

THE SPIRE

Winter Magazine 2025 / 26

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE - You receive a copy of the church magazine because your name and/or address is on the list of members for St. Stephens and West Church. If this information is incorrect and you do not wish to receive the magazine would you please contact the editor George Anderson by email or text. The contact details are on the back cover page. No action required if you wish to continue receiving the magazine. Many thanks.



Christmas Fayre

ST. STEPHENS AND WEST
CHURCH HALL
Westfield Road
10 a.m. to 12 noon

Stalls, Cake and Candy, Raffle,
Tombola, Meru stall

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER
2025



Welcome

to the Winter issue of

THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk
Magazine
Winter 2025

A very warm welcome to you all to this the last magazine of 2025.

When looking for a theme for this magazine and to finish off the year a number of articles seemed to fall into the category of a family theme. We have had the pleasure of welcoming families coming to church and having their children christened. Relatives and friends have also attended this family event.

We have our continuing work with our adopted family out in Meru where the excellent work continues through fund raising. Families work together to give the best possible support for their childrens education, build and repair educational buildings and also the care of those who need help to survive.

Here in Broughty Ferry our family of churches has gone through substantial changes over the past year. At St.Stephens and West our own congregational family continues to meet and with the good summer managed to have a garden party!

As we move towards Christmas when families from all over the world gather for the festive season may I take this opportunity of wishing you all festive cheer and best wishes for 2026.

George Anderson
Editor



A WISE MAN ONCE SAID:

- Hate has 4 letters but so does Love
- Enemies has 7 letters but so does Friends
- Lying has 5 letters but so does Truth
- Cry has 3 letters but so does Joy
- Negativity has 10 letters but so does Positivity

Life is 2 sided, so choose the better side of it

Reflections in glass

Many varied bottles found bellow the sand,
on the beach at Broughty Ferry, as if by a magic wand.
Only an old glass bottle? -well, look closer, you'll agree,
that there's undiscovered pictures, in these bottles from the sea.

Reflections of the Castle, standing stately on the shore,
The lifeboat, ever ready, when the fearful breakers roar
Little clustered cottages, round which the past still clings
Shops and parks and churches, and other lovely things.

So this plethora of bottles, from places far away,
Decided their last resting place, would be the silvery Tay.
They survived all kinds of weather , bottles blue, and green, and brown
And sailed on to Broughty Ferry - known as 'Jewel in the crown'.

So like the old glass bottles,
in this changing world today,
May we see beyond the obvious,
as we journey on our way.

Margaret Young



Prayer of Approach

In thought – Faith

In word – Truth

In deed - Courage

In life – Service

In the name of the Holy Trinity

Father, Son and Spirit Three



Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

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."

- April 2, 2025 **Eric Mathieson, 28c Brook Street, Broughty Ferry.**
June 14, 2025 **Robert (Bob) Stewart, 14 Lawrence Street, Broughty Ferry.**
July 25, 2025 **Helen Perry, 56 Dawson Road, West Ferry.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

"By one Spirit, we are all baptised into one body. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they shall be called, sons and daughters of God."

- August 17, 2025 **Ayla Maegan Colhoun**, infant daughter of Madison and James Colhoun, 116 William Fitzgerald Way, Emmock Woods, Dundee.

CHRISTENINGS

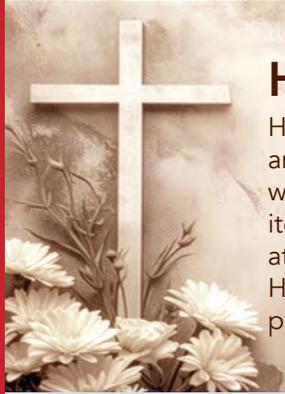
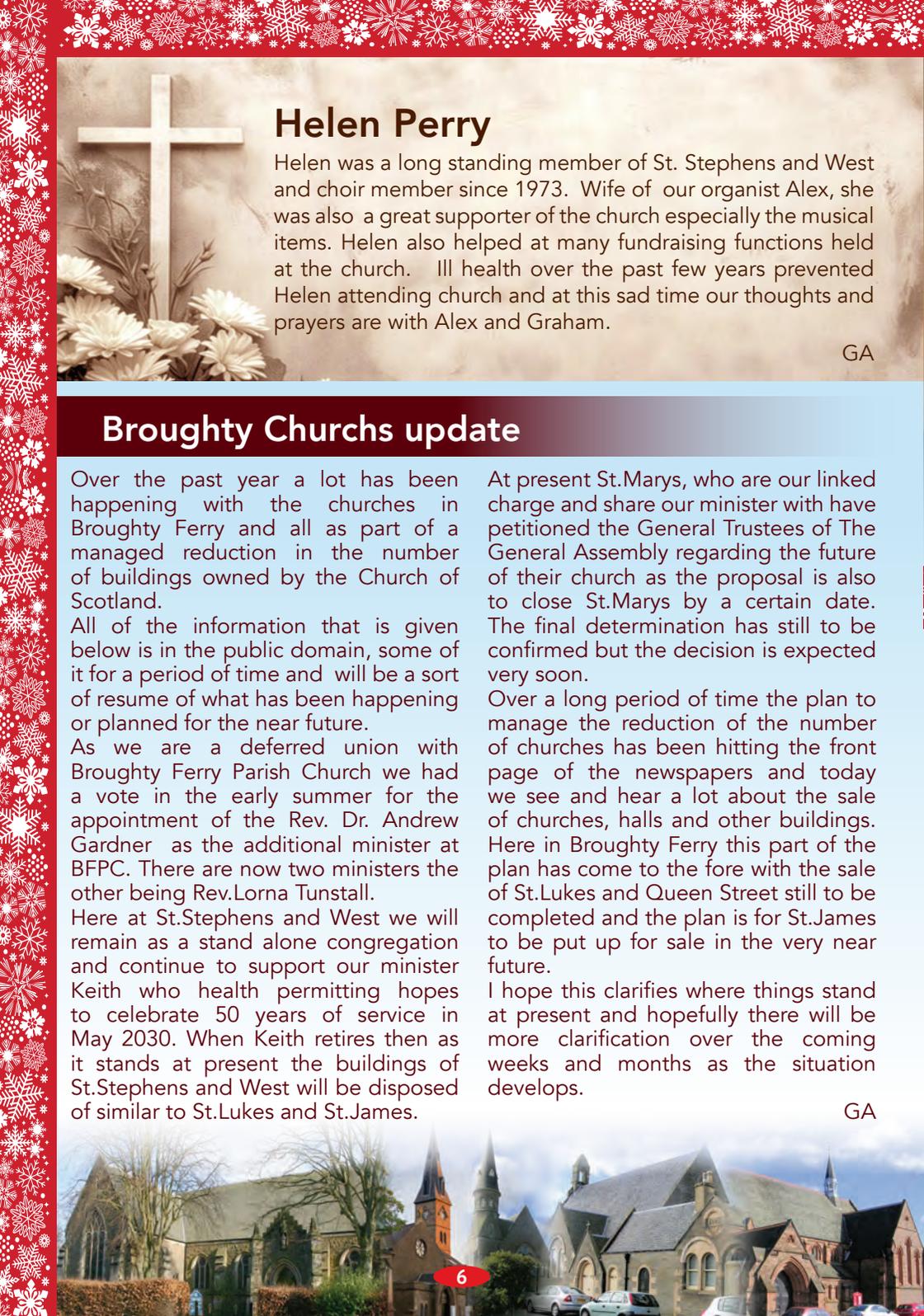
Figures provided by the Church of Scotland show that christenings are now on a sharp decline with an average of only one christening a year per church. At St.Stephens and West we were very fortunate to have two very special christenings during the summer months.

17th.August

Ayla Maegan the infant daughter of our members Madison and James Colhoun was christened by our minister Rev.Keith Hall. What made it special was not only the great support from family and friends attending the christening but also that it was being streamed live back to Ireland. Our minister Keith was wired up for the sacrament and a number of relatives in Ireland who were unable to attend, were able to witness the christening of Ayla. A first for St.Stephens and West and also our minister.

21st.September

A very good friend to our church the Rev. John Duncan took the service on the 21st. September and during the service the baptism of his great niece was administered. Gianna Evette Milne was christened by John and while she was not very happy at the beginning of the service she calmed down once she was in the arms of her great uncle for the actual christening. Gianna is the infant daughter of James and Evette Milne 7A, Rossie Avenue , Broughty Ferry.



Helen Perry

Helen was a long standing member of St. Stephens and West and choir member since 1973. Wife of our organist Alex, she was also a great supporter of the church especially the musical items. Helen also helped at many fundraising functions held at the church. Ill health over the past few years prevented Helen attending church and at this sad time our thoughts and prayers are with Alex and Graham.

GA

Broughty Churchs update

Over the past year a lot has been happening with the churches in Broughty Ferry and all as part of a managed reduction in the number of buildings owned by the Church of Scotland.

All of the information that is given below is in the public domain, some of it for a period of time and will be a sort of resume of what has been happening or planned for the near future.

As we are a deferred union with Broughty Ferry Parish Church we had a vote in the early summer for the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Andrew Gardner as the additional minister at BFPC. There are now two ministers the other being Rev.Lorna Tunstall.

Here at St.Stephens and West we will remain as a stand alone congregation and continue to support our minister Keith who health permitting hopes to celebrate 50 years of service in May 2030. When Keith retires then as it stands at present the buildings of St.Stephens and West will be disposed of similar to St.Lukes and St.James.

At present St.Marys, who are our linked charge and share our minister with have petitioned the General Trustees of The General Assembly regarding the future of their church as the proposal is also to close St.Marys by a certain date. The final determination has still to be confirmed but the decision is expected very soon.

Over a long period of time the plan to manage the reduction of the number of churches has been hitting the front page of the newspapers and today we see and hear a lot about the sale of churches, halls and other buildings. Here in Broughty Ferry this part of the plan has come to the fore with the sale of St.Lukes and Queen Street still to be completed and the plan is for St.James to be put up for sale in the very near future.

I hope this clarifies where things stand at present and hopefully there will be more clarification over the coming weeks and months as the situation develops.

GA



Why Believe?

Why believe: because we need a pathway, a road of honest reasoning, searching hungrily to find answers to the tantalizing puzzles of the living of our days, answers that pierce our darkest moments with shafts of light.

Why believe: because in the fresh chill of each new day, the air is alive with a Presence: the flare blue of the sky, a warm wind running ripples across fields, grip the good earth and challenges us: Why not believe?

Why believe: because we cannot cope on our own, too often our little lives are wrapped in foolish pride, our faces etched with strain as we hide our folly beneath a shell of right.

Why believe: because we are too young to be sure and old enough to feel the agony of age, its brokenness, its emptiness, the waste of war.

Why believe: because we have heard from every tongue, every tribe, songs amid sterile stone. Songs that stir us to care, to love, to smile and believe that God is good.

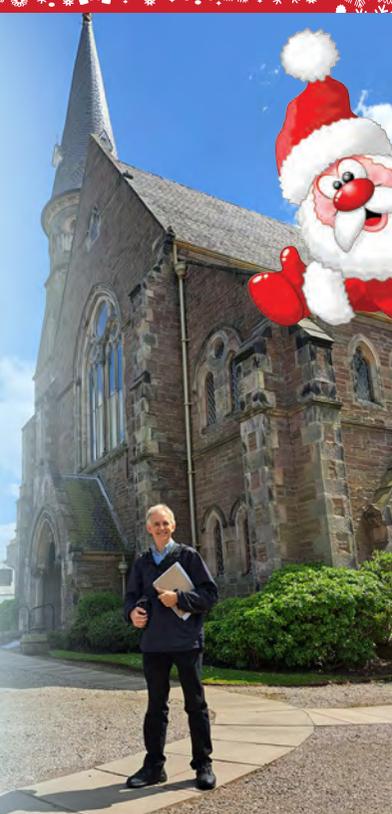
KFH

Visit from USA minister

In June this year we had a visit to the church from the Rev. Joshua Braley who is the minister at Gainesville Presbyterian Church, Florida, USA.

Joshua is researching and writing a book about Rev. James Cooper minister at St. Stephens and West from 1873 to 1881. Inducted as the first minister of St. Stephens he eventually went into academic life finally becoming Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Glasgow University and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Joshua had a lot of interesting facts about the Rev. James Cooper which he had found out during his research and was surprised he was Moderator as he was not an easy person to get on with and a very controversial person.

Joshua was very taken aback by the beauty of our church, the layout and also the stained glass windows. He took a substantial number of photographs.





Meru Update

Thanks for the support you gave the Meru craft fair in May and the stalls at the Cream tea. Altogether since the end of January c. £2000 has been raised from a Raffle, the stalls, my talk to Monifieth Rotary, the painted stones, paintings & donations including £600 from you as a congregation.

Funds have been divided between Rev Elijah to support the 12 children ,in care of disabled relatives, to attend school ; to Silas to continue construction on a dining hall at Kiaritha school with parents also contributing to this and to Mercy's bush school where the monies collected are providing desk lockers for the new intake and cementing the floors of classrooms so children's feet aren't bitten by ants in the dust! Photographs , reports and receipts show that our money is being well spent and accounted for.



Are you receiving the magazine – Why?

Our magazine is delivered to approximately 130 households and these addresses are held on file as being the addresses of members of St.Stephens and West Church.

Over the past few years it has been noted that magazines have been delivered to properties and the occupants have maybe bought or moved into the house with the previous occupants moving on and not informing the church of their new address.

Hence the reason for the note on the front cover and whether or not the information we have on file is correct. Approximately 25 to 30% of those households on the list are regular attenders at the church and with all that is going on in Broughty Ferry regarding the church unions etc.it is important that we use the magazine as a way of communicating the up to date position of matters affecting the future of the church's in Broughty Ferry.

Your assistance in bringing our records up to date would be greatly appreciated.

Meru Christmas raffle

Sheila is delighted to announce that £566 was raised which will be put to good use improving educational opportunities and facilities for children in Kiaritha, Miwili schools and orphans looked after by disabled carers/relatives in Meru, Kenya.

Elijah sent photographs showing repairs to the roof of the kindergarten and the children supported in education by our fundraising who live with a disabled carer. Mercy also reports that parents at her 'bush' school who have unreliable rural jobs are contributing to flooring and improving classrooms with materials we have funded. Silas too is engaging parent support to continue building that hall at Kiaritha. We are very much working in partnership with our family in Meru.

Saturday December 6th. from 10 a.m. to 12 noon there will be a MERU stall at the Christmas Fayre in the hall with unique crafts and gifts. Perfect stocking fillers. So why not come along and shop for Christmas and benefit these happy children.



Remember this one from Spike Milligan?

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner,
And someone saw me grin,
When he smiled I realised,
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
Then realised it's worth,
A single smile just like mine,
Could travel round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected.



Parents – love and understanding

The hardest job in the world is being a parent. Looking back over my own family life, I often wonder at my parents' patience, prudence and understanding. Each of us three children, probably, can find some lack in our family life for which we will have to compensate in other ways. Parents cannot hope to raise perfect families but I believe the job of parenthood is to help each child develop his personality in such a way that he or she, in turn, will make an even better parent.

Wholesome family life is dependent on the family growing together. Mum and Dad always made us feel that the things which were important to us were also important to them. My two interests in High School were debating and swimming. An important debate or swimming competition would never go without one or both of them there watching me. I never asked them to come but they knew how much it meant to me and would always fit in into their busy schedules.

Because our parents appeared to like whomever we liked, a constant stream of

friends paraded in and out of our home. One day the door opened and Jamie, my brother, stood on the threshold with five other boys – "I've brought some friends to spend the night, Mum, that's ok, isn't it?"

Without batting an eyelid Mum smiled and invited everyone in. At that moment I'm sure she hadn't a clue where we would all sleep but I knew she would fix it!

Mum and Dad always imparted the idea that each member of the family had an equal share of their affection and love. Out of this atmosphere grew a feeling of trust. We never had any strict rules. We discussed what was right, wrong and sensible and then our parents trusted us to use our own judgement and act accordingly.

Religion was never taught, it was just practised. One example of how this combination of family loyalty and openness works came at the end of my fifth year at school. I was asked to be a helper at an international summer school. This required leaving home for five weeks, adjusting to new surroundings and living with other young people whom I had never met before. I shied away from the invitation because I felt I couldn't handle the responsibilities it entailed. Then I spoke to my parents. Dad said, "If you stand still and never



take advantage of the opportunities which come your way, you won't get anywhere in life. Have the courage to accept the invitation and see where it leads you." I took his advice and the whole experience proved to be extremely worthwhile.

Once, when Jamie, Katie and I were very young, a favourite game was throwing water bombs out of our bedroom window! While I'm sure this caused our parents moments of acute embarrassment, this passing phase was handled with tolerance. On occasion, we were punished, usually by cleaning up the mess or by apologising to our neighbours but never forbidden to see our friends. Again, a sensible and mature discussion of our actions did the trick.

Probably, the hardest thing for parents to do is let their children go, but it is one of the most important. When my partner and I moved into our own flat, I discovered something – if parents have created a home filled with love and understanding, tolerance and trust and have helped each child develop his own personality and make his own decisions, parents need never fear losing their children.

KFH

Ailsa and Graeme's summer garden party

Sunday 13th July was a very warm summer's day a perfect day for having a garden party. Members of our church Ailsa and Graeme Redford recognised that July was our month off from St. Stephens and West and invited members of the congregation to their house at Glamis for an afternoon garden party. The event was very well supported and for some maybe too hot to sit out in the sunshine and shade had to be found. Our thanks go to Ailsa and Graeme for organising

the get together and also the chance to see their lovely house and garden out in the beautiful countryside that surrounds Glamis.



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
 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: 07734 929977
 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.)

2025/26 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 16 Nov	10:00	Shirley Grinyer	Toni McNicoll	Ron McPherson
Sun 23 Nov	10:00	Fiona Watt	George Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 30 Nov	10:00	Margaret Knight	Kenny Matheson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 7 Dec	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Peter Wakefield
Sun 14 Dec	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 21 Dec	Christmas Service	Ron McPherson	George Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 28 Dec	No service			
Sun 4 Jan	10:00	Margaret Knight	Rhona Anderson	Fiona Watt
Sun 11 Jan	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 18 Jan	10:00	Syd Smith	Alan Justice	Sandra McMillan
Sun 25 Jan	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Ron McPherson
Sun 1 Feb	10:00	Simon Davidson	Toni McNicoll	Kenny Matheson
Sun 8 Feb	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Shirley Grinyer	Shirley Thomson
Sun 15 Feb	10:00	May Masson	Sybil Rough	Syd Smith
Sun 22 Feb	10:00	Fiona Watt	Toni McNicoll	Peter Wakefield
Sun 1 Mar	10:00	Margaret Knight	Sandra McMillan	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 8 Mar	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 15 Mar	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 22 Mar	10:00	Alan Justice	George Anderson	Ron McPherson
Sun 29 Mar	BST begins	Linda Parry-Richards	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield