

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

www.stonelawchurch.org

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**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST**

MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL



Dear Friends,

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

To be a Christian is to be marked out as 'different'. In his first letter, the apostle Peter writes to an exiled people: communities who are living as strangers and foreigners in Asia Minor. These people knew what it was like to be

harassed and rejected in their society.

But Peter is also writing to a people who are exiled in a different sense: as Christians, we spend our lives on Earth in exile, separated from our eternal home in Heaven with the Father.

To be a Christian is to have been given a different identity to others: rather than defining ourselves according to our family, our nationality, how much money we have, or any of the other things we sometimes think make us who we are, we, the baptised, are 'in Christ', a deep truth which is both given and yet to be fully realised.

We are called to find our identity solely in the person of Jesus Christ.

Peter speaks to those who are exiled but chosen by God. These communities may be reviled on Earth, but they are made holy by the Spirit. Christians are a people who do not consider earthly powers and leaders to be the ultimate source of authority: we are called to be obedient only to Jesus.

All this is only made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin our journey towards making fully devoted followers of Jesus and acting upon the 5 Marks of Mission, some questions for us to think about are:

How do we live in a way that marks us out as different? Does our witness make people curious about our faith, rather than resistant to it? How do I live my life differently because of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and how do others see and hear that?

Peter speaks to real communities facing real problems, but he greets them in the light of God's abundant grace and peace.

May you bring that grace and peace to all you meet during the summer months and, if you are going away on holiday, I hope you have a wonderful break.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson

minister@stonelawchurch.org

2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG 07871 615840



PRAYER

Holy, loving, powerful, faithful, compassionate and wise God. You are eternal, almighty, righteous, merciful, and just.

You created our world and all that is in it through the power of your Word; and in your power and wisdom, you guide and rule in all things.

You are beyond anything we can think of or imagine. Your thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours.

We are amazed that you, the almighty Creator of the world, invite us to come to you, and to know you, as our loving heavenly Father.

We come at your gracious invitation, to meet with you, to receive from you and to worship you.

We thank you that, through Jesus, we can know forgiveness, reconciliation with you, our loving, heavenly Father, and eternal life in your presence.

Will you forgive and cleanse us through His shed blood? Will you help us, by your Holy Spirit, to offer you the worship of our hearts, which will be pleasing to you, and will you dwell in our praises?

Will you open the eyes of our hearts to see your Son and to see ourselves in your Word? Will you help us to offer prayers which will be after your heart?

Will you change us, challenge us, encourage us and equip us to be your worthy followers? We come eager to receive from you now.

We pray these things with thanksgiving and with our faith in Jesus' Name, who when teaching us to pray, taught us the words:

**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?

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

1st & 15th June; 6th & 20th July; 3rd & 17th August.

House Group Monthly at the home of Garry and Anne Ross, Thursday 7.30pm.

2nd June; 4th August; 1st September. To join, please call **07789 117274**.

Kirk Session Meeting Tuesday 7th June 7.30pm.

Past Times Dementia Café Wednesday 2.30-4.00pm (see page 11)

8th June, 13th July and 10th August.

Christian Aid Fun Run/Walk Sunday 12th June from 1.45 pm. (see page 22)

Congregational Conference Saturday 18th June 10.00am -12.30pm. (see page 6)

Picnic in the Park Sunday 19th June after church (see page 6)

Children's event 11th & 12th August in Main Hall (see page 6)

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

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People's House Group Thursday 9th June 6.30-8pm

2nd Rutherglen Rainbows Tuesdays 6-7.15pm until 14th June

Stonelaw Toddlers Group Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.30am until 15th June

Stonelaw Toddlers Group Fridays 9.45 -11.30am until 17th June

The BB, Brownies and Guides will start back after the summer. (See pages 21-22 for dates.)

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.**

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

Our **Communion Service** is held on the first Sunday of the month.

House Group with Jennifer Menzies Thursday 10.30am

9th June; July tbc, Aug tbc, 1st September.

House Group with Dorothy McTaggart Thursday 7.30pm

2nd June; 4th August; 1st September.

Coffee and Crafts with Fiona Benson Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

July 5th & 19th and August 2nd, 16th and 30th. (see page 12)

Grace and Truth Bible Study with Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje

Fridays 5.30-7.00pm.

PENTECOST SUNDAY LUNCH - SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

On Sunday 5th June, we are having a Pentecost Sunday Lunch in the Main Hall downstairs, immediately after worship. You are all invited to come along and enjoy eating together as God's family, sharing fellowship.

The National Mission Team will serve lunch and there will be a donation box for those who would like to contribute to the cost. If you've not signed up yet but would like to go, please give me a ring. Everyone is welcome!



Dorothy McTaggart 07815 949 648

Please note: tea and coffee will not be served in Transept Corner after worship on 5th June, but downstairs at the lunch instead.

CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 10.00AM TO 12.30PM

We will be holding what I hope is the first of many Congregational Conferences on Saturday 18th June 2022 from 10am until 12:30pm, in the Main Hall.

While my initial thoughts on this were that we would assess and discuss where we were as a church, coming out of COVID, and looking to the future of our individual congregation, circumstances have overtaken that. We will still have time to reflect on these things, but given the Presbytery's steer towards clusters, we will need to assess how we play our part in that. I will give an update and some thoughts on this, but my hope for the conference is that it will provide an opportunity for you to feed in any ideas you might have on how we develop the ministry of Stonelaw moving forward, with a focus on how we cover all 5 Marks of Mission as guided by the Church of Scotland.

To fuel these discussions, tea, coffee and breakfast rolls will be available on the morning. More details on this will be relayed to the congregation through the congregational email over the coming weeks. If you would like to receive the weekly email, please sign up at info@stonelawchurch.org.

Yours in Jesus

Neil

PICNIC IN THE PARK - SUNDAY 19TH JUNE AFTER MORNING WORSHIP



We will be joining together as a congregation for a picnic in Overtoun Park immediately after the service on 19th June. All are invited! Please bring along a packed lunch, and note that due to the picnic, teas and coffee will not be served after worship.

SAVE THESE DATES! CHILDREN'S EVENT 11TH AND 12TH AUGUST

Instead of the annual week-long holiday club this year, we are planning children's activities for the teachers' In-Service Days on 11th and 12th August. More details will be advertised nearer the time.

NEWS FROM OUR KIRK SESSION

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN: WHAT NEXT?

You may already have heard or read about the Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) which is leading to wide ranging discussions in churches and presbyteries all over Scotland. These focus on what our priorities should be, as Christians going forward in the 21st century (a subject that Neil explored with us in his recent teaching on the 5 Marks of Mission) and also on working out what church might look like in the future, with fewer ministers and, perhaps, fewer church buildings too.

Congregations have been asked to arrange themselves in Clusters, that is, groups of local churches. Our Cluster is made up of four churches: Burnside Blairbeth, Cambuslang, Flemington Hallside and Rutherglen Stonelaw. Representatives from each congregation are meeting regularly and will share updates as details emerge. Stonelaw's representatives are: Rev Neil H. Watson, David McTaggart (Session Clerk) and Janis Neil (Presbytery Elder). Most updates will be shared in the weekly email, and sometimes by Neil at the beginning of the service. Copies of the email will be available to read on both noticeboards in the Meeting Place, and also to take away. If you can't find one, please ask around!

The best way to find out a little more about the kind of changes that may lie ahead will be to attend **Stonelaw's Congregational Conference** in the Main Hall, on Saturday 18th June from 10.00am to 12.30pm. (see page 6 for details)

OTHER NEWS FROM OUR KIRK SESSION

Picnic in the Park We will be joining together as a congregation for a picnic in Overtoun Park immediately after the service on 19th June. Please see page 6 for details

Mask-wearing As you will be aware, the Scottish Government has announced that the wearing of masks is no longer required for services of worship, funerals and weddings. However, you may well feel that you want to continue to wear one for the time being.

Whichever you choose, it is important that we respect one another's decision and personal space so please continue to be mindful of others while you are in the sanctuary.

Teas and coffees are now served after the morning service. Once you have collected your cuppa, please take a seat in the main Sanctuary area to avoid congestion in Transept Corner. You may hear the fire alarm being tested. This will happen every Sunday and is nothing to be concerned about.

Disabled Access to the Main Hall It will now be possible to access the Main Hall through the Stonelaw Preschool door, when the Preschool is not operating. Please contact Jacky Sheppard on **07796 752121** if using this door would make it easier to attend an event.

Gluten-free Communion Bread If you are gluten-intolerant, please be assured that the Communion bread used in Stonelaw is gluten-free.

Food Hygiene Course See page 8 for information about a food hygiene course which the Church of Scotland requires us to complete before baking or serving food in church.

Rev Alistair May's photograph has been added to the gallery of previous ministers' photographs outside the vestry.

A Bereavement Awareness Training course is being planned in Burnside Blairbeth Church in which we are invited to share.

COMING SOON: Church Membership classes and a Bible Society course on Zoom.

RETIRAL OFFERINGS



As the next magazine will not come out until 4th September, we are very early in announcing our next Retiral Offering. This will be on Sunday 28th August, when the offering will be in aid of Release International, a charity which supports persecuted Christians in places like China, Pakistan, Iran and Nigeria.

If you'd like to know more about the work of Release International, you can read Margaret Borland's article on page 9, speak to her, or go to www.releaseinternational.org. Margaret is our church representative for Release International.

HOW CAN I GIVE TO THIS RETIRAL OFFERING?

On 28th August, you can give cash or a cheque in an envelope marked Release International or, if you prefer, you can make a direct payment online through Stonelaw Parish Church, as follows:

Account Number: 00465105 **Sort Code:** 80-12-75 **Reference** Release International

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

SHORT WORSHIP COURSES

We have been sent a number of flyers from the University of Glasgow for upcoming courses that may be of interest to members of our congregation. Some of these are on-line only, and others are offered as 'blended learning', where students can attend either in person or online.

These courses are as follows:

[Listening in Mission](#)
[Preaching in Church Contexts](#)

[Designing and Leading Christian Worship](#)
[Contemporary Visual Art and Worship](#)

Find out more by visiting www.trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk, by asking Margaret Borland, who has completed one of the courses, or by writing to Trinity College, Wellington Church, 77 Southpark Avenue, Glasgow G12 8LE

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, which can be done either as a group in the church, or online.

Are you likely to be doing some baking, or helping to serve food in Café @ the Meeting Place, at church coffee mornings or lunches? There is no need to commit to taking part yet! However, if you think you will need to complete this course, please let one of us know, if you have not already done so. This will help us to plan a group session for those who would prefer to do the course in person.

Lesley Nisbet 07932 684202 and Jennifer Menzies 07974 793235

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL UPDATE



Those of us living safely in Scotland find it extremely difficult to imagine some of the suffering that persecuted Christians have to endure. We can meet freely in God's house to worship Him; we can have fellowship with other Christians; we can own a Bible and read it - and we can mention the name of Jesus without worrying about any repercussions.

Sadly, that is not the case for Christians in some countries. I thought I would give you an insight into some of the stories which have featured in Release's prayer diary recently. These do not make for pleasant reading.

In Uganda, a pastor, who had been a mosque leader before converting to Christianity, was killed by relatives who were angered by his conversion. He leaves a widow and four children.

In Kenya, six Christians were killed by extremists. They forced the children of one of the men to view their father's dead body before setting fire to the family home.

In India, two pastors were attacked by an extremist mob who accused them of forced conversion. One of the pastors had his Bible burned.

Thank God for the strong witness of Yalina. (*Not her real name*) Her husband abandoned her when she became a Christian. She moved to live with her parents, but they threw her and her three children out on the streets when she refused to give up her faith.

But I am glad to report that there is good news to share about Yalina. Release International's partners in Pakistan were able to provide safe housing for her and for other persecuted Christians. They also gave practical support and pastoral care, thanks to donations from Release supporters.

Another story for our encouragement comes from one of Release's partners in Egypt: the wonderful news that, on average, they are baptising one family of new believers each month.

Prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters is vital and I thank you, on their behalf, for including them in your prayers. Any help you can give to Release International in our 28th August Retiral Offering, will be used to support them.

Margaret A. Borland

APPEAL FROM REV JANE HOWITT

As many of you know, Jane, who grew up in Stonelaw, is minister of St Rollox Church in Sighthill, Glasgow. Jane urgently needs friendly volunteers of all ages (no experience required, as leaders will be on hand) to help the team running English classes for asylum seekers.



To find out more, please contact St Rollox Community Outreach on **0141 237 4044**.

ENTER HIS COURT WITH THANKSGIVING

The words in the heading above are carved into the stone lintel above the door of the church building adjacent to my house. Very often as I walk past the building, I start to sing that hymn in my head; I wonder if you are doing that now!



“I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise. I will say this is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice for he has made me glad.”

Sadly, the church is closed; the building is now used partly to store carpets and partly by the local funeral directors.

I can honestly say, with all my heart, that I have experienced many days where I give thanks to God for my move here to the town of Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. My home is a gift from God. It's a ground floor flat with a walk-in shower and a square kitchen as opposed to the galley kitchen I had in Church Avenue. The sitting room and bedroom are a good size. I live just up from the Castle, close to the town and two minutes' walk from the ferry with beautiful walks and stunning scenery - all right on my doorstep. My neighbours are great: a retired couple across from me, a young couple with two children immediately above and a young couple with three little ones (including girl twins) above on the other side. What's not to love and give thanks to God for?

When does a house become a home? Answer: when it has new matching curtains and cushions, colour-co-ordinated rugs, new towels and blinds - all bought with your retirement gift. All reminding me of you and your very generous hearts. Thank you.

And you. I give thanks to God for you. Given time to reflect, it astonishes me that you were prepared to invest financially in the development worker post from June 2008 until my retirement in October 2021. You have no idea how unworthy I am of this amazing gift from the Father through you. In October and subsequent months, I couldn't find adequate words with which to express my thanks to you; I would sit down at my laptop and stare at an empty page. In hindsight, I wasn't ready for the finality yet. I wasn't prepared to move, to leave; it wasn't part of my plan. Everything happened so quickly. I needed time to rest, to breathe, to reflect and in some ways, to recover my sense of self.

It's only now, peace with Father God restored, in my heart and in my head, that I can say a heart-felt, prayer-filled, thank you. Thirteen years is quite a chunk of my adult life. Thirteen years which I, by the grace of God, invested in serving him through you, the people of Stonelaw, and our wider community. This was an investment which can never be fully measured. I have been blessed immeasurably by you. I was accepted and welcomed into the Stonelaw family and into your homes. I was cared for, guided and prayed for. I have laughed and I have wept with many of you. And, as in any family, there were some who simply put up with me and some who couldn't. All emotions are valid and honest. Giving God all the glory for creating each of us as individuals. We have shared these years of our lives together.

Thank you; I will treasure you always in my heart and in my prayers.

Therese x



April meeting

We had 20 visitors at our April meeting. They enjoyed trying out a range of new activities, games and puzzles which we have been able to buy thanks to our funding from the Community Health and Wellbeing Fund. We were then entertained by two of Stonelaw's best: Margaret Borland and Dorothy McTaggart. Margaret recited a number of poems in broad Scots – what a laugh she gave us! Dorothy then played her guitar, she and Margaret sang, and we all joined in. We had a very happy time.

May meeting

We were delighted to welcome Andrew McTaggart as our professional musician when 23 people attended on 11th May. Here's what Andrew accomplished in about an hour:

- He took our visitors through a vocal warm-up.
- He had them conducting with chiffon scarves to a number of famous operatic overtures.
- He then taught us to sing a very special "Spinning Song" while we moved our hands and arms through a range of movement styles, including disco!
- He showed us how to sing 'My Bonnie lies over the ocean' while raising and lowering our hands every time we sang a word beginning with 'B'!
- Andrew also sang a little to us (we would have loved to have heard more).

Our visitors really enjoyed their time with Andrew. One lady, who cares for her husband, was moved to tears when she saw how well he responded – even singing along with all the words to one of Andrew's songs. We are so grateful to Andrew and look forward to welcoming him back at some time in the future.

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

Janis Neil

GAMES AFTERNOON

Tuesday 24th May was a start! We had two visitors: Liz Tait and Janis Neil. Thanks to these two good-fun ladies, our afternoon turned from disappointment into schoolgirl giggles and FUN! We played Blockbusters, Where In The World? and Taboo!

Watch out for our next scheduled get together, after the summer.

Marlene Galt and Linda Alison



FLOWER MINISTRY AT STONELAW



The article below was published last September. Thanks to your generosity in response to this, we have been able to provide flowers every week to members of our congregation and we know how much they have appreciated them. Unfortunately, we are now in a slightly worse situation as we will run out of money at the end of August this year. Please read the article again and if you can possibly make another donation, we would really appreciate it.

Please note, it is now possible to pay directly into the Flower Fund bank account (Stonelaw Church Flower Fund, 80-22-60, 10651669). Thank you.

LAST SEPTEMBER'S ARTICLE

We all enjoy the beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning. And those who receive the flowers, whether it's because they are celebrating, recovering or mourning, take great comfort in knowing that we care. This is such a beautiful and practical way to express God's love for one another. However, the Flower Fund is sadly depleted and in fact the money we have now will run out at the end of September.

Many of you already donate, but we would encourage those of you who don't, to consider making a donation to pay for the flowers one Sunday in the year. Many people choose a date that is significant; perhaps to mark the birthday of a loved one or the anniversary of their loss. If you would like to do this, please pass your donation to Margaret Stark. Or, put your donation in an envelope marked **Flower Fund** and place it in the collection plate located in the Meeting Place on a Sunday morning.

But we are not just short of money. Over the last year or two, we have also lost some of our flower arrangers. If you would like to arrange the flowers for one week – or more in the year, please pass your name to Margaret Stark or Janis Neil. If you have no experience, don't worry, we can provide you with training!

Janis Neil jneil1@virginmedia.com 07808 926067

COFFEE, CRAFTS AND COMPANY - TUESDAYS ON ZOOM



Coffee and Crafts will not be meeting in June, but in July and August our group will meet on Zoom, on the following Tuesdays at 2-4pm:
July 5th & 19th and August 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Often we simply enjoy one another's company, not necessarily knitting or crafting! Please join us, for half an hour or for two hours, and either bring some craft to work on - or just come for a blether!

The Zoom log-in code is available every Saturday in the Congregational Email. To sign up for the weekly email, see page 26 or 27.

Fiona Benson

Mob **07980 734 182** Email fiona.benson@sky.com



MODERATOR'S VISIT TO UKRAINE



Last month, the 2021-22 Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Lord Wallace, went to western Ukraine to learn more about the humanitarian response to Russia's attack. At the time of writing, congregations and individuals in Scotland have donated £367,277 to help the Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RCHA).

This encouraging [three-minute read](#) from the Church of Scotland website reports on the Moderator's visit to representatives of the Reformed Church in Berehove, Transcarpathia - a part of western Ukraine with a large Hungarian-speaking population. Please contact Jean MacKenzie on 647 4913 if you'd like to read a printed version of this article.

To make a donation to this work, please send it to the Church of Scotland at
Account no: 00134859 **Sort code:** 83 06 08 **Reference:** RCHA donation.

Alternatively, a cheque can be sent, payable to The Church of Scotland and with an accompanying letter, to **121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.**



MAKING ECO-FRIENDLY CHOICES



In Neil's sermon last month on the 5th Mark of Mission, (*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*) he said: "As Christians, we need to do everything we can to safeguard the integrity of creation (...) We need to try to undo the damage we have done to the planet." He asked us to think about things we can do to make a difference.

On Monday 23rd May, Lesley Nisbet invited us to discuss what those "things" might be - what we as individuals can do for our planet - and to share what we are already doing "to make a difference".

Those of us who took that opportunity had a lovely evening in the Meeting Place, seeing some of the many environmentally-friendly products that Lesley uses, and discussing some that we use ourselves, while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and delicious home-made pancakes with butter and jam. We were even given an eco-friendly goody bag and an aloe vera plant to take home! Lesley also gave us helpful lists of how to make small changes that will reduce the environmental damage we cause, and of sources of eco-friendly toiletries, cleaning materials and so on.

This meeting was an enjoyable way of encouraging us to live more sustainably without spending a fortune. Many thanks to Lesley and to Jill Rennie, who helped with this event.

RECYCLING MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS AND BATTERIES

One of many practical suggestions made at the meeting came from Mabel Moore, who has offered to set up containers in church (location tbc) to collect empty medicine blister packs, which can be recycled at Superdrug, and used batteries, which can be handed in at supermarkets.

If you don't find it easy to recycle these items yourself, why not bring them to church, or ask a friend to bring them for you?

Jean MacKenzie

STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

There have been no changes to the Church Register since the April & May magazine.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU STONELAW

Sincere thanks from myself, Fiona and Alistair for all the cards, prayers and support I received (and continue to receive) from my Stonelaw family since Matt died in February. This has been such a comfort to us all.

My faith has been a tremendous support too; the power of prayer is truly wonderful. I'd like to say a special thank you to Neil, who did not have the chance to meet Matt, but took time to sit with me and learn about him and his life.

Life is different now, but I know my faith and friends will be constant companions.

Carolyn Kennedy

I would like to thank everyone for the support, kindness and thoughtfulness shown to Ronnie and me during and after the lockdown; this was such a help while Ronnie was ill. Thank you also for the prayers, flowers and cards following Ronnie's death in March, and to Neil for his lovely funeral service; these were all much appreciated.

Sandra Coia

Thank you all so much for your prayers and concern during my recent illness. I have also really appreciated offers of help with shopping and lifts to hospital appointments. Although I'm still attending the asthma clinic, my breathlessness has greatly improved, and I'm feeling much better.

Thanks again

Margaret McDade.

STONELAW TODDLERS

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

The Wednesday group will stop for the summer on 15th June and start back on 24th August. To join this group, please contact Mary McDougall at mcdoums@yahoo.co.uk

The Friday group will stop for the summer on 17th June and start back on 19th August. To join the Friday group, please contact Adele Molloy at molloyadele@gmail.com



Well done to both teams for your hard work in running these groups, which are equally popular with the babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents and other carers!

ROOF REPAIRS AND EXTERNAL PAINTING NEARING COMPLETION!

As previously reported, last October we had a detailed roof inspection following some repairs and maintenance work. Unfortunately, this identified a number of areas where the water ingress was probably occurring and some potential safety issues. The inspection also highlighted other less urgent issues which would still need attention at some point. The Managers and Kirk Session agreed we should address both the urgent and other works in one go, as this would be the most cost-effective approach. As reported in the last magazine, we had three tenderers and in March we appointed Airtex Structural Height Specialists.

They were able to start almost straight away and have been busy working on the roof most days through March, April and May. Indeed, they benefited from the long dry spell we had in March and early April, although more recently it has been more mixed.

The principal works undertaken were:

- replacement of all mortar skewes along the coping stones;
- coping stone repairs (stabilisation, re-pointing and cramps installed);
- ridge tiles re-bedded as required;
- pointing repairs to various walls; and
- widespread slate patching.

While not part of the original remit, we also agreed to add in painting of the gutters and downpipes to take advantage of the scaffolding and this was also undertaken by Airtex. One of our biggest dilemmas was which colour of paint to choose. The existing paint had faded to varying degrees and so it was difficult to work out what colour it was originally. With the expert advice of Walter Smyth we have gone for “Tawny Red” which, I hope you will agree, is now enhancing our building.

At the time of writing, the works are fast approaching completion, with just the painting on the south side to be finished and the removal of the last of the suspended scaffolding. I expect that by the time you read this, it will be complete.

All these repairs should help to keep our roof in good condition for many years to come.

Stuart Menzies

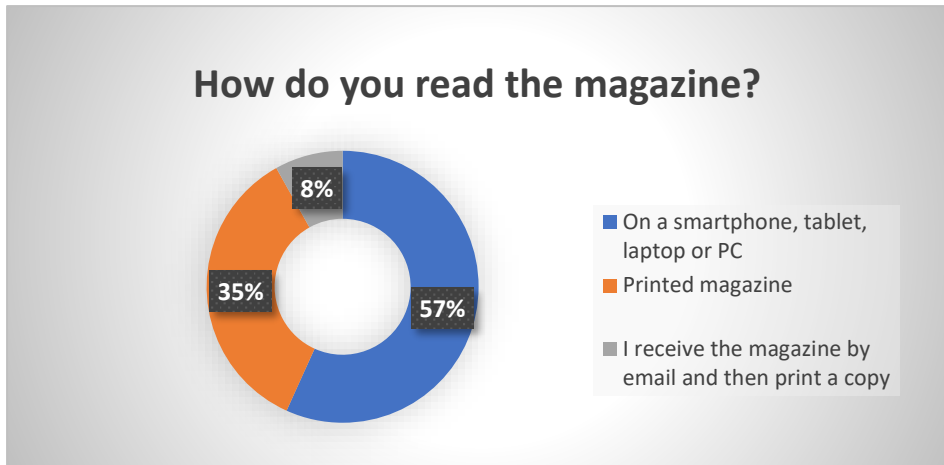
Convenor of the Managers



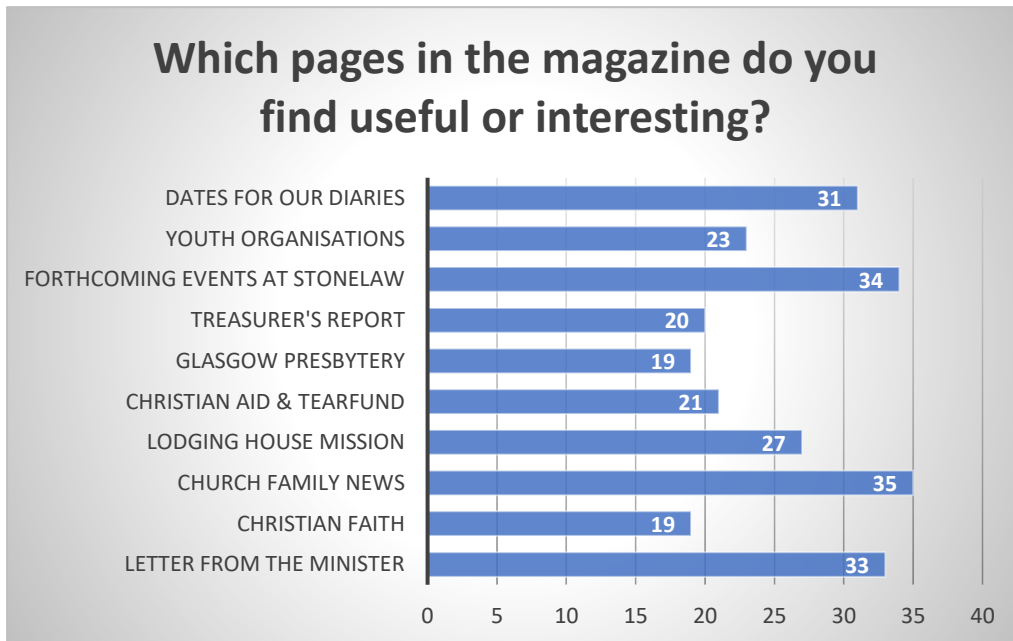
MAGAZINE SURVEY FEEDBACK

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our survey about the church magazine. We had 22 online and 13 printed responses, with many interesting comments and suggestions. We'll share more of the feedback in the next issue. We'd like to thank Liz Maltby for all her help with the survey.

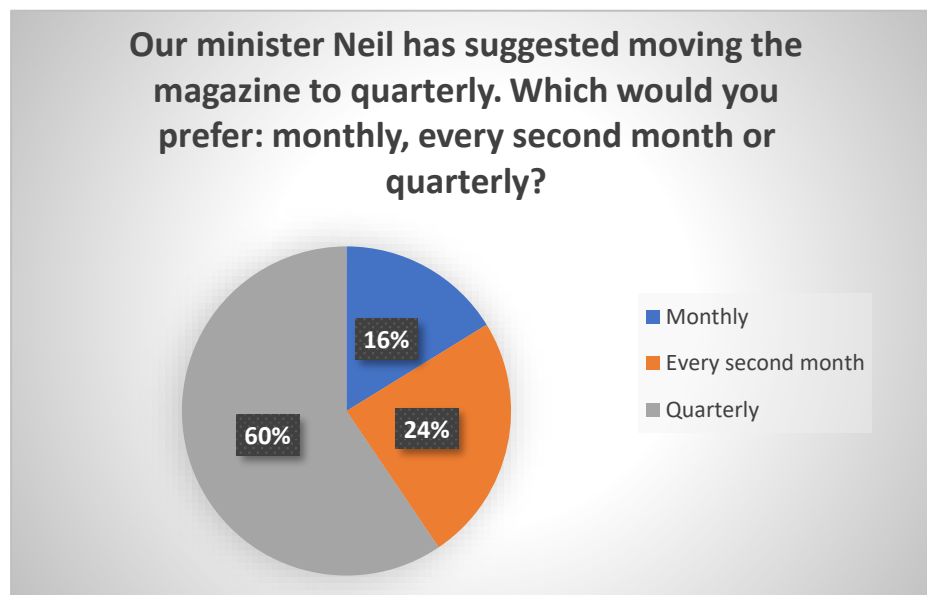
Qu. 1



Qu. 4



Qu. 6



PLAYLIST CHALLENGE 6: TOM AND LESLEY NISBET



When Jean and Cameron nominated us to do this challenge, I had no idea how difficult it would be to choose only 10 songs. However, we got there in the end and I think it's a fairly mixed bag.

Some of the songs we've chosen because of their words, others because of their tunes and, of course, for some it's both. And finally, there were hymns that hold special memories for us. We hope you enjoy them.

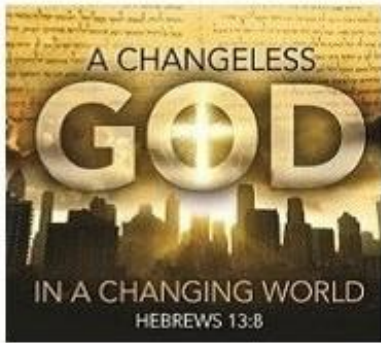
1. **It Only Takes a Spark** by Kurt Kaiser. www.youtube.com/watch?v=tadZ8nCLBsl
One of Tom's picks, which reminds us why we have to keep spreading the word.
2. **Will You Come and Follow Me?** by John Bell. www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU
A hymn I term 'scary' because of its very challenging words.
3. **Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah** by William Williams.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg What a tune, even if you're not Welsh!
4. **The Lord's My Shepherd** by Stuart Townend. www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0
Just when we thought the 23rd Psalm couldn't get any better, Stuart Townend gave us this.
5. **There is a Green Hill Far Away** by Cecil Frances Alexander.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=MupXfT-uvyY My grandpa's favourite, which takes me right back to sitting in Stonelaw's gallery with my grandparents when I was very young.
6. **Above the Voices of the World Around Me** by Timothy Dudley Smith.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqEcm8_J-s4 What amazing words! The third verse in particular, which could be a daily prayer.
7. **Great is Thy Faithfulness** by T.O. Chisholm. www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o
How good it is to remember that, in this world where everything seems to be constantly changing, God is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow.
8. **I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say** by Horatius Bonar.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw3dO7S9ql4 I love the comfort and reassurance that these words give me.
9. **Seek Ye First** by Karen Lafferty. www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMQfOp9w8k
This hymn has very special memories for me. In the 1980s I taught it to my class and they loved singing it with the two parts. The following year, when I had decided to move on but wasn't sure that I was making the right decision, their next teacher asked me to visit her class on the day I was leaving, as the class had something they wanted to give me. Their gift was this song! They sang it beautifully and it gave me the encouragement I needed to move on.
10. **Give Thanks** by Henry Smith. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oip6iWqsg-U
This song reminds me of singing in Celtic Park at the Mission Scotland event in June 1991, as part of the Billy Graham choir.



Anne and Garry Ross, we nominate you to create a Playlist for the next magazine.

Lesley and Tom Nisbet

A CHANGELESS GOD IN A CHANGING WORLD



Humans don't like change. It can be seen as a threat, and we tend to prefer to be creatures of habit.

However, our lives have changed quite dramatically over the past two years. This change included the introduction of new vocabulary items, all because of a new virus: Covid-19. We were told to '*socially distance*' so that we could '*flatten the curve*'. '*Contact tracing*' forms had to be completed to monitor people who may have had contact with an infectious person. Some of us had to refrain from socialising with other people for a period of time. This was called '*self-isolation*'. But those

of us at high risk were advised to go even further – we had to '*shield*' ourselves by not leaving our homes and minimising all face-to-face contact for months on end.

Another change was the wearing of a small piece of cloth around the face i.e. a mask. Dining was switched to outdoors only; large gatherings were banned completely in many areas and parents, children and young people had to '*home-school*' while teachers had the nightmare of having to learn how to '*teach online*'. The list goes on. I haven't even mentioned PCR testing and Lateral Flow Tests, where a '*positive test*' became bad news!

Oh dear! What a time of change it has been. And that's before we even think about the necessary changes which will be happening across the country as the Church of Scotland prepares us to be a church that is fit for the future.

But how good it is to know that God doesn't change. He is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow. When we are in the midst of unsettling times, it is good to know that God is constant and is available 24/7.

There is an old hymn ('*God is love, His mercy brightens*' by John Bowring) which came into my mind when I was working on this article. It has a verse which sums up this theme of God being constant and never changing:

*Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never;
God is wisdom, God is love.*

Wishing you many blessings over the summer months. A positive change in the weather would be welcome!

Margaret A Borland

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



PRAYER REQUESTS FROM CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

Please give thanks that we have been able to return to in-person schools work. This has been a blessing for Reachout as well as for the children and young people of Cambuslang and Rutherglen.



Let us give thanks also that, after much prayer, we have secured funding from a variety of sources which has enabled us to advertise for a new full-time Youth and Schools Worker. Please pray that we are able to recruit the right candidate.

Greg Senior

Reachout Trust, Cambuslang Parish Church, 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang G72 7JQ
Tel **07837 193028** Email greg.crrt@outlook.com Website: <https://crrt.org.uk/>

NEWS FROM STONELAW'S YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

Your Boys' Brigade, 131st Company stopped for the summer on 19th May and starts back on Thursday 8th September at 6.30-8.00pm.



Our numbers were severely depleted after the pandemic, but I am delighted to report that the Company is now back to its pre-pandemic size. The roll call sometimes seemed like a list of characters from the Old and New Testaments! We have Adam, Joseph, even a Noah (no, the boys did not come in two by two...) - and Mathew, Luke and James too. All are welcome.

Our year seems to have passed by very quickly, the dark winter nights replaced by spring. It has been enjoyable recently to begin and finish an evening in daylight. The session ended with the Company Awards-cum-Parents' Night on Thursday 19th May. The games were great fun with games involving everyone, including parents and grandparents; they were enjoyed by all. The badge ceremony was a unique event, because, for the first time in B.B. history (since 1883) a badge for the Platinum Jubilee was presented to the members of our organisation. The importance of this impressed both the boys and their parents.

After the Awards Ceremony we had tea and biscuits, sharing a time of fellowship together. At this point the father of two of our boys and the older sister of another boy volunteered to help us, with others also enquiring how they could help. Hallelujah!

The leaders are already in recruiting mode for next session. Calderwood Primary School is enclosing a postcard-sized information card with 131st BB activities in every welcome pack to the new P1 intake (60 total). Thank you, leader Mabel Moore! 131st BB posters will be placed in Rutherglen Library, Burnside Tesco, and in local shops and I'm also hoping to address a local school assembly. Last but not least, we hope to persuade some young Duke of Edinburgh Award participants that THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE !

A huge thank you to our unfailing B.B. Leaders: Mabel Moore, Amanda Stewart, Dorothy McTaggart and Anne Smyth.

Walter Smyth, Lt. 131 Company Boys Brigade, Rutherglen.
Mobile **07586 255466** Email: walt_smyth@yahoo.co.uk

2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS



Our Rainbows unit stops for the summer on Tuesday 14th June and starts back on 23rd August. Our unit is full, with 30 girls on the waiting list.

Rutherglen really needs more local volunteers to help us meet the demand for places in Rainbows and Brownies. If you or someone you know is interested, please go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer.

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

2ND RUTHERGLEN BROWNIES



Our Brownies unit stopped for the summer on Friday 20th May and starts back up on Friday 26th August. We have a 2-year waiting list.

Due to the high demand in the district for places in Rainbows and Brownies, we would love to hear from volunteers who are interested in undertaking a Girlguiding leadership qualification. If you or someone you know would like to find out what's involved, please ask them to go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer. I am happy to chat informally to anyone who is interested.

Diane Wilson 2nd Rutherglen Brownies Leader 2ndrutherglenbrownies@gmail.com

2ND RUTHERGLEN GUIDES



Our Guides unit stopped for the summer on Friday 20th May and starts back up on Friday 2nd September. We are delighted that some of our older girls have moved on to become Young Leaders with Rainbows and Brownies. We have some spaces and will welcome new members. To register your daughter with us, please go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter

Jan Morgan 2nd Rutherglen Guides leader

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022



Thanks very much to everyone who has prayed for, donated to, or taken action for Christian Aid this last month. If you'd like to give to Christian Aid this year, but haven't yet handed in your envelope, please just give one of us a ring and we'll collect it from you. Or give online at www.justgiving.com/rutherglencaweek2022. At the time of writing, our **150k in May** all-age team of 23 is close to completing the challenge of covering 150k each (or a joint total of 3,450k!) in the month of May. Thanks to many generous donors, we have raised over a £1,120 so far in sponsorship. Look out for a full update in the next magazine, or go to www.justgiving.com/150kinmayca2022

It's still not too late to sign up for the Christian Aid Fun Run in Overtoun Park, on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June! You can choose between the 1K or 5K and walk or run at your own pace. You'll get a running number – and a goody bag if you finish the event!

Pick up an entry form in the Meeting Place, or sign up at www.q-buster.co.uk/cafunrun2022

Jean MacKenzie **07771 817954** and *Jill Rennie* **569 9340**

hjmackenzie27@btinternet.com

jillrennie@hotmail.com

RUTHERGLEN AND CAMBUSLANG FOODBANK

Dear Friends,

We bring you warmest wishes from the Foodbank, with a big thank you for all your support of what we do.

As you can imagine, we have been very busy with people needing a lot of support. The rise in the cost of living, coupled with the rise in fuel prices, is pushing more people into food poverty and we are seeing new customers coming to us every week.

We try to support all of our customers as much as we can, not only with food but also with warm items, free SIM cards (donated by Vodafone), and, frequently, with referrals to the Fuel Bank Foundation. At the end of April we are also going to hand out £20 Farmfoods cards to give people the opportunity to buy fresh produce on top of the non-perishable items we provide.

All these things do not change the root cause of the crisis that people find themselves in. For that we refer them to other agencies who can advise further. But it hopefully helps them through the worst and alleviates some of their stress.

As you know, to do all that, we rely on donations. We're humbled by the support we have in the community, through gifts of time, effort, food and money. Sometimes, however, donations of certain items fall short of what we need. At the moment these are:

- UHT milk (full fat or semi skimmed)
- jam
- cereals
- pasta sauce
- soup
- tinned beans and sausage
- tinned spaghetti bolognese and ravioli
- tinned meat
- sugar

We are very grateful for all the support you give us and really value our connection with you all. Please keep us in your prayers!

Best wishes,

Katharina Nimmo

On behalf of the Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank Committee

Ed: To give to our local foodbank, go to <https://rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk> or send a cheque to Unit 37, Rutherglen Exchange, Main Street, Rutherglen, G73 2LS.



Katharina Nimmo - Foodbank Manager
Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank
SC044594
07393 737030
manager@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk



LATEST NEWS FROM THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION



Dear Supporters,

We have been focussed on outreach and visiting homeless accommodations with the message of Easter Hope, along with chocolate eggs and an invitation to join our activities programme.

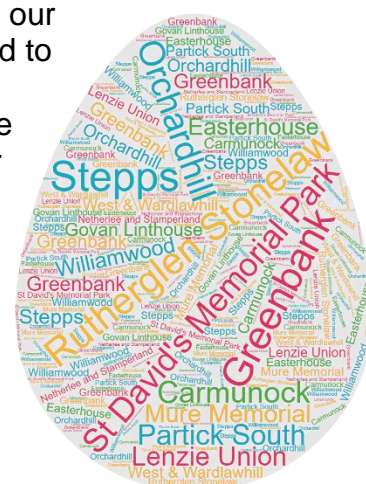
The staff team developed a **full week's activities programme** supported by our volunteers and partners. Our partnership with Street Soccer is going well and we have now added Boxercise training. We have pool, table tennis, bingo, a team quiz, dominos, guitar club, singing group and literacy group. As well as fitness and well-being, these activities improve confidence, provide positive feedback, build healthy routines, develop teamwork and create conversations about healthy eating patterns. The activities programme creates space to build healthy and supportive relationships with our guests that lead to preventative intervention. To get involved call Mark Smyth on 0141 552 0285.

March saw a rapid increase in demand for our breakfast service and meals overall:

Food Service	Breakfast	Lunch
Meals	687 (+227)	1328 (+298)



At the beginning of Lent we launched our **Easter Egg Appeal**. We are delighted to report **almost 2000 chocolate eggs**, with church messages of HOPE, were donated. These were shared with our sister projects, hostels and accommodation centres. Importantly, we have been spreading the word amongst projects that we are open, have a full activities programme and our intervention services are available to them. To all our egg-xtraordinary supporters - our heartfelt thanks.



During Holy Week we also set aside a time of **Morning Praise**, at 8.30am in the IT room. We felt blessed as we started our day, listening to the Lord's Prayer and other praise songs and spending time in the Lord's presence. We would like to continue to offer this short worship time on a more permanent basis, but to do so we would need more chaplaincy volunteers. If you can spare time to be alongside our guests, listening to 15 minutes of praise music, and enjoying companionship, followed by a free breakfast, please speak to me.

We offer our **prayers** of gratitude for the season of Easter. We give thanks for the beauty all around us as we venture out to our parks and open places seeing them begin to flourish; for the generous support for our chocolate egg appeal; for the potential of our outreach to 20 projects and partners; for the joy as our guests received their eggs and were blessed; for new volunteering opportunities which mean our service is busy. Finally, we give thanks for our board and members and the blessings experienced during the hardship of the last two years.

Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain to LHM. <https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/>

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 each week 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 926067**.

EVERY SUNDAY Morning service at 10.30am

EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Meeting 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 508130**

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH House Groups, for Bible study, discussion and fellowship. All welcome.

Call Jennifer Menzies on **07974 793 235** to join the **10.30am** group

Call Dorothy McTaggart on **07815 949 648**, to join the **7.30pm** group.

EVERY FRIDAY Grace and Truth Bible Study at 5.30-7pm.

This group is led by Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje. Are you young, or young at heart? Let us study the Bible together!

To join this group, please contact Mada on madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com or on **07789 619 349**

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2022 - AND THANKS

Month(s)	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
September & October 2022	14th August 2022	4th September 2022
November 2022	16th October 2022	6th November 2022
December 2022 & January 2023	13th November 2022	4th December 2022

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

Jean MacKenzie, Margaret Borland and Verinia Gorman