

# Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



---

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

September and October 2020 Fifth Series 179

---

## Letter from our Interim Moderator

In these times, when we do so much remotely, whether ordering our shopping online or meeting with others through 'Zoom', it is perhaps no surprise that your Interim Moderator has been working with you remotely from the other side of Glasgow. It does, however, seem strange to me that, though I have been with you since early June, I have yet to meet you face to face (or face-mask to face-mask) in the same room.

By way of brief introduction, I am married to Rosie, and I have been the Minister of Cardonald Parish Church for over two years. My first charge from 2006 was Helensburgh Park Church, after which I worked for a few years with a Church of England in Bridlington, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Before becoming a Minister I worked in the IT industry.

There are so many scriptures to encourage us that God wants to meet

with us in every time of life, to encourage us and show us the way forward. Thinking of the symbol of the Church of Scotland, which is a burning bush, reminds us of one of those times when God came to meet with Moses to give him the direction he needed for the next stage of his life. Moses found that God wanted to speak to him in a wilderness place – an 'in-between' place.

Being in vacancy is not a wilderness place – but it is an 'in-between' place. As you seek God's direction for your next Minister and the way ahead you will have together – be encouraged that God, who has given us all things through Christ, will provide all you need for the next exciting stage of your story with Him.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev Gavin McFadyen

# Contents

Letter from Rev Gavin McFadyen, Interim Moderator	1
Contents and Stonelaw's Zoom Diary	2
Latest Congregational Email	3
Stonelaw's Telephone Tree	4
Magazine Calendar 2020-2021: Grace and Truth Bible Study	5
Letter from the Treasurer	5
'Life and Work' magazine subscriptions	7
Stonelaw Church Manse Update	8
Thank You Stonelaw	9
Lodging House Mission News from Claire Herbert, Chaplain	10
Food Bank Update	11
Food Bank Job Opportunity	12
What happened in the Church of Scotland Prayer Week?	13
Acoustic Nights@The Meeting Place ONLINE	14
'United We Stand': Margaret Borland:...	15
Tearfund's Prayer for Refugees	16
Lockdown Challenges and Blessings	17
Catching up on Congregational Emails	18

A short **November Bulletin** is due out on **Sunday 1st November**. Please email items to [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) by **SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER**

## Stonelaw's Zoom Diary



*If you have access to the Internet, please join us on Zoom!*

*Or try accessing some of the events below by telephone (see top page 5.)*

*For each meeting, you need to find out the specific Meeting ID and password - see below for how to do that. It helps a lot if you log in about 10 minutes ahead.*

<b>Sunday Morning Service at 10.30 am, with Breakout Rooms for Discoverers and Connect2</b>	For Meeting IDs and passwords for each Zoom event, please see the Saturday Congregational Email
<b>Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7.30 pm</b>	
<b>Thursday morning House Group at 10.30 am</b>	
<b>Thursday evening House Group at 7:30 pm</b>	
<b>Friday Grace &amp; Truth Bible Study 7.30 - 9 pm (see page 5)</b>	Contact Mada: 07789619349 or <a href="mailto:madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com">madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com</a>
<b>Acoustic Nights@The Meeting Place Online Friday at 8pm (see page 16)</b>	Contact Alan and Louise on <a href="mailto:L.mairs@outlook.com">L.mairs@outlook.com</a>

## Congregational Email 29th August 2020

*If you do not have access to the weekly Congregational Emails, you can read the ones from 15th and 22nd August on pages 20-21 of this magazine.*

Dear Friend

Are you, or do you know, someone who is looking for a job? The Rutherglen and Cambuslang Food Bank has asked us to advertise their vacancy for a Foodbank Manager (part-time, 24 hours per week). More details are available on pages 12 and 13, or you can request a Job Description and application form, from [info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk).

Please note, the closing date for applications is 11th September.

### NEWS AND INFORMATION

This week's events on Zoom:

- **Sunday Service on 30th August** at 10:30am -
- **Wednesday Prayer Meeting on 2nd September** at 7:20pm for 7:30 start -  
**Meeting ID: 814 8734 6685, Passcode: 289549**
- **House Group on Thursday morning 3rd September** at 10.30am, hosted by Jennifer Menzies - **Meeting ID: 864 1980 3620, Passcode: 483163**
- **House Group on Thursday evening 3rd September** at 7:30pm, hosted by Dorothy & David McTaggart - **Meeting ID: 815 9699 7460, Password: 976074.**

Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting.) You can also listen in live on a normal landline. **Dial 0131 460 1196 and enter the code and password above.** You can download tomorrow's [Order of Service](#) now.

For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available [on our website](#) and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**, later on Sunday afternoon. **Should you have trouble accessing any event on Zoom, please call Janis Neil on 0141 634 1901.**

### Sunday Night Prayer

Once again, this Sunday, many of us will light a candle and pray together. This week's prayer is shown on page 4. Please join with other Stonelaw folk, light your candle and pray at 8pm on Sunday night - or whenever suits you best.

You can read where the inspiration for this week's prayer came from on the [Church of Scotland website](#).

**We pray:**

Living God,  
Speak to us that we might sense your presence  
And know your Name this day.  
Speak into the depths of our lives  
Out of the depth of your life divine.  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God,  
Reveal your Name to us  
As you revealed your Name in ages past.  
Reveal your Name to us  
For we long to know you that you are with us now.  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God,  
You have made yourself known to us  
And invited us to share in your life.  
May we share our lives with others  
And know them as our family and our friends.  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God,  
As we share in the life of the world  
May we better hear the voices of those around us.  
As we hear their voices  
May we better know the depths of who they are.  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

Living God,  
You make known to us your identity  
In the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
May we hear you speak, in the place where we are,  
That we might share in living communion with you this day.  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

*Amen*

### **Stonelaw's Telephone Tree**

Not all of us can, or want, to use Zoom and WhatsApp, so we've set up a Telephone Tree to help us keep in touch. If you're feeling a bit isolated and would simply enjoy a chat on the phone, or if you would like someone to pray with you, please phone me on **07508 213099** and I'll make sure that happens.

Equally, if this is a ministry you could offer, please get in touch with me.

*Therese x*

## Grace & Truth Bible Study

Are you young, or young at heart? Let us study the Bible together, as follows:

**Day of the Week:** Every Friday

**Time:** 17:30 - 19:00

**Contact:** Mada at madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com or 07789619349

**Platform:** Zoom

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby...”*

*1st Peter 2:2 (KJV)*

Looking forward to seeing you this coming Friday!

*Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje*

## Stonelaw Church Magazine Calendar 2020-2021

(We allow 2 weeks for editing and proof reading; 1 week for printing and distribution)

Month(s)	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
November (short bulletin) 2020	11th October 2020	1st November
December/January 2021	15th November 2020	6th December
February/March 2021	17th January 2021	7th February
April/May 2021	14th March 2021	4th April
Summer 2021	16th May 2021	6th June
September/October 2021	15th August 2021	5th September

### Church Magazine Editorial Team

Jean MacKenzie 647 4913      Margaret Borland 647 5280,  
Derek Westwood      Vetinia Gorman

Contributions are always welcome. Please email items for the next magazine to [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) by **SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER**

# Letter from the Treasurer

Dear Friends

A lot has happened since the last time the magazine was distributed, when I wrote to update the congregation on Stonelaw's finances. I am happy to tell you that this report will be considerably more optimistic than the one I shared in May. However, I would like to emphasise that it is a very cautious optimism. While our financial position is better than I had feared it could be, we have still seen a negative impact on our income as a result of the pandemic, and our financial position remains uncertain.

In the year to the end of the July, expenditure from the General Fund exceeded income by approximately £4,000. This is £2,000 worse than my original budget for 2020. However, it is £6,000 better than the projection I did in May (which was based on offerings in April). This is largely due to the generosity of the congregation. As Treasurer, I do have to share my sincere gratitude to everyone who has taken the time to find an alternative way of donating offerings to the Church. I am sure that everyone in the congregation, and all those who have been praying for the work of the Church, would join me in thanking you.

Although our financial position is not as bad as it could have been, the Church still depends on offerings to be able to continue. While there have been some cost savings from the enforced closure of the church, the building remaining empty has resulted in plumbing work urgently needing addressed and there are other fabric matters which also require attention, both to keep the building wind and watertight and to ensure that we meet our Health and Safety obligations towards the congregation.

This being the case, I would like to include a reminder of the ways in which you can donate to Stonelaw, for anyone who wishes to do so.

## **Standing order/ online banking.**

Either a one-off payment or a standing order can be set up using online banking. For those who use online banking, our bank details are:

**Account:** Stonelaw Parish Church, **Account Number:** 00465105, **Sort Code:** 80-12-75.

If you wish to set up a standing order but do not have access to internet banking, a Standing Order form (to send to your bank) can be found on our website at: <https://stonelawchurch.org/giving>

Please remember that you are free to cancel a standing order at any time.

## Posting a cheque

We are able to accept donations by cheque. These should be made out to Stonelaw Parish Church and posted to our Free Will Offering treasurer:

Iain Morrison: Flat G/L, 5 Parkhill Drive, Rutherglen, G73 2PJ.

## Text donation service

We have set up a text donation service to allow donations by text for those who are not able to use online banking or cheques. To use this, text **STONELAWCH** followed by the number of pounds you wish to donate e.g. **STONELAWCH 5** to donate £5. Send your text to this number: **70085**.

If you use this service we will not keep a record of your phone number or use it to contact you for any reason.

## Gift Aid

No message from the Treasurer would be complete without a reminder about Gift Aid. If you are a UK taxpayer, donating through the Gift Aid scheme means that we are able to claim back 25 pence for every £1 that you give - without giving anything extra. If you would like to give using the Gift Aid scheme, you will need to complete a declaration form (also on <http://stonelawchurch.org/giving>) which should be completed and returned to Iain Morrison as the Freewill Offering Treasurer (Flat G/L, 5 Parkhill Drive, Rutherglen, G73 2PJ). If possible, please keep Iain updated with any changes to either the way you give, or the amount, so that he can keep his records accurately.

Finally, I realise there has been a significant change to the format of the Treasurer's Report in the last few months. I am happy to provide the more detailed table on request.

Best wishes,

*Euan Campbell* [treasurer@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@stonelawchurch.org) Tel: 07413 580 103

### Life and Work Magazine

Anyone who would like to start taking Life and Work, or who is taking it now and no longer wants it, should contact me by the beginning of October. I think the price will be the same as last year but as the office is working from home, I cannot confirm this yet.

I hope you are all well

Best wishes

*Isobel Wilson* 0141 570 1712 [isobelwilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:isobelwilson@yahoo.co.uk)

## Stonelaw Church Manse Update

In our seventh month of vacancy, one area that may not have been front of mind for many is where our new minister will live – the manse. When we entered vacancy, a committee was appointed whose remit was to review the existing manse, looking for any works required (and their cost) to ensure that the accommodation reached the standard expected. In addition, the committee was asked to consider the alternative of selling the current manse and buying a more modern property, if this was better use of available resources. The committee and representatives of Glasgow Presbytery property committee thoroughly inspected the property and concluded that although it has a very good location and has considerable merit as a family home, it would be necessary to carry out significant refurbishment work, including:

- replacement of both the bathroom and shower room
- a reconfiguring of the kitchen's layout
- replacement of some, or perhaps all, of the carpets and curtains
- renewal of some of the wall coverings (and potential re-plastering)

In addition, some exterior painting, repairs and improvements were required, leading to a potential cost of between £25,000 and £50,000.

The committee considered the matter fully, taking into consideration the ongoing costs of heating and maintaining an Edwardian building at 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. It concluded that the improvements necessary to upgrade the present property were substantial, and even after completion the property would not be the most suitable one for the future purposes of the church. It was proposed that the present manse should be sold and a more appropriate one purchased, with the aim that there would be no significant net cost to the congregation.

This recommendation was accepted by the Kirk Session on 2nd June 2020.

### **So what happens now?**

The remit of the committee has been revised: to prepare the manse for sale and find a replacement property. In addition to weekly inspections (an insurance requirement), the essential work carried out includes:

- Fixing the 'wobbly' kitchen floor
- Repairs to external guttering
- Internal and external painting where necessary
- Tidying the garden

Despite a delay due to Covid-19 restrictions, with the easing of lockdown and the re-opening of estate agents, we should soon be in a position to put the property on the market. We will, of course, be taking professional advice as to the timing.

### **New Manse**

We are aware of the need to ensure that a prospective new minister can view the new manse. The Church of Scotland has quite specific requirements for a manse property, and in addition, we need to ensure that it is in a suitable location to serve Stonelaw Church. It is hoped that a new manse will be identified and recommended to the Kirk Session at the earliest opportunity. We will keep you updated with our progress.

*Helen McKechnie*, on behalf of the Manse Vacancy Committee

(Stuart Menzies, Arlene Allen, Lois Boyle, John Cuthbert, Helen McKechnie, Jane Paulsen, David Russell, Walter Smyth and Isobel Wilson)



## Thank you Stonelaw



Gerald Scott

Margaret Scott, whose husband Gerald died on 7th June, would like to thank her friends in Stonelaw for the many ways they have supported her at this difficult time. (*Apologies for our lateness in sharing this message; which just missed being included in the June magazine.*)

Bill Preston

Nancy and Margaret Borland would like to thank Rev John Martindale and the church family for their acts of kindness following the death of Nancy's brother, Bill. Your caring thoughts were much appreciated.

Susan Chong

Margaret, Donald, Colin, Declan, Caragh and Darcey would like to thank all of you for messages of condolence, flowers and cards received following the loss of our beloved daughter Susan. God bless you all.

Anne Stewart

Anne and Bill Stewart would like to thank everybody for their prayers, cards and flowers during Anne's recent stay in hospital. These were much appreciated.

Mabel Crawford

Mabel Crawford would like to thank the church family for their prayers and thoughtfulness during her recent hospital stay. Your acts of kindness were much appreciated.

*If you have message for this page, please email the magazine team on [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) Alternatively you can phone Jean MacKenzie on 647 4913 or Margaret Borland on 647 5280.*

## Church Register

At the time of writing we have no changes to report in the Church Register.

*Morag Moore*

## News from Deacon Claire Herbert, Lodging House Mission Chaplain



Dear Supporters,

Here at LHM we are preparing and planning, as best we can, for the year ahead. The continuation of temporary housing support for the homeless via Government funding is uncertain but we shall continue to respond dynamically to the unfolding situation by delivering pastoral, advocacy and sustenance support wherever we can.

We continue to provide food and toiletries parcels to the frontline street outreach teams from our partner agencies. If you have not visited our Facebook page we would encourage you to 'like' and 'share' and help us to raise awareness of all the work going on to make a difference in the lives of individuals with a lived experience of homelessness across the city.

We ask for your continued prayers for:

- the Lodging House Mission Family; our staff team, our dedicated volunteers and our agency partners during this transition time.
- our vulnerable client group, who face uncertain futures.
- wisdom and compassion from those in positions of authority as they consider amending the temporary housing support for the homeless
- our wider church family and decision makers, as they consider what form Harvest worship and collections may take this year.

Let us look to the assurance of God's blessings amidst all the uncertainty.

*Deacon Claire Herbert*

[cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
<https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/>

## LHM HARVEST APPEAL 2020

This coming Harvest-time, our LHM Harvest Appeal looks a little different, due to current restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 Pandemic and also due to limited storage availability within our Upper Sanctuary because of imminent building improvements works.

**OF COURSE THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE NEED TO FEED THE HUNGRY HAS DIMINISHED. SADLY NOT!**

***Congregation members are respectfully invited to make a financial donation to LHM, equivalent to the value of what they may otherwise have brought as harvest gifts to Church in normal times.***

All proceeds will be used to buy food to enable us to continue feeding the hungry throughout the autumn and winter in compliance with changing Covid-related restrictions.

Payments may be made online through our website or can be sent to our office at 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT

*Thank you*



Scottish Charity No SC017283

## NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

This update on the Rutherglen & Cambuslang Food Bank is for local churches.

We had to suspend our services in March, mainly because of our duty to protect all our users, including our volunteers from Covid-19. We are grateful to Camglen Covid Support who promptly stepped in and provided a comprehensive food service to people in need during the past few months. We now hope to reopen mid-September, in Saint Columbkille's Church Hall, Rutherglen, in Cambuslang Baptist Church and in Whitlawburn, Community Resource Centre. We are extremely grateful to each of these centres for helping us to meet the required Covid-19 guidelines. We will advise in due course of confirmed dates via social media, i.e. on our Facebook page, our website, on Twitter, and by email.

### WAREHOUSE FACILITIES

Some of you may also be aware that we are seeking new warehouse facilities. The Foodbank has enjoyed rent-free use of warehouse facilities in Saint Columbkille's since the Foodbank started some 8 years ago. This has been very generous and we extend our thanks to Saint Columbkille's for this. Unfortunately, as demand for Foodbank services has grown, so has the amount of food requiring to be stored and we have simply outgrown the warehouse space in Saint Columbkille's. At the time of writing, we are positively exploring a new warehouse area which will hopefully meet our current and future needs.

The Food Bank could not exist were it not for the very generous donations of food, time and support which you, as an important part of our local community, continue to give us. While we anticipate an increasing demand for our services as a result of the pandemic, we would ask that you bear with us and do not make further donations until we are settled into our new warehouse, as we will need time to organise food stock etc. Please be reassured however, that we will, of course, come back to you at a later date when we need your donations (which we will!!!!).

### FOODBANK MANAGER

Our Foodbank Manager who was appointed in March 2019, and has been invaluable to the smooth running of the Foodbank, is leaving in September. We are, therefore, seeking a replacement for this 24 hours per week post. We would be very grateful if you would bring this opportunity to the attention of your congregations, friends and colleagues. More information can be found at [info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk)

## NEW VOLUNTEERS

As always, we are indebted to our local community and if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer with us at the Foodbank, we would be delighted to hear from them. You can contact us at [info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk)

We hope you have found this update helpful and look forward to your continued support in the years ahead.

Best wishes

Rutherglen & Cambuslang Food Bank Committee

August 2020

### **Rutherglen and Cambuslang Food Bank**

is currently looking to employ a

### **FOOD BANK MANAGER**

for **24** hours per week at **£11,606.40** per annum

The hours of work will be flexible, but to meet the needs of the service, some evening and weekend work will be required.

If you are interested in this position, please request an application form from Rutherglen and Cambuslang Foodbank at:

[info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk)

Along with the application form you will receive a detailed job description.

Completed application forms should be returned to:

[jmgracie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmgracie@yahoo.co.uk) by **11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Interviews to be held on: **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

Rutherglen & Cambuslang Food Bank is  
a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation number SC044594.

For more information please visit

[www.rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk)



## Church of Scotland Prayer Week, 17th-22nd August

How would you like the chance to pray with other church members from around the country? Well, that's exactly what happened on Zoom, during the recent Week of Prayer which was set up by the Moderator, the Right Reverend Martin Fair.

What a wonderful experience it was to take part, to meet so many new people and to recognise some Stonelaw folks who took part in the evening sessions. The contemplative music at both the morning and evening events set the scene. This was not exclusively a Church of Scotland event: faith leaders from the Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, The United Free Church and The Quakers were also involved in leading the prayers.

Visiting the breakout rooms, where we met in smaller groups for discussion and prayer each evening, was one of the highlights of the week. Hundreds of people from all over Scotland were taking part, so it was exciting to see who you would be with during the discussion. First of all, we introduced ourselves and reflected on the Scripture passage that was shared during the morning session, before praying together. This was very uplifting and encouraging. On the Saturday night, it was a real blessing to be with the Moderator and his wife in the final breakout room.

The Week of Prayer has been such a successful event and Martin Fair was very enthusiastic and delighted with the response. People who didn't have access to a computer, could listen to the morning reflections by phone, on **03333 409 200**.\*

I would encourage you, if you can, to listen to the meetings, whether on the Church of Scotland's website, on the Church of Scotland YouTube page or on Facebook. I am sure you will find them inspirational.

Margaret A. Borland

*\*If you decide to give this number a try, and there seems to be long silence after the Moderator's message of welcome, don't give up – you'll hear more if you hang on!*

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/join-in-with-the-week-of-prayer](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/join-in-with-the-week-of-prayer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX65GpoGpQQ>

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofscotland/>



**ACOUSTIC NIGHT @  
THE MEETING PLACE  
ONLINE EVERY FRIDAY 8PM**

Acousticnights@the Meeting Place had been running successfully in Stonelaw Church for twelve years before lockdown. The intimate space created an atmosphere of togetherness and 'family'.

When the lockdown happened, there could be no more Acoustic Nights in the church building. We had been booked up for the next 18 months and had to let folk know that their gigs had been cancelled. We felt so bad for them. After all, for many, these events are their livelihood.

We happened to read a Facebook notification about one such musician who was very worried about not being able to pay his mortgage and other bills. He was pleading for help. We decided to go 'online' and Ian Bruce was our first guest at Acousticnight ONLINE.

The audience, now virtual, (but we knew most of them as loyal Meeting Place regulars) donated what they would normally have given at the door. Ian got nearly 700 views that night for his video on YouTube and was quite overwhelmed! As a result he now has his own channel.

There were many musicians in the same boat, so we decided to make Acousticnight ONLINE a weekly event. About half of our guests requested that donations be made to a charity of their choosing. The charities which have benefitted so far are: The Lodging House Mission, MS Support Mid Argyle, Glasgow City Mission, National Trust for Scotland, Salvation Army Easterhouse Covid Support, Rutherglen & Cambuslang Food Bank, Bethany Christian Trust, MOJO (Miscarriage of Justice Organisation), Masks4Heroes and Foodbank Fife.

Acousticnight ONLINE has now been running weekly since 27th March and will continue to do so until further notice. We can be found on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2\\_tik-OHjIDV0jLhkX0\\_Qg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2_tik-OHjIDV0jLhkX0_Qg) or you can do a search for 'acousticnight online'.

The gig airs at 8pm every Friday, but you can watch the videos any time from then on. 'See' you on Friday!

*Alan and Louise Mairs*

*ED: See page 2 to sign up for a weekly email link to AcousticNight ONLINE gigs.*



## United we stand, divided we fall...

For united we stand, divided we fall  
And if our backs should ever be against the wall  
We'll be together, together, you and I.

*Tony Hiller and Peter Simons, 1970*

I wonder if you remember hearing this Brotherhood of Man song, many years ago? I would like to make it clear that I can only JUST remember it! These words could be an anthem for just now, when our backs have, most certainly, been 'against the wall'. (Interesting fact – the B-side of the song was called, 'Say a Prayer'!)

"United We Stand" is about strength in unity. We have all been so aware of the necessity of helping one another and being 'united' in a common cause during this very strange time. Perhaps we have tried to stay in touch with people through phone calls, emails, texts etc. Or perhaps some of us have helped with shopping, collecting prescriptions, running errands etc.

Mum and I have really appreciated the different ways in which many of you have helped and supported us. We even had a note through our letter-box at the beginning of lockdown from a family we didn't know at all, asking us just to ring them if we needed anything. They had only recently moved into a house near us, but since that kind offer we have had several friendly chats.

The Bible has much to say about working together and sharing our talents with one another. One of my favourite Bible verses on this theme is 1 Corinthians 12:14

'For the body is not one member, but many.'

During this time of uncertainty, we should come together. After all, we are fighting the same battle, against Covid-19. Togetherness happens when there is a spirit of unity and when minds are in agreement. God just loves it when His people join together for His purposes.

There will, no doubt, be new challenges ahead. Our priorities may have changed and we will have some hard thinking to do. But through it all, let's remember the importance of togetherness, especially in this vacancy.

This very familiar chorus sums up the theme of togetherness:

I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world  
Yes, we're the church together!

*(Avery and Marsh 1972)*

So please remember, we don't just go to church...we **are** the church!

Many blessings,

*Margaret A. Borland*



## **A Prayer for Refugees** *(a 1 minute read from One Voice)*

**Last month, the UK press was drawing our attention to migrants crossing the English Channel. There are currently 26 million refugees around the world, half of whom are children. These are people who have been through horrors that we can scarcely imagine.**

They have been forced from their homes by conflict, persecution, disasters such as floods and drought, and extreme poverty. Many will have been separated from loved ones; many will be traumatised and grieving.

If we cannot have compassion upon refugees, we cannot call ourselves Christians. If we do not help refugees, we cannot call ourselves the church.

‘He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.’ (Deuteronomy 10:18)

Tearfund is working around the world to help restore hope and dignity to refugees. Please join us in praying for them.

### **PLEASE PRAY**

God of love,  
You are the God who takes the side of the oppressed.  
You are the God who is close to the broken-hearted.  
You are the God who raises high the humble.

We pray for refugees around the world.  
May they be welcomed with open arms.  
May their needs for food, shelter, clothing and love be met.  
May their wounds – emotional and physical – be healed.

We pray that the world will hear their plight.  
We pray that the world will have compassion.  
We pray that the world will take action on their behalf.  
In Jesus’ name, amen.

Posted 14 August 2020 by Gideon Heugh, Tearfund Communications team

“One Voice” is a weekly email from Tearfund with stories from around the world to help guide our prayers. If you are interested, you can sign up here: [www.tearfund.org/about\\_you/pray](http://www.tearfund.org/about_you/pray), or you can order the Tear Times magazine/Prayer Diary from the Glasgow office on **0141 332 2621**.





## Our Lockdown Challenges - and Blessings



*Here, anonymously, are some of the biggest challenges and blessings of the lockdown period that members of the congregation have shared.*

Living under lockdown has tested us in ways we could never have imagined. We all know that life during this pandemic has been especially hard on our key workers, on people who became seriously ill with Covid-19, and on those who, for a range of different reasons, were struggling even before the lockdown. As things begin to ease for some, there are still many whose business or household finances have been badly affected, and others whose medical treatment has been placed on hold, possibly for months to come. The rest of us have had different challenges, and different blessings too.

Working from home was very difficult for parents who had also to take on home-schooling and/or try to juggle work with caring for younger children. Many babies have entered the world but, sadly, couldn't be welcomed by family members for several months; nor could grandparents provide practical help when it was needed most. People of all ages missed their regular activities, clubs and classes, seeing friends – the things that had always motivated us to get up and going each day. The emphasis on over-seventies being 'vulnerable' made some active older people feel 'elderly' for the first time, and risked undermining their confidence into the future.

Thankfully, everyone mentioned blessings too! There is no doubt that many of us benefitted from taking life at a slower pace and not rushing around trying to multi-task. Parents appreciated spending more time at home as a family, especially sharing meals together, when normally, working hours can make that difficult. Those who couldn't see family and friends loved talking to them on the phone, Face-timing them on their computers or taking part in family Zoom quizzes.

Isn't it amazing what you can do when you're not out and about? Several homes had wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen as we had more time for baking and cooking. What healthy hobbies some of us took up, including walking (and discovering new local parks) cycling, jogging, yoga, aerobics and gardening! There are, however, those of us who could not take part in these activities, for a variety of reasons. But that didn't stop us from enjoying chatting to folk, reading, doing jigsaws, knitting and sewing. The lockdown also gave us a good chance to catch up on TV programmes, films and listening to music, and in one child's case, learning how to order toys on eBay!

Last, but certainly not least, many of us have enjoyed getting to know more people in the church through Zoom video-conferencing. Only a few months ago, most of us hadn't heard of this technology but now it is bringing people together online and has helped many of us to attend church services, prayer meetings, House Groups, Tuesday Chat, Discoverers and more. One person commented, "I like seeing faces on Zoom on a Sunday morning, instead of the backs of heads!" And the Stonelaw WhatsApp group has become a community grapevine which helps us to share news, favourite Bible verses and songs, and to support each other.

It is heartening that this list of benefits outweighs the challenges. As we continue in Phase Three, let us give thanks to God for His goodness and His many blessings to us in what has been a rather testing time.

Now, where can we go for coffee and a cake...?

Margaret A. Borland and Jean MacKenzie

## Catch up here on Congregational Emails sent 15th & 22nd August

15th August 2020

Dear Friends

At times, writing this introduction has been quite difficult. Recently there has been an abundance of Vacancy information to communicate succinctly. At other times, my mind has been occupied by confidential matters which I am not allowed to share. Today's email is easy to write as I'd simply ask you to join in the Church of Scotland Prayer events described below. There's nothing more important to say than that, so I'll stop.

*David McTaggart, Session Clerk*

### NEWS AND INFORMATION

This week's events on Zoom:

- **Sunday Service on 16th August** at 10:30am -
- **Wednesday Prayer Meeting on 19th August** at 7:20pm for 7:30 start -
- **House Groups** will meet again on Thursday 3rd September.

Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting. For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available [on our website](#) and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**, later on Sunday afternoon. **Trouble accessing an event on Zoom? Call Janis Neil on 0141 634 1901.**

### September/October Magazine

The editorial team would welcome contributions for the September/October magazine by **TODAY**, to [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) or by post to: Jean MacKenzie, 21 Park Drive, Rutherglen G73 2QG. Any questions? Please contact Jean on **0141 647 4913**.

### Church of Scotland Week of Prayer *(see page 15 for more about this event)*

Right Revd Martin Fair, our Moderator, has set up a Week of Prayer running from **Monday 17 to Saturday 22 August**. He says:

"At 8am each morning a pre-recorded reflection will go live on the Church of Scotland website and on Facebook. This will include contemplative music, Scripture readings, a brief 'thought for the day', a prayer and blessing. There will also be a suggested prayer activity that you can take up at some point during the day. Each of these activities has been designed for all ages but certainly with children and families in mind.

In the evenings, there will be a 'live' gathering on Zoom at 8:30pm in which we hope many will participate. The prayers from each evening will also be watchable on catch-up through the Church's digital platforms.

The evening gatherings will include the following:

- Prayers led by designated individuals, including leaders from our ecumenical partners, Church of Scotland youth workers, ministers and staff members.
- Breakout rooms, during which participants will have a short time to reflect on the Scripture passage that was shared during the morning reflection, to pray together, and to 'compare notes' from around the congregations and communities represented.
- Reflective music and time to simply be still; there will be opportunity for individuals to bring prayer requests and causes for prayerful concern and thanksgiving.

But so much for the detail! What the week is really about, is creating space for the Church to come together from all 'airs and pairs,' to still ourselves and to listen for what the Spirit might

be saying to us in these days (Revelation 3:22).

As we prepare for the coming chapters, let us begin from a position of humility, being on our knees before the One who will both feed us and lead us.”

We commend this Week of Prayer to you.

*David McTaggart, Session Clerk*

## **CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL 22nd August 2020**

Dear Friends

Someone stopped me in the park while I was walking our dogs recently and asked “When is the church Café reopening?”. We had a short conversation about some of the many hoops the Scottish Government and Glasgow Presbytery were requiring us to jump through. We ended our chat with a promise to let her know as and when things “get back to normal”.

Session has been considering the reopening process in recent months and I’m glad that the PreSchool Group has restarted in our Halls. Plans are being made to reopen our sanctuary perhaps in September. Applications are being received from community groups to hire our Halls. Questions are being asked about when our own children’s organisation can restart. This is a lot for our office bearers, all volunteers, to consider as we must get it right. So please pray for all those involved in these discussions and decisions in coming months.

At the same time, we are in vacancy and are navigating the vacancy process amidst a pandemic. No easy task, so it was gratifying to hear Presbytery describe our Kirk Session as “ground breaking” and “trail blazing”. We will soon agree our Electoral Register, although it’s not too late to have your name added. Then we will get in touch with you about electing our Nominating Committee, the group of 9 who will consider whom to recommend to the congregation to become our new minister.

All of which reminds me of the Chinese proverb, “May you live in interesting times”. Better is Proverbs ch3 v 5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

Yours, praying for straight paths.

*David McTaggart, Session Clerk*

### **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

This week’s events on Zoom:

- **Sunday Service on 23rd August** at 10:30am
- **Wednesday Prayer Meeting on 26th August** at 7:20pm for 7:30 start
- **House Groups** will meet again on Thursday 3rd September.

Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting.) For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available [on our website](#) and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**, later on Sunday afternoon. **Trouble accessing an event on Zoom? Call Janis Neil on 0141 634 1901.**

### **Sunday Night Prayer**

Once again, many of us will light a candle and pray together. Please join with other Stonelaw folk, light your candle and pray at 8pm on Sunday night.