

# Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



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

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## *From our Interim Moderator*

Dear new friends at Stonelaw,

My name is Scott Kirkland and I am minister at Maxwell Mearns Castle Church in Newton Mearns. I accepted the Presbytery's invitation to become your "Interim Moderator" with great pleasure but also with some trepidation, at following in Alistair's large footsteps!

As Interim Moderator, I effectively become your minister. I have already chaired two very pleasant Kirk Sessions and worshipped with you twice. You have a very diligent Session Clerk in David McTaggart and a committed eldership. Please pray for them as they help steer you through this period. We sometimes speak of a "period of vacancy". However, Jesus Christ remains head of His church at Stonelaw, your Session Clerk and elders are still at the helm and you are still a worshipping and serving congregation. There is no vacancy here!

Each Sunday, it will be the Rev John Martindale you see. He may even chap your door. John has been appointed by your Kirk Session as "locum". In addition to leading worship, John will work two additional days a week. I know John will give himself fully to your care. Please pray for him and assist him as he seeks to minister to you.

In your church magazine in March, John gave a brief outline of the vacancy process. That has now begun and we are currently awaiting the visit of an advisory committee from Presbytery, which should be imminent.

I suspect much will have happened by the time you read these words. However, Covid-19 is creating considerable uncertainty. As we

steward ourselves through this period, I am inviting the Kirk Session to set up an assessment team. My hope is that this group will make decisions and keep you posted of any changes necessary to our congregational life as the Covid-19 situation develops.

The greatest onus, however, rests on each of us following the medical advice given by the Government. This advice presently includes washing our hands well and regularly, controlling our coughing/sneezing, not touching our faces and minimizing physical contact with other people.

While your normal habit might be to "soldier on" through colds, bugs and viruses etc, it is advisable at this time, to recover first before re-entering congregational life.

However, be absolutely assured of this, God is sovereign and to be trusted in whatever dark shadow we find ourselves; including outbreaks of Covid-19. The Lord is the Shepherd of His people and there is a peace from His presence to be known whatever life brings to us. Can Covid-19 separate us from the love of God in Christ? Be assured: Romans 8 says a resounding "NO!"

I look forward to getting to know you better as we embark together on this exciting journey seeking the Lord for a new minister at Stonelaw.

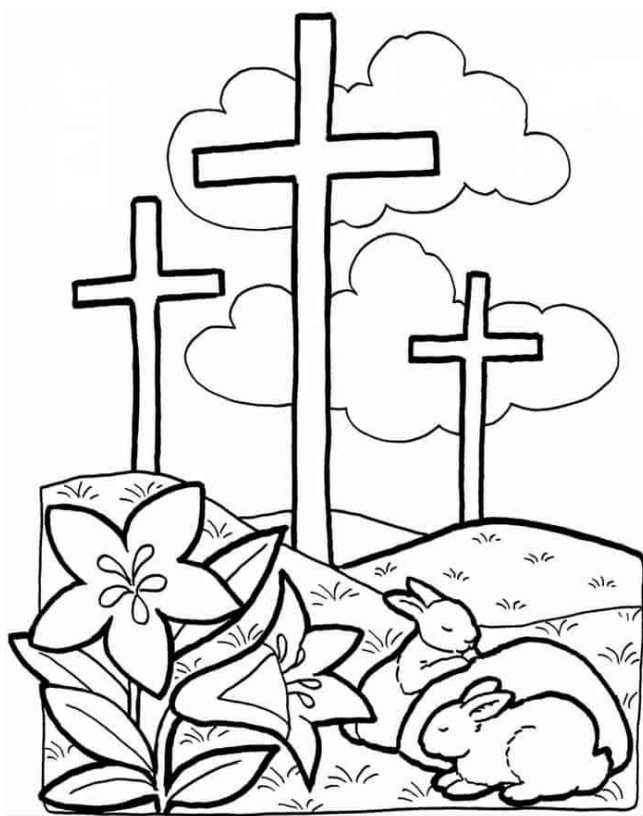
***Rev Dr Scott Kirkland***

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The **Summer** magazine is due out on **Sunday 7th June**. Please email items to [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) by **SUNDAY 17TH MAY**



## From our Locum Minister

As I write we are in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. Across the globe people are fretting and feel very worried about the outcome. It is right for us to be concerned and to do all in our power to combat this virus and mitigate its devastating effects. Paradoxically, it is in time of crises and calamity that people ask the big questions about life; its origin, meaning and outcome. As Christians, we already understand without God there is no meaning to life. Yet, we still fret over things like Covid19. But we must never lose sight of the fact that God is in control of all things. Indeed, in Christ and His cross, God has dealt with sin and its destructive effects.

Currently, we are journeying through Lent, anticipating the celebration of Easter Day. On that day, we had hoped to gather in worship, and join the Christian Church on earth and in heaven, to proclaim our risen and glorified Lord, Jesus Christ.

I recall a story from the time of the Communist regime in the former Soviet Union. Having entered a debate about Christianity, a Party Official addressed the gathering. His 'opponent', an elderly Orthodox Priest, sat impassively as the man railed against Christianity. He mocked and ridiculed the faith using all the old hackneyed expressions: 'the opium of the masses'; 'the crutch for the weak' and so on. He berated the 'gullible' for believing in something which 'could not be proven'. He quipped against 'the myth of Jesus' and 'all the false lies which comprised the Gospel'. For an intense period, the Communist leader spoke vehemently against God, Christ and Christ's followers.

At the end of his passionate and reasoned assault he took his seat, content that his logical argument would persuade everyone that Christianity was 'irrational, superstitious and absurd'. How could the frail old priest respond?

The old priest took the rostrum. He looked towards the communist and paused as though thinking. He turned toward the audience and cleared his throat, heightening the anticipation of his opponent who sensed he was finding it hard to know how to begin to reply. Then the man of God opened his mouth and said in an unwavering voice, "Christ is risen". Immediately the audience rose as one and declared, "He is risen indeed".

The world thinks that faith is futile, but the reverse is true, because to us who have eyes of faith, the wisdom of the world is foolish. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1<sup>18</sup>). Christians *know* that Jesus Christ has risen. Although it proceeds from faith, we need not abandon intellect, reason, logic or argument in making that statement. History testifies to Jesus. It declares He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He died on the cross and the tomb in which He was laid was empty on the Sunday. There is not one word from the first or second centuries written denying the fact of the empty tomb or claiming the discovery of the corpse. How the tomb came to be empty has been argued, but the only plausible (and indeed rational and logical) explanation is that Jesus rose from the dead!

As believers, we need to have far more confidence in the historicity and accuracy of the Bible, more confidence to stand against those who deny it and demand that they prove their point. For too long we have allowed the world to deny the truth of the Scriptures without any evidence to back it up. They have no evidence, only hypothesis and supposition. The Scriptures are there to be examined! All other documents from that time are far less well attested, yet far more readily accepted as accurate and true!!

There are massive implications for the world and for every single person in the world, for me and for you, in the resurrection of Christ. Firstly, you cannot say that there is no resurrection. Secondly, you cannot ignore Jesus. And thirdly, you cannot continue in unbelief. (See 1 Corinthians 15<sup>12ff</sup>)

Think about it: every promise Jesus made will come to pass. What does that mean for your life and the way you live?

Since Jesus rose from the dead, we too shall rise! Physical death is not the end; eternal life, which belongs to those who believe in Jesus, is ours. What the Scripture says is true: death has been swallowed up in victory; our sins are forgiven; we can have fellowship with God; He is with us in every circumstance, even in the midst of pandemics; He will come again and take us home. All this is available because Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Yours in the confidence of the Gospel,

*Rev John Martindale*

### **Important message about the church magazine**

Have you received a paper copy of this magazine?

Could you have been sent an electronic version of the magazine, to save someone delivering it or us having it posted out?

If the answer is yes, please send an email to [Info@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:Info@stonelawchurch.org)

This will allow us to send you all future communications about Stonelaw (including the magazine) by email.

Once the COVID-19 virus pandemic is over, you can revert to a paper copy if you wish.

*Janís Neíl*

## Stonelaw Church and Covid-19

Members and friends of Stonelaw have been receiving regular emails from the Kirk Session's Covid-19 Group (Rev John Martindale, Thérèse Reid, John Liggat, Stuart Menzies, Janis Neil, Alan Jenkins and myself) to keep them up to date with developments in Stonelaw. If we don't have your email address, you can send it to us now by emailing [Info@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:Info@stonelawchurch.org)

If you don't use email but you do have a modern mobile phone with internet access, why not join our new Stonelaw Church WhatsApp Group? Just text your name and mobile number to Thérèse on **07508 213 099**. If you don't already use WhatsApp, Thérèse will help you to get started. (See page 6 for more details.)

We are also posting all our email communications on the Stonelaw Church website. If you have internet access, you will find the latest messages [here](#)

If you cannot, or do not wish to use any of the above, then of course you can call your elder for news and information of Stonelaw. In the meantime, printed on pages 18 to 21, you will find the four emails that were sent out between 14th and 21st March. Seeing them all at once may give you a fair bit of reading, but we hope you will appreciate all that the Covid-19 group has been doing in this first month of the crisis.

Since Dorothy and I returned from our family visit in Cape Town, I have been so impressed with what everyone in Stonelaw is doing to help us cope at this time of crisis. Be sure to get in touch if you need anything. Contact your Elder, email me directly on [sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org) email [info@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:info@stonelawchurch.org) or look up the Contact Information on page 24 to find the phone number you need.

*David McTaggart, Session Clerk*

**PS** The Covid-19 Group's latest meeting was too late to include a report here, so please see the back cover of this magazine for **STOP PRESS NEWS!**

*David*

### Encouragement from Glasgow Presbytery

On 26th March, Janis Neil shared two extracts from a Glasgow Presbytery email on the Stonelaw Church WhatsApp Group:

"Jesus gave us the Church so that none of us need be on our own."

"Don't panic. I am with you. There is no need to fear, for I'm your God.

I'll give you strength, I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you."

**Isaiah 41:10** (The Message)

## *News from Thérèse...*

*But wanting to justify himself, the man asked Jesus:  
"And who is my neighbour?" Luke 10:29*

In the midst of our worries and concerns over the current health crisis, I would like to share some **Good News** with you.

Last month, I had an appeal for help from Eileen Baxendale, Outreach Worker at Castlemilk Community Church, on behalf of one of their young refugee volunteers who was to be married on Saturday 23rd May. His only desire was to have a Christian wedding at low cost or no cost - however Eileen and the team hoped to bless them with more.

Thanks to John Sanderson at the United Reformed Church, they have been offered a red carpet for the aisle and a piper - and thanks to you, my friends - they have been offered other wedding decorations to brighten the church, including help with flowers; help with baking and an offer to carry out any dress alterations as a gift.

*"The man said, "The one who showed him mercy."  
Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:37*

Please, know that Jesus rejoices over you.

Therese x

*(Sadly this wedding has now had to be postponed until the Covid restrictions are lifted.)*

## **Introducing the Stonelaw Church WhatsApp Group**

"What on Earth is WhatsApp?" Many in Stonelaw Church might have asked the very same question only two weeks ago! WhatsApp is free to use, so long as you have a modern mobile phone and an internet connection. It's an easy way of keeping in touch with friends and family members individually or as a group, by sending text messages and sharing photos and short video clips.

Early on Saturday 21st March, Thérèse sent out invitations to join the new Stonelaw Church WhatsApp group. Within a couple of hours there were over thirty members and within a week there were 77. This group offers just one of many ways of supporting each other by allowing us to share news, needs for prayer, favourite worship songs and Bible verses, along with practical tips for surviving and even enjoying this strange new way of life.

Would you like to join the group? First, you need to download WhatsApp on to your Smartphone. Then text Thérèse on 07508 213099 with your name and mobile number, so that she can add you to the group. If you have any problems, just phone Thérèse, me, or any Stonelaw friend - we'll be happy to talk you through it. Many of us have already had our bus passes for several years...

Jean MacKenzie 07771817954



## Keeping busy and happy at home



*These suggestions may seem obvious, but possibly helpful? They are taken partly from a list produced by a London Council Borough, and partly from suggestions made by Helen Paulsen and her family. This page is for the entire Stonelaw family! We've excluded any tips requiring access to the Internet. However, for online ideas, visit the website at the foot of the page.*

**1. Writing letters or cards and making phone calls** can make someone's day at a time like this, and help you to feel better, too. You could even plan with a friend to have tea and a biscuit along with your chat!

**2. Walk outside, if you can.**

Remember it's okay to leave our homes once a day for exercise, alone or with someone from the same household. Why not count how many pictures of rainbows you see in windows, or daffodils, or different types of bird that you see or hear?

**3. Gardening, if that is possible for you.**

With the weather improving, keep yourself active and start gardening. Maybe plant some seeds? If you need advice, phone a friend or relative.

**4. Try a simple daily workout.**

If social distancing has made you feel a bit down, try gentle exercise to boost your mood. Look out for a forthcoming BBC TV class. Please choose activities which are safe, and not unduly strenuous - our NHS staff have more than enough to deal with!

**5. Reread a favourite book**, or try something new – something in your house that you've been meaning to read for a while? Or a book of the Bible that you'd like to reread, or discover? Borrowing books and magazines should be possible, so long as you do so safely. BBC Radio 4 dramas and readings, and Audiobooks, are another option.

**6. Challenge your brain!**

Look out any puzzle books, jigsaws, playing cards or language learning materials that you have in the house, and spend some time completely distracting yourself. Many newspapers, including 'The Reformer' have a good puzzle page.

**7. Work on your cooking skills.**

Try out a new recipe! Look up recipe books or magazines for inspiration. If you have a freezer with a little space left, you could save something for another day.

**9. Spring clean your home.**

Any jobs that need doing, like de-cluttering your surfaces (*if you live in my house!*) cupboards, shelves and drawers, may help you enjoy being at home more.

**10. Get crafty!**

Keep your mind and hands busy by starting a new craft, tackling simple repairs, gardening or DIY project, using whatever materials you have available. What about embroidering the hem of old jeans? The charity Knit for Peace can find a good home for any knitting you produce.

**11. Play, sing and/or listen to music.**

Brush up your musical skills, if you have an instrument, or sing along to favourites on the radio.

**12. Try colouring, drawing or painting**

Guaranteed to distract you. Listening to music might enhance the benefit.

***Now, readers, can you help us, please? What has worked well for you so far?***

If you have any ideas to add for next time, please contact the magazine team on [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) or phone Jean MacKenzie on **647 4913** or Margaret Borland on **647 5280**, as soon as you like before 17th May!

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus/21-things-to-do-while-social-distancing](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus/21-things-to-do-while-social-distancing)

## **Message from the Treasurer about the Financial Implications for Stonelaw Church of COVID-19**

As we all know, the Coronavirus is having a significant impact on all aspects of our lives and, unfortunately, Stonelaw Church is no exception. This message is to alert you to the financial effects, what is being done to limit these and how you can help.

Looking at the 2019 accounts, around 30% of our income came through the offering plate. This includes both those who give using the Free Will Offering envelopes and those who put cash in the plate. This equates to around £2,500 to £3,500 a month. Without Sunday services, this income source will end and our General Fund will be depleted completely within around 3-4 months.

The other 70% of the income is largely from those who give by standing order. However, it also includes other income such as the rent the Pre School pays, donations from Stonelaw Church organisations such as the Toddlers and the Café @ the Meeting Place (£4,000). Given the present emergency all these activities have had to be suspended. Of course, right now we do not know how long the restrictions are going to last but the indications are that they could be very lengthy. If this indeed is the case - our other income sources will dry up.

We will of course look very closely at our expenditure. Some costs will naturally fall; electricity and gas usage being the most obvious example. Any maintenance requirements on our buildings will be scrutinised in detail before we commit to any expenditure. Having said this, whilst we can control some of our expenditure, the majority of our outgoings are fixed. This includes our Ministry and Mission payments to the Church of Scotland. (As we are in vacancy this will reduce but it is effectively balanced by the salary of our Locum Minister). It also includes our local staffing costs / pensions and such things as insurance.

In summary, we need to think very carefully, both about our income and our expenditure. For those who usually give weekly in the plate with either Free Will Offering envelopes or cash, I would ask that you consider making donations either by one-off bank transfers or, preferably, by setting up a regular standing order. This would ensure our income is maintained at this time. For those who are able, please would you consider increasing your donation? This will help offset the reduction in other



income that we are anticipating.

I appreciate that this request is coming at a difficult time for many of us. Please remember that you can reduce or stop your donations at any time.

If you have any questions please let me know via my email address:

[treasurer@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@stonelawchurch.org) or to Iain Morrison, our Freewill Offering Treasurer:

[iain.g.morrison@ntlworld.com](mailto:iain.g.morrison@ntlworld.com) If you don't use email, our phone numbers and addresses can be found on page 24 of the magazine.

For those who use online banking, our bank details are:

**Account:** Stonelaw Parish Church; **Account number:** 00465105; **Sort Code:** 80-12-75.

A Standing Order form (to send to your bank) can be found on our website at:

<https://stonelawchurch.org/giving> and also on page 25 of this magazine.

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 which is also available on <https://stonelawchurch.org/giving> or on page 27 of this magazine. The Gift Aid form 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 to the amount, so that he can keep his records accurately.

I trust you will give this request your prayerful consideration.

*Euan Campbell*

*Stonelaw Church Treasurer*

### **Scotland Cares Scheme: [www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org)**

Clearly one of the best ways that we can help others during this difficult period is by keeping in regular touch with our friends, neighbours, family and church family members who may need help or just someone to talk to.

However if you are under 70, healthy and with time to spare, look out for details of the "Scotland Cares" scheme, which was to be launched by the Scottish Government on 30th March. This scheme will allow people to register an interest in helping the NHS and other organisations in the battle against the virus. [www.volunteerscotland.net](http://www.volunteerscotland.net)

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

We have a new venue for Acoustic night@theMeeting Place - it's going to be **Acoustic night@the Meeting Place ONLINE**, every Friday for 30 minutes! Alan and I kicked off the series at 8pm on Friday 27th March. If you missed this, the YouTube link is still available: <https://youtu.be/fHx-nyvfxAY>

Our musician friends are struggling as all their gigs have been cancelled, so we thought we would help out by providing them with a platform to play live to the Meeting Place audience online. Many have already played there during the last twelve years and know those who attend regularly. We'll be asking folks to donate directly to the musicians, using PayPal. ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com))

If you're not already on our mailing list, please sign up at [L.mairs@outlook.com](mailto:L.mairs@outlook.com) for an email, so you know what's happening each week. We'll also be advertising future bands on our Facebook page: [AcousticNight@The Meeting PlaceOnline](#) where you can click on a link to our YouTube channel. Please note – the link will not go live until 8pm each Friday so that everyone can watch together – but you can catch it later on if that suits you better!

Thank you and see you Friday!

*Alan and Louise Mairs*

## **A Few Resources for Cooped-Up Parents and Children**

*Most Stonelaw families will already be in touch, supporting each other and using resources like these, thanks to social media. This is just a tiny selection. Looking ahead to the Summer magazine, (in case there's still a need) please share on [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org) any on- and offline activities that worked well for your children and/or grandchildren.*

- **PE with Joe** live at 9am on YouTube Monday to Friday or catch up later. Joe Wicks, British fitness coach, TV presenter and author says, "You don't need any equipment! Just tune in to my YouTube channel for a 30-minute free fun workout." You can subscribe here: [www.youtube.com/thebodycoach](http://www.youtube.com/thebodycoach)
- Thanks to Jennifer Menzies for recommending the Green Parent website [www.thegreenparent.co.uk](http://www.thegreenparent.co.uk) which has a Big Lockdown Resource List, including ideas for creating a variety of Rainy Day/Stuck Inside boxes, fun projects with plants and a long list of promising websites to encourage learning in a variety of age groups, including:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/for-age-3-18>  
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk> for preschool and primary children  
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>
- Science Centre Shorts at 10am each day on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
  - Learn at BBC Scotland has Scottish Bitesize materials and lots more, for 3-18s

## The Three Trees – a story for Easter



Once there were three trees standing in a forest on a mountain top. They each shared their hopes for the future. The first tree wanted to be a treasure chest and hold the greatest treasure in the world. The second tree wanted to be a sailing ship and carry mighty kings. The third tree just wanted to stay in the forest and be the tallest tree in the world, so that people would look at him, lift their eyes to heaven and remember God.

Not long after this, three woodcutters came to cut down the trees and it seemed as if their dreams would not come true. The first tree was made into an ordinary feeding-box. The second tree was made into a fishing boat and the third was cut into beams of wood. They all thought that everything had gone wrong. The third tree said again that all he wanted was to stand on a hill and point to God.

All the trees despaired, as their hopes had been destroyed. But one day, a baby was placed in the animal feeding-box. The tree thought it heard angels singing in the distance. Shepherds peered into the box and three kings knelt before it. The tree knew that it held the greatest treasure of all.



The second tree was sailing on the sea of Galilee when a storm blew up. The ship was carrying a tired man and his friends. The storm grew worse and the ship knew that it couldn't carry them safely to shore. The tired man stood up, ordered the wind to be still and the sea calmed. The little ship knew that it carried the greatest king of all.



The third tree lay for many years in a timber yard. One Friday, some rough soldiers came and pulled out two beams which they shaped into a cross. To the tree's horror, a man was fastened to the cross and the cross with the man on it was placed on a hill. By the evening, the man was dead. The tree stood there on the hill, alone. But as the sun rose on the Sunday morning, the tree felt the earth tremble and it knew that God's love had changed everything. The tree stood proudly on the hill and knew that every time people looked at him, they would think of God.



*Adapted from Angela Elwell Hunt's version of a traditional folktale.*

*This is a story which I often told the children at school. Perhaps you have heard it before? It reinforces the fact that the Easter story is about events which made the friends of Jesus feel despair one day, but full of joy and hope three days later.*

*We may be anxious at the moment, but we must hold on to the joy and hope which is promised to all believers.*

*May you know joy and hope this Easter.*

*Margaret A. Borland*

## Knowing, and Knowing about God

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

Do you know the Prime Minister? Many of us will say, "What a question! Everyone knows the Prime Minister!" But how well do we know him? For many of us, an honest answer is, "Not so well, apart from his name and what we read or see of him in the media." In short, many of us do not know the Prime Minister but we know about him. All our judgements, opinions, and views of him are based on what we know **about** him rather than real knowledge of him.

This may seem like an argument over semantics, but it is a genuine issue in any believer's life. In many ways, most of us know a lot **about** God but we don't really know Him personally. A thorough read of the Bible will bear testimony that there is a stark difference between those who "know God" and those who "know **about** Him". The ordeal of the seven sons of Sceva and some evil spirits (which we can read about in Acts 19:13-16) is a good example of the weaknesses associated with merely knowing about God. But why should we seriously consider knowing God?

### **Because Knowing God = Eternal Life**

Without the use of any scriptural reference, it is easy to define eternal life as living forever. However, the story of Lazarus and the rich man, recorded in Luke 16:19-31, shows us that people do not necessarily cease to exist when they physically die. By default, each one of our spirits will live forever whether in heaven or in hell. Therefore, "living forever" is a very weak meaning of biblical eternal life. To help us understand this, Jesus defined eternal life as follows:

*"And this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent." - John 17:3 (Amplified Bible)*

Simply put, eternal life means knowing God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. This definition is fundamental because it reduces eternal life to an everyday working relationship between God and us where we come to know God more and more intimately. We might be born again and on course for heaven but if we do not know God, we become vulnerable to many acts of the enemy. However, God wants us to live a victorious Christian life every day. We are not waiting for death before we can experience eternal life. It is something we should already be having right now. As John puts it:

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" - 1 John 5:13 (NIV)*

### **Because Knowing God = Grace and Peace**

There are so many people who do not totally like God (or are confused about Him) because they have been greatly misinformed about Him. This group of people includes both church goers and non-church-goers. It is possible to attend church services regularly but still have a wrong image of God. Deception is everywhere nowadays. The trouble with deception is this: it dims our ability to differentiate between what is true and

what just looks true. As someone else put it, the problem with deception is that it is really deceiving.

For example, some among us believe that the challenges we face in life come from God and their purpose is to teach us something. Well, this is deception to the core! Why is this so? In Colossians 2:9, we read, "For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body." In all His stay here on earth, Jesus never gave someone a disease, a misfortune, etc simply to teach them a lesson. On the contrary, He went about doing good and healing those who were oppressed by the devil. Having said that, some may ask, "How does God teach us then?" The Bible says:

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)*

Therefore, where do our troubles come from? They come from the devil through the fallen nature of humanity. When we come to understand this, we shall be able to firmly stand against the enemy in the things that he throws at us. But we cannot accurately discern this and many other kinds of deception if we do not have a true knowledge of God. Once we move from merely knowing **about** God into knowing Him and His personality, we shall experience more grace and peace than ever before. As Peter puts it:

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord - 2 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)*

### **Because Knowing God = Exploits and Wonders**

Some of us may wish to see the intervention of God in our everyday situations as He did with many other people in the Bible. To comfort ourselves, we have settled to the idea that God is not intervening in people's situations in this present day and age. However, those thoughts are unscriptural and help to reinforce a false image of God in our minds. While He was here on earth, Jesus said in John 14:12, "*The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*" The question is, "Why are the works of God very scarce in our day and age?" There may be many reasons for that but one of them is that many of us have not made the effort to know God beyond what we are just told. As written in Daniel, there is benefit in knowing God:

*"...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. - Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)*

In conclusion, scripture is clear on the importance of knowing God. Knowing God is foundational to living a successful Christian life that both pleases God and takes advantage of the benefits that we have in Him. No wonder Paul said, in Philippians 3:10 (NIV) "*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...*" Unfortunately, many have delegated the responsibility of knowing God to other people such as ministers, church elders, deacons, etc. Friends, knowing God can never be delegated in any way or form. We need to seek to know him personally, through prayer, Bible reading and Christian fellowship, even in these difficult times. May knowing God be our everyday ambition. Be blessed and be encouraged of God.

*Madalitso (Mada) Chikumbanje*

*On 22nd March, Christians across the UK were asked to put a lit candle in their windows at 7pm, to show that they were praying for their neighbours. That night, this poem was shared from YouTube, on the Stonelaw Church WhatsApp group. Some of us are continuing to light a candle every Sunday, but at 8 pm, now that the clocks have changed. Please, never leave a lit candle unattended!*



## The Four Candles

The four candles burn slowly.

Their ambiance is so soft you can hear them speak...

The First Candle says, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit."

Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle says, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable."

Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly the Third Candle speaks:

"I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer.

People put me aside and don't understand my importance.

They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."

Waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...a child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning.

The child begins to cry. "Why are you not burning?

You are supposed to stay lit until the end!"

Then the Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child,

"Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope,

and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes the child takes the Candle Of Hope and lights the other three candles.

Never let the Flame Of Hope go out of your life.

With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...

Peace, Faith and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.

*Author possibly Aino Makoto, but most sources said author unknown.*

## Stonelaw's Big Bake Off 2020



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we held our third Big Bake Off. This was a fun event but also a thank you from Stonelaw Church for all that Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust does in Jesus' name in our local schools.

We had over twenty entrants with many entering in more than one section. Well done to all of the prize winners! (See table below) Our guest judge was Anne Male, a retired Home Economics teacher. Anne did a very thorough job of judging and was extremely impressed with the standard of entries.

We only had one class taking part in the art competition this time, but it made a lovely display at the back of the hall. Thanks to the children and teachers of room 6 in Bankhead Primary.

The hall was filled and there was a happy buzz about the place. Thanks to all those who helped with organising, serving and clearing up on the day and a huge thanks, too, to those of you who took part or came along on the day. Between you, you have helped us to raise over £500 for Reachout.

<b>(Technical challenge) Battenberg Cake</b>		<b>Shortbread</b>	
1st	Helen McKechnie	1st	Keir Baird
2nd	Jane Paulsen	2nd	Sandy Menzies
3rd	Sandy Menzies	3rd	Stuart Menzies
<b>Showstopper Decorative Category (Flowers)</b>		<b>Scones</b>	
1st	Jennifer Menzies	1st	Moira Shaw
2nd	Neive	2nd	Janis Neil
3rd	Kiera McCabe	3rd	Jean Murray
<b>P 1-3 Cupcakes</b>		<b>Fruit and sweet loaves</b>	
1st	Georgia	1st	Jane Paulsen
2nd	Scarlett	2nd	Moira Shaw
		3rd	Cathie Gray
<b>P 4-7 Cupcakes</b>		<b>Preserves</b>	
1st	Fraser Menzies	1st	Jane Paulsen
2nd	Niamh Martin	2nd	Janis Neil
<b>Traybakes</b>			
1st	Jane Paulsen		
2nd	Jane Paulsen		
3rd	Janis Neil		
<b>Empire Biscuits</b>			
1st	Cathie Gray		
2nd	Jane Russell		
3rd	Sandy Menzies		



The Rutherglen Reformer Silver Salver for the best in the show was awarded to Georgia for her Cookie Monster cupcakes which the judges said looked and tasted amazing!

*Jennifer Menzies and Thérèse Reid*

## Church Register

**Mrs. Christine Hailey** died on 19th March 2020. Our prayers are with Christine's son Alan, her daughter Laura, husband James and their two children.

### Thank you, Stonelaw

**Thank you** for your support and prayers during the last year. Thank you also to the folks who helped with Dad's numerous moves after the fire in his home and to those who gave me lifts to the hospital to visit him. I'd also like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and visits after Dad passed away. Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to Rev John Martindale for his kind visits and the lovely funeral service.

Peace and blessings,  
**Margaret and Emma McDade**

**Sincere and grateful thanks** for all the prayers, good wishes and flowers for baby Ramsay Robertson, from the Coia and Robertson families. I'm glad to say that our grandson Ramsay is now doing well. He's still on oxygen but feeding with gusto and putting on weight.

**Sandra Coia**

## Stonelaw Church Family News

*Often the first mention of a new baby in the Stonelaw Church Magazine occurs when he or she is baptised and then admitted to the Church Register. However, with three Stonelaw babies due in March and April, and no opportunity in the meantime to announce the news in church - nor indeed to arrange baptisms - we thought that readers might like to be kept up to date. As has happened this month, there may sometimes be additional church family news that you would like to share. If so, please email the magazine team on [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org), or phone Jean MacKenzie on 647 4913 or Margaret Borland on 647 5280.*

### **New baby in the Campbell family**

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Finlay, born on Thursday 19th March, 7lbs 10 oz. A son for Fiona and Euan Campbell and a brother for two year old Eilidh.

### **Mrs Jean Brown**

We are sad to announce that a former long-standing Stonelaw member, Jean Brown, died on 18th March. Although Jean and her late husband Ian transferred to the URC many years ago, they continued to have fond memories of Stonelaw and for many years read our church magazine with interest. Jean's daughter Gillian is married to our own John and Janice McInnes' son Kenneth.

### **Mrs Evelyn Eunson**

We were saddened to hear that another former member, Evelyn Eunson, passed away on 21st March, following a long period of ill health. Evelyn moved from Burnside to Clarkston in 2008 to live near her sister. Evelyn's husband Alex Eunson, who died in 2005 was a long-standing elder in Stonelaw. Douglas, Evelyn's son, is a member of Stonelaw and we pass our sincere sympathy to Douglas, his wife Patricia and their two children, and to Douglas's sister Susan.





# Recycling Project begins

## in partnership with Burgh Primary Rotakids

**STOP PRESS** *Although we can't meet in church just now, you can still support the Rotakids team by saving your empty crisp packets at home (if space allows) so please read on! Many thanks to Kiera McCabe, P7 pupil at Burgh Primary School for writing this article.*

Perhaps you already know that our church has started to collect crisp packets for recycling, but you may not know any of the details, so here they are!

### How are we doing it?

There is a box in the Meeting Place where you can put your crisp packets if you want them to be recycled. The box will then be taken to Burgh Primary School and put in a special bin, which is only for crisp packets. The Rotakids team at the school will then send the contents of the bin to be recycled.

### Who are the Rotakids?

The Rotakids are a junior version of the Rotary Club. Rotakids do projects that help our environment and our community. The Rutherglen Rotary Club paid for our team's bin.

### Why are we doing it?

Well, we are doing it for two reasons:

1. To help the environment, because crisp packets aren't usually recyclable. They *look* like foil, which can be recycled, but they're actually made from a metallised plastic that cannot be recycled through normal recycling bins. They end up in landfill sites or in the sea.
2. Each crisp packet we collect will help us to earn points. These points can be added up to charitable gifts - for example a chicken might be given to a poor village. This can provide the village with up to 200 eggs a year.

### Who is doing it?

Kiera McCabe, Susanne McCabe and the Rotakids of Burgh Primary School.

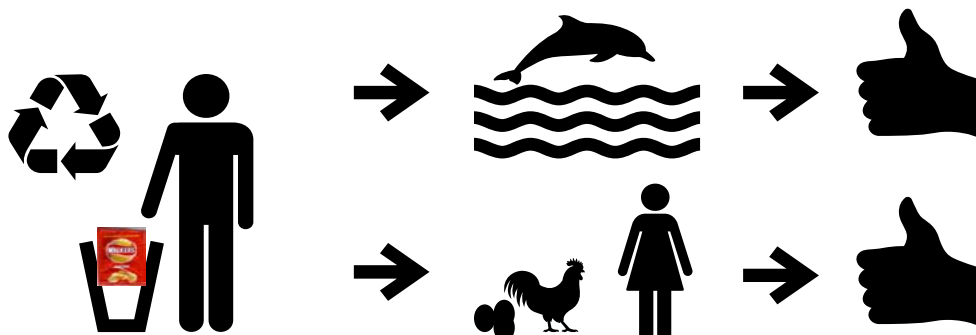
### Some simple rules for effective recycling of crisp packets

1. Make sure the crisp packets are completely empty.
2. Flatten the packets, please! No folding or scrunching them up.
3. Only recycle crisp bags. Don't put in popcorn bags, or tubes of crisps.

Don't worry if you forget these rules, because they are on a poster above the box.

Thanks in advance for your help.

**Kiera McCabe**



# Covid-19 and Stonelaw Church – the story unfolds

**Email No 1; 14th March 2020**

**From John Liggat, Session Elder, on behalf of Stonelaw Kirk Session:**

At the suggestion of our Interim Moderator, I am (in the absence of our Session Clerk, David McTaggart, who is currently visiting family in South Africa) putting together an assessment team (membership to be finalised but including our Locum John Martindale, Therese Reid, Stuart Menzies, Janis Neil, Alan Jenkins and myself) to monitor our response to the Covid-19 concern. □

This team will monitor the situation daily and will make known any change in response which we need to make. **At this stage**, □ there is no need to cancel any □ core activity of our church life; □ that would be premature but the team is monitoring the situation daily. We will make known speedily any changes necessary.

The greatest onus is on **each of us** following medical advice given by the Government which presently includes washing our hands well / regularly and controlling our coughing/sneezing and self-isolating if you have a persistent cough. Whilst your normal habit might be to "soldier on" through colds/bugs/viruses etc. it is advisable at this time, to recover first before re-entering congregational life.

On an immediate practical level, we will:

1. Not pass the collection plates around, instead have a central collection drop-off.
2. Remove the shared Pew Bibles and Hymn Books. The reading will be shown in full on the screen on Sunday mornings.
3. Not circulate a paper announcement sheet. This week's sheet is available [here](#) – if you would like to receive it in future weeks, please sign up now on <http://eepurl.com/ceNpW5>.
4. Encourage you to minimise contact (like shaking hands) and try not to stand too close to other people. Please note the minister will not shake hands at the door.

In another initiative the Sound and Vision Team will begin to record entire services (not just the sermons). So, if you are unable to join us for Sunday worship, you can access recordings from <http://stonelawchurch.org/sermon>. It is hoped these will be available by early afternoon every Sunday. We are exploring the possibility of live-streaming the service but cannot promise when this will happen.

**To end, some words from Scott Kirkland, our Interim Moderator:**

God is sovereign and to be trusted even through outbreaks of Covid-19 and other dark shadows which cast themselves over our lives in other ways. He is Shepherd of His people and there is a peace to be known that comes with His presence whatever life brings to us.

Can Covid-19 separate us from the love of God in Christ? Be assured that Romans 8 says a resounding "NO!"

And a prayer from the Rev Louise Collins, of Hertfordshire, quoted by the Bishop of St Albans on Twitter:

*Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbour in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.*

## Email No 2: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Message to Members and Adherents from the Covid-19 Task Group –

Present: Alan Jenkins, John Liggat, Rev John Martindale, Janis Neil, Stuart Menzies, Therese Reid, Jackie Sheppard

At our meeting after this morning's service, we made the following decisions:

1. **Morning and Evening Services** will continue as per this morning's service with one change: people will be invited to put their offering in the plate as they enter the church.
2. The **Mothering Sunday Service** due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March has been cancelled.
3. The **Fish Supper Lunch**, due to take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April has been cancelled.
4. **The Café @ the Meeting Place** will close from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. This was not an easy decision as we know the value it brings to many but we have a Duty of Care to our customers and volunteers.
5. **Discoverers** – we will follow guidance for schools.
6. **Youth Organisations** – will follow the advice of their governing bodies.
7. **Toddlers** – we know the high value of this service but are conscious that we have a Duty of Care to our volunteers, many of whom are over 70 and at higher risk. Thérèse will liaise with our volunteers and try to recruit temporary replacements from younger members of the congregation who have a PVG certificate.
8. **The Stonelaw Easter Card** will not be printed / distributed this year.
9. **The Stonelaw Magazine** - many people receive an electronic copy and we will encourage more to sign up in the weeks ahead, to minimise the need for paper deliveries.
10. **The Stonelaw Church Website** will be updated to give access to all emails issued to members.
11. **Telephone Tree** - To ensure the well-being of members, all elders will contact their district to find out if they have any needs (shopping, etc.)

Please note also that Alan and Louise Mairs have taken the decision to cancel **Acoustic Nights @ the Meeting Place** in the meantime.

*John Liggat*, Session Elder on behalf of Stonelaw Kirk Session

## **EMAIL NO 3- 17/3/2020 NEWS - ALL SERVICES CANCELLED**

The Scottish Government has advised the Church of Scotland that people should minimise social contact by avoiding crowded areas and large gatherings, including religious congregations. Naturally, this is a very distressing instruction but we at Stonelaw Church have no choice but to cancel our services and of course, we understand the reasons why.

Stonelaw's Covid-19 Task Group will be making plans over the next few days to come up with some kind of recorded 'mini service' from our locum, Rev John Martindale. We will send you more details as and when available.

In the meantime, we know that our God is always with us, whether gathered in our church building or at home alone.

### **Email no 4: News and Information as at 21st March 2020**

As promised, here is an email full of news, information and most importantly, details of how to access Stonelaw's church service for tomorrow, 22nd March.

Our Locum, John Martindale has been very busy recording a service for us - listen to the service now, wait until 10:30 tomorrow morning or listen later, whatever suits. You will find it on our website [www.stonelawchurch.org/sermon](http://www.stonelawchurch.org/sermon) .

Next week, 29th March, we hope to have the opportunity to sing along to a LIVE Hymn Singing Session provided by the Jenkins Family. We are testing the technology now - be sure to watch out for it!

### **Encouragement**

A few ideas to help you through these difficult days:

- The Church of Scotland has joined other Scottish and UK churches in calling a **National Day of Prayer** on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which includes lighting a candle at 7pm. [Find out more.](#)
- **The Stonelaw Church WhatsApp group.** If you would like to join, email your mobile number to Therese [therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com](mailto:therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com) . And if you don't already use WhatsApp, Therese will help you get started. (See *page 6 for more details*).
- Many of you will already be aware of the **Bible 2020 app** – daily Bible readings sent to your phone. If you aren't already benefitting from this, [find out more.](#)

## Email no 4 continued

### Stonelaw News

Dorothy and I are well and delighted to be back, albeit in self-isolation for a week. We see this as a sensible precaution given our time spent in airports and planes during our journey.

It is also lovely to share the good news of the safe arrival of Finlay Campbell, son of our Treasurer Euan Campbell and his wife Fiona. Eilidh has a beautiful little brother!

We also have to report the sad news of the death of Christine Hainey who had been very ill for some time. We pray for Christine's family, including her granddaughter Eliza, who came to church regularly when Christine was well.

### Finally

Since returning from Cape Town, I have been so impressed with what everyone in Stonelaw is doing to help us cope at this time of crisis. Be sure to get in touch if you need anything. Either contact your Elder, email me directly on

**[sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org)** or email **[info@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:info@stonelawchurch.org)**.

*David McTaggart*

## Could you pray for others? Would you like people to pray for you?

Stonelaw's Prayer Chain has been in existence for many years now. Sometimes we are asked to pray for people known to us and sometimes the people in need are family, friends or neighbours of someone in Stonelaw.

If you would like prayer for yourself or for someone known to you, please send a request to John Shaw at [johnshaw@live.co.uk](mailto:johnshaw@live.co.uk) Or call him on **0141 569 8344**. You decide how much information is shared in the prayer request email, so if you want to keep the details private, that is just fine. **We only publish a prayer request if we have permission from the individual or from someone representing the individual.**

If you are not already on the prayer chain but feel you would like to add your prayers when they are needed, then please send your email address to John and he will add you to the distribution list. If you are not on email but would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, John will be happy to phone you when a prayer request has been sent. You can call him on **0141 569 8344**.

Thank you.  
*Janis Neil*

## **Thank you letters**

We have recently received letters of thanks from charities which we have supported. Here are excerpts from them which we would like to share with you. From reading the letters in full, it is obvious that our donations are very gratefully received.

*Margaret Borland*

### ***Letter from Reachout***

Dear Church Leader

Thank you for your continued support of our work at Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust. Your help is vital in enabling the Trust to achieve its goals and for the continuation of God's work in local schools, churches and in the communities of Cambuslang and Rutherglen.

### ***Letter from Lodging House Mission (LHM)***

Dear Alistair

I am writing to acknowledge and thank your congregation at Rutherglen Stonelaw for their thoughtful donation (of £1093.03). This will greatly assist in our work with homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded persons at the LHM, here in Glasgow. Be assured, it will be spent wisely to improve the lives of those we strive to help.

### ***Letter from Erskine Hospital***

Dear friends of Erskine

On behalf of Erskine, I would like to thank you for your generous donation (of £190) which we kindly received from you.

Your donation will help us continue to provide a wide range of support and activities that enhance our Veterans' lives such as physiotherapy, dentist and podiatrist appointments. Without your support we simply would not be able to provide this.

### ***Letter from Poppy Scotland***

Dear Stonelaw Parish Church

Thank you so much for your very kind donation (of £110.20). It is only through donations such as yours that we can continue supporting our beneficiaries within the Armed Forces community and reach out to those who have served and those still serving and their families at times of crisis and need.



## **Fun Run/Walk Postponed**

**Unfortunately, the Christian Aid Fun Run/Walk in Overtoun Park which was planned for 7th June is now on hold, until life in our community returns to normal. Below is the information sent out by Christian Aid on 17th March 2020.**

### **Coronavirus guidance for Christian Aid Week events and activities**

As all of our thoughts are on the Covid-19 situation, we wanted to share an update on Christian Aid's response. We have been receiving enquiries from volunteers about how to keep safe when fundraising for Christian Aid Week. The health and safety of our community, including loyal supporters like you, is of the utmost importance to us, and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis.

Many of you will have been planning for the Bridge Cross Challenge, house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, the Bridge Cross Challenge and house-to-house collections should be cancelled. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent Lunches, where food is shared, cannot go ahead. We are looking at alternative ways to virtually meet, share and pray with supporters over the coming months in the likely absence of physical church services.

We are working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in Christian Aid Week in different, creative ways – by post, by text and online that strengthen our communities during this challenging time. Christian Aid Week is our single-most important fundraiser, so we would welcome your ideas on how we can creatively show love for our neighbours at home and abroad, as a community. Please call your usual Christian Aid contact \* or get in touch by email or telephone, see details below.

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.

We are praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. During this challenging time, we all need to take seriously the science and advice being offered, remaining calm but vigilant.

You can contact us by email on [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org) or call our helpline on **020 7620 4444**.

With every blessing

**Amanda Khozi Mukwashi**, Chief Executive of Christian Aid  
**Sally Foster-Fulton**, Head of Christian Aid Scotland

**\*You can contact the Christian Aid Glasgow Office on 0141 221 7475 or by email on [glasgow@christian-aid.org](mailto:glasgow@christian-aid.org)**

The **Summer** magazine is due out on **Sunday 7th June**. Please email items to **magazine@stonelawchurch.org** by **Sunday 17th May**

**Thank you**

**Church Magazine Editorial Team**

Jean MacKenzie Margaret Borland Derek Westwood Vetinia Gorman