

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

www.stonelawchurch.org

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PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE WINTER 2022/2023 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL



Dear Friends

Welcome to our Autumn magazine and I hope it finds you well.

I thought I would take the opportunity in my welcome message to provide you with an update on where things are with regards to the Presbytery Mission Plan and our Cluster with Burnside Blairbeth, Flemington Hallside and Cambuslang. Things are certainly moving in a positive direction in terms of the relationships that are growing between the church leaders and the ministry opportunities the cluster is providing us. Examples include the shared Holiday Club with Burnside Blairbeth Church, and the new Bible Course which has started on Sunday evenings.

Having established a commitment to work together in the mission to our cluster area, we are now being asked by Presbytery to establish which buildings will be retained for the purpose of fulfilling this mission. It is important to note here that no discussions have taken place as yet, and there is a strong likelihood that most buildings will be retained for this purpose. Equally, before any decisions will be made on this front, wider Kirk Session and congregational involvement will be required.

In addition to establishing which buildings are to be retained, the Cluster has been asked to decide on how ministry posts will be allocated within it. Currently there are 5 full-time ministry posts working in the Cluster (each church has a full-time minister with Cambuslang also having a full time Deacon). Presbytery has allocated the equivalent of 3.5 full-time ministry posts to distribute amongst our Cluster. As you can see, this means a reduction of 1.5 full-time ministry posts. Therefore, discussions will need to take place with regards to how best to allocate the ministry posts within the Cluster. Again, no discussions have taken place as yet and this will not be an easy thing to work out, so your prayers will very much be welcomed by all involved in this process. Once again, Kirk Session and congregational involvement will be required.

While decisions will need to be made quite quickly, as the Presbytery Mission Plan is to be agreed and signed off by 31 December 2022 and work towards implementation from 1 January 2023, immediate changes are unlikely to happen. However, it will have an impact on how ministry is approached with, at the very least, one or more of the churches in our cluster not having a full-time minister by the end of the 5-year Plan's life, that is by 2026. This will, of course, dictate the direction of ministry not just for individual congregations but for the entire Cluster, as we navigate away from the model of ministry within our denomination that has traditionally seen individual congregations mainly served by a full-time minister of their own.

I realise that this is not an easy situation for any of us. If you have any questions, or would just like to have a chat, please do get in touch with me and I will try my best to answer them.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson

minister@stonelawchurch.org

2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG 07871 615 840



NEIL'S PRAYER

Loving God, in the busyness of the world and the many things pulling for my attention, I come before you with an open mind and loving heart.

I give thanks for the gift of Creation and all you have given to us. I am amazed and commit myself again to follow you. By your Spirit, help me to strive to build a world of love, justice and peace where we are all better stewards of your Creation.

Loving God, as I acknowledge how much you have given me, I come before you today recognising the times when I have failed to acknowledge you and do my best.

You have invited me into relationship with You, and others. So, for the times when I have turned away and broken the bonds between us... I seek your mercy anew.

You have given us many gifts to share with one another. So, for the times when I have used them without regard for others... I seek your mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, Jesus, You invited us to be Your disciples in the world and for the times when I have rejected Your invitation and taken my own path... I am truly sorry and seek your forgiveness.

I thank you Jesus, as my Lord and Saviour, and in whose name I offer this prayer.

I now say the words You 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**

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND STONELAW?

Sunday Prayer Time in the north transept of the Sanctuary at 10.15am.
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.

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**.

House Groups – First Thursday of the month: 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December.

- at 10.30 am with Jennifer Menzies. Call **07974 793 235** for more details.
- at 7.30 pm with Dorothy and David McTaggart. Call **07815 949 648** for more details.
- at 7.30 pm with Garry and Anne Ross. Call **07789 117 274** for more details.

Harvest Sunday Service 25th September 10.30 am (See page 8)

Kirk Session Meeting First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm: 4th October, 1st November, and 6th December.

Games Afternoon First Tuesday of the month at 1.30 – 3.00pm (See p.9)

Past Times Dementia Café Wednesday 2.30-4.00pm (see page 9)

14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December

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

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 (See p.21)

Stonelaw Toddlers Group Wednesdays and Fridays 9.45 - 11.30am (see p.15)

131st Boys' Brigade Thursdays 6.30-8pm (See p.21)

2nd Rutherglen Brownies Fridays 6.15-7.15pm

2nd Rutherglen Guides Fridays 7.45-9.15pm

STONELAW CHURCH ON ZOOM

To log into Zoom events, please see the Stonelaw weekly email, or to sign up for it, contact info@stonelawchurch.org **NB For how to join our Zoom events, please see page 26.**

Join our Church Service on Zoom Every Sunday at 10.30am.

Our Communion Service is held on the first Sunday of the month. You might want to have a piece of bread and some wine/juice close to hand 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.

NEWS FROM THE JUNE KIRK SESSION

- Congregational Bibles have now been returned to the Sanctuary.
- Burnside Blairbeth Church has invited us to join them on Zoom at 10.00am - 1.00pm on Saturday 17th September for Bereavement Care Awareness training. To book a place, please follow [this link](#)
- After a delay due to Covid, our minister Neil is now leading a monthly afternoon service at the Rutherglen Care Home in 10 Rodger Drive.
- The church roof repairs have now been completed and Managers were warmly thanked for all their work.

CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE – 18TH JUNE 2022

We met on the morning of Saturday 18th June in the Main Hall, starting with some breakfast rolls and fellowship before a short act of worship.

After an update on the current moves within the Church of Scotland and the reasons behind much of the changes happening, with regards to Presbytery planning, we took some time in small groups to discuss things that might be possible for us at Stonelaw, to ensure we continue to be a vibrant church.

Using the 5 Marks of Mission as a basis for this, a number of great new ideas were submitted from the groups for us to think about. Neil will be pulling these together and providing an update in the next few weeks. This will be sent digitally to all those on the email distribution list, and shared in hard copy format with those who don't have access to email.

HOUSE GROUPS IN A NUTSHELL

House groups are a way of building friendships in a social setting that reminds us that congregational life is not restricted to Sunday Services. As friendships deepen and mature through examining the Bible, we hope to gain fresh insights into who we are as individuals, as Christian brothers and sisters and as members of our own human families.

Meeting for friendship, worship, prayer, Bible study, tea, coffee, laughter, and perhaps, occasionally, a bit of home baking, is both great fun and life-enhancing.

To find out more about our meetings on the first Thursday of the month, please contact the group leaders below:

10.30am at the home of Jennifer and Stuart Menzies. **07974 793 235**

7.30pm at the home of Dorothy and David McTaggart. **07815 949 648**

7.30pm at the home of Anne and Garry Ross. **07789 117 274**

Derek Westwood

SUNDAY PRAYER TIME

While we are all probably praying for those involved in the Sunday morning service, on Sunday 28th August Stonelaw relaunched our in-person Prayer Ministry.

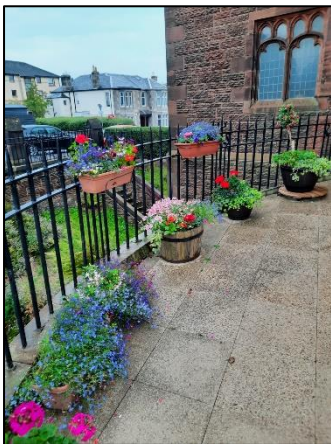
We meet at 10.15am to bring the congregation (online and in-person) and all those contributing to worship that day, before God. It is our hope that people will feel blessed, encouraged, and that as a congregation we would grow in a deeper awareness of our God's presence.



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

Elizabeth Watson

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH GARDEN



Year after year, Stonelaw members, and many passers-by, are blessed by the beautiful and artistic floral displays enhancing the main entrance to our church building.

This doesn't happen miraculously or spontaneously but is the long-term result of much labour and love by Bill Stark and John Shaw, both talented horticulture experts. Sadly, Bill is no longer with us and is greatly missed in so many ways. However, John carries on the good work, while Jacky faithfully waters the plants when she can.

Much of the purchase of bulbs, plants and containers is supported by a few loyal members. If anyone else feels led to support this ministry financially, this would be much appreciated.

Alternatively, if you'd like to support the work in practical ways, that would also be very welcome. Whatever your level of gardening skills, you'll find John a knowledgeable and enthusiastic companion. You can contact him on **07885 508 130**.

Derek Westwood

MAGAZINE SURVEY FEEDBACK

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the church magazine readers' survey. We had a total of 35 responses, with many interesting comments and suggestions.

As the majority of those who responded (60%) were in favour of moving to a quarterly magazine, and as this also makes the production, printing and distribution more manageable for those involved, we have decided to make that move, beginning with this Autumn issue. Please see page 25 for the new magazine calendar.

One helpful request made in the survey was that we try to include more photos to help people match faces to names. While this is not always possible, we will do so when we can. Look out for more good suggestions in the Winter issue, due out 4th December.

Ideas and contributions are always welcome! To contact us, please see page 26.

HARVEST APPEAL FOR THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION



Last month we had an urgent appeal from LHM, following the loss of all the food contained in their five freezers due to an electrical fault. We know that people in Stonelaw have responded and here is what we heard from the LHM:

“Our freezers are working now. There was a fantastic response to our appeal, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported this.”

Thank you, if you were one of those who made a donation in August.

Our own Harvest Sunday Service will be on Sunday 25th September 2022.

However, the National Mission Team will collect food items towards LHM’s Harvest Appeal on each of these Sundays: **4th, 11th, 18th and 25th September.**

If you are able, there are four ways to donate:

1. To let LHM buy fresh produce as and when they need it, you can buy an Orange Gift Card online to the value of £5 - £100 from Aldi, at <https://vouchers.aldi.co.uk/products/orange-voucher> You will receive the card in the post around 3-5 days later. Please bring your Gift Card to church by 25th September.
2. A collection box for food items will be available in the Meeting Place each Sunday. Please only bring items which appear on the LHM list below.
3. You can make a donation directly to the LHM bank account. The bank details are: Sort code **82-64-31** Acc. No. **30060385**. Please include the reference **Harvest Appeal**.
4. Or if you don’t do online banking, just put your donation in an envelope clearly marked **Harvest Appeal** and hand it in at church.

Cereal	Ground coriander	Diluting/fresh juice
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	Salt and black pepper	Coffee
Weetabix	Tinned Fruit	Biscuits
Rice Crispies	Peaches	Crisps
Sugar Puffs	Pears	Brown Sauce
Frosties	Pineapples	Vinegar
Coco Pops	Mandarins	Tomato Sauce
Cheerios	Fruit Cocktail	Porridge oats
Jars/Pastes	Rice	Dried peas
Pasta bake sauces	Custard	Lentils
Curry Sauce/paste	Tinned Meat / Fish	Olive oil
Tomato paste	Tuna/Salmon	Vegetable oil
Dried Goods	Corned beef	Bisto
Mixed herbs	Ham	Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Garlic powder	Other	Broth mix
Ground turmeric	Full fat UHT milk	Jam
Chilli powder	Coconut Milk	Sugar
Crushed chillies	Small juice cartons	Jelly
Not required list		
Pasta	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Salad Cream, Mayonnaise
Pearl Barley, Chickpeas	Muesli, Alpen	Long grain rice
Red Kidney Beans	Grapefruit, Prunes	Marmalade



We made the decision not to close Past Times over the summer months, as we believed few of our visitors would be able to go on holiday. This proved to be the case as only one couple was unable to make one of our meetings. Here is a brief update on what we've been doing.

June

We had 23 visitors at our June meeting and this time we did not have anyone lined up to entertain us so we made our own entertainment! Following our usual half hour of afternoon tea, we spent a happy time using our various activities: games, puzzles and magic painting, followed by a musical quiz - with a few props to tease out the answers. Could this be the first time that 40 tubs of bubbles were blown in the sanctuary? (No prizes for guessing the name of the song, but if you are a West Ham supporter you may get the answer faster than most!)

July

Michael White from Screen Memories Scotland visits organisations like ours and entertains by showing either movies or songs from his computer to our screen. Michael decided to challenge us to decide which was the 'Best Ever Scottish Song' from those that he played to us. Our 27 visitors were seated at six different tables and, needless to say, each table chose a different song!

August

Nordoff Robbins is a UK charity (nordoff-robbins.org.uk) which employs music therapists to enrich the lives of people with life-limiting illness, disabilities or feelings of isolation. Two of their therapists with lots of experience of working with people living with dementia were identified as best suited to coming to Past Times. And what a delight Stella and Reuben proved to be. They brought their guitars, other musical instruments and joy to the room. One of our visitors was identified as arriving in a "grumpy mood". Well, that didn't last long, as he joined in the singing and played his percussion instrument in time to the music. The afternoon was described as a great success and we hope to work with Nordoff Robbins again very soon.

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

Janis Neil

GAMES AFTERNOON ON TUESDAYS



The Games Afternoons will resume on Tuesday 6th September, in the Meeting Place from 1.30 – 3.00pm, and on the first Tuesday in each month thereafter, depending on the interest.

Why not come and join us for some fun?

Marlene Galt and Linda Alison

FOOD HYGIENE COURSE



It has recently become a legal requirement that anyone who handles or prepares food and drink is appropriately trained and/or supervised. The Church of Scotland is asking all volunteers who will be doing home-baking for, or serving at, church events to complete a (very basic) 2-hour Food Hygiene course.

We are waiting to hear when a webinar-style course can be held in the church building, in the near future. No technology is required! We'll all be together in the Main Hall or the Meeting Place, watching on a screen. The course is an awareness-raising exercise, so we'll work through the materials together - there is no assessment at the end!

Are you likely to be doing some baking, or helping to serve food in Café @ the Meeting Place, at church coffee mornings or lunches? If so, we really need you to take part in this course. If we haven't already spoken to you, please get in touch with one of us.



The course can also be done individually online, so if you'd rather complete it this way, please let us know.

Lesley Nisbet 07932 684 202 and Jennifer Menzies 07974 793 235

LUNCH BUNCH: LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

The Lunch Bunch is a group of friendly folk from Stonelaw Church 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.



Lunch Bunch is 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 at church. If you need, or can offer someone a lift, please let me know.

Margaret A Borland 07967 141 370

STAMP APPEAL 2022

Please keep saving your used stamps. Just pop them in a bag or envelope and leave them on the table in the Meeting Place. I check for donations every Sunday. Thank you.



Leslie Gibson

RECYCLING MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS



You can hand in empty medicine blister packs at Superdrug, next to the pharmacy counter. However, if that's not easy for you, please leave them in the box outside the Meeting Place kitchen. I'll be checking the box regularly and will deliver them for you.



Mabel Moore

THE BIG INTERVIEW!

One of our young folk, Keir Baird, put Neil through his paces recently by interviewing him about his role as chaplain to Rutherglen Glencairn Football Club. Read on for more information on what's involved in his role.

Keir: What started your interest in Sports Chaplaincy?

NEIL: When I became the minister at Belhaven with Spott, the previous minister had been an informal chaplain with Dunbar United FC. I was approached by the club within a few weeks of my arrival, to see if I wanted to get involved. As I really love football, I went along to the training. Quite quickly, when the club decided to make the role of chaplain more formal, I took training at Hampden and got a certificate. Having been a Sports Chaplain for 4-5 years, when I moved through to Rutherglen, I got a free transfer from Dunbar to Glencairn! This was through the director of sports chaplaincy in Scotland, Mark Fleming, who knew I was passionate about football and wondered if I would be interested in taking on the role of Sports Chaplain with Rutherglen Glencairn FC.

KEIR: Why did you decide to accept this invitation?

NEIL: I thought it would be a good way of getting to know local people that I might never come across in church. Unfortunately, Covid held things up, but I eventually met the management and the rest of the playing squad at the end of January 2022, on a squad training night at Glasgow Green.

KEIR: What was involved in your training to be a Sports Chaplain?

NEIL: The training course at Hampden included looking at the different situations you might encounter. There is also on-going training and a mental health course. That course was particularly challenging as you can imagine, with a heavy emphasis on the mental health of players and those associated with the club you are appointed to.

KEIR: What do you do in your role at Glencairn?

NEIL: There is, obviously, the pastoral side of things when you are chatting to folk who are struggling with issues. I need to make myself available to everyone associated with the club, so I try to go to training as well as to matches, in order that they can get to know me and vice-versa.

KEIR: What do you find the most enjoyable part of your role as chaplain and what is the most challenging?

NEIL: The best part has to be watching football matches and getting to know the players and the inner workings of the club. The more challenging part is that the majority of the people I work with are young guys and they can be rather suspicious of sharing things with another man who is a stranger. So, that's why it is important to build relationships and get to know them all better over a longer period of time.

Grateful thanks to Keir and Neil from the editorial team for their willingness to take part in 'The Big Interview'. Readers may be interested to know that Sports Chaplaincy has been endorsed by Sir Alex Ferguson, no less! He has been quoted as saying: 'Chaplains can be of help to all sorts of people involved with sport e.g. when crisis, need, or difficulty comes. I commend the idea of Sports Chaplaincy'. So, Neil, give it your best shot and hopefully no one will receive the hairdryer treatment from you!!

STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

Dr Robin Stewart died on 26th June 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dorothy, his son Evan, his daughter Mary, and their families.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU STONELAW

Thank you for the birthday cards I received from Church Members on July 8th for my 96th birthday. The cards were much appreciated.

Thanks also for the beautiful flowers from the Church which I received on July 10th.



Maurice Ellis.

MADA, MIRRIAM AND ANDREW CHIKUMBANJE



Three years ago, a young couple from Malawi began worshipping with us in Stonelaw Church. What a joy and a privilege it was to welcome them into the church family and to get to know Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje! They began to contribute so much to our prayer life and Mada's thoughtful, Bible-based magazine articles were always much appreciated. We were delighted when, in January of this year, they were blessed with a baby son, Andrew. After much prayerful concern, as he was born three months early, we rejoiced when Andrew was able come home from hospital in March.

Mada came to Scotland to study for a postgraduate degree in Electrical Engineering at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, and in May of this year he passed his PhD – wonderful news! He began looking for employment and starts his new job this month in the south-east of England at Electricity Network Planning, in Crawley, West Sussex. We will really miss the Chikumbanje family but we wish them God's richest blessings in this new venture. Our loss, but Crawley's gain!

Margaret Borland

DR ROBIN STEWART 1926-2022



Dr Stewart and his wife, Dorothy joined Stonelaw Church in 2015 when they moved from Colinton in Edinburgh to be closer to their family. They integrated well into the congregation, which was evident when they received over 40 cards from the church family on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary in January 2022. 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.

Jean and Jane Miller

*The following is adapted from Dr Stewart's son **Evan Stewart's** tribute to his father:*

"Our father was a wonderful man. He was generous, thoughtful, compassionate, loyal - a man of integrity and humility. His outlook on life was consistently optimistic and he was amazingly resilient. His sense of humour was mischievous, but never cruel.

A child of the manse, Robin Stewart was born in 1926 and educated in Aberdeen and Glasgow before studying medicine at Glasgow University. He held hospital posts in Paisley and Irvine and was determined to enter general practice, but as there was a glut of doctors returning home after the war, posts were at first difficult to obtain at that time. He therefore took up a series of assistantships in Shotts, Coventry, Dumbarton and Bellshill before finally joining a mining practice in Newmills, Fife. Robin and Dorothy, also a child of the manse, had married in 1952 and Robin wanted it known that he owed a tremendous debt to his wife, who because of the demands of general practice in those days (with no secretaries or practice nurses), gave up her career as a domestic science teacher early, to help him.

After ten years in Newmills, Robin spent almost 30 years as Assistant and later Senior Medical Officer at Moray House College of Education, where he was family doctor to students living in halls of residence and lecturer to trainee teachers and social workers. He also delivered in-service training to guidance teachers and teachers of disabled children and organised conferences for senior members of the medical and teaching professions.

Essentially, Robin was a family man who was intensely proud of his and Dorothy's children, Mary and Evan, and their four grandchildren: Katie, Anna, Morven and Cillian. Their granddaughter Anna said "I have memories of Grandpa on all fours, playing with us in our Wendy house, or filling our Nottingham home with festive joy through his carols on the piano (...) who could ask for a cooler grandpa? He was a sharp dresser, loved a colourful printed tie and always had a better iPhone than me!"

Evan continued, "Outside his work, our father's chief love was music; he was proud to have played the organ on occasion at Culross Abbey and in Morningside churches in Edinburgh. He enjoyed being a member of church choirs and latterly the Merchiston Community Choir.

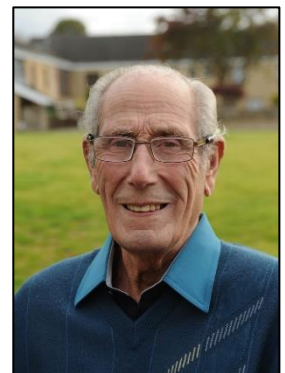
He professed to dislike big social occasions, but couldn't stop chatting to people. When he disappeared to the shops and didn't return, we knew he was chatting to his latest friends in the opticians, the post office, the newsagent or in Tesco. For Dad, genuine friendships just kept spontaneously developing.

Robin Stewart was a man of intrinsic decency. For Christians, he was a shining example of living through and for Jesus. For agnostics and atheists, he was a model of how a human life can have profound meaning in itself."

MEMORIES OF BILL WILSON

Bill Wilson passed away on 22nd July 2022, at the age of 81. The recently married Bill and Sheila had moved to Rutherglen in 1965 and soon joined Stonelaw Parish Church. When their daughters Luran and Debbie came along, the family quickly involved themselves in the busy and active church life that Stonelaw had to offer – Young Wives for Sheila, Eldership for Bill, Sunday School and Brownies for the girls.

In 1971, Bill suggested to the Church Session that a B.B. company would be an asset to the church family and soon he and his team welcomed 12 boys of secondary age to the 131st Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade. The company grew quickly and Bill's officers, including his bother Ian, committed a huge amount of time to the benefit of the boys, while Sheila ran the Anchor Boys for years and Luran and Debbie became Junior Section leaders. Many of those boys, now in their 40s and 50s, have the fondest of memories of the company. Bill and his BB team left a legacy which sees the 131st at Stonelaw Church continue to this day, albeit



in a smaller capacity. The fact that it has survived at all, when many others have not, is testament to the spadework and dedication of everyone in any capacity who has ever had the privilege to be part of the company.

Another great love of Bill's was the Abbeyfield Rutherglen Society, which he supported for almost 40 years. Bill was involved in the purchase of Eastpark Mansion House from Templeton's for the princely sum of £1.00. In 1983, the newly refurbished Eastpark House opened its doors to nine residents and Abbeyfield Rutherglen was born. To his delight, Bill was able to show Prince Charles around the new state-of-the-art facility. Templeton House and McMillan House followed three years later and in 1988, an additional facility opened offering both residential and nursing care. Upon Bill's retirement from Abbeyfield in 2018, the "Extra Care" unit was re-named Wilson House in his honour.

Bill's decision to join the ministry in 1998 took many people by surprise. Looking back however, that was perhaps where he should have started in 1968 instead of in 1998! He spent almost 20 very happy years serving Larkhall Congregational Church. Sheila and Bill served Larkhall with all their being and Larkhall relished their 100% commitment. Retiring from Larkhall allowed Bill and Sheila to return to Rutherglen United Reformed Church where they had worshipped for many years.

Sadly, Sheila passed away very suddenly in May 2018 and there followed a time of ill health for Bill. At the start of lockdown, he headed north to be with his daughter Debbie, her husband and family near Rothes. Bill learned to get around on a mobility scooter, giving him a freedom which he loved. When Bill came home to Rutherglen it was to a new but very familiar address - Flat 11 of McMillan House in Abbeyfield! It gave him a new-found energy and he loved it!!

Bill was a friend to many and a listening ear to many more. He will be greatly missed.

*Extracted by **Janis Neil** from Bill's eulogy, which was written by his daughter **Lauran Stevenson***

MRS JO SKELTON-SMITH

Over the last year or so, Jo Skelton-Smith, who lived near the church, has been worshipping regularly with us, always sitting near the front and centre of the Sanctuary. She had previously worshipped at the Tron Church, until she was no longer able to travel there. Jo led our all-age talk most effectively on Easter Sunday.

She has been a delightful member of the congregation and it was a real shock when we discovered that Jo had passed away on Wednesday 24th August, having been in the Sanctuary as usual on the previous Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Lucy.

ON THE MOVE!

Many of you will remember Rev Jane Howitt, who grew up in Stonelaw Church. Jane, who for the past six years has been the minister at St. Rollox in the Sighthill area of Glasgow, moved on last month to a new job as chaplain at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. This will be a totally different, but very exciting challenge for her.

We wish Jane God's richest blessings as she begins this new adventure in His name.

Margaret A Borland



STONELAW TODDLERS

The Stonelaw Toddlers Wednesday and Friday groups have started back, welcoming parents, grandparents and children (aged three months to three years) to our church, for some fun and play for the children and for the adults, a chance to chat with others.

Our Toddlers' groups meet on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Main Hall, from 9.45 to 11.30am during the school term.

To join the **Wednesday** group, please contact **Mary McDougall** at mcdoums@yahoo.co.uk

To join the **Friday** group, please contact **Adele Molloy** at molloyadele@gmail.com



Last month, I received the very gracious email below from a young mother who is unable to join us this session. I hope you can agree with me that she expresses just what we hope to achieve through this Christian outreach into our community:

Dear Adele,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and managed to find some time to relax and enjoy the weather!

I'm so sad to say that me, Rory and Struan won't be returning to Toddlers because my working days were confirmed as Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We absolutely loved our time at Toddlers and want to thank yourself and all the other volunteers for welcoming us so warmly and kindly to the group. Sometimes groups and classes can be very daunting as a new mum, but the Stonelaw Toddlers made us feel welcome from the day we joined. It really was the highlight of our week!

We have made some great friends at the group too, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to meet people from the local community and meet people with children my age. Hopefully my days will change next year so that we can return, but unfortunately, we won't be coming this year.

Please pass on my thanks to everyone, and hopefully see you all again soon.

Rhona, Rory and Struan

May I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their generous gifts of time and energy in helping us run these groups.

Adele Molloy

RETIRAL OFFERINGS

On Sunday August 28th the Retiring Offering was donated to the work of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians. See page 17 for more about Release's work and the Treasurer's letter on page 19 to find out the total.

Our next Retiral Offering will take place on Sunday 27th November. Look out for more information nearer that date, from intimations in church and via the weekly email.

THE WELL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Many of you will know that The Well is a multi-cultural resource centre in the heart of Govanhill. Stonelaw has a long association with the Well; we had a Retiring Offering for them in February.

“You are helping to take away my worry and get everything sorted.”

(Female, Spanish, aged 20-30)

“The Well is the only place that helps. You are a real blessing...Other people rely on family, but The Well is our family.” (Indian couple, aged 71-80)

Do you want to help take away worries, sort problems and be a real blessing to disadvantaged ethnic minority communities in Glasgow? The Well is looking for volunteer Advice Workers. We offer free one-to-one Advice Consultations to the ethnically diverse residents of Govanhill, Glasgow. Many of our clients are disadvantaged through poverty, racism, limited English language skills, social isolation, cultural differences and simply not knowing how things work in the UK.

We aim to demonstrate God’s love by providing a place of welcome, hospitality and friendship, as well as practical advice and support. Consultations can be about anything, from understanding a utility bill to more complex welfare or immigration advice. We often help families in financial crisis to access vital sources of income that they would undoubtedly struggle to get otherwise.

Our volunteer Advice Workers support people through each step of these processes, which can be stressful and daunting. Demand for our Advice Consultations is very high. Last year, despite lockdowns and restrictions, over 4000 consultations took place.

We are approaching an exciting transition to brand-new, larger premises. This is planned to increase our capacity to help more disadvantaged families every day. However, alongside the extra space, we need extra volunteer Advice Workers.

So, if you want to use your skills to make a difference, and you have a free morning or afternoon you could commit to volunteering each week, please get in touch. We are looking for people who are:

- Good communicators
- Confident in completing basic online processes
- Compassionate
- Patient

Customer-facing experience, some knowledge of the welfare system and cross-cultural experience would be advantageous, but not essential. Training will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact: info@thewell.org.uk

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL ON CHINA

We had the privilege of having James Fraser from Release preaching at Stonelaw on 21st August. James is a Lead Engagement Manager with responsibility for Scotland. He preached on Psalm 56 and compared David's struggles with those experienced by modern-day persecuted Christians. It was an incredibly powerful sermon which, I know, many of us found quite moving, but also challenging. Our retiral offering for Release on 28th August was gratefully received by the organisation. I wish to thank you all very much on behalf of James, his colleagues and the persecuted Christians supported by Release.



China. The most populous country in the world has 1.4 billion inhabitants with only 2% Christian. Release's **Voice** magazine (July–September) tells us that the Chinese authorities see Christians as a threat and, as a result, have extended their religious clampdown. Examples include not allowing churches to make their own decisions regarding finances; banning the use of the word 'Christ' on the internet; the banning of posting religious information on the internet without first obtaining the permission of their provincial government and sabotaging attempts by Christians to marry. Some church members are forbidden to contact other church members and children are forcibly taken out of their Christian school and escorted every day to a school chosen by the state.

But the church in China refuses to bow to the state's demands and is willing to accept the consequences. New Christian leaders are always stepping up. **World Magazine** (a bi-weekly magazine printed in the USA) was told by one of the pastors that there have been new converts, baptisms and members. In fact, since the 2018 crackdown, church growth has been 'tremendous'. There are other heartening stories, like the case of a church member who led three of his cellmates in prison to Christ. They were baptised in the sink of their prison cell!

China. The most populous country in the world needs our prayers. Let us pray that God will speak to hard hearts and reveal Himself to the persecutors; that His peace will flood the prison cells of all who are detained for His name's sake in China and that the Communist Party's attempts to control Christian education will fail.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Release International partner and ChinaAid President, Bob Fu, will be visiting the UK in October. Bob was born and raised in mainland China and today he is one of the leading voices supporting persecuted Christians there. A series of events has been arranged across the country and our nearest is in Hamilton Baptist Church on **Tuesday 4th October at 7.30p.m.**

For more information, check out this link:

<https://releaseinternational.org/events/event/bob-fu-speaker-tour-hamilton/>

Or, if it suits you better to join in on-line, there is an opportunity to do so on **Friday 7th October at 7.30pm**. To sign up, please use this link:

<https://releaseinternational.org/events/event/bob-fu-speaker-tour-online/>

Margaret A Borland

PLAYLIST CHALLENGE 7: GARRY AND ANNE ROSS

GARRY

During the most difficult time in my life, listening to the following praise songs really helped me to stay calm and be less fearful, as I knew that God was with me.

1. **My Lighthouse** by Rend Collective www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAIJKv7ptU
2. **It is well with my soul** by Anthem Lights
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcp6w4zaW7U>
3. **Blessed be Your name** by Newsboys
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLycgKxlqc0>
4. **Ten thousand reasons** by Matt Redman
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwIT8JiddM>
5. **The Lord's my Shepherd** by Stuart Townend
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>



ANNE

I realise my selection has been greatly influenced by the fellowship I've enjoyed over five decades, with Christians from a variety of denominations i.e. Church of Scotland, Tent Hall, 428 Club, Baptist, Brethren and Elim Pentecostal! I have many happy memories of encouragement from believers young and old.

1. **If that isn't love** by David Phelps (from No More Night, official music video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiS9zmUxZrs>
2. **I know who holds tomorrow** by Alison Krauss
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GKNbmYOAow>
3. **I'd rather have Jesus** by Selah
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHnLEkfdEF0>
4. **Because He lives** by Celtic Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFIr8-gH55E>
5. **The Lord's Prayer** by Jackie Evancho (from Dream with Me In Concert)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg2AsS4CErM>



We nominate Margaret Borland to create a Playlist for the next magazine

Garry and Anne Ross

WISE WORDS ... IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE!

Picture the scene: I was having lunch with a friend. We were catching up with events and activities in which we had been involved over the summer, and she was showing me photographs of her recent trip to New York. There were pictures of well-known tourist attractions e.g. The Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Brooklyn Bridge and ... what was this?

She laughed, and said it was a photo of a poster on the inside of a public toilet door! She said she just had to take a photo of it. When I read it, I asked her if she could send it to me. Little did I think that I would be sharing these words with you in the church magazine! So, keep your eyes peeled. You don't want to miss anything!

Margaret A. Borland

LIVING LIFE

Life is not a race – but indeed a journey. Be honest. Work hard. Be choosy. Say ‘thank you’, ‘I love you’, and ‘great job’ to someone each day. Go to church, take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh.

Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given; it is not accidental – search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry - less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself – plan for longevity. Recognise the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today, enjoy the moment.



Bonnie Mohr (Text reproduced with permission)

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Friends,

I apologise for the lack of information in this letter. Unfortunately, the magazine is coming out at the end of the summer and, due to the timing of holidays, there have been several months since I have been able to speak to the Kirk Session. This puts me in a difficult position as I would like to be able to share up-to-date and relevant information with the congregation, but would prefer to ensure that the Kirk Session, has the opportunity, as Trustees of the Church, to review the finances first.

As a compromise, I will ensure that shortly after the next meeting of Session (which is on 6 September) I will share the usual Treasurer's update in a Sunday morning email and make printed copies available for those who are not on email.

The one piece of happy news that I am able to share is that the retiring offering for Release International on 28th August raised £400.

As always, I would like to sign off by thanking the congregation for their support and generosity, whether in time, talent or money.

Euan Campbell Church Treasurer **07413 580 103** treasurer@stonelawchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

The two full-day Holiday Clubs in August at Flemington Hallside and in Stonelaw Church with Burnside Blairbeth Church, went extremely well. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and the opportunities to learn more about God. Please give thanks for this encouragement for the team.



We are also very thankful that we have been able to appoint a new full-time schools worker, Andrew McAlees. Please thank God that we are in the financial position to do this and pray for Andrew as he settles in.

Thank you all for your support of Reachout.

Greg Senior

Reachout Trust, Cambuslang Parish Church, 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang G72 7JQ

Tel **07837 193 028** Email greg.crrt@outlook.com Website: <https://crrt.org.uk/>

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE HOLIDAY CLUB?



Stonelaw Church was alive with the sounds of children's laughter during the two days of the Holiday Club. It was amazing this year! Ross Murray and his team of adult and teenage volunteers from Stonelaw, Burnside Blairbeth and Flemington Hallside churches excelled themselves.

There was lots of energetic fun for all age groups, including a bouncy castle, football, basketball (our minister takes this seriously!) archery, a Nerf gun shoot-out*, fancy dress, and empire biscuit making at 500 calories each.

Neil, and Jen Robertson from Burnside Blairbeth Church, introduced the 'I am' sayings of Jesus in an entertaining, captivating way, and the children responded really well. The mother of one of the boys in the 131st BB texted us, to say that her wee boy had returned home, gone straight to his room and came out with a small cross made of sticks and told his Mum not to worry because Jesus would look after them.

Was this year's Holiday Club Programme, (the first joint children's event for our three cluster churches) a success? ABSOLUTELY!

We adults returned home tired, of course, but inspired by the enthusiasm of the children.

Anne and Walter Smyth.

* For the uninitiated, a Nerf gun is a plastic gun which fires foam bullets!

As a congregation we owe a big thank you to all the Stonelaw volunteers: Morag Taylor and Sandra Coia (who made up sandwiches on an industrial scale), Moira Shaw, Greg Senior, Jane Miller, Keir and Iona Baird, Duncan Menzies, Anne and Walter Smyth, Dorothy and David McTaggart and, of course, Rev Neil Watson, as well as all those from Burnside Church, including Rev William Wilson and Jen Robertson, and from Flemington Hallside Church, including Ross and Lauren Murray and Lauren's friends.



131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

Over the summer, the 131st Company leaders booked seats for the Rutherglen Town Centre Theatre for the Christmas Pantomime, which is always a fun event.

We met the boys and parents in August at the Cathkin High School sports pitches for various activities: football slalom, a penalty shootout and a football game. The leaders joined in, with Mabel Moore as a forward, (I think...) while Anne played in goals. Her saving technique was unusual but effective! When she kicked the ball out, we ran in circles, unsure of her intended direction... I was the unbiased referee.

The 131st Company starts back on 8th September at 6.30pm. Our recruiting campaign is producing results and it will be interesting to see the effect of Mabel Moore's earnest efforts to encourage P1 boys at Calderwood Primary School to join us. She organised the inclusion of over 60 BB invitations cards in P1 pupils' welcome packs. If you have a P1 son or grandson at Calderwood, we'd be glad to know if you heard about these invitations.

Walter Smyth, Lt. 131st Company Boys Brigade, Rutherglen.
Mobile **07586 255 466** Email: walt_smyth@yahoo.co.uk



2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS



Rainbows is for girls aged 4-7. We finished in June with seven girls earning their Pot of Gold badges at the end of their time at Rainbows. That night we also gave out **Explore** Badges and **Make Change** Badges to all the Rainbows.

For the **Explore** Badge, along with other activities, we discussed what a landmark is, went for a walk round the local area looking for landmarks, then back to the hall to draw maps of where we'd been on our walk. We talked about navigating before smart phones existed, using stars and the sun, and made sun dials.

For the **Make Change** badge, the girls thought about fairy tales and, in groups, read one example, then rewrote it with their own characters and some very different endings!

The girls also earned **I Celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee** badges. This involved taking part in the Crown Challenge - an assault course - in the Main Hall, with imaginary obstacles such as fallen trees, high walls, river crossings and horse rides etc! This activity was chosen because as a Buckingham Palace Guide, Princess Elizabeth took part in an assault course called the Commando Course.

We have received a Community Grant from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and, along with a lot of other units in the area, are looking forward to a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park in September.

However, our best news is that two new enthusiastic leaders have come forward to run the Rainbow Unit in the Rutherglen Guide Hall in Clincarthill. We really thought that unit was going to have to close when the current leader moved on, so we're very thankful not to be the only unit remaining in Rutherglen!

Helen Paulsen 2nd Rutherglen Rainbows Leader **07743 028307**



COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2022

Tickets will be on sale late September/early October for the first post-Covid Rutherglen Churches Christian Aid Coffee Morning. We'd love to see you there, for a rare chance to enjoy fellowship with people from all the local churches.

This year's event will take place in the United Reformed Church on Johnstone Drive, which is fully accessible.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK TOTALS

Between all the Rutherglen churches, we have raised £7,085 during and soon after Christian Aid Week 2022, in addition to any payments sent direct to Christian Aid.

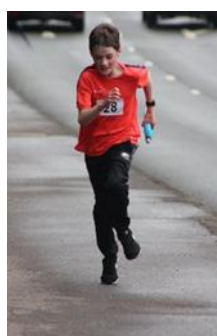
- Christian Aid Envelopes: £2,047
- Christian Aid Quiz: £180
- Stonelaw's 150K in May Challenge, and the 300,000 Steps in May Challenge at Rutherglen West & Wardlawhill: £2,245
- Burnside Blairbeth Christian Aid Lunch £600
- Christian Aid Fun Run 12th June: £2,013

THANK YOU ALL

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in prayer, time, energy and/or money to this year's fundraising. Your support is greatly appreciated by small farmers like Jessica and Janet in Zimbabwe, who have learned how to grow drought-resistant crops and feed their families. This video will lift your spirits: <https://youtu.be/hXDy6eSAGMc>

AND FINALLY: SOME FUN RUN PHOTOS FROM SUNDAY 12TH JULY!

The 1K children and adults had to put up with a very heavy shower, but by the time the 5K runners and walkers set off, it was dry. Spot Neil's expression in Mill Street on being lapped by the lad in the next picture!



Jean MacKenzie and Jill Rennie

RUTHERGLEN AND CAMBUSLANG FOODBANK

Please keep those who visit, work and volunteer at our local Foodbank in your prayers. Donations are always welcome. The items needed most at the moment are::

Tinned fruit
Tinned meat
Small jars coffee

Custard
Jam
UHT milk (full/semi-skimmed)

These can be handed in at any of the Foodbank's permanent collection points:



MORRISONS in Cambuslang

THE CO-OPERATIVE, NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY, and **LAURIE ROSS INSURANCE** - all on Rutherglen Main Street

BOOTS on Rutherglen Main Street (for toiletries)

TESCO in Dalmarnock collects for our Foodbank during the months of September and November, alternating months with the Glasgow South East Foodbank.

TESCO in Burnside donations go to FareShare, which fights hunger by supporting groups, rather than individual households. <https://fareshare.org.uk/fareshare-centres/glasgow-west-of-scotland/>

	<p>Katharina Nimmo - Foodbank Manager Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank SC044594 07393 737030 manager@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk</p>	
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INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE

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.

CHURCH OFFERING

The collection plate will not be passed around on a Sunday morning during the service. However, there will be a collection plate available in the Meeting Place, after the service, for anyone who wishes to give their collection in this way as we leave the building.

HAVE YOU MISSED A SUNDAY SERVICE?

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.

HOW TO GIVE TO STONELAW CHURCH

You can contact the Church Treasurer, Euan Campbell, on 07413 580 103 or by email at treasurer@stonelawchurch.org

STANDING ORDER/ ONLINE BANKING

Either a one-off payment or a standing order can be set up using online banking.

Our bank details are as follows:

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

If you wish to set up a standing order but don't do internet banking, a Standing Order Form (to send to your bank) can be found on our website at: <http://stonelawchurch.org/giving> - or contact the Treasurer to ask for one. Please remember, if you are thinking of setting up a standing order, that you are free to cancel this at any time.

POSTING A CHEQUE

We are also 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 service, text **STONELAWCH** followed by the number of pounds you wish to donate to **70085**. E.g. **STONELAWCH 5** to donate £5. If you are thinking of using this service, then please remember that we will not keep a record of your phone number or use it to contact you for any reason.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, donating to the church through the Gift Aid scheme means that we are able to claim back 25 pence for every £1 that you give – at no extra cost to you. If you would like to give using the Gift Aid scheme, you will need to complete a declaration form (also available on <http://stonelawchurch.org/giving>) which should be completed and returned to Iain Morrison, as Freewill Offering Treasurer, at the above address.

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. You need a specific Meeting ID and Passcode to log in to Zoom meetings. These are shared in the Saturday Congregational Email. To sign up to these emails, 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 call Janis Neil on **07808 926 067**.

EVERY SUNDAY Morning service on Zoom at 10.30am

EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm

To join the Wednesday Prayers WhatsApp group - for prayer updates and to ask for prayer for yourself or others - please contact John Shaw on **07885 508 130**

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2022-2023 - AND THANKS

Seasons	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
Winter 2022-2023	13th November 2022	4th December
Spring 2023	11th February 2023	4th March
Summer 2023	13th May 2023	3rd June
Autumn 2023	12th August 2023	2nd September
Winter 2023 - 2024	11th November 2023	2nd December

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

Jean MacKenzie, Margaret Borland and Verinia Gorman