hall. The latter thoughtfully curated by season and inevitably gathered from her own garden. A very personal touch. She will continue to arrange those for our post church coffee pleasure.

We have much to thank Shirley for, not least the beauty of her flowers reminding us they give meaning to our lives, as Keith so aptly pointed out. On behalf of us all Shirley, a heartfelt thank you.

If anyone would like to arrange flowers in church on any given Sunday, let me know. Equally, do suggest those who would appreciate a bouquet of flowers.

Jane Adamson - 07305511728 (m)

MERU - Update

The pictures of Mwili school show the big difference our funds ,in partnership with parents and finally the Kenyan government ,have made to Mercy's school. The pupils look smarter in their uniforms and Mercy tells us the youngsters have responded well to this more 'conducive' environment where they no longer run the risk of insect bites from a dirt floor in their refurbished classrooms in a very poor rural area.

Funds sent to the Rev Elijah have enabled the orphans looked after by disabled carers to return to school after Christmas and get off to a good start.

Silas , the Head teacher at Kiaritha school , and I are still grappling with the Kenya Revenue Authority over tax exemption for the 38 iPads packaged by Core products and ready to freight.



Grove academy supplied 18 iPads gifted by the Moira Stewart Trust in 2019 to teachers and no longer used by them, plus 20 from friends to whom I'm very grateful.

We have sent letters to KRA , the treasurer and Commissioner, the Scottish government and the UK embassy to ask for tax exemption as the iPads are going to children.

The purpose of sending the iPads is to allow senior pupils to start the Kenyan government's new Competence based Education course. One would imagine they would welcome the iPads with open arms but all they do is put obstacles in the way. The taxes are punitive.



Our final hope is that Elijah can work his usual magic and see if his eldest son, a , Commissioner, can do anything about the tax otherwise I'm really going to struggle.

I very much appreciate the recent funds from the Meru plate which will help with the £452 transport costs. I'm selling paintings in The Gunners thanks to an ex Grove pupil which are also raising funds - 6 sold at £85 since July.

Your ongoing support and encouragement are vital in helping to educate out of poverty and is much appreciated.

The mid monthly toiletries collection for families in local need continues since the start of covid. I'm always happy to be given donations

Thank you and happy Easter, Sheila

The Young

How often do you hear folk our age complaining about the young? Their dress, their manners, their hair- all topics for complaint. Yet there is so much good in the youngsters of today if we give them the opportunity to show it. How can our generation contribute to the development of the gifts they have? You could become a mentor for a young person locally!

The Rev Keith Hall on hearing of my father's death said 'he was a great encourager'. I would say that's a principal attribute of a mentor under the MCR pathways scheme. All the info about this is online but in a nutshell any adult with a positive interest in supporting young people for an hour a week in a local secondary school is eligible.

Of course, there is an interview and

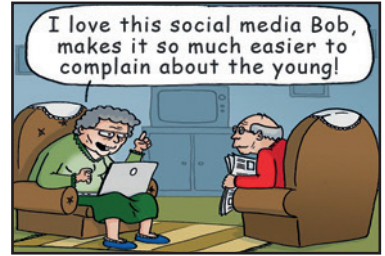
a two hour training session. Both of mine were online as shortly after lockdown. You are matched with a child with similar interests to your own and negotiate a 50 minute slot once a week during term time to meet.

I've been very lucky and assigned to two fairly chatty girls with whom I've broken the ice initially with activities such as charade cards, jewellery making and stone painting. The girls have also suggested games themselves and the staff in the Support for learning department are on hand and lovely.

Personally, I've got a lot out of this as I enjoy contact with the different generations. I'm happy to chat about mentoring if you're interested in

considering it and give further information. I'm sure many of the congregation have so much to offer a young person and it helps to keep you young!

Thank you - *Sheila McLuckie*



Fleeing without face cream

In 2020 during lockdown a friend said to me, 'Can you imagine being stuck in a flat with 3 kids under 5 then fleeing from a violent partner? The last thing on your mind would be grabbing your face cream'

These words were the stimulus needed for me to start a mid-monthly toiletries collection which has been distributed monthly to vulnerable families by the 2019 Dundee citizen of the year Norma McGovern ever since. I'm hopeless at giving up!

Over the last five years in the middle of each month, I've come home to a variety of toiletries left on my doorstep or vestibule at 47 Camphill Road - most memorably several packs of disposable nappies! I then collect and pass on to Norma for distribution to Women's Aid, women in the criminal justice system and men and women supported by the Salvation Army.



You will have noticed that prices for everyday items continue to steeply rise and choosing to feed your children will take precedence for mums over fancy shampoo or anything of that ilk for themselves.

If you'd like to support this please leave any bag in the hedge by my front door with a wee note inside so I can thank you or pass it on to me when I see you in church.

Thank you
Sheila McLuckie

A new community charity in Broughty Ferry is celebrating after handing out more than 2,100kg of free food - about the weight of a larger SUV - in its first three months.

Ferry Fridge (SC052544) has attracted hundreds of visitors since it opened its doors to the public on November 1. The community fridge in Gray Street offers a base for people to collect unwanted food donated by businesses and supporters, including the Ferry Selkie and Kitchen Table in Brook Street, preventing the environmental impact of it going to waste.

At a time of ever-rising prices, the Fridge can also help to lessen the strain on family budgets. There is no cost involved - though donations are always welcome - and no referral is needed to visit the Fridge. It is



a resource for the whole community and users can take satisfaction in knowing that they are making a positive contribution to the area's drive for a greener future.

There are only two "rules" - don't take more than you can use, and please bring your own bag.

The Fridge is run entirely by volunteers. It is open on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, when it is staffed by members of Broughty Ferry Rotary Club, and on Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm. It usually reopens briefly from about 5.10pm on Saturdays, when there is a donation from Pret A Manger.



The Fridge already has its "regulars", who factor a visit into their routine on opening days, but it is also heartening to see many new faces each week as word spreads.

Opening day in November was far from the start of the story.

After considerable effort by the steering group, the Fridge was awarded charitable status in May 2023 and work continued behind the scenes before the charity was in a position to lease the former cabmen's shelter beside the level crossing from Dundee City Council, and to obtain planning permission for its conversion.

The Fridge's location, between the train station and Broughty Ferry's largest car park, and just a stone's throw from the nearest bus stops, was considered ideal as it is convenient for locals and visitors.

The keys were handed over in March last year, and members of another local charity, the Men's Shed, were then able to start turning the building into a suitable hub for food distribution.

The Ferry Fridge is also grateful for the very generous support of local businesses Hosies, which donated the fridge and the freezer, and Gillies, which provided the flooring.

Further milestones were reached with the award of relevant hygiene certificates, allowing the Ferry Fridge to join the national network of food distribution charities.

The charity is also part of the Dundee Community Food Network and is benefiting from the sharing of help and advice with similar groups across the city.

In addition, Ferry Fridge has strong links with the adjacent community garden, a relationship which it hopes to strengthen in the future.

Keen to be an integral part of the Broughty Ferry community, the Ferry Fridge took its first stall at the Gala Fete on Castle Green last year and helpers were delighted by the level of interest and support that it attracted.

And the work goes on. The Fridge is keen to attract new volunteers - to help in the Fridge, and to drive to collect food donations offered by supermarkets. (Petrol costs can be covered.)

Help is also needed with fundraising. The Fridge is grateful to have received a number of grants, including donations from Asda, the Co-op, Dundee and Angus Foodbank and Rotary, but more will be required in the future to keep the lights on and the the fridges running.

The Ferry Fridge's first fundraising event - a successful music night with three young local singers Fyfe Galbraith, Isla Galbraith and Simeon Chien - was very successful and the committee is always on the look out for new ways to boost funds.



For more information on the Ferry Fridge, or if you would like to donate or are interested in volunteering, please visit our Facebook page, or email us at ferryfridge@gmail.com

HELP FOR KIDS

Help for kids – Christmas Toy Appeal

Some information regards the Christmas toy appeal which I am sure you will find of interest as here at St.Stephens and West we made another substantial donation.

The Christmas Toy Appeal 2025 enabled around 2,300 local children in Dundee and the surrounding areas to have a magical Christmas. Each child received a large bag of gifts including 4+ toys, a Beano Annual, a selection box and a cuddly toy with the approximate value of around £80 each, all of which wouldn't be possible without donations like ours here at St.Stephens and West.

All the money raised in support of Help for Kids remains in the Dundee area to aid and support local children, or causes concerning local children, who are either vulnerable or disadvantaged through social and economic

circumstances or through health and disability. Since 2011 the charity has supported over 75,000 children in Dundee and the surrounding area. Sadly, the need for Help for Kids is evident more now than ever before so funding is required throughout the year.

Donations of toys and other items, volunteering and coming along to our events helps us to keep making positive changes to so many children and families and the organisers are so grateful for the support from the amazing people of Dundee.

They hope we will support them again for Christmas 2026.

For more information on Help for Kids visit the website:

www.helpforkids.org.uk



Supporting Dundee
and Perth's future

HELP FOR KIDS

St. Stephens and West - Time to reflect?

As the editor of the magazine I am always on the look out for interesting stories, information etc. that might be suitable for the church magazine. The magazine is now published twice a year in the months of April and November.

It struck me over the past few months that members of our church are bound to have some interesting stories about their connections with St. Stephens and West. There will also be some interesting photographs of events at the church. Do you have some photographs taken at the church that you would like to share? When I talk about members you don't have to be a regular attender at services and in fact many of our members are unable to attend because of health issues. We will also have members who have not attended a service for many other reasons.

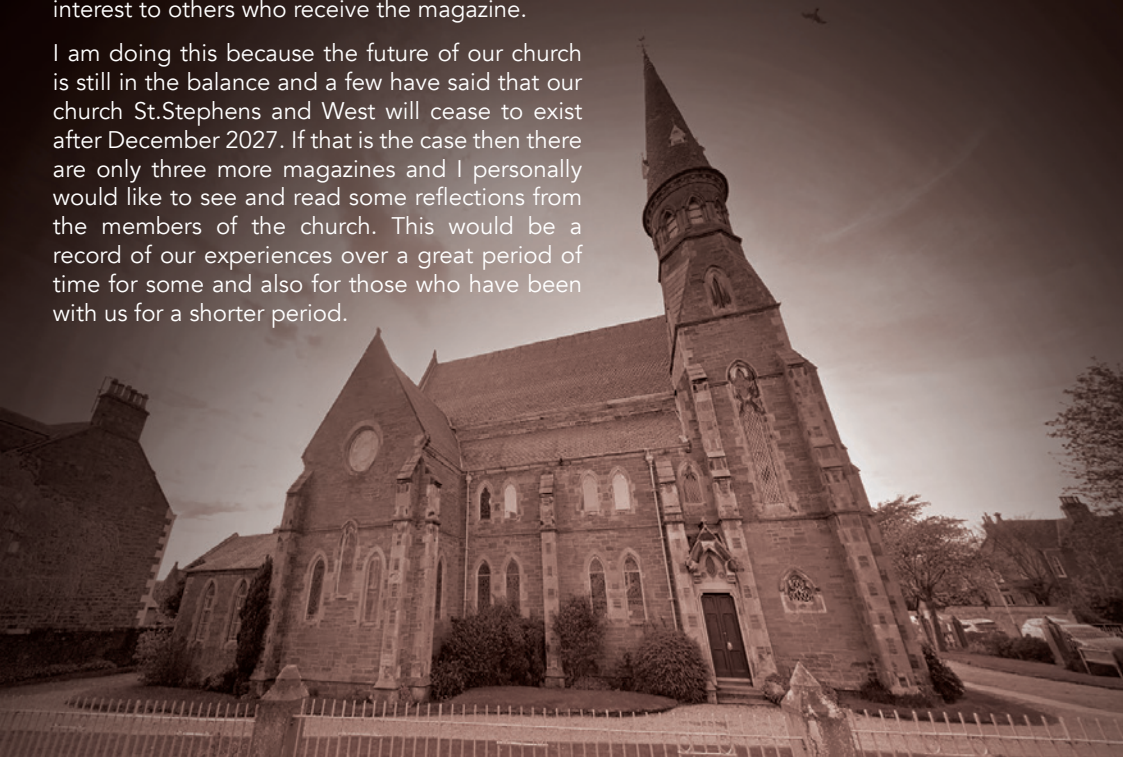
However, it would be good hear from you and share your experiences or events that would be of interest to others who receive the magazine.

I am doing this because the future of our church is still in the balance and a few have said that our church St. Stephens and West will cease to exist after December 2027. If that is the case then there are only three more magazines and I personally would like to see and read some reflections from the members of the church. This would be a record of our experiences over a great period of time for some and also for those who have been with us for a shorter period.

It may be a story about family events, special visits, weddings, christenings, involvement in organisations, organisations or clubs that were great fun but no longer with us. How the church has helped you, individuals that have made a difference to the church etc. and contributions can be made anonymously. It is not restricted so please feel free to contribute. If you would like to make a contribution then either send me an email or give me a phone. The details are at the back of the magazine.

I do believe that the magazine should contain some historical information regarding our church as we move forward over the next 2 years

*George
Anderson*



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 5 Apr	Easter	10:00 Simon Davidson	Rhona Anderson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 12 Apr		10:00 Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 19 Apr		10:00 Syd Smith	Toni McNicoll	Shirley Thomson
Sun 26 Apr	Communion	10:00 George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Fiona Watt
Sun 3 May		10:00 Linda Parry-Richards	Simon Davidson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 10 May		10:00 Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson
Sun 17 May		10:00 May Masson	Sybil Rough	Syd Smith
Sun 24 May		10:00 Fiona Watt	Simon Davidson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 31 May		10:00 Margaret Knight	Toni McNicoll	Ron McPherson
Sun 7 Jun		10:00 May Masson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 14 Jun		10:00 Rhona Anderson	Alan Justice	Shirley Thomson
Sun 21 Jun		10:00 Alan Justice	George Anderson	Ron McPherson
Sun 28 Jun		10:00 Toni McNicoll	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield
Sun 5 Jul - Sun 26 July - Holiday				
Sun 2 Aug		10:00 Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson
Sun 9 Aug		10:00 Fiona Watt	Toni McNicoll	Syd Smith
Sun 16 Aug		10:00 George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Alan Justice
Sun 23 Aug		10:00 Simon Davidson	Alan Justice	Ron McPherson
Sun 30 Aug		10:00 Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson
Sun 6 Sep		10:00 May Masson	Rhona Anderson	Fiona Watt
Sun 13 Sep		10:00 Syd Smith	Heather Stiven	Shirley Thomson
Sun 20 Sep		10:00 Margaret Knight	Ron McPherson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 27 Sep		10:00 May Masson	Sybil Rough	Peter Wakefield
4 October		10:00 Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Fiona Watt
11 October		10:00 Toni McNicoll	Shirley Grinyer	Syd Smith
18 October		10:00 Shirley Thomson	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield
25 October	"Communion			
BST ends"	1	0:00 George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson