

***Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community***

[www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org)

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**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE AUTUMN 2023 MAGAZINE  
TO [MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG](mailto:MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG) BY SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST**

## MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL



Dear Friends

Summer can mean sunshine, beaches, holidays, and, for people like me, the need for hay fever tablets!

What summer means to you probably depends on your age. To a child it means school holidays; to a parent it means school holidays and 'what shall we do?'. To an older person it means school holidays, so I'm not going away *this* month; and to an even older person it can mean school holidays, and no-one to meet and nowhere to go because everything seems to stop for the summer!

Summer in church can be a 'nothing' time as all the regular meetings - social and administration - can cease for a couple of months. Summer can be a time when we might meet together even more rarely, with people away from church on Sundays. In the summer we tend to come and go and before we know it, we find ourselves preparing for starting again in September. But if we let that time slip away, we miss out on a number of opportunities to be spiritually enriched! Originally, holidays were holy-days, the single days in the year when the church would hold a celebration such as Easter and workers would have time off to attend. However, somehow, we have allowed holidays to morph into more than just a break from the rat race and almost an opportunity to have a holiday from spending time with God!

Without wishing to be seen as prideful, I believe we are better than that at Stonelaw. So, I am going to issue us all a challenge for the summer: to use our holidays, our holy-days, wisely. Let's choose to do some different things. If we are going away, we might visit another church for worship, bringing back ideas from what we find there; we might create opportunities to spend time with people from the other Cluster churches, or find time to make new friends there; we might work our way through a new Bible study as we sit by the pool, or if we are staying at home for the summer, why not pray as we weed the garden on the one or two days of sunshine we might get here in Scotland?! This is, by no means, an exhaustive list, and the possibilities are endless... Please share your own ideas with me and with others.

Whatever you are doing, I hope you enjoy the summer and feel refreshed, renewed, and spiritually filled for anything that God might be calling you to do as we enter the autumn!

Yours in Jesus,

*Neil*

Rev. Neil H Watson

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## PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME

*I was recently looking through a website of prayers for summertime and came across this one, with an anonymous author. Spend some time reflecting on the words, thanking God for this time of year and the beauty that is Creation.*

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth, and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-coloured flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and more time to spend with family and friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as a gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realise and appreciate that you are labouring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation.

**Amen**

I offer this prayer and, indeed, all of my prayers, in the mighty Name of Jesus and now say the words He taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be Your name  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from the evil one  
For Yours is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory forever.  
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.)

*Elizabeth Watson*

## 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.

**Mid-week 30-minute Service** Wednesday 2.00 - 2.30pm, on the first and third Wednesday of the month. For further details, please contact Neil on **07871 615 840**.

**Join us for Prayer on Zoom** Wednesdays 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start, till 8.10pm. *(see p. 21)*

**House Groups** Usually on the first Thursday of the month, but no meeting in July and August. All welcome! Please see contact details below.

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

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

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

at 7.30 pm with Garry and Anne Ross. **07789 117 274**. *NB No meeting on 1st June.*

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

**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. Both by invitation only. *(See p. 11)*

**Café Church @ The Meeting Place** Sunday 11th and 18th June 6.30pm *and* **Stonelaw Church Picnic**, after church on Sunday 25th June, in Overtoun Park. *(see p. 6)*

### 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](mailto:fiona.benson@sky.com).

**2nd Rutherglen Rainbows:** Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm, until 20th June.

**Wednesday Toddlers:** 9.45 -11.30am until 21st June. Starts back 23rd August. (Contact Mary McDougall **07795 957 226**)

**131st Boys' Brigade:** Thursdays 6.30 - 8pm Starts back 7th September. *(see p. 20)*

**Friday Toddlers:** 9.45 -11.30am until 23rd June. Starts back 18<sup>th</sup> August. (Contact Jennifer Menzies **07974 793 235**)

**2nd Rutherglen Brownies:** Fridays 6.15 - 7.15pm. Finished for the summer.

**2nd Rutherglen Guides:** Fridays 7.45 - 9.15pm. Finished for the summer.



In March, we held three Café Church evenings on Thursdays in the Meeting Place. These proved to be very popular, with various folk sharing how God has been close to them, both in good and bad times. We also heard new worship songs, had fun with quizzes, lots of chat and plenty of lovely baking!

We are now holding two more evenings, this time on Sundays at 6.30pm. Please join us if you can, and think about bringing a friend or neighbour. Everyone is welcome!

### *Stonelaw in Action*

## STONELAW CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY 25TH JUNE



Please join us after church on Sunday 25th June in Overtoun Park, for a picnic to celebrate the start of summer.

Bring your own lunch and if you wish, something to share. We will eat together, have time to chat - and Marlene Galt is organising some fun activities too, suitable for all ages.



Why not invite a friend along?

Please let Jennifer or any team member know if you need transport, or if we can help with carrying anything.

### *Stonelaw in Action*

**ED:** The Stonelaw in Action members are: Jennifer Menzies **07974 793 235**, Margaret Borland, Margaret Breckenridge, Marlene Galt, Liz Maltby, Jean Murray and Fiona Reid.



## FLOWER MINISTRY AT STONELAW

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. We are extremely grateful to those of you who already donate to the Flower Fund; it would not be possible for us to make a difference to the lives of our members without you. However, the donations we have received so far this year will only allow us to provide flowers until early July.

Could you consider making a donation to pay for the flowers one Sunday in the year? Many people choose a date that is significant; perhaps to mark the birthday of a loved one or the anniversary of their loss. If you would like to do this, please pass your donation to me, Margaret Stark or Cathie Baillie. Or, put your donation in an envelope marked Flower Fund and place it in the collection plate located in the Meeting Place on a Sunday morning. Please note it is also possible to pay directly into the Flower Fund bank account (Stonelaw Church Flower Fund, 80-22-60, 10651669).

Thank you for your support.

*Janis Neil* [jneil1@virginmedia.com](mailto:jneil1@virginmedia.com) 07808 926067

## NATIONAL MISSION TEAM NEWS

### LODGING HOUSE MISSION

Over 1,000 Easter eggs were donated to LHM from churches across Glasgow during Lent. Our congregation donated 187 of these, which were all enjoyed by the guests who go to LHM and 30 partner projects.



**Glasgow Life** has been running workshops during spring which have included creative writing and photography. The participants have created a beautiful frieze which is displayed in the dining hall.

Please remember to pray for Deacon Claire Herbert, for the staff, led by June McLeod, and for the volunteers and guests as they engage with each other on a daily basis. Please pray for opportunities to speak of Jesus and to pray with those who come to the Mission while eating or enjoying a cuppa together. Thank you for all your generous support.

### STROLL 'N' ROLL

Our Stroll 'N' Roll took place on Saturday 22nd April 2023. Our strollers enjoyed good weather in Overtoun Park before joining those of us who were enjoying a filled roll in the hall downstairs, cooked by our National Mission Team. We were supported by approximately 45 people and raised £450, which will be split equally between the Lodging House Mission and The Well. Everyone who attended enjoyed their morning. Thank you to all who supported this event and to those who volunteered.

*Dorothy McTaggart* National Mission Team Convenor

## STONELAW'S BIG BAKE-OFF FOR REACHOUT





At the Bake Off on 11th March, £750 was raised for Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust. And almost as importantly, much enjoyment was had by many.

Well done to Jennifer Menzies for organising the event, to the bakers who submitted entries, to Guest Judge Kevin Flynn, contestant in the Great British Bake Off 2022 on Channel 4, to the superb team of volunteers, who served tea, coffee and cake throughout the morning, and to everyone who came along to drink the tea and coffee and eat all the cake! The consensus was that it was a wonderful event with everyone enjoying being back together again. Thanks for making it happen, Jennifer!



*ED Thanks to the Rutherglen Reformer for allowing us to use these great photos!*

**EXTRACTS FROM KIRK SESSION MINUTES**

## FEBRUARY 2023

### **The Presbytery Annual Statistics Return for 2022**

Our Roll was 245, reduced by 9 deaths. There had been no baptisms nor weddings but a total of 16 funerals conducted by our minister. There were 22 active elders and 7 managers.

**National Mission Team:** The minister updated elders about the Lodging House Mission where service users are now referred to as guests and table service has been introduced. Donations of money are preferred to clothes, and three meals a day are provided. The Well are encouraging donations towards their new building. Homelessness Sunday will be in October and the minister will invite a speaker whom he knows from Bethany Trust.

**Managers' Report:** Stuart Menzies spoke to the Managers' Report after paying tribute to Ann McLintock for her many years of service.

## MARCH 2023

**Presentation to Leslie Gibson:** Our meeting opened with a moment of celebration as Session marked Leslie's final Kirk Session Meeting at Stonelaw prior to her forthcoming marriage and move to Edinburgh. Session recorded their thanks for the many roles that Leslie had undertaken over her years of service at Stonelaw and wished her well for her future life in Edinburgh. *(See also Church Family news on p. 14.)*

**Minister's Update:** Rev Neil Watson has begun his most recent Interim Moderatorship at Queen's Park Govanhill and Clincarthill churches. The linkage between the two is due to be completed by December 23rd, but Neil noted that there was a positive approach to the linkage on the part of both congregations, and that a willingness to complete the linkage as soon as feasible was evident.

**Presbytery Matters:** Prior to the Session Meeting, Neil had had email correspondence with Rev William Wilson of Burnside Blairbeth Church, and Iain Johnston, - on behalf of the Presbytery committee, about the Presbytery Mission Plan for Glasgow.

Effectively, Burnside Blairbeth and Stonelaw were presented with four options:

1. Both charges remain as at present, with Burnside Blairbeth having one full-time ministry and Stonelaw having one part-time ministry of 0.5 (based on the allocation formula previously agreed by Presbytery).
2. Creation of a linked charge with one full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament and one 0.5 Ministries Development Staff post (which could be either an Associate Minister of Word and Sacrament, Deacon, or other staff post).
3. Both charges remain as they are with each charge having part-time ministry of 0.75.
4. Union with a team ministry of 1.5.

As a request for the respective Kirk Sessions to meet within a week to discuss the options had proved impractical, the Presbytery Mission Planning Creation Group presented us with

the following solution:

*“that the plan proposed to Presbytery shall show a linked charge with one full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament and 0.5 Ministries Development Staff post (which could be either an Associate Minister of Word and Sacrament, Deacon, or other staff post) upon vacancy of either **existing charge**”.*

So the revised version of the full Presbytery Planning document described our two churches’ situation as **“a deferred linkage between Burnside Blairbeth and Rutherglen Stonelaw, upon vacancy of either existing charge”**.

After discussion, the view of the Session was to accept this proposal, as it means no imminent change to the ministry allocation for Stonelaw.

## FROM THE MANAGERS: EMERGENCY LIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

We have recently replaced most of our emergency lights. You can easily spot these, as they have the illuminated green running man symbol with an arrow pointing to the emergency exit door. In the event of a power cut, they have a battery backup which keeps them on for about 3 hours. Unfortunately, the rechargeable batteries in the old lights no longer kept their charge and it was cheaper to replace them fully than to fit new batteries.

One particular advantage of these new lights is that they have small LED downlights that are always on, so the last person out at night will not be in complete darkness once all the other lights are switched off.

We have also installed three additional emergency lights: at the bottom of the north-west stairwell; in the halls’ kitchen corridor and in the corridor behind the Sanctuary at the Dryburgh Avenue door. These also offer the advantage of providing permanent background lighting for those locking up at night.



*New NW stairwell emergency light*

The total cost of the supply and fitting of these new lights was £653.

*Stuart Menzies*, Convenor of the Managers

## GIVING THANKS FOR A LOVELY CORONATION LUNCH ON 7TH MAY!





### **March Meeting**

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Sandra Hawkins to Past Times in the past – as an accompanist to opera singers Andrew McTaggart and Catriona Hewitson. In March, Sandra brought along 16 young people from Cathkin High School and what a delight they were. Some of them sang – in a range of musical styles - and others played as a ceilidh band, setting our toes a-tapping! Outwith their performance, it was so good to see the young people mingle with and chat to our visitors; they were a credit to themselves and their school!

### **April Meeting**

How many of you remember The Singing Kettle, I wonder? The Singing Kettle was a Scottish folk music and entertainment group which used to perform traditional children's songs. One of the members of the group was Gary 'The Music Man' Coupland and in April he had visitors and volunteers alike thrilled by his talent and personality. Gary played the accordion and sang, and boy did he also make us laugh! What a tonic he was; everyone left the church feeling so much happier than when they arrived.

### **May Meeting**

Following our afternoon tea, we had a short time of fun with our dementia-friendly games and activities. This was followed by a trip to the movies! We are so blessed with the audio-visual equipment we have in Stonelaw. We were able to see and hear a range of songs from the movies; from Gene Kelly tap-dancing through 'Singin in the Rain' via 'Shall we Dance' from The King and I, to Abba's 'Dancing Queen' from Mamma Mia.

It always troubles us that there are so many more local people with dementia (and their carers) who would benefit from coming along to our Past Times sessions. We have been catering for 28 people but decided that with a bit of reorganisation, we would aim gradually over April and May, to increase this to 36 people. And so in April two new couples were able to enjoy Gary and his music and two more couples joined us at the movies in May.

### **Drop-in Café**

As intimated in the Winter magazine, we have been holding an extra meeting each month; the Past Times Drop-in Café. This involves us opening the Café @ the Meeting Place on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month for the sole use of Past Times visitors. Our visitors get a chance to chat with one another in a relaxed atmosphere and although there is no formal entertainment, there is still a lot of laughter!

### **Funding for Past Times**

We were blessed to receive funding from the Scottish Government's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund in January 2022. This money has to be used by January 2024 so we are now seeking funding for the period beyond this to allow us to continue and develop further the services we provide. Your prayers for this would be greatly appreciated

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

*Janis Neil* [jneil1@virginmedia.com](mailto:jneil1@virginmedia.com)

## NEWS FROM STONELAW PRESCHOOL

The children of Stonelaw Preschool have been out and about in recent months, helping to maintain community gardens and visiting residents of a local nursing home.

Being part of our local community is really important to us. We're lucky to be based here at Stonelaw Church, which has its own strong links to people and places in and around Rutherglen.



For several years now, we have partnered with Grow73, a local charity dedicated to enhancing the local environment. Each week, children from the nursery have the chance to work with volunteers from Grow73 on various projects, helping to cultivate an appreciation for nature and environmental stewardship in our preschoolers.

The children have been involved in planting and maintaining Grow73's community garden areas in Overtoun Park, as well as brightening the space around the church with new plants and flowers. Getting the children involved in gardening activities has not only taught them about the importance of sustainable practices but has also helped them develop patience, responsibility, and teamwork skills. They dig in the soil, plant seeds, water the plants, and watch them grow. It's fantastic to see the pride they take in their work!

The children have also been visiting residents of the Abbeyfield Nursing Home on Stonelaw Drive, where they read stories, sing songs, play games, and create artwork together. A small group of children visit each week and they're always happy to see the friends they've made among the residents there. We're proud of how much the children enjoy their visits to Abbeyfield. Spending time with older people outside their families helps to bridge the generational gap, promoting empathy, understanding, and compassion among the children – and the residents really enjoy meeting and playing with the children too.

One of the most important things we're trying to teach the children in our care is that they are part of a community, and that they can make a difference by getting involved. We hope that these are lessons that they'll take with them for the rest of their lives once they leave us and head off to school.

We still have a limited number of spaces left for our next academic year, so if you have friends or family with small children who could benefit from joining us, please let us know! Our dedicated team – Erin, Lesley, Paige, Ros and I – would be delighted to welcome them.

For more information on what we do, visit [www.stonelawpreschool.org](http://www.stonelawpreschool.org).

*Cheryl Nicol*, Nursery Manager

## ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRIES TO BE A CHRISTIAN?



The persecution of Christians has been a significant part of Nigeria's history. Thousands have been killed and many more forced to flee, as Islamist extremists have waged a brutal campaign of terror.

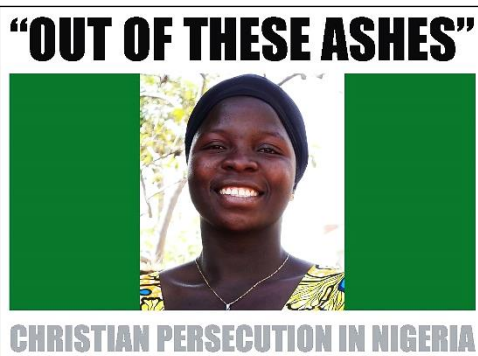
In response to relentless persecution, Release International's **Out of these Ashes Campaign**, is seeking to bring this serious problem to the attention of Christians in the UK and to call for a renewed commitment to prayer.

The situation today is so precarious that Nigeria is said to be one of the most dangerous countries in which to be a Christian. Rose Tagwi (see photo below) lost her husband Matthew, who was murdered by Fulani tribesmen. Responding to her shocking bereavement, Rose said:

*'Nothing will stop the gospel of Christ. My prayer is that his killers will get to know the Jesus I know. I do forgive them and will pray that the Lord saves their souls.'*

More information on this campaign can be found on Release's website:

<https://releaseinternational.org/nigeria-campaign-2023/>



Please remember our Nigerian brothers and sisters in your prayers. Release International is holding an **Out of These Ashes** event in Strathaven Evangelical Church on **Wednesday 14th June 2023**, starting at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Rev Mark Mukan who is the Director of Mission Operations in the Anglican Diocese of Jos, Nigeria. He will be sharing news of how God is sustaining His people in the face of violent opposition and how we can stand together with them. For more information, please contact me.

**Volunteer and Supporter Days** have been organised around the country. All of these meetings are for volunteers and supporters who are interested in the ministry of Release International. When I heard that there was to be one in Scotland, I assumed it would be held in Edinburgh, so I was delighted when I read that there was to be one held in Glasgow. In fact, the location is very near home – Burnside Blairbeth Church! This event takes place on **Saturday 10th June** with coffee at 9.30am. The main event begins at 10am and finishes at 12.30pm. A free light buffet lunch will follow the meeting, when we will hear from James Fraser (Engagement Manager for Scotland, who preached in Stonelaw in August 2022) about his recent trip to Asia and also from Andrew Wilmshurst (Volunteering Manager). It will be good to meet Andrew in person, after speaking to him so many times on Zoom!

Again, please get in touch with me if you would like to go.

*Margaret A. Borland* 07967 141370



## STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

We warmly welcome **Kirsteen McFarlane** and **James Young** who became members of our congregation on Easter Sunday, 9th April 2023. We wish them every blessing as they continue to worship with us.

**Mr Maurice Ellis** died on 26th May 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with his sons David and Gordon and their families. *See the next magazine for a tribute to Maurice.*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### LESLIE AND BILL MACFARLANE

Our congratulations to Leslie Gibson and Bill MacFarlane, who were married by Rev Neil Watson and Rev Jim MacFarlane on Saturday 8th April in the George Hotel, Edinburgh.



### THANK YOU FROM ADELE

A big thank you to all my Church family for the many cards, telephone calls, visits and prayers wishing me well, after my fall at Toddlers in February, and the operation to repair my broken hip. Your support and prayers helped me enormously through a difficult time. A special thanks to the Mums from the Toddlers group who sent me a beautiful flower arrangement and a gift voucher; this was very kind of you all.

There is so much negativity at present surrounding the NHS, but the ambulance paramedics and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital staff were very attentive, kind and caring; nothing was too much trouble. I can only praise them for their excellent attention. Thank you again and bless you all.

*Adele Molloy*

### THANK YOU FROM JANICE AND CAROLYNNE

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has upheld us in their thoughts and prayers at the time of Frank's death and for their continuing support at this difficult time.

*Janice Colgan and Carolynne Kerr*

## NEWS OF THE CHIKUMBANJE FAMILY

Many will remember Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje from Blantyre, Malawi. This young couple worshipped with us in Stonelaw from 2019 to 2022, while Mada was doing his PhD in Sustainable Energy at Strathclyde University. Their baby Andrew was born here and is now nearly 18 months old. When Mada was offered a good job in Sussex, the family moved to Haywards Heath, not far from Gatwick, where they have settled and found a friendly church.

Back in March, in Wednesday Prayers on Zoom, we began to pray for those caught up in Cyclone Freddy, which hit Malawi and Mozambique very hard, causing flooding, destroying crops, displacing thousands and killing hundreds. Mirriam told us that the news of their families at home was not quite as bad as it might have been:

**March 2023** *Thank you for checking on us. It's been a very difficult period for our country. We thank God that none of our family and friends have been affected physically but some have lost property. With the way the cyclone has been, we thank God that all our relatives are all right.*

## PLAYLIST CHALLENGE 9: FIONA BENSON

Thank you, Keir Baird, for nominating me to compile my playlist.

I have included songs, both from Mission Praise and from various Christian Music sources, that help me to focus on Jesus when I am overwhelmed by life. I find listening to music calms me and the songs below have given me such peace over the years; I hope they do the same for you.



MP1100 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord [https://youtu.be/yxq\\_6prPABs](https://youtu.be/yxq_6prPABs)

MP1077 Jesus, closer than a friend <https://youtu.be/-f6azHtx-LQ>

MP1006 Over the mountains and the sea <https://youtu.be/xBEPFFqpycQ>

MP1003 My Jesus, my Saviour <https://youtu.be/c6uStuSq7s4>

MP1002 Love songs from heaven are filling the earth <https://youtu.be/fq2tWDJendw>

Redeemed - Big Daddy Weave <https://youtu.be/vSyLqbP8Z4I>

Wanna Be Happy? – Kirk Franklin <https://youtu.be/0mo8OxWqk8k>

Chain Breaker – Zach Williams <https://youtu.be/JGYjKR69M6U>

Free to Be Me – Francesca Battistelli <https://youtu.be/EKSQjSdU8VA>

This I Believe (The Creed) – Hillsong Music <https://youtu.be/uuDI-sk2nJU>

I now challenge Susanne McCabe to create her top ten list of favourite Christian songs.

*Fiona Benson*



## FAITH, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP! (F, F AND F)

In the New Testament, there are fourteen Bible verses about Jesus eating with others! Let's take a look at a few of them:

**Luke 7: 36** *Now one of the Pharisees was requesting him to dine with him and he entered the Pharisees house and reclined at the table.*

**John 12: 12** *So they made him a supper there, and Martha was serving, but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him.*



**Luke 24: 40-43** *And when he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, he said to them, 'Have you anything to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish and he took it and ate it before them.*

Eating with others was a big deal to Jesus! It was a chance to deepen friendships, welcome strangers and serve the poor. Our ordinary mealtimes could do the same. Friendships deepen over a meal. Inviting friends to dinner can create space for honest conversations, encouragement and the chance to pray together. It can also make them feel more like family.

One of the most well-known stories of Jesus sharing food involved five loaves, two fish and 5000 guests. Jesus didn't have to stay with the crowd, but chose to remain with the people in order to teach us about God's generosity and the importance of welcoming everyone to his 'table'.

In Luke 14, while Jesus ate at a Pharisee's house, he challenged him on the people who had also been invited. Essentially, he said, 'If you're giving a dinner party, don't invite your friends and VIPs. Instead, invite those who are never invited, like the poor and the outcasts. That's how to receive a reward from me'.

At Stonelaw, we are truly blessed to have had many opportunities recently for faith, food and fellowship. We have been able to invite family and friends who don't normally join us at church for one reason or another. It is reassuring to know that we are following Jesus' example. Our 2pm service on the first and third Wednesday each month, ticks all the boxes for F, F and F! Why not try it some time?

As I write this article, I have just returned from another Stonelaw Church family lunch (see *photos on page 10.*) What a terrific way to share fellowship with one another, as well as eating together. Any suggestions for future events will be much appreciated.

I hope you all have a lovely summer with plenty of opportunities to share F, F and F!

*Margaret A. Borland*



Dear Friends

I'd like to share with you some statistics from our recent AGM about the work we did in the year 2022-2023. Over that period we provided emergency food for a total of 7,233 people: 5,007 adults and 2,226 children. This number is 21% higher than last year and is the busiest year since the Foodbank opened in 2014-2015.

We are indebted to the Rutherglen Baptist Community Church, the Bethlehem Romanian Pentecostal Church in Cambuslang and the Whitlawburn Resource Centre for their warm welcome and hospitality, which allows our centres to open and provide much-needed support. In 2022-2023 we were able to open 4 times a week and serve all those people, thanks to the generous donations from the local community, churches, schools and local businesses. We received 88 tonnes of food donations and a wonderful amount of money donations. We are hugely grateful for the amazing support we have from everyone as this enables us to continue our support of people in crisis. We're also indebted to our many volunteers, without whom there would be no Foodbank. They have helped us to extend our support by offering fuel top-ups, warm items, Farmfoods cards and SIM cards.

We are also aware of, and support, other new providers in the Community, such as St Mark's & St Anthony's, and St Columbkille's as well as new initiatives such as the "Meat and 2 Veg" at Cambuslang Parish Church and Flemington Hallside Parish Church. As the combined estimated population of Rutherglen and Cambuslang is 61,540 people, we can estimate that as many as 11% of local people are accessing the Foodbank.

Thanks to a new partnership with the Glasgow Fruit Market, we have recently added fresh fruit and vegetables to the items we offer. During the summer of 2022 we offered "back to school" stationery packs for the children of families attending the Foodbank, and the Scottish Book Trust provided us with a selection of books for both children and adults, to offer to our customers; these were also shared with other local organisations.

### 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 March and May)

**The Co-op** in Rutherglen Main Street **Nationwide** and **Laurie Ross** in Rutherglen Main Street

**Boots** in Rutherglen Main Street (for toiletries)

With huge thanks for your continued support, and best wishes,

*Katharina Nimmo* Foodbank Manager **07393 737030**

\* Or in one of the boxes outside 32 Overtoun Drive, 21 Park Drive or 30 Johnstone Drive.

At the beginning of this session, the 131st BB faced two challenges: to increase our membership and to recruit more leaders, especially in the younger age group. We needed more boys and leaders to ensure the long-term future of the

Company and both objectives were accomplished. We now have 18 members aged 5 to 9 (averaging 15 every Thursday) and a team of seven leaders! The new leaders have brought enthusiasm and support which are greatly appreciated.

# THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



2022-23 has been a very busy session with activities, projects and crafts, always in a fun environment. On 12th March, the boys enjoyed seeing a professional basketball game at the Emirates Stadium, thanks to free tickets which were issued because of our company's endeavours to encourage basketball. We were back at the Emirates on 23rd April for the British Basketball League Final, between the Caledonia Gladiators and the London Lions, joined by our Minister Neil, an enthusiastic supporter of the Gladiators, who are based in Glasgow. Sadly the team lost in the final, but being there for the game was very exciting for the boys and their families.

The General Manager of the Emirates Stadium has asked us to keep in contact, as he is keen to support our efforts. Who knows? We might have some special visitors in 2023-24!

The Anchor and Junior Sections have completed all 7 disciplines for their merit Badge work (totalling 26 separate achievements). The boys who joined later were pushed hard to catch up and responded well. The smiles of triumph on their faces made it all worthwhile.

Our Presentation night, on 18th May, was a supercharged event as the boys stepped up to receive their badge-decorated armbands, with proud family members cheering them on.

During the summer break, we will have several "meet-ups", involving outdoor football activities, basketball and perhaps a cycling event, to maintain contact. We, the boys and their families enjoy these occasions. We are already discussing ideas for and looking forward to the 2023-24 session which begins on Thursday 7th September.

New recruits are always welcome, so please spread the BB slogan  
THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!

*Walter Smyth* and the 131st BB team: Anne, Emma, Fozia, Kirsten, Kyle and Mabel.  
Mobile **07586 255466** Email: [walt\\_smyth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:walt_smyth@yahoo.co.uk)

## HOW DID CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2023 GO?

Thanks very much to everyone who has prayed for, donated to, or taken action for Christian Aid this last month. A special thank you to those who participated in the morning service on Sunday 14th May and/or helped in any way with the Rutherglen Churches' evening service for Christian Aid. Val Brown gave us an inspiring insight into Christian Aid's work in a wide variety of contexts.



It's not too late to give to Christian Aid Week 2023! If you would like to, but don't have a Christian Aid envelope, just ask in church or give one of us a ring and we'll deliver one and/or collect it from you. Alternatively you can give securely online at [envelope.christianaid.org.uk/stonelaw-church-rutherglen](https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/stonelaw-church-rutherglen), - or you can sponsor the 150k in May team in cash or online – see below. At the time of writing, we had raised £160 from 'real' envelopes and £195 from the 'digital envelope'. Please give your envelopes to Jill, Jean or Helen by 11th June.

Our 150k in May all-age team members are close to completing the challenge of covering 150k each (or a joint total of 4,500k) during the month of May. Most of us are Stonelaw people and friends, but we also have Old Parish, United Reformed and Hamilton South Churches' members in our team. Thanks to many generous donors, we have raised £1260 so far in sponsorship. Look out for a full update in the next magazine, or go to [www.justgiving.com/page/150kinmay2023](https://www.justgiving.com/page/150kinmay2023)



### **Would you like to know more about where this year's Christian Aid money is going?**

The Church of Scotland magazine May 2023 issue of "Life and Work" has an interesting article about their local partner's work with women like Esther (above centre) in Malawi.

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/features/features/view/708-christian-aid-believed-in-our-dream>

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

## 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](http://www.stonelawchurch.org/service-recordings). Recordings are normally available at any time from about 2.30pm on the day of the service.

### 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](mailto: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
Autumn 2023	<b>12th August 2023</b>	3rd September
Winter 2023 - 2024	<b>11th November 2023</b>	3rd December
Spring 2024	<b>10th February 2024</b>	2nd March

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

**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE AUTUMN 2023 MAGAZINE  
TO [MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG](mailto:MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG) BY SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST**