

Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

June 2020 Fifth Series 178

Letter from our Locum Minister

As I consider this recent epoch, I believe there will be many like me, who have found new things to do, and for whom time is passing quickly. Yet, I'm equally certain that there are those for whom this period has seemed interminable. Isolation can be a great burden if every day seems to drag on, which reminds me, as I now remind you, that we need to keep looking out for others: our family members, neighbours and church members. We must weep with those who weep.

That brings me to the reason I have left my house most often in recent weeks - not for exercise, but to conduct funerals, none caused by Covid-19. Funerals, at present, are even more difficult for the bereaved than usual. People are not simply bereft of a loved one, but also of the physical touch and presence of those who would normally be around them.

What comfort there is, therefore, for those who belong to God in Jesus Christ! For we are assured that He will never leave us, nor forsake us; that nothing in all creation shall separate us from His love; and that underneath are the everlasting arms of God to hold us in comfort.

The Christian poet and hymn writer Annie Johnson Flint expresses the great care that God has for each of us in her poem "He Giveth More Grace". The language is now dated, but the truth is unchanging. For more about Annie Johnson Flint, see page 25.

*He giveth more grace when the burdens
grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the
labours increase;
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of
endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day
is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded
resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that thy need shall exceed His
provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to
share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting,
availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will
upbear.*

*His love has no limit, His grace has no
measure;
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.*

Soli Deo Gloria; to God alone be the glory.

Yours in Him,
Rev John Martindale

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The **September/October** magazine is due out on **Sunday 6th September**. Please email items to magazine@stonelawchurch.org by **SUNDAY 16th August**

Stonelaw's Zoom Diary



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

Or try accessing some of these events by telephone (see top page 5.)

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

Sunday: Morning Service at 10.30 am	
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7.30 pm	For Meeting ID and password, see the Saturday Congregational Email
Thursday: Morning House Group at 10.30 am	
Thursday: Evening House Group at 7:30 pm	
Friday at 7.30 - 9 pm	Contact Mada: 07789619349 or madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com
Grace & Truth Bible Study (details page 6)	
Friday at 8pm (details page 22-23)	Contact Alan and Louise on L.mairs@outlook.com
Acoustic Night@The Meeting Place Online	
Saturday Discoverers' Meeting 11 am	contact Jennifer Menzies 07974793235

From our Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

We are so grateful for the on-going ministries of John Martindale and Thérèse Reid in these difficult times. Sunday worship by Zoom has been a blessing to many. If you need assistance in accessing this worship, please contact an office bearer who will endeavour to find assistance for you. A telephone ministry has also been put in place for those who have no Internet or Smartphone access.

As I write, the Scottish Government indicates a possible relaxation of some lockdown measures by 28th May. Unfortunately, there is no mention of church gatherings. We have to assume that our buildings will remain closed as we approach summer.

Currently, Council Registrars are not accepting applications for marriages, and funerals are taking longer than normal to administer. To minimize Covid-19 risk, funeral services are only permitted at gravesides and crematoria and may only be attended by immediate family. Almost unbearably, social distancing rules remain in place for all in attendance. I am so sorry to say that preparations for a funeral service may have to be undertaken by phone or by a video-conferencing mechanism.

Please pray especially for those who grieve in such difficult circumstances.

I have been meeting with the Kirk Session on the 1st Tuesday of each month by Zoom. They continue to serve you diligently and pray for you. We continue working on matters pertaining to the vacancy; especially the congregational roll, the manse and a parish profile. Unfortunately, lockdown has stymied the completion of the electoral roll and the appointment of a Nominating Committee. We are not halted, but certainly slowed down.

Please pray for the fulfilling of the Lord's will and timing as we continue this search for a new minister at Stonelaw.

In Romans 8.18-30 we are reminded of the sovereignty of God even as the world groans in frustrated fallenness. We ourselves groan with the rest of creation. But God really is sovereign; God's Holy Spirit really dwells in all who believe in Jesus. He not only upholds and sanctifies us at this time but also prays with us and for us!

Let us renew our faith in Christ at this time, setting aside regular times for Bible reading and prayer. I assure you of my prayers and that of your brothers and sisters in Christ at Maxwell Mearns Castle Church

Rev Dr Scott Kirkland

Congregational Email 30th May 2020

As lockdown restrictions begin to ease and a golf season of sorts begins, Dorothy and I have been chatting about how we've spent all this time at home. Thankfully the weather has been wonderful so there's been lots of DIY and gardening outdoors. We've also been reading more and I've rediscovered John Stott's compact book "The Living Church". As this is Pentecost, the birth of the church, I've turned to it again.

After eight wonderful chapters about the church, the author has written a conclusion entitled "Looking for Timothy". As Session meets on Tuesday to consider what kind of minister we are looking for, please allow me briefly to share Stott's advice.

He makes a threefold appeal to ministers: to be ethical, doctrinal and experiential. Ethically, ministers are to run for their lives, running away from evil (2 Timothy 2:22) and running after righteousness. Secondly the doctrinal appeal, to fight the good fight of the faith (1 Timothy 6:20). Ministers are to run away from doctrinal error and fight for the truth of God's word. Lastly the experiential appeal, to take hold, personally, of the life eternal to which they were called. And what is eternal life?

Jesus answered "Now this is eternal life, that we may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3).

Stott's balanced appeal is for ministers who are equally committed to what is true, what is good and what is real. May this be our prayer for our new minister, praying also for our elders' meeting on Tuesday.

Finally, for those of you who do not have access to the weekly Congregational Emails, we have included, as in the previous magazine, those which were sent out between 2nd and 23rd May. These can be found on pages 27-31 of the magazine.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

NEWS AND INFORMATION

This week's events on Zoom:

- **Sunday Service on 31st May** at 10:30am - Meeting ID: 822 1483 1748
Password: 98684087
- **Wednesday Prayer Meeting on 3rd June** at 7:20pm for 7:30 start - Meeting ID: 863 7374 6537, Password: 439807
- **House Group on Thursday morning 4th June** at 10.30am, hosted by Jennifer Menzies - Meeting ID: 870 6212 9027 Password: 240232
- **House Group on Thursday evening 4th June** at 7:30pm, hosted by Dorothy & David McTaggart - Meeting ID: 815 9699 7460, Password: 976074.

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

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

Can you join us?

You are invited (in a socially distant manner) to stand outside Melrose House at Rodger Park Care Home on **Sunday 31st May at 4:00pm** to sing Happy Birthday to Davie & Jessie Stewart. Davie will be 95 on Sunday and Jessie will be 89 the next day (1st June).

STOP PRESS! *The above arrangements about gathering at Melrose House were made ten days ahead of Davie's and Jessie's birthdays and are now in breach of the Government's recently published Stage 1 regulations. These regulations state that gatherings should be of no more than 8 people and from only 2 households. So that ruled out the kind of event we had planned. Instead, two families visited the Stewarts to wish them a Happy Birthday on our behalf.*

Sunday Night Prayer

Once again, many of us will light a candle and pray together. The prayer is shown below - please join with other Stonelaw folk, light your candle and pray at 8pm on Sunday night. You can read where the inspiration for this week's prayer came from on the [Church of Scotland website](#).

We pray:

Almighty God, by your Spirit, you brought order from chaos.

By your brooding Spirit, hovering over the void, you spoke and there was ... something rather than nothing.

Create and recreate in and through us, we pray.

Almighty God, by your Spirit, you equipped and gifted and led our ancestors to know you and to serve you and to glorify you.

Continue to equip and enable us, we pray.

And then, Almighty God, as promised by the prophets and as never before, you poured out your Spirit on these first believers - on men and women, on the old and the young; and they were transformed and made alive, as dry bones brought to life.

Pour out your Spirit on us, we pray.

Almighty God, in these turbulent and uncertain times, send us the Comforter, that we might know you to be near. Grant us your healing touch and help us to know the rest that comes

from resting in you.

For the loving touch of your Spirit, we pray.

Almighty God, by what seemed as a rushing wind and as tongues of fire you brought your Church to life.

Come to your Church now, we pray, that by the same Spirit we might be renewed and refreshed and remade and revived.

Yes, Lord, grant us a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, we pray.

And all our prayers we offer in the name of our Lord and Saviour, none other than Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace & Truth Bible Study

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

Day of the Week: Every Friday

Time: 17:30 - 19:00

Contact: Mada at madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com or 07789619349

Platform: Zoom

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby – 1 Peter 2:2 (KJV)

Looking forward to seeing you this coming Friday!

Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje

VACANCY MATTERS

Readers may recall that a Church of Scotland Edict was read out in worship recently, over two Sundays. This Edict notified us that in connection with the vacancy, the Kirk Session, as required by church law, would discuss and vote on ACT 1 2015, which pertains to Ministers in Civil Partnerships and Same-Sex Marriages. Our Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Scott Kirkland, has asked us to communicate the following outcome.

At the Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday 5th May, in connection with the search for a new minister, the Session voted to remain with the current and historic position of the Church of Scotland in regard to human sexuality. As a consequence, the matter is now concluded and shall play no further part in the ongoing process of vacancy.

News from Therese...

A Message of Hope at the Gate of the Year 2020

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

by British poet Minnie Louise Haskins

April 1st 2020 (*words on my eternal calendar*)

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God."

Corrie Ten Boom

I am writing this on Thursday May 14th. I had the pleasure of fellowship this morning at Jennifer Menzies' House Group, using Zoom. Who would ever have thought that we would be coming together electronically to support one another, study God's word and pray?

As we entered 2020, never in our wildest imaginations would we have thought it possible to meet for Church in this way either.

NEWS - 17/3/2020 - ALL SERVICES CANCELLED

Do you remember how it felt to read or hear those words? It came as quite a shock to most if not all of us. I was incredulous - they can't possibly close the church! And now I remember the absolute **joy** of that first Sunday when we could see so many of the church family again with Zoom. My heartfelt thanks to all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this possible.

DISCOVERERS

I know that my granddaughter Niamh loves joining Discoverers on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11am, meeting with the leaders and the other children. They chat about their week; there is usually a challenge to make something, or bring something with them which ties in with their Bible story; they sing and pray. They meet for about an hour. It is wonderful - what a beautiful, thoughtful way to keep our young people engaged in the life of the church. A huge thank you to Jill, Jennifer, Cathy, Mhairi, Margaret, Shona and Jean for their faithful ministry. It is such a delight to see all ages battle with, and win the war on technology, from the youngest to the oldest in our congregation. I'm pretty sure most of us had never heard of Zoom before - well, I know I hadn't!

STONELAW'S TELEPHONE TREE

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

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



STONELAW - CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

I don't know if many of you remember that back in 2012, we participated in a programme called Inside Out. In this programme we explored ways in which to reach out to our community, to be a church without walls.

During the first few weeks of lockdown, as we all adjusted to a different way of living, we looked inward, and rightly so; we are a family and it was essential to put supports in place here first. I think that we have learned to serve one another well and now is the time to focus outward.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

I know great work is already ongoing! We have members knitting hearts for Covid-19 patients and their families; members knitting new baby hats and cardigans following a request; members knitting comfortable mask-mates to make wearing a face-mask all day more bearable for nursing staff and carers; members making cases for PPE equipment for hospitals and nursing homes; members setting up Camglen Covid Food Collection Points outside their homes - and I am more than sure these activities are only the tip of the iceberg. If you would like to set up a food collection point outside your house, please give me a call on 07508 213099.

We would love to hear what YOU are doing in the community at this time! Please share any thoughts/ideas you may have. Thank you.

CHALLENGE

How best can we respond to the needs of our community once Lockdown is lifted, and how best can we continue to be a Church Without Walls? Can I invite you please to begin prayerfully to consider these questions?

CHURCH DOORS LOCKED, GATES CHAINED - IS THERE ANYONE THERE?

In March, when our church doors were locked, the gates chained, I was concerned about what this would say to our community. As Easter approached, my concerns

heightened. I spoke with Jennifer Menzies; we threw around some ideas, and Jennifer and her boys created a beautiful banner proclaiming "He is Risen."

BANNERS OF HOPE

This gave me the idea of "Banners of Hope." I approached Shona Beckwith and Marlyn Latta with the idea of each creating a banner of hope, using their own unique artistic gifts. I then offered the idea to our children and their families, and some of them are planning to create one too. We are using the backs of various banners we already have in the church for Holiday Club etc. so there is no financial outlay involved. Our idea is to rotate these during lockdown, keeping a fresh, live, relevant message to the community: that we are here, and that we care.

PRAYER RAILING

We also have a Prayer Railing. The banner reads,

If there is someone or something you wish to pray for or about
in this time of uncertainty, please feel free to tie a ribbon to our railing
and spend a moment in prayer
(please bring your own ribbon)

There is no problem if you don't have your own ribbon, as Jean Murray has very generously given me an abundance of ribbon strips which you will find in the Prayer Box on the railing, wrapped in a Tesco bag.

***** PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR GLOVES IF ACCESSING THE RIBBON!*****

A GIFT - Sincere thanks to John Sanderson, Minister of the United Reformed Church on Johnstone Drive. On seeing their prayer railing, I called John and asked if I could pinch his lovely idea. Not only was he more than happy for us to do this, he even moved his banners around, and gave me one, with ties to attach it to our railing. How great is our God?

I will close with the words I used to open, whilst asking God's glorious blessings on each of your homes and the homes of those you love.

Therese x

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Letter from the Treasurer

It is now eight weeks since I wrote to the congregation on the financial impacts of Covid-19. You may recall that I detailed how approximately 30% of our income comes through the offering plate and that, without Sunday services, this income stream has dried up. As we are all aware, it looks as if it is going to be some considerable time until we can resume our normal services. Furthermore, with our café on hold, the surpluses we have benefitted from in previous years (£4,000 in 2019 transferred to our General Fund) will, almost certainly, not be realised this year. With other church activities such as the Toddlers unable to meet, further donations from those groups are also unlikely to be made.

As we have now had a full calendar month of the restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus, I am able to update you on the financial impact on Stonelaw Parish Church so far.

While, unfortunately, I do not have good news to share, I would like to start by thanking the many in the congregation who have taken the time in the last few weeks and months to set up standing orders. While the future is uncertain, the current position would be much worse had you not done this, so I think it is important, on behalf of the rest of the congregation, to express our sincere gratitude to you.

However, I have to advise you that we have still seen a significant drop in donations in April compared to previous months. If this fall were to be sustained over the rest of the year, our estimates suggest that the General Fund would be completely depleted before the end of the year.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time for many and that there will be those in the congregation who are on furlough and/or have uncertainty over their job or business and it may be that we simply cannot make up the shortfall through donations. As a result I am taking the step of contacting the Church of Scotland finance team to make them aware that it is possible that we may need to defer part of our Ministry and Mission contribution - and to ask that our current circumstances be taken into account when next year's contribution is calculated.

This would obviously be a drastic course of action which we should look to avoid if we possibly can. Many other churches are likely to be in a similar position, and if they do

the same, this may seriously impact the work of the wider church. In order to avoid this, I would like to outline the ways in which donations can be made to the Church.

Standing order or online banking.

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

Account: Stonelaw Parish Church, account number: **00465105**, sort code: **80-12-75**.

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

If you set up a standing order, please remember you are able to cancel this at any time.

Posting a cheque

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

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

Text donation service

We have set up a text donation service to allow donations by text for those who are not able to use online banking or cheques. To use this service text **STONELAWCH** followed by the number of pounds you wish to donate e.g. **STONELAWCH 5** to donate £5. If you use this service we will not keep a record of your phone number or use it to contact you for any reason.

While my main aim in writing is to reach those whose normal way of giving offerings has been interrupted, I am aware that there will be some of you who are fortunate enough to be in a position that would allow you to increase your donation to the Church. If this is the case then I would ask that you give this your prayerful consideration.

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

I trust you will give this matter your prayerful consideration.

Euan Campbell

Church Register

Mrs. Kay Kellock died on 13th April 2020. Our prayers are with her daughter Lynn, her sons Neil and Stewart, and their families.

Mr Bill Stark died on 19th April 2020. Our prayers are with his wife Margaret, her daughter Jane, her son Alan and their families.

Mrs Bette Barclay died on 20th April 2020. Our prayers are with her daughters Margaret and Moira, and Moira's husband John.

Miss Barbara Halliday died on 22nd April 2020. Our prayers are with her sister-in-law Ileen, her niece Mhairi, her nephew Neil and their families.

Mrs Greta Doig died on 13th May 2020. Our prayers are with her husband Malcolm, her sons Colin and David, and their families.

see page 13 for tributes to these much loved members of our church.

Stonelaw Church Family News

New baby for the Wight family

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Amy Elizabeth, on 3rd April, 6lbs 9 oz.
A daughter for Charlotte and Gregor Wight and a sister for Ivy, 20 months.

New baby for the Olekah family

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Zack Somtochucku Ato, 9lbs 1 oz, on 18th April.
A son for Julie and Bruce and a brother for 2 year old Amara.

A niece for Shona Forsyth

Congratulations to Auntie Shona and proud parents Alistair and Lauren on the birth of Eloise Forsyth on 19th April.

Mrs Fiona Mackie

We are sad to announce that a former long-standing Stonelaw member, Fiona Mackie, formerly of Viewpark Drive, died on 19th April. Fiona transferred to Burnside Church when she moved to Church Avenue after the death of her husband Ronald, but she will be remembered by many in Stonelaw.

If there is Stonelaw Family news that you would like to share, please email the magazine team on magazine@stonelawchurch.org Alternatively you can phone Jean MacKenzie on 647 4913 or Margaret Borland on 647 5280.

Tributes to Stonelaw members who have died in April and May

Rev John Martindale, Rev Dr Scott Kirkland and David McTaggart have all mentioned the great sadness of having to deal with the loss of a family member during these difficult times of social distancing and lockdown. As a congregation we are sad too, that we cannot attend the funerals of church family members. For this reason, we have included the following tributes. Many thanks to all who helped with the writing.

Kay Kellock 1926-2020

We were all very sad to hear of the death of Kay Kellock at the age of 94. Kay grew up in the West End of Glasgow where she attended Hillhead High School. She came to live in Parkhill Drive, Rutherglen when she married her husband Bobby. Bobby worked for British Steel but died when still a young man, in a road accident, leaving Kay with three children: Lynn, Neil and Stewart. She then went back to teaching and moved to nearby Balvaire Crescent, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Kay was an enthusiastic and very committed primary school teacher, first at Spittal Primary and then at Burnside Primary, where she taught many of our congregation, including our previous minister, Alistair May, Douglas Shaw, Shona Murray, Jackie and Leigh Coia, Stuart and Andrew Molloy, Lois and Kenny Baillie, Craig Neil and Graham and Derek Baird.

Kay was a much loved member of our Stonelaw family, and devoted a large part of her life to serving the church. Her main interest was the Women's Guild in which she served as President and then Secretary for many years, as well as being Convenor on various committees.

After Kay retired she became involved with the Toddlers Group and loved welcoming the children. She also delivered Meals on Wheels for many years, and became an enthusiastic member of Templeton's Bowling Club. With her close friends: Betty Shields, Ena Murray and Jean Walker, she enjoyed many bus tours, and trips to the Pitlochry Theatre. Kay was a lovely lady, always with a welcoming smile.

Tricia Finlayson (Thanks to Jean Miller for her help with this tribute)

Bill Stark 1941-2020

Bill, who died on 19th April aged 79, was born on 17th February 1941 to Jean and Tom Stark and was brought up in Bankhead, Rutherglen with his siblings Ian, Marion and David. He attended Bankhead Primary School until the age of nine.

As his mother thought he was developing an "unfortunate" accent, she sent him to elocution lessons, much to his dismay, as he would have preferred to be playing football with his pals. At nine he moved to Hutchesons' Grammar School, where he was told by one of his teachers that if he knew his lessons as well as he knew the football results, he would do fine.

At the age of 15 the family moved from Bankhead to Thorntonhall. Bill hated being taken away from his pals but Chris Kinnear who was in his class at Hutchie cycled up to Thorntonhall one day to say hello and introduced him eventually to the boys from Busby. One of these was Jim Kerr and thus began a friendship between the three boys that lasted a lifetime.

When Bill was 16, his father became ill and he had to leave school to take over the running of the family business, Gilchrist's the Grain Store on Rutherglen Main Street. Bill was a great innovator and brought about many changes to the business over the years, eventually selling fresh flowers. He continued to work there with his brother Ian until the shop was sold in 1990.

Bill met Margaret at Busby East Church when they were both 21. Three years later the young couple married, on September 1st 1965, at Busby East Church. The couple set up home in Underwood Road, which was within walking distance to the shop on Main Street. After two years Bill and Margaret were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, Jane, and two years later with the birth of their son, Allan. In 1978 the family moved to Victoria Road.

Margaret & Bill became members of Stonelaw Church shortly after Jane was born. In Tom Morton's days, Bill joined the church drama group, which he loved. He got to know people of all ages there, making many special friends.

Bill also became a Manager in Stonelaw, helping with the fabric and finance of the church. In 2004 Bill, along with Ann McLintock, Bob Wilson and George Morrison, had a vision for Stonelaw to be an "Open Church." They also had a heart to support the work of Fair Trade and so began a Fair Trade stall which ran for many years. At that time, many congregations had a Fair Trade stall on Sundays, selling to church members, but this group had the vision to open the church doors two days a week to what was then the Hall of Fellowship, now the Meeting Place - and invite the whole community to participate. They had no idea whether the idea would work, but stepped out anyway. Thanks to their vision, sixteen years on, the church doors are still open, not two but six days a week, and although we no longer have a Fair Trade stall, we continue to serve Fair Trade tea, coffee and biscuits, serve our community, and give financial support to the essential work of Fair Trade.

Bill loved the beauty of creation, especially flowers. After moving into their flat on Greystone Avenue, Bill loved working in Margaret's mother's garden. He also took great pleasure in providing, along with John Shaw, a colourful array of flowers in tubs and baskets, always fresh, ever changing to adorn the front doors of our church on Stonelaw Road.

Bill Stark was a good and loyal friend; he loved people; he cared. He was a good, loving, hard working husband, father and grandfather whose family came first. Bill was and always will be deeply loved, and happy memories will be forever treasured.

Thérèse Reid

Bette Barclay 1918-2020

Bette was born Elizabeth Dickie Cockburn on 16th January 1918 in MacDonald Street, Rutherglen and baptised in Stonelaw Church by Rev Thomas Wardrop. Her mother's family had been members of the United Presbyterian congregation in King Street, which founded Stonelaw in 1912. Bette attended Sunday School and the Girls' Guildry, enjoying many summer camps.

After school, she worked in Templeton's Carpets at Bridgeton as a quality-control inspector. When war broke out in 1939, Bette volunteered for the Land Army and spent happy years working on a farm in Castle Douglas with a family who treated her like a

daughter. She loved driving the tractor, working with Clydesdale horses and had a great love of animals.

Bette's faith was always important to her, so it is not surprising that she met Jimmy Barclay at the Tent Hall in Steel Street, Calton just off Glasgow Green. They were married in 1944 by the Rev. Archie Watt in the Ca' d'Oro building in Glasgow. The young couple started married life in a flat in the same building where her parents stayed, in MacDonald Street.

Their first child Margaret arrived at the height of a great snowfall and their second, Moira, was born five years later. The family moved first to Fernhill in 1961 and then to Upper Bourtree Drive in 1974. Millport was a favourite venue for summer holidays; the family have very fond memories of happy times there.

In 1965, Margaret took off for a job in Canada, and apart from a short spell home in 1972-75, has been in Toronto ever since. This allowed Bette to visit Canada, and she looked forward every year to Margaret's Christmas visit home.

Bette's faith, and her need to be part of the church family, were strong. Her long association with Rodger's Evangelical Institute, Rutherglen, as well as the Glasgow Tent Hall, meant that her knowledge of old hymn tunes was good. She was a member of Stonelaw's Junior Choir, and a strong alto in the Stonelaw Singers, under the leadership of Elizabeth Scott.

Bette was the practical person in the house. She would repair anything that broke down, and was a great baker, knitter, dressmaker, painter and decorator. At the age of 88 she took her first trip to Europe with John and Moira in their caravan, visiting France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

Sadly, Vascular Dementia began to impinge on Bette's life, and after a bad fall down the stairs in 2011, she was admitted to Abbeyfield and then to Rodger Park, where staff looked after her in a very caring way. The illness meant that it was often difficult to make contact with her, but from time to time she would burst into song and sing every verse of a hymn word-perfect, to the great amusement and amazement of the staff.

For her 100th Birthday Bette was sent a telegram from the Queen, and the staff in the Home gave her a party. The next day *The Saints* folk music group, of which John was a member, provided tunes for many patients in Rodger Park units to listen, sing along, and even dance to.

Because the end of Bette's life came during the Covid-19 pandemic, only the Rev John Martindale, Moira and John were permitted to attend the service, but memories of her long active life will remain with everyone who knew her.

John Shaw.

Barbara Jean Halliday 1940-2020

Barbara and her late brother David were raised in Rutherglen, not far from the Main Street, where their parents owned a well-known traditional licensed grocers. Having trained in Killearn and The Western Infirmary, her nursing career took her to various places such as Leeds, Crossford and even Barbados, before her last job as an industrial nurse with IBM in Greenock.

Retirement followed, bringing new friends and interests both in curling and bowling locally at Templeton's. For many years also, Barbara helped each Sunday morning to care for our Stonelaw youngsters in the crèche.

Latterly, ill health meant Barbara needed residential care but even there, every visitor was still welcomed with her familiar sunny smile. Barbara was a dear friend to many and a much loved sister-in-law and aunt.

Norma Churchill

Greta Doig 1933-2020

We were all very sad to hear of Greta's death on 13th May, just a few days short of her 87th birthday, after a lifetime of Christian service to Stonelaw Church.

Greta Forrester was born on 17th May 1933. She and her brother Ewing grew up at the far end of Kings Park Avenue, walking to Stonelaw Church every Sunday with their parents. Her grandparents had been Stonelaw members too. The family spent many happy caravan holidays in St Andrews.

Greta attended Glasgow High School and then trained as a physiotherapist at the Victoria Infirmary, where she was based for her whole career. Part of her role involved sessions at Rutherglen Maternity Hospital, and Stonelaw's young mothers whom she visited there greatly appreciated her kindness.

Greta and Malcolm met at a 21st birthday party on the Carrick in January 1955. They became engaged during a Watchnight Service in Stonelaw Church and married there on 1st September 1960, soon welcoming their sons Colin and David into the family. and eventually, Colin's wife Seonaid, David's wife Elspeth and five much loved grandchildren. The Forrester tradition of holidays in St Andrews continued as the family expanded, and in 1998, Greta and Malcolm bought a house there, which they have visited regularly ever since. With support from the family, they even managed, only a few months ago, to see in the New Year there together.

For many years Greta was a committed elder, representing our church along with her husband, Malcolm, at Glasgow Presbytery. She was a very enthusiastic Guild member and served two terms as our Guild President. She also served on the south-east council and became National Vice President. She was Chair of the Scottish Bible Society who deliver Bibles worldwide, and UK President of the National Council of Churches. Nearer home, Greta helped to organise The World Day of Prayer for a number of years, and served as Chair of that organisation. More recently, Greta led a prayer group at Stonelaw Court, 3 Johnstone Drive. This was well attended and was much appreciated by the residents, some of whom were not able to attend church.

Greta was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, who despite increasing frailty was greatly blessed in being able to live at home with Malcolm right up to the day she died. Greta will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Isobel Wilson (Thanks to Jean Miller for her help with this tribute)

Prayer Is For Everyone

We are delighted that Madalitso Chikumbanje, whom most of us know as Mada, has written once again for our church magazine. Mada and his wife Mirriam, who come from "the other Blantyre" in Malawi, are now well established in the Stonelaw family.

Prayer, together with studying the Bible, is foundational to living a victorious Christian life. It is through prayer that, among other things, we exercise the authority that we have in Christ Jesus; to enjoy fellowship with God, and present our thanksgiving, supplications, and petitions to Him. Many would agree that everyone can study the Bible, but not many would say everyone can be prayerful. For one reason or the other, we have believed that prayer is for specific individuals and we call them intercessors, prayer warriors or spiritual people. However, several portions of scripture suggest that prayer is for every Christian. For example, in describing the full armour of God, Paul said:

Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Some will say, "But I do not know how to pray!" Well, the good news is that prayer is something which can be learnt. Here are a few biblical reflections on how that can happen:

1. Prayer can be taught or learnt

Most of us are aware of the model prayer that Jesus gave us - popularly known as the Lord's Prayer. However, we are less aware of the situation that caused Jesus to give this model prayer which we find in Luke 11 and Matthew 6. Luke's account shows us that the model prayer was an answer to the question that Jesus' disciples asked Him, as recorded in the verse below:

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1 (NIV)

By answering this question in the manner that He did, Jesus confirmed that prayer is something that can be learnt or taught. Prayer can be learnt or taught both voluntarily, as in the example of Jesus and His disciples, and involuntarily, as evidenced among ourselves today. An excellent example of involuntary learning is observed in the apparent similarities we see in prayers that are offered by people who have fellowship (or spend time) praying together.

2. So, who is our prayer teacher?

Since praying can be learnt both voluntarily and involuntarily, we need to be conscious of who our prayer teacher is. The disciples who asked that question in Luke 11:1 wanted Jesus to be their prayer teacher. The choice of our prayer teacher is critical because it has everything to do with how much we would like to achieve in our prayer lives. Concerning teachers and students, Jesus said:

"Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:39-40 (NIV)

Therefore, if we would like to know how effective our prayer life can become, we need to look at the effectiveness of those on whom we model our prayer life. No wonder Jesus' disciples, seeing how His prayers were being answered, asked,
"Lord, teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1

Describing some people who are not worth learning from, Jesus also said:

"And now, about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get."

Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

3. Where can I find the best prayer teacher?

Many people can teach us a lot about prayer; and we need to appreciate them. However, the best prayer teachers are in the Bible. These are people who never limited God in their prayers. What they felt in their bodies (or emotions), heard from others, or experienced did not hinder their prayer lives. Stories of people like Jesus, Paul the Apostle, Peter, Abraham, Enoch, Daniel and Moses are full of beautiful lessons on prayer and on having fellowship with God. If we took these people as our examples and teachers, where could we end up, once fully trained?

We can witness great success in prayer by using the word of God and the examples therein as our ultimate guide. Our prayers will become effectual and fervent as they will make tremendous power available. This power is dynamic in its working, causing changes over things here on earth. James expresses this idea in the verse below:

...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (dynamic in its working). - James 5:16 (AMPC)

Friends, prayer is for everyone and not only for specific individuals whom we have called prayer warriors. If we can breathe, we can also pray - it is that simple!

To avoid the clutter and misinformation that has surrounded prayer, let us learn from God himself how to pray, through his word and also from the reliable brothers and sisters around us. Prayer can be learnt, but may all that we learn be consistent with the word of God. If we do not know where to start, let our prayer today be in line with Luke 11:1, "Lord, teach me how to pray!"

Madalitso (Mada) Chikumbanje

Camglen Covid Support

During the lockdown, CamGlen Covid Support (part of the community development trust Healthy n Happy) is running the Food Bank, and is looking for your help! They urgently need donations of food and toiletry items to help local people affected by COVID-19. If you don't have a food collection point nearby and would like to set one up outside your house, give Thérèse a call on 07508 213099 or email her on therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com



For more information visit [Camglen Covid Support](#)

Good news: the Rutherglen Rotary Club is supporting the work of Camglen Covid Support by donating £500 a month for six months. This will help pay for additional necessary items for struggling families.

Thank you and a Thought

26th April 2020

On behalf of Moira and myself, may I thank all at Stonelaw for their heartfelt prayers, messages and phone calls during my recent hospitalisation and subsequent recovery at home. All these have given us a level of support and strengthening during this time of "trial and testing" which has been very much appreciated.

Whilst in hospital, I saw one or two of the BBC1 "Reflections at the Quay" services, and these brought to mind this verse:

"No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond what others have had to face. God will never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it." 1st Corinthians 10:13

PS 10th May 2020

Thanks also for our total surprise on the afternoon on Saturday 2nd May, when many Stonelaw friends turned up to sing 'Happy Birthday' outside our house. Many thanks to the Menzies boys who even made a banner for my big birthday. This was all much appreciated, as were your additional prayers during my two further short stays in the QEUH.

Until we next meet, blessings to each and every one of you.

Jimmy Baird

Thank you

Over the past number of years, many prayers and lots of concern came Bill's way. His illness was long but he embraced life, supported by many kind, Christian friends. Recently, after his passing, the flow of love, sympathy, concern and prayers that came my way have helped me cope and I know that I am very fortunate to have so many lovely people to help me through.

So, thank you, on behalf of Bill and myself, for all your prayers and for all your caring.

Margaret Stark

Thank you, Stonelaw

I would like to thank the Church Family for their recent very kind expressions of encouragement and sympathy on the death of my mother. The cards, flowers, texts and phone calls have been a great comfort and very uplifting at a difficult time.

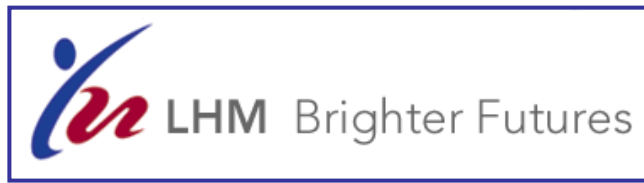
Moira Shaw

150k in May Challenge? Yes, please!

We first heard about the 150k in May Challenge for Christian Aid through the Stonelaw Church WhatsApp Group. and decided right away to give it a go. Walter and I have got much more out of this walking challenge than just the fundraising - we are both feeling fitter and healthier due to the regular daily exercise, and we've had great support from family and friends, with many kind donations to a great cause!



Anne Smyth (see page 26 for more about Christian Aid Week)



Dear Lodging House Mission Supporters,

We are now heading into June and have been living under social distancing and shielding measures for more than two months. Many of us have adjusted to the new normal routines. Here at the Mission, for example, we now work in smaller teams with gloves, face coverings and regular hand washing. We may stand at a distance but we are all in this effort together: making welfare phone calls, preparing food or toiletries parcels, and collecting donations.

Since our last update, our Chaplaincy hotline 07864 705 668 continues to help combat isolation. Our small volunteer team have continued making up emergency food parcels and essential toiletries packs which are being delivered by our partner agencies to those most in need. We have also begun to distribute £10 shopping vouchers to those in vulnerable tenancies through Simon Community Scotland.

Among the many donations we have received was a substantial donation from Nestlé Health Science through Elaine Clarke, executive territory manager and a friend of Giffnock South Parish Church. The donation of nine products, over 55,000 items was valued at over £117,000 retail. We are grateful to the drivers and logistics team for arranging the transport from the Midlands depot. We have been working hard with our partners to make sure these that meal replacement shakes and cereal bars reach those most in need. Our thanks for local distribution go to: Social Bite, Marie Trust, the Simon Community and Turning Point Scotland for helping us to spread this kindness widely.

We have been sharing on Facebook fun photos of those out fundraising. Allison, a supporter from St Enoch Hogganfield Church, has been taking 10,000 steps to her birthday. Ian, a friend of the congregation at Greenbank Parish Church, reached new heights as he cleared moss from his neighbours' garage roofs to raise funds for LHM. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more photos!

We ask for your continued prayer support for:

- our vulnerable client group, who consider the Mission community to be their family and who are missing the sense of routine and companionship LHM offers
- the team members who remain on furlough or who are shielding
- the small group of volunteers and the many partner agency staff, who prepare and distribute emergency food and essential toiletries parcels to the most vulnerable
- the hotels providing accommodation to our homeless community; Ibis, Rennie Macintosh, Copeland, Queenspark, St Enoch, Alexander Thomson, Chez Nous, Hillhead and Willow
- our directors, who continue to provide their support and encouragement during the Covid-19 response

God willing, we will be allowed to meet together soon, to celebrate and give thanks for the kindness that has been shown to our community.

Deacon Claire Herbert,

Chaplain, Lodging House Mission 35 East Campbell Street Glasgow G1 5DT

Every cloud...

'Stop the world, I want to get off!'. Those words were uttered by a former teaching colleague of mine when she was very busy and felt that things were getting on top of her. Well, I wonder what she is saying now? It does feel as if the world has stopped!

No church services or meetings

No family gatherings (*at the time of writing*)

No visits to or from friends

No holidays

No restaurant visits

No trips with friends to the beach or to the country

No theatre, concert or cinema visits

No visits to shopping centres, the barber or the hairdresser!

I'm sure you can think of more examples.



New phrases have entered our vocabulary such as social distancing, elbow bump and self-isolating (although that term was first used as far back as 1841, when countries chose to detach themselves, politically and economically, from the rest of the world). The Oxford English Dictionary is even monitoring media coverage of Covid-19 to take account of the great social changes which the virus has brought.

News reports are depressing. Statistics and graphs do nothing to alleviate our fears. However, I would like to encourage you that it's OK to turn off the news, tune out the fear and start having praise and worship breaks throughout the day.

Remember, good things can come from bad. Examples of kind deeds during Covid-19 that Mum and I have experienced are endless: for example, when neighbours offer to go shopping and friends offer to run errands.

I have even been enjoying using technology during lockdown! I never thought I'd be saying that. My laptop has allowed me to use Zoom to see and chat to people online, for church services, meetings and get-togethers. I have enjoyed seeing and chatting to people with whom I haven't had contact for a long time. My laptop has also allowed me to view musicals by Andrew Lloyd-Webber who has streamed some of his shows for free.

The environment has also benefitted from the lockdown. You don't have to look far to see how limiting people's movements has had a positive impact. The restrictions on what people can and cannot do have seen travel companies grounding their fleets of planes. The sound of road traffic has all but disappeared. These changes have brought a reduction in air pollution across the UK. Maybe, if we maintain lower air pollution levels after this pandemic, we will even save lives?

Many parallels between Covid-19 and the Second World War were mentioned during the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May. For example, people died in war on their own without family members; people didn't know when the war would end; there was to be no travelling abroad and everyone had to stay at home. Yet, the British public came through the atrocities of war and their stories have been passed down the generations and remembered to this very day. Staying in for a few months is a small price to pay to protect ourselves and the NHS.

'Every cloud has a silver lining' is a phrase that is usually said as an encouragement to a person who is overcome by some difficulty and is unable to see any positive way forward. Christians can take their encouragement from God's word - and we don't need access to a computer for that!

Psalm 46:1 reminds us that we should not fear:

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'

Here are some more verses which I find particularly reassuring:

- *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.* James 1:2-3
- *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.* 1 Corinthians 16:13
- *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.* Hebrews 6:19a

So, as time moves on, make sure you test positive for FAITH, keep a safe distance from DOUBT and isolate from FEAR. Trust God through it all.

Stay safe, stay strong, stay Stonelaw!

Margaret A. Borland



During the lockdown, **Acoustic Night@the Meeting Place** is online at 8pm for 30 minutes, every Friday on YouTube. We set this up because, with all live performances cancelled, local musicians are struggling to pay their bills. We are trying to help them out by providing them with a live platform.

If you're interested and not already on our mailing list, please sign up at L.mairs@outlook.com for an email, so you know what's happening each week.

Alan and Louise Mairs

See page 23 for a Q&A about Acoustic Nights.

Q and A on Acoustic Nights@the Meeting Place

1. Who runs Acoustic Nights@the Meeting Place?

Alan and Louise Mairs have been running Acoustic Nights on the last Friday of every month since March 2008.

2. How many concerts are there each year?

Apart from the monthly shows, we host travelling musicians at other times and also hold charity fundraisers.

3. What kind of music is played?

Traditional and contemporary Roots music, Singer songwriters, Country, Bluegrass, Americana and Gospel music, Blues, Swing, Jazz, Soul, Classical, Poetry, Storytelling, Comedy.

We've had a huge variety of guests, ranging from classically trained ex-students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to Appalachian Backwoods folk from North Carolina and Tennessee and sea shanty singers from the South Coast of England.

4. How many people can the Meeting Place accommodate?

55 - 60, comfortably.

5. What are the benefits to Stonelaw Church?

- Financial benefits, including church lighting paid for and installed; Wall Project donations and Floor Project donations
- Raises the profile of the church outwith and within the community
- Provides a warm and welcoming alcohol-free venue where people feel safe.
- Full professional PA sound system and stage lighting enhances the experience, encouraging people to return.
- Involvement of church members, in the audience and by donating home baking.
- Feedback regarding Acoustic Nights from church members who attend has been consistently positive for the whole 12 years duration.
- John and Moira Shaw have kindly provided hospitality, as well as ourselves, for travelling musicians from overseas. Their generosity is much appreciated.
- A safe environment for members who are disabled.
- Many visitors to Acoustic Nights have remarked on the architectural beauty of the church building and have told us that they feel a sense of well being and calm there.

We are currently running an online weekly half hour Acousticnight@the Meeting Place Online during lockdown. For details see page 22.

Louise and Alan were speaking to Jennifer Menzies and Janis Neil.

Look out for part 2 of this virtual interview in the next issue of the magazine!





UPDATE: 12TH ANNIVERSARY AND ABERDEEN WOMEN'S CENTRE, SIERRA LEONE

Since I last updated the congregation about our hospital in Sierra Leone, much of our work in Africa has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – but we also have good news to share.

As we celebrated the 12th anniversary of Freedom From Fistula (FFF) in May, we were delighted that on 12th May, four nurses from our Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC) in Sierra Leone participated in a video call with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge and Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex, to celebrate International Nurses Day. During these difficult times, it was a real boost to the whole FFF team that our work in Sierra Leone was recognised by Their Royal Highnesses. You can watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1lw34Cf3Bc&feature=youtu.be> (we feature 3mins in) and the full story is on our website at <https://freedomfromfistula.org.uk/article/news/celebrating-international-nurses-day>

Over the last 12 years, Freedom From Fistula has achieved so much - 8500+ fistula surgeries; 18000+ babies born; 140,000+ children treated; 300+ healthcare workers trained

As we navigate through the uncharted waters of the impact of COVID-19, short and long term, we appreciate everyone's support even more.

Sadly, our Malawi, Madagascar and Sierra Leone fistula services remain suspended due to COVID-19 but we are continuing to pay and support staff as best we can, including through the provision of maize to help feed their families. Obstetric fistulas are childbirth injuries caused by prolonged, obstructed labour, with no access to a C-section. Women become permanently incontinent and are often outcast from their communities as a result. We hope to restart our fistula programmes as soon as possible.

The remainder of our efforts have been focused on keeping open the essential maternity and child health units at our Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC) in Sierra Leone, which so many members of Stonelaw have helped support through prayer and donations over the last few years. COVID-19 is in Sierra Leone but, thankfully, has so far not taken hold as it has in the UK.

With increased Infection Prevention Controls (IPC) and the dedication of staff, the AWC is continuing to help more than 400 women and children every week...but it is not easy. We have had to reconfigure the space in the hospital to provide isolation rooms, greater spacing between maternity beds and limited crossover between departments. We are also continually seeking sources of essential PPE supplies and have been fortunate to receive some donations through the Ministry of Health and Mercy Ships but we will need more.

Amidst it all, however, babies are still being born and bringing joy to families and we are thankful for these blessings that brighten up everyone's day. I remain grateful for your prayers and support and ask you to keep our African staff - in Malawi, Madagascar and Sierra Leone - in your prayers, as they all face their own challenges at this time.

Thank you

Lois Boyle - 07736 502208 lbaillie@hotmail.com

Find out more about this charity's work at www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk

Annie Johnson Flint

Whilst preparing for a recent funeral, I was given a poem that was dear to the deceased, 'What God Hath Promised'. The author was Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932) from New Jersey, USA, a remarkable woman of God. Her biography explains that when Annie Johnson and her sister were orphaned they were taken in, and loved, by the Flint family. As a young woman, Annie developed rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that severely affected her life. It contorted her whole body and left her bedridden for nearly four decades. I understand she suffered further complications including incontinence, cancer and the onset of blindness.

Here is a short extract from the biography which sums up Annie Johnson Flint's character:

"Although crippled, she did not consider herself helpless; that she could do nothing but bemoan her lot. She believed that God had laid her aside for a purpose, even though that purpose was obscure to her at times. She also believed that He had work for her to do and she put her very best into the writing of her poems, rendering this ministry unto Him."

Annie Johnson Flint wrote the poem "What God Hath Promised" based on these words from Isaiah 41:10:

*"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

What God Hath Promised

*God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.*

*God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.*

*God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
Never a mountain rocky and steep,
Never a river turbid and deep.*

*But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

This was a poem that brought great solace to one of God's saints, now passed to glory. It leaves me humbled and thankful to our great God. May it bring comfort and hope to you in these troubled times.

Rev John Martindale.

Good News from Christian Aid



"You've run. You've walked. You've prayed. You've sponsored others and made donations. Thank you for getting involved in Christian Aid Week online! This Christian Aid Week you have helped save lives. From families living in over-crowded refugee camps, to people with no clean water to wash their hands, your support has made a real difference." *(Extract from a message sent to supporters on May 28th)*

Here in Stonelaw, seven members and a friend asked for sponsors as they set out to walk, jog or run 150k each in the month of May, for Christian Aid. By May 31st, an amazing **£721.06** had been raised and **1763k** had been covered between us, far exceeding our combined target of 1200k. You can read Anne Smyth's report on 150k in May on page 19.

If you would like to save still more lives and support the efforts of Walter and Anne Smyth, Jane, Sandy and Helen Paulsen, Dorothy McTaggart, Denise Paul and Jean MacKenzie, and if you are happy to give online, visit www.justgiving.com/150kinmayca2020, Please leave your first name at least, so we have some idea who we're thanking!

However, if you don't like paying online, you will still be able to save lives using the Christian Aid envelopes, once it is safe for us to meet again in church.

Good News for Our Climate Too!



Some of you may have heard about Christian Aid's **Big Shift Campaign** against investment in fossil fuels. This focussed on HSBC's plans to fund new coal power stations in three very vulnerable countries - Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Vietnam - even though coal is the most polluting energy source, and even though renewable energy solutions would serve these countries far more effectively, and far more sustainably.

In April 2019, Diane Green from the Glasgow CA office, two other supporters and I took letters of protest to the HSBC branch on Buchanan Street. The staff we spoke to were very polite, but our visit seemed as successful as a damp squib at the time, and the replies that HSBC sent us were bland and dismissive.

However, a year later, there is good news. Thanks to thousands of emails, postcards, letters and visits, not only from Christian Aid supporters but from many other groups, HSBC announced at their AGM in April that they have cancelled their planned investment. Luke Harman, Christian Aid's Campaigns Manager, had this to say:

"Wins like this help to build the movement for climate justice. They also remind us that campaigning success can often come weeks, months or even years after the act, and that we must persevere as we strive for a more fair and just world.!"

Luke Harman, Campaigns Manager, Christian Aid:

If you'd like to learn more about Christian Aid's Climate Justice campaigning, go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns>

Jean MacKenzie Tel 647 4913 Email hjmackenzie27@btinternet.com

Catch up here on the Congregational Emails sent 2nd-23rd May

CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL 2nd May 2020

Death of one of our members

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Barbara Halliday, who died on 22nd April. The family funeral is on Friday 8th May at 1:30pm. We pray for all her loved ones at this sad time.

Sunday Service details

Our Zoom service on Sunday 3rd May will start as usual at 10:30. Join from 10:20 onwards. Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose Join Meeting.) You can also listen in and sing along live on a normal landline.

For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available [on our website](#) and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**, later on Sunday afternoon.

Discoverers on Zoom

Yes, the kids are getting together on Zoom too. Every Saturday morning at 11:00am Discoverers' leaders are joined by up to 15 children to sing, pray, play games, read the bible, and chat about the story. The kids are fully engaged and look forward to their time together. Thanks to the leaders for giving up their time to do this. There is also a parents/carers WhatsApp group.

If you would like to find out more please contact Jennifer Menzies at menzies06@btinternet.com or on 07974 793 235.

Sunday Night Prayer

For the sixth week, Christians are invited to light a candle and pray together. Please join with other Stonelaw folk, light your candle and pray at 8pm on Sunday night.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL 9th May 2020

Watching the news has been difficult these days, and listening to the death toll rising above 30,000 is distressing. I feel sorry for our First Minister as she is clearly moved reading out the grim numbers, day after day.

So it came as a surprise to watch a You Tube video about one church's response to the crisis. The Rev Nicky Gumbel may not be well known in Scotland but his London church invented the Alpha Course. His interview was a breath of fresh air and I'd recommend you click the link below and watch it for yourself. What impressed me was his empathy for those suffering, his biblical perspective and his church's imaginative responses to the lockdown. For example, the congregation couldn't meet but that didn't stop their worship and their numbers have increased through their use of technology.

This pandemic will have a lasting effect on society, including on the church. Congregations who can't do things differently have simply stopped worshipping altogether and may struggle to get going again. Churches that are willing to try new things like Zoom are reaping the rewards during lockdown and developing a new

confidence to make big changes in future.

I really recommend you watch this interview by clicking the link below. May it encourage our hearts, strengthen our faith and inspire us to do new things.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoleGNoUQ6g>

Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May 2020

Like many other events, Christian Aid Week will be very different this year - no red envelopes to deliver, no Big Brunch and no Christian Aid Fun Run/Walk on 7th June. However, the need for donations is still very real, as the Coronavirus is affecting everyone on our planet. By supporting Christian Aid this month, we can help to provide soap, clean water and medical supplies for families in desperate poverty.

Here's how you can help:

- Please pray for the work of Christian Aid with the poorest of our brothers and sisters all over the world – people of all faiths and none.
- If you don't have Internet access, please wait for now; you can make a donation once we begin worshipping together again. We'll have Christian Aid envelopes in church.
- Another option is to call **020 7523 2269** to donate by phone.
- You can make an online donation on the Rutherglen Churches Christian Aid Week 2020 JustGiving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/rklenbsidecaweek2020>
- Or, why not sponsor Stonelaw members for the **150k in May Challenge**? A group of us are trying independently to walk, jog or run 5k (3 miles+) every day this month, in something like a virtual Fun Run/Walk! You can use this link to make an online donation: <https://www.justgiving.com/150kinmayca2020>.

Of course some of us are having a difficult time just now to make ends meet - we all understand that. Please be assured that your support will be greatly appreciated, however you contribute to Christian Aid Week this year, whether in prayer, sponsorship or by making a donation.

Jean MacKenzie and Jill Rennie

Important Health and Safety Information

We have received a leaflet from Scottish Fire and Rescue. Apparently, they are seeing a worrying increase in the number of house fires occurring during the lockdown period.

Stay safe - [read their leaflet now](#).

Sunday Service Details

Our Zoom service on Sunday 10th May will start as usual at 10:30. Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting.) . For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available [on our website](#) and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**.

Sunday Night Prayer

For the seventh week, Christians are invited to light a candle and pray together. Please join with other Stonelaw folk, light your candle and pray at 8pm on Sunday night.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL 16th May 2020

With so much that has changed during this Coronavirus pandemic it is no surprise that we, and even the Government, can feel unsure about ourselves and the way forward. Recent bereavements have only added to that feeling of being cast adrift. I'm concerned that folk are struggling with the ongoing lockdown and missing family, including the Stonelaw Church family.

So that's why I'm glad to share with you two important pieces of news with an invitation for you to get involved. The first is a weekly prayer meeting on Zoom. Our Interim Moderator, Rev Scott Kirkland, has asked our Locum, Rev John Martindale to start a short weekly meeting for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. How will this work? As with our morning worship, it will be led by John Martindale on Zoom.

The second opportunity to get involved and meet others is through the weekly House Groups on Thursdays. We're using a series of short 5-minute videos from the Bible Project which are very accessible, along with some short Bible readings and discussion starters. You can try this out for yourself at home by clicking this link:

<https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/>

Once again we'll meet on Zoom and you can choose either:

- Thursday morning at 10.30am - hosted by Jennifer Menzies.
- Thursday evening at 7:30pm - hosted by Dorothy and David McTaggart, .

Remember, if you cannot use Zoom, you can dial in on a normal telephone to be a part of these meetings. I do hope you keep in touch with your church at this time of isolation and social distancing. Stonelaw's building may be closed but the Stonelaw Family certainly isn't. Hope to see you there.

Sad News

We heard this week that Greta Doig died on Wednesday morning. As many of you will know, Greta had become frail in recent years but her death at home was unexpected. We pay tribute to Greta's gracious Christian character and her many years of faithful, prayer-filled service here at Stonelaw and for the wider church. Please pray for Malcolm, sons David and Colin and their families.

Christian Aid Week 2020

Just a reminder that although we cannot run the usual events for Christian Aid Week this year, the need for our prayers and donations is even greater. People in crowded refugee camps, for example, are at huge risk as hand washing and social distancing will be almost impossible.

You can donate by phone on 020 7523 2269 or give online at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rglenbsidecaweek2020>

Please pray for the work of Christian Aid, Tearfund and their local partners in these very difficult times.

Sunday Service details

Our Zoom service on Sunday 17th May will start as usual at 10:30. Join from 10:20 onwards. Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting.) You can also listen live and sing along live on a normal landline, by phoning 0131 460 1196.

For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available later on Sunday afternoon on our website and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**.

Sunday Night Prayer

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

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL 23rd May 2020

Amid personal sadness for some and worries for many, at last, a glimmer of hope from our Prime and First Ministers. There are now route maps out of the lockdown, and not a moment too soon for many of us. So I'm going to dare to look forward to our church life beyond lockdown.

First of all, I think we will have some kind of Service of Remembrance for all those who have died recently and whose funerals were restricted to close family members. We'd started having this sort of service in recent years and I think it is important for the congregation to gather together and give thanks to God for those who have died and express our support to their families. Please pray for grieving families struggling with the restrictions which must feel unnatural and even cruel at their time of loss.

After services in the church building resume, the Vacancy will pick up pace with the congregation voting for the Nomination Committee. . Before then Session will have thought, prayed and come to an initial conclusion about what kind of ministry God is leading us towards. This process of discernment would normally have happened at meetings but the lockdown is making the discussion more difficult despite the use of Zoom. The congregation will also be involved in ways yet to be decided. Then our Parish Profile, which describes Stonelaw Church and the kind of minister we are being led towards, will be completed. Please do pray for elders and our Interim Moderator that they will discern God's leading through His gracious Spirit.

Finally, I hope that the benefits and lessons learned from the lockdown will continue: of simple acts of kindness shown to neighbours and strangers, the challenge to familiar routines resulting in new ways of doing things, the humbling of a busy world over-confident in its own abilities, a rediscovered hunger for human relationships, a willingness to consider a more radical discipleship of Jesus and an openness to the big question "What is God asking of us for the future?"

As Shakespeare once said:

*"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.
Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat.
And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures."*

Julius Caesar Act 4 Scene 3

Yours, feeling Stonelaw is about to embark on a new and exciting journey,

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

NEWS AND INFORMATION

This week's events on Zoom:

- **Sunday Service on 24th May** at 10:30am
- **Wednesday Prayer Meeting on 27th May** at 7:20pm for 7:30 start
- **House Group on Thursday morning 28th May** at 10.30am, hosted by Jennifer Menzies
- **House Group on Thursday evening 28th May** at 7:30pm, hosted by Dorothy & David McTaggart

Ideally, you should use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. (Download the app and choose to Join Meeting.)

For those unable to take part in the live service, an audio recording will be available later on Sunday afternoon on our website and on our telephone service: **0141 465 4368**.

Should you have trouble accessing any event on Zoom, please call Janis Neil on 0141 634 1901.

Greta's Funeral

Two of the Stonelaw family have been invited to attend Greta's funeral at 2pm on Monday. After consultation, Myra Howitt and Bill Stewart will attend on our behalf. The funeral cortege will leave Thorn Drive and go down Stonelaw Road past the church around about 1:35 pm on their way to the Linn. This is in recognition of the huge part the Stonelaw family played in Greta's life.

Sunday Night Prayer

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

The **September/October** magazine is due out on **Sunday 6th September**. Please email items to magazine@stonelawchurch.org by **SUNDAY 16th August**