

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

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**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE WINTER 2023 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER**

MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this, I am in the RVS café at the maternity building of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, awaiting the birth of our first child. The place is buzzing with expectant future parents, and it has got me thinking...

As we transition from summer into autumn, we can often see it as nothing more than the rapid decline into darker nights, rain, and the winter blues. However, when we do that, we miss out on a wonderful part of the year...the reaping of a harvest, the reward of a lot of planting and nurturing!

We read in Matthew 9:35-38 (NRSV)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Jesus' amazing sermons and miracles led to huge groups gathering around him everywhere he went. As he looks out over the crowd, he is filled with a profound and deep compassion. He sees how lost the people around him are, "like sheep without a shepherd".

Jesus then turns to his disciples, telling them the harvest is already abundant. However, there is only a small handful of labourers willing to go out to gather the ready crops. By this, he is actually saying there is in fact a ripe harvest of spiritually lost people. They are hungry to know God's kingdom and yearn for a Good Shepherd to lead them. However, rather than point them to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, most of us get stuck in rushing to other things, rather than actively reaching out to share the Good News of salvation with them.

As we approach the time of harvest, let's all make a commitment to be part of that "few" who are actively engaging with those who are lost without a shepherd and go and reap the abundant harvest that Jesus sets out before us.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson

minister@stonelawchurch.org 07871 615 840

2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG

NB Neil will be off on paternity leave and annual leave from Sunday 13th August, returning Tuesday 12th September. If you have any urgent pastoral issues, please contact Rev. William Wilson from Burnside Blairbeth Church, who is providing pastoral cover for this period, by calling **0141 634 7383** or by email at

william.wilson@burnsideblairbeth.church



PRAYER FOR HARVEST TIME

I remember a few years back, as I was preparing for various harvest-related things, I came across this prayer from Tearfund. Let us pray it together as we enter into harvest time.

Creator God,
We thank you for the gift that is creation –
For the beauty of the earth and how
you have created us to care for it.
We are sorry for the ways we have neglected this,
Help us to work together to repair the world.
Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers.

Generous God,
We thank you for the gift of food –
For how it brings us together and nourishes us.
We pray for those without, whose harvests and
store cupboards are empty,
Help us work together to share the world's resources
so that everyone can be fed.
Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers.

Sustaining God,
We thank you for the gift of those who farm
and prepare our food –
For their labour, their innovation and their care.
We pray that everyone will be able to work with dignity,
that there will be no more poverty,
Help us work together to call for just and fair systems
of pay and working conditions.
Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers.

All-powerful God,
We thank you for the gift that is creation –
For the beauty of the Earth and how
you have created us to care for it.
We are sorry for the ways we have neglected this,
Help us to work together to repair the world.
Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers.

Amen

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

We meet each Sunday at 10.15am to bring the congregation (online and in-person) and all those contributing to worship that day, before God. It is our hope that people will feel blessed, encouraged, and that as a congregation we would grow in a deeper awareness of our God's presence.



Please join us in the north transept (where Jacky Sheppard sits, to the left of the pulpit.)

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND STONELAW

Sunday Morning Prayer Time in the north transept of the Sanctuary at 10.15am. *(see p.4)*

Our Sunday Morning Service is at 10.30am, with a crèche for children under 3, Discoverers for pre-school and primary children, and Connect2 for S1 up.

Our Communion Service is held on the first Sunday of the month. Please note that our communion bread is gluten free and that everyone is welcome to participate.

Café @ The Meeting Place Mondays to Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Lunch Bunch - on the last Sunday of most months. Contact Margaret Borland *(see p.8)*

Mid-week 30-minute Service Wednesday 2.00 - 2.30pm, on the first and third Wednesday of the month. These services will recommence on Wednesday 6th September.

Margaret Borland will lead the first service and the service on 20th September will be led by Neil himself.

Past Times Dementia-Friendly Café 2nd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.00pm and

Past Times Drop-in Café 4th Wednesday of the month 3.00 - 4.00pm.

NB Both are by invitation only. *(See p.10)*

Join us for Prayer on Zoom Wednesdays 7.20pm (7.30pm start) till 8.10pm. *(see p.27)*

House Groups Usually on the first Thursday of the month. All welcome! Please see contact details below.

The first meetings after the summer will be held on Thursday 7th September:

at 10.30am with Jennifer Menzies. **07974 793 235**

at 7.30pm with Dorothy and David McTaggart. **07815 949 648**

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People's House Group: Every second Thursday, 6.30 - 8pm at the Manse.

For details, please contact Fiona Benson on **07980 734 182** or fiona.benson@sky.com.

2nd Rutherglen Rainbows: Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm Starting back 29th August. *(see p.26)*

Wednesday Toddlers: 9.45 -11.30am Contact Mary McDougall **07795 957 226**

131st Boys' Brigade: Thursdays 6.30-8pm Starting back 7th September. *(see p.25)*

Friday Toddlers: 9.45 -11.30am Contact Jennifer Menzies **07974 793 235**

2nd Rutherglen Brownies: Fridays 6.15-7.15pm. Starting back 1st September *(see p.26)*

2nd Rutherglen Guides: Fridays 7.30-9.15pm. Starting back 1st September *(see p.25)*

NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION AND MANAGERS

EXTRACTS FROM THE JUNE SESSION MEETING

- Bill Stewart has indicated his wish to step down from Session after decades of exemplary service. Bill fondly reflected on his time as elder and the minister gave a warm tribute.
- In the week of Maurice Ellis's funeral, the minister spoke warmly about his many years of service to Stonelaw Church as an elder. Session expressed their appreciation for what Maurice contributed to our congregation.
- Session approved the creation of an information leaflet to be made available when schools and other organisations are using our buildings.

MAIN HALL IMPROVEMENTS



Our main hall has had a makeover! Earlier this year the Kirk Session agreed that the hall was badly in need of a refresh and that this should take place over the summer holidays when its usage is less. The Managers are pleased to report that these works have been successfully completed.

The first task was to replace all the fluorescent lights with modern LED strip lights (£1,480). These new lights are slightly brighter than the old ones, and should be more robust. Our electrician has

also fitted five additional double sockets along the north and south sides (£840).

Prior to painting, a number of ceiling tiles were damaged, and these have been replaced with similar tiles. (Can you spot the new ones?) Also, there was some damaged plaster near the windows, which has been repaired.

The most striking change has been the painting. We used a local painting contractor and as well as painting the ceiling and plaster walls, most of the wood panelling has been painted to help brighten up the hall (£4,380). The finishing touch is the new curtains. (Our old ones had served us well – they were probably about 70 years old and were showing their age.) A local company, Sheer Design, supplied and fitted new teal-coloured curtains and tracks (£3,035). Other works have included varnishing the stage.



The total cost of the project was almost £10,000. The Kirk Session agreed that this should be funded from our Legacy Fund. This fund holds legacies left to Stonelaw by members of the congregation in their wills, to ensure they are ring-fenced until they can be spent on an appropriate project. We believe this project is a worthy use of this fund, which will benefit our church for many years to come.



Our thanks to Tom Nisbet for leading this project and to the volunteers who helped prepare the hall for the painting and curtain contractors.

Stuart Menzies, Convenor of the Managers

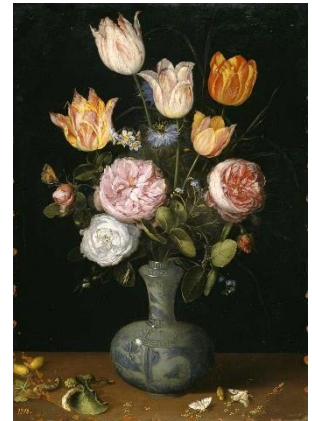
THE FLOWER MINISTRY AT STONELAW

In recent years it has become more difficult for the flower arranging team to keep our flower ministry functioning. Fewer arrangers mean we have to be on duty more often than in the past. Fewer donations mean we are in danger of running out of funds. We are all getting older, so it is harder to lift the heavy brass vases full of water and flowers up on to the pedestals. The final concern for us is that we are unhappy at the amount of floral foam we have been using as it is harmful to the environment. In trying to address all of these issues, we have come up with the following actions:

- We are now using glass vases which are much lighter and contain less water, so they are easier to carry up and down the stairs for display.
- It is possible to display the flowers without floral foam, but the result is not nearly so pleasing (as some of you may have noticed some weeks). In the past, we used one block of floral foam every week (half in each of the brass vases). By rotating the one third of a block that is needed for each of the new vases, we can make two-thirds of a block last for two weeks. So, two blocks will last for 6 weeks; a considerable reduction. We will continue to try other alternatives to avoid using floral foam and will keep you up-to-date with this.
- So that leaves the shortage of arrangers. We have a potential new arranger who is going to attend a training session we have planned on Monday 4th September at 7pm in Transept Corner. If you have any interest at all in flowers, please consider coming along too. We will give you as much training and support as you need. Just pass your name to Margaret Stark or me. Here are the names of the current arrangers, all of whom will come to the training meeting on the 4th: Sandra Coia, Tricia Finlayson, Mavis Morrison, Janis Neil, Jane Paulsen, Moira Shaw, Jacky Sheppard, Margaret Stark

We all enjoy the beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning. And those who receive the flowers, whether it's because they are celebrating, recovering or mourning, take great comfort in knowing that we care. This is such a beautiful and practical way to express God's love for one another. Let's make sure we keep this going!

Janis Neil jneil1@virginmedia.com 07808 926 067



Flower vase with butterflies
Jan Brueghel
1600-1625

CAN YOU HELP ON A SUNDAY MORNING?

Many of you enjoy having a tea or coffee after the Sunday service. This is made possible by a team of volunteers who are on duty approximately every six weeks. However with some more volunteers, it could be just every seven or eight weeks!

Would you consider helping? If so, please contact me on 07392 290 988.

Moira Shaw



THE LUNCH BUNCH: LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

The Lunch Bunch is a group of Stonelaw Church family members who usually meet on the last Sunday of the month and have food and fellowship together. We meet after the morning service and have lunch somewhere locally.



We are an intergenerational group, and we would love to add to our numbers. Whether you would like to join us every month, or just once in a while, please look out for announcements in the church email or speak to me or Derek Westwood in church. If you need or can offer someone a lift, please let me know.

Margaret A Borland 07967 141 370

AN OPEN INVITATION...



On page 16, you'll see Susanne McCabe's playlist of favourite hymns. Would you like to share your own favourites - maybe 8-10 favourite hymns or worship songs, in the next, or a future issue of the Stonelaw Church magazine? It's your choice: traditional or modern, new, or something familiar, even some that others have also chosen - and you don't need to rank them, unless you wish to.

If you happen to have a favourite version of a hymn or song on YouTube, and share the link in your playlist, others who read the magazine online can follow the link and enjoy it too. Are you interested? Please contact us on magazine@stonelawchurch.org.

Jean MacKenzie and Margaret Borland

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

Let's give thanks for all that Senior Youth Worker Ross Murray and his assistant Andrew McAlees achieved in 2022-23 in their work with young people in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area.



Some of you may know that Greg Senior, Reachout's admin assistant has recently left his post to return to university. Until a new assistant is appointed, there will be extra challenges for Ross and Andrew in planning and delivering all the activities they undertake this term. Ross has asked us to pray that the right person can be found to take Greg's place in the team.

Ross and Andrew also ask us to pray for the children and young people of Rutherglen and Cambuslang, whether in schools, groups, or churches, that they may keep seeking opportunities to explore the Bible and continue their journey of faith.

In case you didn't know, Ross, (son of Cameron and Jean Murray) grew up here in Stonelaw, and has worked for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust for 15 years. Recently he was interviewed by his nephew and niece, (Keir and Iona) for Reachout's Xpress magazine. That interview is shared on page 15 of this magazine.

LODGING HOUSE MISSION HARVEST APPEAL

The LHM Harvest Appeal will run from 2nd-30th of September. See below for a list of requested items. I will also make printed copies available in the Meeting Place. There will be a box for food items in the Meeting Place each Sunday during September.

There is also a knitting project taking place at the LHM, aiming to create a number of single bed blankets by December. If you are interested in knitting squares for this project, please contact me and I'll give you a pattern. I'll then take all our squares to the LHM.

Dorothy McTaggart, National Mission Team Convenor
 dotmctag@icloud.com, 07815 949 648

CEREAL	TINNED FRUIT	TINNED MEAT / FISH
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	*Peaches	Tuna/Salmon
Weetabix	*Pears	Corned beef
Rice Crispies	*Pineapples	Ham
Sugar Puffs	*Mandarins	
Frosties	*Fruit Cocktail	OTHER TINNED FOOD
Coco Pops	*Rice Pudding	*Baked Beans
Cheerios	*Custard	Spaghetti in sauce
		*Tinned Soups – tomato, vegetable, chicken, lentil, scotch broth, minestrone, pea & ham, chicken noodle
JARS/PASTES	OTHER	
Pasta bake sauces	Full Fat UHT milk	
Curry Sauce/paste	Coconut Milk	
Tomato paste	Small juice cartons	OTHER ITEMS
	Diluting/fresh juice	Brown Sauce
DRIED GOODS	*Coffee	Vinegar
Mixed herbs	*Biscuits	Tomato Sauce
Garlic powder	Crisps	Porridge oats
Ground turmeric		Dried peas
Chilli powder	KETTLE FOODS	Lentils
Crushed chillies	Pot Noodles	Olive oil
Ground coriander	Cuppa Soups	*Vegetable oil
Black pepper	Tinned Potatoes	*Bisto
Salt	Sachets dried mash potato	*Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
	Ring Pull Ham tins	Broth mix
	Breakfast bars	Jam
*OUT OF STOCK – URGENTLY NEEDED	Cereal Bars	*Sugar
	Individual packets sweets	*Jelly

NOT REQUIRED LIST

<i>Pasta</i>	<i>Shredded Wheat Cereal</i>	<i>Grapefruit</i>
<i>Pearl Barley</i>	<i>Muesli</i>	<i>Prunes</i>
<i>Marmalade</i>	<i>Alpen</i>	<i>Long grain rice</i>
<i>Salad Cream/Mayonnaise</i>	<i>Red Kidney Beans</i>	<i>Chickpeas</i>
<i>Toiletries</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Bedding/duvets/towels</i>

June Meeting

We have been delighted, over the last 18 months or so, to build a relationship with Nordoff and Robbins, the largest independent music therapy charity in the UK. This month, for the second time, we

were entertained by one of their therapists. Polly Harris was a delightful young lady who played the piano and led us in singing a range of popular songs. See below for more information about exciting developments regarding Nordoff and Robbins.



July Meeting

Wimbledon was the theme for our July meeting. We ate strawberries and cream and we even had strawberry decorated napkins. We then had a Wimbledon-themed Quiz, which caused one or two challenges. For the main event of the day, we didn't have to play tennis but we did need to get moving! Tracy Chambers, a Community Worker with Healthy-n-Happy came along to get us moving to 'Boogie Bounce Bingo'. Every number had a song associated with it (for example Number 10, Let's Twist Again'). And twist again we did, along with a range of other dances and movements to familiar songs. Everyone had a very enjoyable time and we all felt virtuous, having done so much exercise. Oh, and the bingo prizes? Of course, they were boxes of strawberries!

August Meeting

You may have heard of Men's Sheds? There are a number of them throughout the country with one in Rutherglen, which they describe as "a place to: work and relax, pursue hobbies, share skills, have a cuppa and a chat, get out of the house for a while, and get practical help with your projects". But we were most interested in the Stonehouse Men's Shed which has a spin-off musical group called "Simply Shed". Seven members of this group came along to entertain us: four guitarists, a keyboard player, a singer and a sound engineer. We had a great afternoon and the guys enjoyed themselves too, in the biggest venue they had played.

Drop-in Café

The Past Times Drop-in Café continues and although numbers are relatively low compared to our main session, everyone appreciates the chance to have a blether and a laugh in a safe, friendly environment.

One-to-One Music Therapy Pilot Project

We are delighted that this long-awaited Nordoff and Robbins pilot project will get underway in September. We have been offered the services of a music therapist one day a week for six weeks, free of charge. During that day, five one-to-one therapy slots will be available. So, ten of our visitors (accompanied by their carers) will each have a session for three weeks.

At the end of the trial session, a detailed review of the benefit / impact will be carried out. Should our visitors have found substantial benefits from the therapy, we will seek funding to offer something similar over a longer period.

If you have any questions about Past Times, please contact me on 0141 634 1901.

Janis Neil jneil1@virginmedia.com

STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

A Certificate of Transference has been issued to **Ms Shona Forsyth** who has been worshipping at Burnside Blairbeth for some time. We wish Shona every blessing in her new church family.

A Certificate of Transference has been issued to **Mrs Leslie McFarlane**, formerly Leslie Gibson, who is now worshipping with her husband Bill at Greenbank Parish Church in Edinburgh. We wish Leslie every blessing in her new church family.

We warmly welcome **Mrs Aileen Piacentini** to membership of Stonelaw and our church family. Aileen began worshipping with us when the services were on Zoom only and joined the congregation on 16 July 2023. We are very pleased that she is now worshipping with us in person.

Mr John Patterson, formerly of Clincarthill Road, Rutherglen and an active Stonelaw member, died in Perth on 15 July 2023. Many will also have fond memories of John's wife Moira, also an active member, who died in 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and Moira's son Brian and all the family.

Mrs Dorothy Stewart died on 04 August 2023, just over a year after the death of her husband Robin. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy and Robin's son Evan, her daughter Mary and their families.

Morag Moore, Church Rollkeeper

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A BIG WELCOME TO PHOEBE YOHANNA WATSON!

Warmest congratulations to Elizabeth and Neil from all your Stonelaw friends, on the birth on 8th August of your lovely daughter Phoebe.



A THANK YOU FROM ELSPETH BAIRD

As many of you know, my daughter Angela has been undergoing gruelling treatment over the last nine months.

As a family, we would like to thank everyone in Stonelaw for their support in prayer. This has meant so much to us.

Thank you.

Elsbeth Baird and family

MAURICE ELLIS 1926-2023

Maurice died on 26th May, just as our summer magazine was going to print. Many thanks to Maurice's sons David and Gordon for allowing us to quote from the tribute to their father.

Maurice was born and brought up in Broughty Ferry near Dundee where the family were members of St Stephen's Church. A keen sportsman, he enjoyed playing cricket, football and tennis for the school, and was also a regular spectator with his father to watch Dundee play at Dens Park.

Following a very happy childhood in Broughty Ferry, Maurice left school at the age of 18 in 1944 to join the Scots Guards. He trained at Pirbright in Surrey to operate three-inch mortar guns used by the British Army during World War 2. Part of Maurice's responsibilities during the war included guarding the Bank of England offices overnight at Threadneedle Street in the City of London. From Pirbright, Maurice was transferred to a naval base at Perugia in Italy where he was appointed Quartermasters Clerk, calculating salaries for his fellow army colleagues. At the age of 21 in December 1947, as WW2 reached its conclusion, Maurice was demobbed and returned home to Broughty Ferry.



Soon afterwards, in January 1948, he began what was to be a very successful 38-year career with the Bank of Scotland, first in Dundee, before transferring to Aberdeen, Falkirk and Glasgow. In 1968 he was promoted to the position of Manager at the Bank of Scotland, Stonelaw Road in Burnside. Earlier this year, he was quick to point out that when he moved to Burnside there were six banks, now there are none!

Maurice met Sheena at the Plaza Ballroom, Glasgow in 1957. They became engaged in 1959 and married at Lavern Parish Church in Sheena's hometown of Barrhead on 4th April 1960. They honeymooned in Aberdeen with Dad getting off the train on the journey north to buy a paper so he could check the stock market! Their first family home was at Kilpatrick Gardens in Clarkston, and Maurice and Sheena joined Williamwood Parish Church. David was born in 1961 and Gordon in 1964. The family returned to Broughty Ferry every summer holiday, staying with Maurice's parents in Camphill Road.

In 1968, to be closer to Maurice's office in Burnside, the family moved to Albert Drive, and Sheena and Maurice became members of Stonelaw Church. Maurice took an active role in the Church, as an Elder and member of the Kirk Session. He was also Treasurer of the Rutherglen Christian Aid Committee for twenty years. Here at Stonelaw, Maurice took responsibility for overseeing the Communion Service, which he did with military precision.

After retiring in 1986, Maurice and Sheena spent many holidays in Grantown on Spey and had several trips abroad to America, Canada and Europe as well as visiting their five grandsons, Andrew, Michael, Matthew, Callum and Luke in Troon and Surrey. They were happily married for 53 years until sadly, Sheena passed away in April 2013. This was a huge loss to Maurice, but despite his sadness he continued to enjoy a busy and fulfilling life with his faith helping him through this difficult time. Maurice had a great interest in the financial and current affairs of the world and was very knowledgeable on all sports. He embraced modern technology and was very comfortable accessing and using the internet on his iPad and joining in the weekly Sunday Service via Zoom when he was unable to attend in person.

In January of this year, Maurice's long service to Stonelaw and to the Church of Scotland was recognised when he was presented with a Long-Service Certificate after serving for 50 years as an Elder here at Stonelaw. Maurice only stepped back from active church service last year, at the age of 96.

Maurice was a Christian, a loving son, brother, husband, uncle, father, brother-in-law, father-in-law and grandad. He was a kind and wonderful man, who is greatly missed by his family, his friends and by many in Stonelaw Church.

JOHN PATTERSON 1932 – 2023

Ed: Many thanks to Brian Patterson for sharing these memories of his late father.



Dad was born in October 1932 in Garnethill, the middle of three children of William and Janet. During the war he attended Queen Victoria school in Dunblane where he learned to play the bugle, piping and drumming. He was an apprentice tailor until his National Service, where he served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical engineers (REME) and won the Southern Command Flyweight Boxing medal. After National Service he became a tool maker for the box-making company Lairds, working at their plant in Bridgeton

and then in Uddingston until he retired.

He met our mother Moira at a scooter club in Glasgow and they were married in 1961. They lived for a short time in Kings Park, house-sitting for a friend and then in Pollokshields. I came along in 1965 and my brother Keith in 1968. In 1971-2, in need of more room, they bought 19 Clincarthill Road. Dad spent many hours refitting the house almost single-handedly, tackling everything from treating woodworm in the attic, installing central heating and re-wiring, to creating a modern kitchen and a workshop for himself in the cellar.

Mum was active in the Stonelaw Church Sunday School and then the Guild, whilst Dad sang in the choir, helped with the BB and was an elder. He was a very accomplished craftsman and made many items such as lecterns, collections plates for the church and a large table for the Guild. I remember helping him to shorten a couple of the pews for wheelchair spaces and on the occasion of the Songs of Praise visit in the late 1970s, taking off all the umbrella fittings from the ends of the pews to allow space for the cameras to track up and down. Dad also regularly made wooden items such as dibbers and mallets for sale at the annual Flower Show.

Dad was musical. His favourite instrument was the mouth organ but he also played banjo in addition to the drums and bugle. In 1954 he was awarded a gold certificate of merit for ballroom dancing, an interest which (apart from a gap to raise children) he maintained until suffering a stroke in 2014.

Dad was always willing to help out relatives, the church and others with DIY tasks. He was always pursuing some project in his workshop, mostly, woodwork and wood-turning, until he lost an eye to a tumour, after which he took up jewellery- making.

Our parents lived in Rutherglen together until my mother died in 2009, after which Dad lived alone until his stroke in 2014, when we decided that he would come to a care home near us in Perth. He passed away in July at age 90 having declined gradually over the intervening years.

Dad is survived by his younger sister Shirley, by his two sons and three grandchildren, and just missed out on a great-grandchild, who is expected in December.

Brian Patterson

Although John moved to Perth nearly ten years before he died, many of us in Stonelaw remember him with affection and respect. He and his wife Moira were much valued members of the Stonelaw Church family.

DOROTHY STEWART 1926 – 2023

Dorothy Stewart, like her husband Robin, was a child of the manse. On leaving school she completed a course in what was then called Domestic Science, (now Home Economics), and taught in a rather challenging post in the Gorbals for two years, before moving to a school where she felt much happier. During this period, Dorothy played a full part in her father's church and was leader in the primary Sunday School.

When she and Robin married in 1952, Dorothy frequently had to act as an unpaid medical secretary and had onerous telephone duties to undertake. While they were living in Fife, she was offered a teaching post at the local senior school, but the doctor in charge of the practice forbade her to accept and made it clear that answering the telephone for the practice must take priority...

Although Dorothy's teaching career was interrupted, she maintained her great interest in baking and cooking, as well as her talent for dressmaking. For her, love for family and friends was expressed through food. She was always hospitable, with regular afternoon teas, and tasty meals for friends and colleagues. Dorothy also had a lively interest in current affairs, and enjoyed reading "The Scotsman" every day, right to the end of her life.

The Stewarts spent most of their married life in Edinburgh. Their son Evan was born in 1958 and their daughter Mary arrived in 1968. Sadly, between Evan and Mary, the family lost a second son at birth, which resulted in Dorothy having to work through severe post-natal depression and mental health issues for the remainder of her life. Her husband was a great support, but nowadays she would also have been treated more sympathetically outside the family circle.



Dorothy and Robin joined Stonelaw Church in 2015 when they moved from Colinton in Edinburgh to be closer to their daughter Mary and family. They were very soon part of the Stonelaw Church family, receiving many cards from the congregation in January 2022, on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. Robin and Dorothy attended every Sunday - latterly by Zoom - and enjoyed the Stonelaw fellowship, which helped them to settle into their new home in Burnside. Dorothy's commitment to her faith was total; it was only ill-health and the pandemic that curtailed her attendance in church in recent years.

The family is very grateful to Dorothy's neighbours in Westknowe Gardens, to their friends in the Stonelaw congregation, and to the staff at Ryan Meadows care home in East Kilbride, who made her last year comfortable and contented.

UNCLE ROSS GETS A GRILLING!

Ross on the couch with Kier and Iona



K & I: How did you find growing up as a Christian? What challenges did you face?

Ross: Growing up was quite challenging, as I was made fun of, especially in high school and was once or twice beaten up because of my faith. However, I found lots of strength in God and in the friends that I made at church. No matter how tough life was, that support helped me to keep going. There was always the sense of hope that things would get better - and when I went to university people were much more accepting of my faith.

If you could have a meal with any three people, dead or alive, who would they be?

The Apostle Peter, Bono and Thierry Henry! Peter is one of my favourite Bible characters, because he makes mistakes and gives me hope that despite our shortcomings, we always get a second chance. Bono because I love U2 and would like to know how important his faith is to him. And Henry? Because he's an Arsenal legend!

When did you feel called to be a Youth Worker?

After getting my Chemistry diploma from University, I worked in a carpet factory for a year, then went on a gap year with SU. This was the start of my paid Youth Worker journey. I looked at the possibility of becoming a Social Worker but applied for a Youth Worker job, encouraged by one of my colleagues. I felt that God was calling me to work with young people. I love my job; it is always interesting. It's a privilege to have worked with numerous young people, some of whom are now in their 40s!

(continued on next page)

What is the most rewarding part about your job?

Seeing the difference you can make in people's lives, just by living out God's word. For example one year at camp a young person and her sister started out the week very disengaged and chaotic. By the end of the week both sisters were having fun, were relaxed and did not have the same burdens that they had arrived with at the start of the week.

What is your favourite book of the Bible?

I love the book of James and how real and practical it is. I have done a lot of teaching on it – it is straightforward and gives great advice on how to live your life. The whole Bible is great but I love the book of James in particular.

Eds: We would like to thank Reachout for giving us permission to share this interview.

PLAYLIST CHALLENGE 9: SUSANNE MCCABE

Thank you, Fiona Benson, for nominating me to compile my playlist. Many of my top ten hymns link with my mum, as she was the one who took me to church (my dad's family is Catholic) and she used to sing hymns about the house. I enjoy singing too, so many of these are simply chosen because I love to sing them and feel moved by the words. You'll notice they are all 'old school'. 😊

So, in reverse order - this was hard – here are my favourites:

10. Abide With Me

9. Be Thou My Vision

8. Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer My mum also loved this hymn and we had it at her funeral.

7. To God Be the Glory There is a recording of me singing this when I was 2 or 3 with the funny pronunciations that toddlers have. Hearing this hymn just makes me smile.

6. O Come All Ye Faithful

5. What a Friend We Have in Jesus This hymn reminds me of going to church as a wee girl, as we used to sing it quite a lot. It is so true that it is a "privilege to carry everything to God in prayer".

4. O Holy Night This has been a Glasgow Youth Choir favourite across many, many generations. Just beautiful and moving.

3. O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

2. Thine Be the Glory - I love rousing music and this is perfect. My Mum loved this and we had it at her funeral. The plea to 'bring us safe through Jordan, to Thy home above' resonates so much and particularly on that day.

1. Joy to the World - What can I say? Such an awesome hymn and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Susanne McCabe



PS See page 8 for details if you'd like to create your own Playlist for the magazine!



DAVID RUSSELL ON THE USE OF A BIBLE CONCORDANCE

Many years ago I received a gift of a concordance of the Bible. In case this word is not a familiar to you, here's a definition from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english>

Concordance: a book or document that is an alphabetical list of the (more important) words used in a book or a writer's work, with information about where the words can be found and in which sentences. (E.g. a Bible concordance; a Shakespeare concordance)
Ed: For example, if you can't remember where to find the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, you could search for 'lion' and quickly see the places where the Bible mentions lions.

I hadn't used my concordance for quite some time when I decided to check the word 'Paradise' as used by Jesus in Luke 23:43 (NIV*):

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This verse, combined with the verse which precedes it, is one of my favourite Bible passages. However, my concordance is based on the King James Version (KJV) where that same verse reads: *"Verily I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."*

In both the NIV and the KJV translations, the word 'paradise' is used only three times. That makes me wonder if this word had some special significance – over the word 'heaven', for example?

Having reached this point, I was distracted from the word '*paradise*' and moved on to look up 'verily' (truly). I can be distracted all too easily! In my imagination, in the particular instance of Luke 23:43, 'verily' would have been spoken like an instruction to the listener – to be alert to the certain truth of the words that would follow.

I think my fascination with the word '*verily*' may be because of my familiarity with the word 'veritas' (truth) which was, and still is, the motto of my secondary school - Hutchesons' Grammar School - and that takes me all the way back to the 1950s!

When I first looked for 'verily' in the Bible concordance, it was immediately clear that this word was used overwhelmingly in the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The way in which the word is used was obvious too: it is always followed by 'I say into you/thee.' We all know, of course, that the gospels tell us about Jesus' life on Earth. However, seeing all these 'verily' statements together, (thanks to my concordance) was, for me, a clear reminder of Jesus' ministry of preaching and teaching - but only a reminder, because there is so much more to his ministry than just the 'verily' statements.

For that reason, I think it's time for me to put aside my KJV New Testament - and with it, the archaic word 'verily' - and instruct myself to focus first on re-reading the gospels in my NIV Bible and then on re-reading the other New Testament books.** Along the way, I will find the two further occasions when the word 'paradise' was used, which takes me back again to the start of this piece...

David Russell

* The NIV is the New International Version of the Bible (first published in 1978)

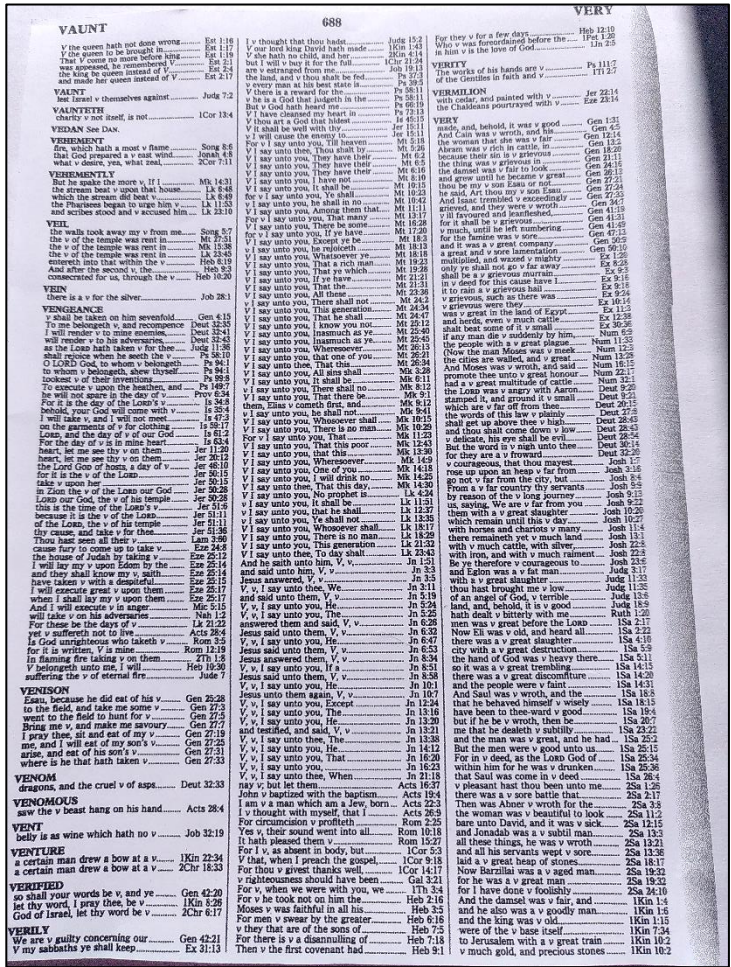
The KJV is the King James Version of the Bible (first published in 1611)

** *At the time of going to press, David had re-read the New Testament as far as Galatians.*

Ed: Some readers probably have a Bible concordance at home, but thanks to the Internet, it's now much easier to find the Bible verse you are looking for by using a search engine, or an online concordance like this one: thekingsbible.com/Concordance

As an example, here are the places which the above online concordance tells us that 'Verily' can be found in the book of Luke alone:

- Luke 4:24 he said, Verily, I say unto you, No prophet is...
- Luke 11:51 and the temple: Verily I say unto you, It shall be required...
- Luke 12:37 find watching. Verily I say unto you, that he...
- Luke 13:35 and Verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until...
- Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive...
- Luke 18:29 he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that...
- Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, until...
- Luke 23:43 said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today...



And if you've never used a printed Bible concordance, and are wondering how all those lists of words could possibly fit into one book, here is an example from David's concordance, of the page with the 'verily' verses. David is happy to bring his copy to church to show to anyone who might like to see it – just ask him!

Hebrews 13:3 (NIV) 'Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.'

Did you know these facts?

- Canada has the most lakes in the world
- Bolivia is the world's flattest country
- Russia is the world's largest country
- Indonesia is the world's largest island nation
- Nigeria is ranked highest in the world for the number of Christians killed for their faith



The first four statements are fun facts, but the last, most certainly, is not! For the past twenty years, Christians in north and central Nigeria have endured violent persecution. Christian villages have been overrun, churches have been destroyed and many pastors have been killed.

The Nigerian government has been criticised for not doing enough to defend Christians. Release is calling on Christians in the UK to commit to praying for the country of Nigeria and its Christian inhabitants.

Prayer Points

- Pray that Christians in Benue and Plateau states and other areas throughout north and central Nigeria will know God's strength and comfort as they face persecution. Pray for comfort for the bereaved and displaced as well as healing for the injured and traumatised.
- Thank God for the unity that is prevailing among the Christians in the IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camps
- Pray for an end to the brutal, two-decades-long persecution of Christians in Nigeria

You may be interested to know the different ways in which Release and other Christian organisations are responding to the on-going persecution of Christians in Nigeria. Life essentials have been provided to those left with nothing; counselling has been given to those who have lived through the trauma of seeing loved ones slaughtered, and pastors have been mobilized and trained to take the gospel back to those places decimated by Islamist extremists.

As always, you can visit www.releaseinternational.org/nigeria to find out more.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

Margaret A. Borland



RECYCLING AT STONELAW

The new recycle bins in the Meeting Place are being well used, with all items for recycling being deposited regularly. Have you wondered what happens to all the things you leave?



EMPTY BLISTER PACKS

Mabel Moore, who began our recycling in the Meeting Place, takes carrier bags of empty blister packs to Superdrug in the Main Street every week. We had so many at one point that Superdrug complained that Mabel was filling their collection box!

GLASSES

To date, we have sent over sixty pairs of glasses to the Lions Club which has been sending glasses abroad since 1967. If you'd like to know more about what they do with them, here is the link: <https://lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/home/spectacles-recycling>

INK CARTRIDGES

Over fifty ink cartridges have been sent to Recycle4charity, who donate to a charity of our choice for every cartridge we send them. Tearfund has received £12.75 from the ink cartridges we have sent for recycling so far and 1.5KG of ink cartridges has been saved from landfill.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS

The stamps make their way to the Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal, thanks to Mabel Crawford. This year the stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing tree nurseries. Read more about that here: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/campaigns/stamp-appeal>

MOBILE PHONES

More than fifty mobile phones are ready to be dropped off at any Oxfam shop. (If you pass an Oxfam shop and can help with this please let me know.)

Mobile phones get a thorough going over. If they can be refurbished, they'll be repackaged and put to good re-use. Duds are passed on to specialist recyclers. These people are environment-friendly and responsible. They dismantle every part safely - including every bit from the battery - for re-use in the industry.

If you'd like to know more about how Oxfam recycles mobile phones, you can do so here: <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/donate/more-ways-to-donate/recycle-with-us>

Thank you to everyone who is already using our new recycling facility. We hope many more of you will get involved.

Lesley Nisbet

WHAT'S ON – IN AND AROUND RUTHERGLEN

Ed: Danny Smith, who is well known to many in Stonelaw, is a fount of knowledge about the surprising number and variety of activities and clubs on offer in our local area. As most of these community groups start up again in early to mid-September, we have asked Danny to give us a run-down of what is available.



HEALTHY N HAPPY, based in the Aspire Building, 16 Farmeloa Road, Rutherglen, G73 1DL, runs a wide variety of free activities for all ages at their **No 18 Venue** next door, and across Rutherglen and Cambuslang.

Danny recommends the Age Active group which Healthy n Happy supports. This runs every second Thursday at Springhall Community Centre, from 11.30am - 1.30pm - and provides lunch, friendship and activities. This group is primarily for older people who live in Springhall, Whitlawburn and surrounding neighbourhoods, but others are welcome.

Please call Healthy n Happy on 0141 **646 0123** or email enquiries@healthynhappy.org.uk for more information.

LEAP LEARNING AND LEISURE also offers all types of activities for a low price. Danny particularly enjoys the Tai Chi classes at Rutherglen West Wardlaw Parish Church on Wednesdays from 11-12 (£4.50 a session) and, at the Cambuslang Institute, New Age Kurling from 10-12 on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 1-3 on Mondays (£4.50 a session).



To find out more, or to register for an activity, call 641 5169 or go to www.leap-project.co.uk

LEAP also offers a free Handyperson service for small jobs in the house and a befriending service. Again, just call 641 5169 or go to www.leap-project.co.uk

PEOPLE'S PAST, PEOPLE'S FUTURE (PPPF) This community group, run by Geraldine Marie Baird, meets in the Reuther Hall, Victoria Street, next to Rutherglen Station entrance, on Wednesday mornings 10.00-12.00 - for interesting talks, discussions and occasional outings about local history. All events are free and accessible. PPPF also runs a Nostalgia Group which has this Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/555619326528490

RUTHERGLEN LIBRARY Danny recommends the library as a great source of information. Most if not all local activities are advertised on posters there, and the library also organises, or hosts an adult colouring class, computer lessons, local and family history sessions and special events such as a Burns Night in January and International Women's Day in March. To find out more, call 643 1296 or email suprg@library.s-lanark.org.uk

SENIORS TOGETHER is a South Lanarkshire Council project working with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership to improve the quality of life for older people living in South Lanarkshire. They organise information days on subjects such as Money Matters, and News Alerts about scams and bogus callers. There is also a magazine you can sign up for. To go on the mailing list, call **01698 454 105** or go to www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/SeniorsTogether



UNIVERSAL CONNECTIONS, 1 Burnhill Street, Rutherglen. Danny enjoys going to the lunch club that is run here on Wednesdays and Fridays 10-3pm. The lunch is free, and you can play billiards.



“The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.”

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

HOW TO GET HELP

The most important step is to get a foodbank voucher. If you're not sure how to get one, phone Katharina Nimmo, the foodbank manager on **07393 737030**

You can also get information on the foodbank website:

rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help

ITEMS MOST NEEDED AT PRESENT

- UHT milk (full fat/semi-skimmed)
- Cereal
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Tins or jars of meat
- Rice pudding
- Biscuits
- Jam

Donations can be handed in at any of these places,

Morrisons in Cambuslang

Tesco in Dalmarnock Road (during September and November)

The Co-op in Rutherglen Main Street

Nationwide and **Laurie Ross** in Rutherglen Main Street

Boots in Rutherglen Main Street (for toiletries)

OR you can leave donations in one of the boxes outside 32 Overtoun Drive, 21 Park Drive or 30 Johnstone Drive.

7,233 people were helped by the foodbank in 2022-23:
5,007 adults; 2,226 children.

2013 was when our foodbank opened.

1 in 5 of the UK population live below the poverty line.



COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023

Tickets will be on sale late September/early October for the Rutherglen Churches Christian Aid Coffee Morning. This is a great chance to meet up and enjoy fellowship with people from all our local churches.

This year's coffee morning takes place in Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Church, G73 1JQ

A THANK YOU FROM JEN IN MALAWI AND FROM CHRISTIAN AID SCOTLAND

In Christian Aid Week 2023, we in Scotland stood in solidarity with farmers like Jen and Esther in Malawi and were inspired by the small but mighty pigeon pea. The support given over Christian Aid Week will help ensure long-term change for families living in poverty. Here is a two-minute thank you from Jen in Malawi, who shares the impact of Cyclone Freddy and why Christian Aid Week donations and fundraising are so important:

<https://youtu.be/N0qBPJpURm0> It's encouraging to see that our efforts really help!

Jill Rennie 07751 896009 Jean MacKenzie 07771 817954 and Helen Paulsen 07743 028307

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

Towards the end of July, the 131 Leaders met for lunch at the Lee Burn in East Kilbride. I was expecting an informal catch up, but the younger team members surprised me, giving us a tsunami of 'technology speak', covering media communication, digital



information, print graphs, stratagems and continuous automatic updates, spreadsheets and screen displays - all to help us monitor and assess our programs. I had been undertaking some of these tasks by hand with colour pens, which was time consuming and required constant checking for mistakes.

I felt like a Caveman being taught Astro Physics by NASA! - but the young leaders assured me that I was doing a great job (Gee, thanks 😊) and, correctly, that this system would be a lot easier. These young people's enthusiasm and encouragement are inspiring and we older leaders are looking forward to learning from them.

We had a boys' meet-up on the afternoon of Saturday 5th August in the Main Hall. Some were on holiday, but those who came along with their parents enjoyed the afternoon. We noticed that the new paintwork, curtains and lighting have made a tremendous difference in the Main Hall. Well done to those who organised this.

Our company starts back on Thursday 7th September from 6.30 till 8pm; we are all looking forward to the new term. If you know of any young people who might be interested in joining our 131st BB Company, please get in touch with me.

Walter Smyth and the 131st BB team: Mabel, Fozia, Emma, Kirsten, Anne and Kyle.
Mobile **07586 255 466** Email: walt_smyth1966@yahoo.co.uk

2ND RUTHERGLEN GUIDES

The 2nd Rutherglen Guide Leaders look forward to welcoming all the Guides back on Friday 1st September at 7.30pm. While we have a waiting list for girls wanting to join the unit, we are always on the look-out for leaders or volunteers to help our Guides Unit.



Last Christmas I announced that we had a number of Guides working towards their Gold Awards. I'm delighted to report on the unit's "Magnificent Seven" who received the highest award a Guide can achieve. The photograph shows the following girls (L to R) with their certificates:

Grace Kennedy, Eilidh Connor, Lisa Beckwith, Hannah Rose, Hannah Foote, Emma Beckwith and Monica Hand. The Guide Leaders would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the girls and thank them for their hard work all session.

Jan Morgan, 2nd Rutherglen Guides Leader

2ND RUTHERGLEN BROWNIES

2nd Rutherglen Brownies start back in Stonelaw Church Main Hall on Friday 1st September. We are looking forward to welcoming back Brownies old and new, and to creating new adventures together.

Diane Wilson, Brownie Leader.



We celebrated the King's Coronation by making crowns



End of term trip to the Five Sisters Zoo, West Calder



Jena MacNab was our first Brownie to win the Gold Award

2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS

The Rainbows' last meeting in June was outdoors on a Wednesday at the Guide Hall in Clincarthill, where the girls decorated paper plates before building their S'mores (a chocolatey sandwich of two Shortie biscuits) and wrapping them tightly in foil. These were then carefully placed on our campfire to 'cook' while the girls played a few quick games.

One of the visiting leaders who was helping us taught us a new song about a polar bear with fun actions. The night ended with our badge ceremony, starting with awards for Kitchen-less Cookery, the last challenge for the Camp Skills Builder badge. We also had three girls who had joined after the Easter holidays making their Rainbows Promise - and three more who received their Pot of Gold badges as they are now moving on to Brownies.

This term, Christine, one of our adult leaders, is stepping away from the unit due to work commitments, but we hope to see her back next year. We're returning with Alice, Fiona and myself as adult leaders, and our three young leaders from last year.

Following a new Rainbow unit opening on a Monday at the Guide Hall last September, a second Rainbow unit has now opened on a Thursday evening, again at the Guide Hall. These new units have had a positive impact on our waiting list. While we are still full, the wait is now closer to six months, compared to over two years, as it was 18 months ago.

Helen Paulsen, Brownie Leader

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES & MAGAZINE CALENDAR

GUIDANCE FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

A camera is in use on a Sunday morning so that our service can be recorded and displayed on our website. Please note that the chancel and the area in front of the door to the right of the chancel are in view of the camera and if you are in this area, you may be seen and recorded.

You can catch up with any service by watching the video recording on our website at www.stonelawchurch.org/service-recordings. Recordings are normally available at any time from about 2.30pm on the day of the service.

CHURCH OFFERING

The collection plate is not passed around on a Sunday morning during the service. However, collection plates are available after the service, in the Meeting Place and in front of the communion table, beside the lectern, if you who wish to give your offering in this way.

HOW TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON ZOOM

To use Zoom, you need a computer, iPad/tablet or smartphone. Download the app and choose Join Meeting. The Meeting ID and Passcode to log into Zoom meetings are shared in the Stonelaw weekly email. To sign up, please send your details to info@stonelawchurch.org

It's always easier if you try to log into Zoom about ten minutes ahead. If you have trouble accessing a Stonelaw event on Zoom, please contact Janis Neil on 07808 926 067.

JOIN OUR CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM Every Sunday at 10.30am. Our Communion Service is on the first Sunday of the month. You might want to have a piece of bread and wine/juice ready for when we are ready to celebrate the sacrament together after the sermon.

JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON ZOOM Every Wednesday from 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start and we finish by 8.10pm. All are welcome and there is no obligation to pray out loud! Neil starts us off with a Bible reading, then shares a worship song before we start praying.

If you'd like to share a need for prayer, and hear about those of others, contact John Shaw on **07885 508130**. We have a WhatsApp Group and can also share prayer needs via SMS or landline. If you're asking for prayer for someone else, please get their permission first.

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2023-2024 - AND THANKS

Seasons	Deadline for Submissions	Issue Date
Winter 2023 - 2024	11th November 2023	3rd December
Spring 2024	10th February 2024	2nd March
Summer 2024	11th May 2024	1st June

Many thanks from the editorial team to everyone who has contributed items for this issue, and to Janis Neil, Isobel Wilson, Jane Paulsen and her team for distributing it.

**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE WINTER 2023 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER**