



# THE SPIRE

Winter Magazine 2024

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



## DUNDEE STARTER PACKS

**Starter Packs will be 25 years old next year. I have made regular trips to their warehouse with donations from the congregation over the past year. Everything has been very gratefully received and I would like to thank everyone who contributed. The need for donations is never ending and in particular pots, pans, kitchen utensils, curtains, towels and kettles.**

For those of you who are not familiar with the work of Starter Packs here is a brief summary of what they do.

It is a needs led organisation based in Dundee serving the areas of Dundee and Angus. Their aim is to assist individuals and families who are unable to provide themselves with basic household goods and bedding. Their help enables people to start making a home, sustain their tenancies and rebuild their lives. People are referred to them by housing officers, support workers, health visitors, welfare

rights, welfare fund etc. Some of the referrals are for young people leaving the care system having been given their first tenancy, some from families who have separated or have had to leave quickly and have few possessions. Others are from poor housing conditions or following a crisis.

There are about 20 volunteers who work for Starter Packs. If anyone wishes to be a part of their team please contact me and I will put them in touch with the organiser Fiona Fox. She has told me she would be happy to meet anyone interested who would like to hear more about their work.

Once again I am only too happy to collect any contributions that are difficult to bring to the Church.

My telephone number is:  
01382 776776.

Many thanks for all your help.

*Shirley Thomson*

# Welcome

to the Winter issue of

# THE SPIRE

St. Stephen's & West Kirk  
Magazine  
Winter 2024

Christmas and a new year are just about upon us and we have a chance to reflect on the year that is nearly finished.

This is a year of special anniversaries both nationally and locally and I have highlighted them in this edition of the magazine.

As always I am looking for interesting articles to include in a magazine so please, if you think you have an interesting story, hobby, pastime that might be of interest to others please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details are on the back cover of the magazine.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful new year.

*George Anderson*



## Christmas Gift Service

**This will take place on Sunday 15th. December at 10 a.m. when you can bring a gift for a disadvantaged child living locally (ages range from birth to 17 years). Please leave the gift unwrapped.**

# DONATE



# Edges

Edges, Boundaries, Connections.  
Romans 8:31-39  
St. Matthew's Gospel 5:1-16

Edges, Boundaries, Connections, we may usefully say, is a literary collage of human themes and insights. Compiled by one who lived a richly unique and extraordinary life, at once secular saint and disturber of the peace, Malcolm Boyd: an Anglican priest, a political activist, a compelling author, affords us his "take" on the crises and contradictions of contemporary life.

Boyd's, "Guides for Living," are an eclectic escort designed to aid us not only in our search for wisdom, but in order that we might trace a clearer path through the maddening maze of the human predicament.

"Out of my own experience, wrote Malcolm Boyd, these guides have evolved, as step by step, I have approached the problems that comprise my life."

Let me share some of them with you.

Cultivate simplicity.  
Laugh at yourself.

Learn to communicate in non-verbal ways.  
If there is a key to your mystery,  
let people have it that they might better understand you.

Act in fresh and freeing ways.  
Tell the truth.  
Break a heavy silence.  
Ask the hard question.  
Help someone smile.

Forgive.  
If you don't, the loss of energy in harbouring bitterness  
and resentment is incalculable.  
Do not allow yourself to be destroyed by your inability to love.  
Love conquers all.

Hold nothing back.  
Stretch outward from one relationship to another.  
Make a network of connections with people.  
Be sure to include those who are different.

Find a quiet place.  
Anxiety is a notorious foe.  
If you are at ease with yourself,  
others will be more at ease with you.

Don't worry about what other people think.  
Go to a park and ride a swing.  
Let your emotions spill over.  
When you look at a painting or a bird, when you hear a poem, the  
rustle of the wind in a wood, or a cello: cry if you are so moved.

No one is an island, quit acting like one.  
Reach out, ask for help, humbly admit your need.  
Survival necessitates interconnectedness, community.  
Community is built on the physical, mental,  
spiritual awareness of caring human beings.

May your life be enriched by tantalizing edges, challenging boundaries,  
fine connections.

KFH

# Prayer of Approach

Newly born, King of Morn,  
noon and night time,  
dark and light time:  
Be our Light, day and night.

Saviour small,  
light us all,  
Light our blindness,  
of thy great kindness.



# Thank you Ron

We are so fortunate to sit in a church that is kept in pristine condition and without a doubt is the best kept kirk in the Ferry and for many reasons. One main reason is the hard work of our Session Clerk and Fabric Convenor Ron McPherson. Ron has looked after our church and hall for more than 10 years and in that time carried on the good work of Ron Raffan his predecessor.

Ron has decided to hand over the reigns to Kenny Matheson who will take over early in January 2025 as the new fabric convenor.

I am sure we will all support Kenny in his new role and thank Ron for his commitment and organisation over the years. We are so fortunate to be able to worship in such a beautiful building and also have an excellent suite of halls, widely used by the community.



Please remember that there will be no service on Sunday 29th. December

# Remembrance Day - soup and sandwich lunch

On Remembrance Sunday 10th. November the Social Committee organised the annual soup and sandwich lunch and which was well attended. A total of £260 was raised for Poppy Scotland and the Social Committee would like to thank those who attended and contributed towards the total. It was a marvellous lunch with a choice of soups and also an array of sandwiches. Well done ladies for organising.



# 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."*

September 26, 2024 - Audrey Forbes, 15 Abercromby Street, Barnhill.

October 28, 2024 - Jim Brewster, 22 Strathisla Road, West Ferry.



# Mona 65th (See the information board on next page)



Closer to home and 2024 marks the 65th. anniversary of the loss of the Mona and its crew in 1959.

To mark this anniversary an information board (as shown) has been designed and ready to be installed in a permanent stone plinth which will be constructed on the east side of the lifeboat shed. The plan was to have the plinth in place for

the anniversary but this has not been possible. There is a commitment from Dundee Council to build the plinth and the RNLI to maintain once completed and handed over.

The information board tells the story of that fateful day and with the new walkway being so busy it should be of interest to the locals and also the tourists.



# BROUGHTY FERRY Lifeboat Station

## The story of the *Mona*

It was the early hours of the morning on Tuesday 8 December 1959. A south-easterly gale was causing devastation along the Angus coastline. Hundreds of power and phone cables had been brought down, rivers had burst their banks, roads had been blocked by fallen trees and ships were storm bound in Dundee. Out at sea, the North Carr lightship had broken from its anchor. The lightship and its crew were drifting helplessly towards destruction on the storm-lashed shore.



Ronald Grant  
Coxswain



George Smith  
Second Coxswain

### LAUNCHING FOR THE LAST TIME

The *North Carr* lightship had no engine of her own – she could only be moved with tugboats. So when her mooring chain broke at 2.02am, the *North Carr's* crew were powerless against the violent gale and heavy seas.

Fife Ness Coastguard saw the lightship drifting. They requested Arbroath and Anstruther RNLI lifeboats to launch, but neither was able to in the conditions. Their harbour entrances were impassable. The only lifeboat that could launch was Broughty Ferry RNLI's *Mona*. At 3.13am, with a full crew of eight onboard, she roared down the slipway for the last time.

### 'WE ARE JUST HANGING ON'

In the appalling weather, the *Mona* made her way down the river at 6 knots. Around 4am, the Coastguard got first sight of her as she cleared Buddon Ness, but she kept disappearing from view behind the mountainous waves. At 4.06am, the lifeboat crew reported that they were abeam of the Abertay lightship.

At 4.25am the *North Carr* lightship crew fired a distress rocket. The Coastguard asked the lifeboat crew if they had seen it. But the

lifeboat radio operator was only able to gasp: 'No ... Our position ... We have just passed the middle buoys on The Bar, and we are just hanging on.'

### RADIO SILENCE

The *Mona* was seen turning south into St Andrews Bay at 4.45am. The crew of the *North Carr* lightship fired another distress rocket three minutes later. The lifeboat crew radio operator said, 'Yes, we saw that one. We have just cleared The Bar.' Then there was silence.

That was the last message heard from the *Mona*. The lifeboat's masthead light was last sighted in St Andrews Bay at 5.39am.

The *North Carr* lightship crew managed to get their last remaining spare anchor to take hold off Kingbarns at 6.45am. They were later lifted off the lightship to safety by rescue helicopters.

### FOUND ON THE BEACH

At daybreak, a man who was walking his dog found the *Mona*. She lay in the breaking waves on a beach near Buddon Ness, a single

navigation light glaring eerily from the wreck. The bodies of seven lifeboat crew members were found in and around the stricken lifeboat. Bowman George Watson was never found.

It had been Ronald Grant's first shout as coxswain. And for Former Coxswain Alex Gall, it was to have been his last before retiring.

### ALWAYS REMEMBERED

A Fatal Accident Enquiry was held in Dundee in February 1960. There it was concluded that the lifeboat had capsized. This was most certainly caused by the lifeboat being thrown off course and across the sea at some time between 5.15am and 6am. She was probably in shallow water south of the entrance to the River Tay at the time.

The *Mona* appeared to have drifted upside down in a north-westerly direction. When her signal mast touched the bottom in the shallow water between Buddon Ness and Carnoustie, it had the effect of righting the lifeboat.

Navigation buoys had been driven by the bad weather from their normal positions, so the crew could not have been wholly sure of their position.

The disaster most probably occurred between 5.39am and 6.00am. A watch in the inside pocket of the jacket of the Second Coxswain had stopped at 6.16am, half wound and full of water and sand.

News of the disaster stunned Broughty Ferry. A memorial service held at St James Church on Friday 11 December was attended by 700 people, with hundreds more lining the streets outside. Funerals for the lifeboat crew members followed the service.

The *Mona* was recovered from the beach and towed to Cockenzie, where she was left on the rocky foreshore. Before dawn on 18 March 1960, petrol was poured into her hull and she was burned. By daybreak, all that was left was a charred stern post and twisted metal bulkheads.



George Watson  
Bowman



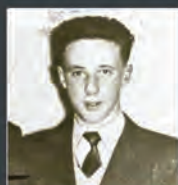
John Grieve  
Mechanic



James Ferrier  
Assistant Mechanic



Alexander Gall  
former Coxswain



John T. Grieve  
Crewman



David Anderson  
Crewman



'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'

John 15:13

Scan the QR code to hear Robin tell his story:



# Remembrance and Anniversaries

The Ode of Remembrance is a poem that is commonly recited to commemorate wartime sacrifice.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them

The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem written by English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and first published in The Times on 21st. September 1914. By then, less than 7 weeks after the outbreak of war, the British Expeditionary Force in France had already suffered severe casualties

and long lists of the dead and wounded appeared in British newspapers. It was against this background that Binyon wrote For the Fallen.

The Ode is the fourth stanza of the poem.  
**The third stanza reads:**

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe



# Lest we forget

Let us not forget other anniversaries in the year 2024.

## Normandy 80th.

Normandy will forever be marked by the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy that led to the liberation of France and Europe. 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of this historic event, and with it, a momentous occasion to celebrate peace, liberty and reconciliation.

On 6th June 1944, and during the long summer which followed, soldiers from the world over came to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and to re-establish Freedom.

Normandy will bear the scars of the moment in history forever and every year we remember and pay tribute to the veterans who lost their lives and are at rest in the cemeteries to be found throughout the area. It is often forgotten that the people of Normandy also paid a heavy price in those terrible battles.



## Afghanistan 10th.

2024 marks the 10th anniversary of the end of combat operations by British Armed Forces in Afghanistan (Operation Herrick).

By 2010, UK troop numbers reached their peak with 10,000 deployed across Afghanistan and later that year discussions began over the withdrawal of NATO forces. In 2014, Britain formally ended all combat operations in the country. Some 150,000 British Armed Forces personnel served in Afghanistan, and 457 lost their lives.



# I love to live

an anonymous poem

The poem below was written to celebrate the writer recently achieving 80 years of life.

To-day dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's so much I haven't done  
I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81

But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do  
Would you please let me stay a while, until I'm 82?

So many places I want to go, so very much to see  
Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?

The world is changing very fast; there is so much in store  
I'd like very much to live until I'm 84

And by then if I'm still alive, I'd like to stay to 85

More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick  
And see what happens to the world when I turn 86

I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in heaven)  
But I'd really like to stay, until I'm 87

I know by then I won't be fast and sometimes will be late  
But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88

I still have seen so many things and had a wonderful time  
So I'm sure that I'd be willing to leave at the age of 89....

Maybe, just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord,  
I thank you kindly But if it's O.K. with you – I'd like to stay past 90

## Meru update



INFINIX HOT 8 LITE  
AI TRIPLE CAMERA

Since our return from Meru we have received news of how the funds have been used. Mercy's bush school now has 31 desks and lockers for pupils. Limbene teachers have been rewarded with desks for the staff room as they've taken Limbene to first place in Meru sub country wrt results. Sewing machines have been bought for the teenage mums to earn a living. Children in the care of disabled relatives have been given a good start to the new school session and the school hall building is growing.

At the recent Soroptimists International Conference in Edinburgh there was a presentation update on the support given to Meru over the last 16 years which was very well received.

A number of donations which included original art work, jewellery, pottery, knitting and many other Christmas presents were received for the Meru stall at the Fayre held on the 30th. November. The money raised from the stall will be used to take children out of poverty through education at Meru. Wishing you peace, joy and good health.

Sheila



## Broughty Churches update

### Welcome to the new minister at BFPC

We welcome the Rev. Lorna Tunstall who was recently inducted as the minister for Broughty Ferry Parish Church. Lorna took up the charge at the end of October and the nomination committee will now continue to advertise and interview for the other outstanding vacancy. As agreed the church will be served by two ministers working along and beside each other.



## 150th Anniversary of St. Stephens and West

2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the church building being built here at St. Stephens and West and 150 years of it being used for public worship. On July 14th.1875 the new parish church of St. Stephens, Broughty Ferry was established and the Rev. James Cooper inducted as the first minister.



### A funny story.....

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow and only Farmer Evans and the Reverend Joseph Lancaster managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.



'Well,' said the Vicar laconically, 'I guess there's no point in having a service today.'  
'Well that's not how I see it,' said Farmer Evans smartly. 'If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it...'

## Christmas Greetings

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

Toni and Euan McNicoll would like to wish all their friends in the congregation and the wider community a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2025

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year for 2025. Sybil Rough

A very happy Christmas to all at St. Stephens and West. Nina Cowan

Merry Christmas to everyone in St Stephens and West and very best wishes for a Healthy, Happy 2025. Regards, May Masson

Sending Christmas Greetings from Helen and Peter Wakefield; Juliet and Bobby; Christopher, Vár, Joseph and Lydia. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

A very happy Christmas to all at St. Stephens and West. Love Frances, Alan and Kelvin Justice.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From Moira Davidson

A Very Merry Christmas and lots of Health and Happiness in 2025 from Jill and Ron Oakley

Margaret Knight and family would like to send choir and congregational friends Warmest Greetings of the Season and Every Good Wish for the Coming Year

Wishing all members and friends of St Stephen's and West a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Anne Potts

We send our warmest Christmas Greetings and every good wish for the coming year to all our friends at St. Stephens and West. Syd and Christine Smith



# 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 Jan	10:00	Margaret Knight	Rhona Anderson	Fiona Watt
Sun 12 Jan	10:00	Sybil Rough	Shirley Grinyer	Peter Wakefield
Sun 19 Jan	10:00	Syd Smith	Alan Justice	Sandra McMillan
Sun 26 Jan	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Ron McPherson
Sun 2 Feb	10:00	Simon Davidson	Toni McNicoll	Kenny Matheson
Sun 9 Feb	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Shirley Grinyer	Shirley Thomson
Sun 16 Feb	10:00	May Masson	Sybil Rough	Syd Smith
Sun 23 Feb	10:00	Fiona Watt	Toni McNicoll	Peter Wakefield
Sun 2 Mar	10:00	Margaret Knight	Sandra McMillan	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 9 Mar	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Kenny Matheson
Sun 16 Mar	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 23 Mar	10:00	Alan Justice	George Anderson	Ron McPherson
Sun 30 Mar BST begins	10:00	Linda Parry-Richards	Sandra McMillan	Peter Wakefield
Sun 6 Apr	10:00	Alan Justice	Rhona Anderson	Fiona Watt
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