

# WHO'S WHO IN THE KIRK SESSION



**Stephen Alexander**

Born into a Bo'ness family, Stephen was educated in the local primary school at Kinneil and progressed to secondary education at Bo'ness Academy. During these years he had his early Christian education through the Sunday School at Bo'ness Old Parish Church and was soon a member of the church Lifeboys (forerunner of the BB Junior Section). This grounding was to pave the way for a long involvement in Christian work. Leaving school, Stephen was set on being an electrician and enrolled at Bathgate Technical College where the training he received opened up the way towards his goal. He joined the South of Scotland Electricity Board to continue his studies and completed his apprenticeship as an electrician.

At this time, Stephen's commitment to Bo'ness Old grew stronger through his work with the BB company, and in time, with the experience he had gained, he helped out in a number of areas within the company, and for a short spell he was acting BB Captain. He became a member of the Board in the church, where he proved to be a big asset, being an electrician and very capable with his hands. He proved to be such a useful member that the Kirk Session understandably invited him to join them, and he was ordained in 1974.

Towards the end of his electrical studies he met Margaret, a Falkirk Bairn, and eventually they married in June 1971. They initially lived in Bo'ness but moved to Falkirk in 1986 to allow Margaret to assist her mother. Now living in the Thornhill Road area of Falkirk, they found their way to the local St James's Church and he was soon involved with the BB company there and in other areas. On buying their home in Polmont they came to Polmont Old Parish in 1992 and already being an elder, Stephen was invited to join our Kirk Session.

Here in Polmont his commitment to church work has continued. From the start he was involved with the BB company and then, with his

experience as an electrician, he was asked to join the Fabric Committee. This was the time just after the hall fire and hall extension and there were many jobs to be undertaken. The Lunch Bunch had just been introduced, so there was a job there, preparing the dining area. Joe Park vacated the Hall Convenor post and Stephen was the obvious appointment to continue the work. Towards the end of this job, Margaret became involved with the Baby Group and as a team, Stephen was also involved in preparing the hall each week with the equipment required for the babies. A number of years previous to this, Stephen took over the Congregational Roll, and up to the present day he has in maintained the roll with his usual high standards. Stephen and Margaret operate one of the church's House Groups in their own home on alternate Wednesdays. Along with all this, he is involved in the Outreach Committee. A busy man indeed, and his work is much appreciated

Stephen and Margaret have two children Julie and Stephen, who are now grown up and making their own way in the world.

*Stephen was talking to Bill Smart*

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## A Clare Benediction

May the Lord show his mercy upon you  
May the light of his presence be your guide  
May he guard you and uphold you  
May his spirit be ever by your side.  
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;  
When you wake, may he fill you with his grace;  
May you love him and serve him all your days -  
Then in heaven, may you see his face.

May the Lord's loving kindness surround you,  
Keep you safe as you journey on your way.  
May he lead you and inspire you,  
As he grants you the gift of each new day.  
May he bless all your loved ones and cherish them  
Every friend, every stranger at your door;  
In the name of his Son, our Saviour Christ -  
May God bless you, now and evermore

*John Rutter*

*This was sung by the choir one Sunday in February and I thought the words were worth sharing.*

*Sandra Reid  
Organist*

