

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

www.stonelawchurch.org

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IF YOU'RE READING THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE STONELAW CHURCH MAGAZINE...

Did you know that you don't need to scroll through the whole document to find an article or news item? Just come here to page 2 and tap your finger or click your mouse on the title of the page you'd like to read.

(To some of you, this shortcut might seem like very old news, but sadly it took a while for the editorial team to discover it...)

**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SPRING 2024 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2024**

MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL



Dear Friends,

Well, here we are. Almost at the end of another year and what a year it has been for the Watson household!

From ending last year knowing that Elizabeth and I were going to be parents for the first time and the excitement of Christmas, to spending the first few weeks of the new year with our good friends in California, to announcing and celebrating Phoebe's arrival, coming through the extended stay with her in the Intensive Care Unit, before we said goodbye to my last surviving grandparent just a few weeks later - and everything else in between. 2023 really has been a year of many highs and some real lows. Perhaps that has been the case for many in our world – indeed it may have been the same for you.

As we enter into Advent, that period of the year where we focus on preparing ourselves for Christmas and what it all means, in amongst the busyness of Christmas markets, Christmas dinners with friends, secret Santas, mince pies, mulled wine, carol services, and time with family and friends, we can still find ourselves lonely, low, and disheartened. The hope and joy that we are 'supposed' to feel at this time of year seems somewhat harder to grasp.

However, it is said that the stars shine most brightly in the darkest night. In the depths of the dark nights, the shepherds and the Magi followed the brightest star in the sky. And it was this star that guided them to a new beginning and a new hope.

We too can look to the brightest star, the true shining light of Christmas – Jesus the newborn, the infant, the child. It is in the coming of Jesus that we find a new beginning, a new life, and a renewed hope. Jesus, the brightest star in the darkest night, helps us to fix our eyes on the future with an expectant hopefulness and joy.

May you have a wonder-filled Christmas when it comes and a start to the new year that is filled with expectant hopefulness and joy.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson

minister@stonelawchurch.org 07871 615 840

2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG



A PRAYER FROM NEIL

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, You show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of Your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see You on Your throne of glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship You, our Saviour, and our eternal God.

Loving Jesus, You were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts.

Jesus, as You healed the sick, bring healing to those in our families who are ill today.

Christ born for us, Son of God, given for us, help us to know You, to worship and to serve You.

The Magi brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold. Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring You what You have given us: our lives for Your life.

Lord Jesus, You know us and love us, You share our lives and hear our prayer.

Amen

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

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

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

Elizabeth Watson



WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MID-WEEK 30-MINUTE SERVICES?

Our Mid-Week Services are held in the Meeting Place, on the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 2-2.30pm.

These are informal services which include a short reflection, some singing, praying and a time of fellowship with tea, coffee and home baking. Neil normally leads, often with his guitar, and we often all sit together round the same table!

Why not invite someone who might find this form of worship easier to cope with than a full Sunday service?

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND STONELAW

Sunday Morning Prayer Time in the north transept of the Sanctuary at 10.15am. (see p.4)

Our Sunday Morning Service is at 10.30am, with a crèche for children under 3, Discoverers for pre-school and primary children, and Connect2 for S1 up.

Our Communion Service is held on the first Sunday of the month. Please note that our communion bread is gluten free and that everyone is welcome to participate.

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

Mid-week 30-minute Service Wednesday 2.00 - 2.30pm, on the first and third Wednesday of the month. These are short, informal services held in the Meeting Place. (see p4)

Past Times Dementia-friendly Community 2nd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.00pm and

Past Times Drop-in Café 4th Wednesday of the month 3.00 - 4.00pm.

NB Both are by invitation only. (see p8)

Join us for Prayer on Zoom Wednesdays 7.20pm (7.30pm start) till 8.10pm (see p.22)

House Groups Usually on the first Thursday of the month. All welcome!

- at 10.30am with Jennifer Menzies. **07974 793 235**
- at 7.30pm with Dorothy and David McTaggart. **07815 949 648**

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People's House Group: Every second Thursday, 6.30 - 8pm at the Manse.

For details, please contact Fiona Benson on **07980 734 182** or fiona.benson@sky.com.

2nd Rutherglen Rainbows: Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm

Wednesday Toddlers: 9.45 -11.30am Contact Mary McDougall **07795 957 226**

131st Boys' Brigade: Thursdays 6.30-8pm

Friday Toddlers: 9.45 -11.30am Contact Jennifer Menzies **07974 793 235**

2nd Rutherglen Brownies: Fridays 6.15-7.15pm.

2nd Rutherglen Guides: Fridays 7.30-9.15pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS 2023 (SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)

Christmas Film Night: The Muppets Christmas Carol Friday 15th December at 7pm

Blue Christmas Remembering Service Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm

Sunday Morning Worship with Nativity and Carols Sunday 24th December at 10.30am

Christingle Pyjama Service

Sunday 24th December at 6.30pm

Watchnight Service

Sunday 24th December at 11.30pm

Christmas Morning Celebration Service

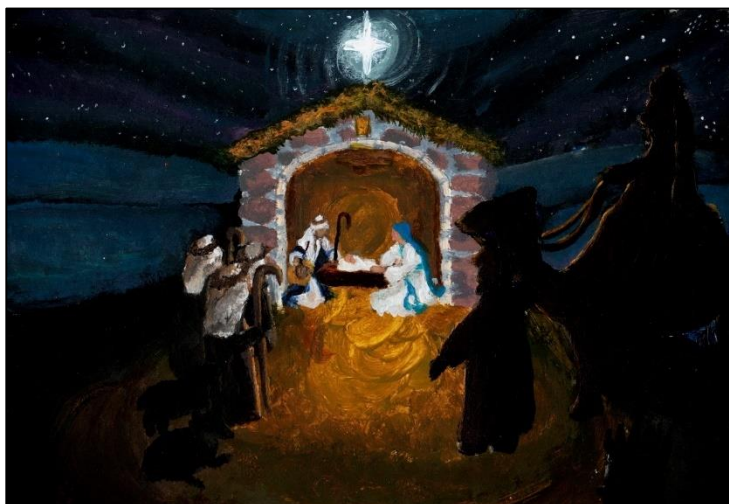
Monday 25th December at 10.30am with informal communion. This service will be on Zoom but will not be recorded on YouTube.



STONELAW'S CHRISTMAS CARD 2023

Huge thanks to Kiera McCabe for designing the front cover for this year's Christmas Card. I'm sure you will agree it's a beautiful painting. As usual, we need your help to distribute our cards. They will be ready for delivery on Sunday 10th December so please collect some from the church that day or from the Meeting Place during the following week. Thank you in advance for your help.

Janis Neil



CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN STONELAW 2023

CHURCH FAMILY FILM NIGHT: THE MUPPETS CHRISTMAS CAROL 15TH DECEMBER 7PM

We are having a FREE Christmas film night on Friday 15th December. Please come from 7pm onwards, for a 7.30pm start. We'll have popcorn and drinks and would love you to join us and get into the festive mood. The film will be for all the family - let's make a night of it!

The Stonelaw in Action team (SiA)

BLUE CHRISTMAS REMEMBERING SERVICE SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 6.30PM

Away from the noise of the world, join us for a short service of reflection, a chance to sing carols and a time to remember those we have lost.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP WITH NATIVITY AND CAROLS 24TH DECEMBER 10.30AM

Join us for our Sunday morning service where we will focus on the Nativity.

CHRISTINGLE PYJAMA SERVICE SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 6.30PM

Fun for all the family as we reflect on the most amazing gift given to the world at Christmas! PS Pyjamas optional!

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 11.30PM

Our traditional Christmas Eve service as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION SERVICE MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER 10.30AM



Come to our fun-filled Christmas Morning service, where we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

FROM OUR SESSION CLERK

I wonder what you were doing in December 2016? Many of us would struggle to recall but sometimes we come across a photo which jogs our memories. Dorothy's phone regularly does this and it's a joy to look back 7 years to when our children and grandchildren were younger.

In December 2016 our Kirk Session was thinking about a new Session Clerk, following the death of Bill Liggat. What kind of person should the Session Clerk be? What skills are needed? The perfect candidate couldn't be found - so in February 2017 elders asked me to become Session Clerk instead! I recall saying that I was happy to "take my turn". Alistair and I had a private agreement that I would serve for 3 years with the possibility of a further 3 years. How time flies when you're...

Here's some of my highlights from my time as Session Clerk:

In June 2017 "sanctuary modernisation" was first mentioned, which evolved into the Sanctuary for the Future project. At the opening service in October 2019, after this major project was concluded, I spotted some visitors among the congregation, who turned out to be a Vacancy Committee. Our minister Rev Dr Alistair May was soon called to Dalziel St Andrew's Church in Motherwell.

Our Vacancy began in January 2020 with the Rev Dr Scott Kirkland as Interim Moderator and Rev John Martindale as Locum. Later Rev Gavin McFadyen took over as Interim Moderator and Rev Tom Nelson became Locum. The Church Roll was updated, a Parish Profile drafted, and all the usual vacancy procedures were attended to. However, Covid-19 changed church life, and life in general, beyond all recognition. We learned how to wear face masks and join Zoom services at home rather than worship in the sanctuary. After Alistair left, I also liaised more closely with the Development Worker Management Group until Thérèse Reid's retirement in October 2021.

As if a global pandemic wasn't enough, Session decided to sell our vacant manse on Blairbeth Road and buy a more modern one. Meanwhile a Nomination Committee was elected and in April 2021 put forward the Rev Neil H Watson as Sole Nominee. In June we welcomed Neil and Elizabeth to Stonelaw - surely happier days were ahead?

Glasgow Presbytery had other ideas. The Presbytery Mission Plan process started in July 2021. I decided it was my Christian duty to stay on as Session Clerk and participate in meeting after meeting. These included speaking at Glasgow Presbytery and at a meeting of Glasgow Session Clerks called by the then Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev Dr Ian Greenshields.

Glasgow's Presbytery Plan is now agreed, so before anything else happens, I'm taking the opportunity to step down. Our minister wishes to introduce a Joint Session Clerk structure and I warmly commend my immediate successor, William Baird, to you. We'll be working together while we seek to install the other Joint Session Clerk in the near future. Then I'll have time to repay the debt I owe my wonderful wife for her unwavering support during these often-stressful years. I'll also have more time for my next Christian adventure! If you'd like to know more, just ask about my English class at St Rollox Church in Glasgow.

Yours in Him,

David McTaggart



We have a new name - and a new logo!

Did you notice? Yes, we have slightly changed our name – from Past Times Dementia-friendly Café to Past Times Dementia-friendly Community. This is to reflect the fact that we offer more than a café service to our visitors. With the help of the Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPNs) from the Older Adults Mental Health Team in the Health Centre, and the Lanarkshire Advisor from Alzheimer Scotland, we offer advice and support to our visitors and have plans to extend this further in the future. We had a few suggestions for our new name but together, the majority of our visitors and volunteers voted for what we hope will be a better

description going forward. Many thanks to Louise Mairs for updating our logo to match!

October Meeting

One of our visitors suggested that we book the Clydebank Male Voice Choir to come and entertain us. So, we got in touch and were delighted when 14 of them came along and sang for us at our October meeting. They sang some old favourites, many of which showed off their beautiful harmonies.

November Meeting

We were delighted to welcome back Gary (The Music Man) Coupland to entertain us at our November meeting. Gary brought a smile to everyone's face and confirmed himself as a Past Times favourite.

One-to-One Music Therapy Pilot Project

In October, Kim Blythe, the Nordoff & Robbins (N&R) music therapist started a six-week pilot of one-to-one therapy for our visitors living with dementia and their carers. So far, the sessions have gone extremely well, with our visitors joining Kim on the piano, singing or playing a variety of percussion instruments. We have recently heard that N & R have decided to offer us Kim's services for another 12 weeks, free of charge, so many more of our visitors will benefit from music therapy. Our Kirk Session has given approval to continue to heat Transept corner on a Wednesday throughout the months of December to February. Curtains will be hung to keep the heat into this area. (These curtains used to hang in the Creche Room. Past Times' funds will pay for the curtain rail and for two fan heaters.) None of this would be possible without the support of Stuart Menzies and the Managers. We thank you all most sincerely.

Future Plans

Along with the Minister and Session Clerk, three other Past Times volunteers (Jill Rennie, Moira Shaw and Dorothy McTaggart) and I have been looking at potential sources of funding to take us beyond January 2024, when our current funding runs out. We hope to expand our existing service, to offer more activities to improve the lives of more people living with dementia and their carers. To do this, we need a part-time paid worker; a professional, to manage and grow Past Times. We have submitted an application to the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. This will be considered in the coming weeks. We are also speaking to other funders who might offer funding beyond the 18 months covered by the CMHWF. We would welcome your prayers for the work we carry out, for our plans, and for the people who need our help.

Janis Neil 07808 926 067

NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION AND MANAGERS

RETIRAL OFFERINGS

Session has agreed that Retiral Offerings from December onwards will be made as follows:

Christmas 2023 Services Tearfund www.tearfund.org/

February The Well <https://thewell.org.uk/>

May Release International www.releaseinternational.org

August The Bethany Trust www.bethanychristianchurch.com

David McTaggart Session Clerk

SLAY DANCE CLASSES EXPANDING

For just over a year now our hall has been hired, on Wednesday evenings, by the Slay Dance Company. The dance classes have proved popular with the number of children attending growing (in August they had over 60) and so nearing capacity.

In the summer Slay Dance's co-founder Leanne Gallagher approached us to ask if they could also hire the hall on Monday evenings allowing them to expand the number and types of classes on offer, for example possibly including a dance competition team.

Leanne wrote: "*We as a team feel it's important for children to have these opportunities. They need to put down their phones and get out their houses and be active and social, learn new skills, develop good discipline, routine and build confidence all whilst having fun and making friends.*"

This request was duly considered and approved at October's Kirk Session meeting and the first Monday night dance class took place at the end of October.

Leanne has suggested the children could perhaps put on a display for the congregation. Please let us know if you would be interested.

With the addition of Monday evenings, our hall is now in use from Monday to Friday every week (during term time). I hope you will agree that, once again, it is really encouraging that this great space is being used for youth activities like this serving our community.

Stuart Menzies, Convenor of the Managers

COULD YOU SERVE TEAS AND COFFEES OCCASIONALLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?



Many of us enjoy having a tea or coffee after the Sunday service. This is made possible by a team of volunteers - but the more volunteers we have, the less often anyone is 'on duty'. Please consider taking a turn, and contact me if you'd like to give this a try.

Serving teas is a great way to get to know and/or catch up with a wide range of church family members!

Moira Shaw 07392 290 988

HOMELESS SUNDAY

Our chosen charity this year was the Bethany Trust. Rachel, a worker at the trust, shared a video and talked at our morning worship about the Trust's work among vulnerable people. We were able to donate £395 to them, despite having to cancel our lunch together downstairs. The National Mission Team will plan a lunch in the New Year. Thanks to everyone who donated to this charity. www.bethanychristianchurch.com

HARVEST APPEAL

Our harvest donations this year were taken to the Lodging House Mission during the month of September. Our food items will contribute to breakfasts and lunches for vulnerable people in Glasgow during this winter. Our gifts are hugely appreciated, as you can read for yourselves: look out for Deacon Claire Herbert's letter of thanks on the notice board in the Meeting Place. We also gifted toiletries during the month of October to LHM. Once again, a huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this very deserving cause. www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk

SQUARE KNITTERS



The Square Knitters have been meeting on Tuesday evenings and also knitting at home. When we began this knitting project, I thought it would be good for us as a church to contribute one "Stonelaw" blanket to the LHM Appeal, but we now have 19 knitters who have knitted and crocheted hundreds of squares and helped to create several blankets! These will be displayed in our church on Sunday 26th of November and taken to LHM for the 1st of December. The blankets will in turn be displayed at the Lodging House Mission Carol Service on the 13th December, after which they will be gifted to LHM guests as Christmas gifts.

Our knitters have enjoyed meeting and knitting together. A huge thanks to those who have been knitting and crocheting from their homes. Every square donated has so far been stitched into a blanket! Thank you all again.

Dorothy McTaggart



WHAT IS CAFÉ CHURCH?

There are a few different answers to that question, but, here in Stonelaw, The Meeting Place has become the venue for some informal, and very popular Café Church events. The evening begins at 6.30pm, with chat over a cup of coffee or tea and delicious home baking, followed by a fun activity. We've had Bible quizzes, a Name That Hymn competition, and other pursuits which have created much laughter and, in some cases, competitive banter!

Next, there is the chance for a top-up of hot drinks before we hear the life story (or testimony) of someone in the church family. This part of the evening is always a highlight, as people often share significant events in their Christian lives which they haven't mentioned before.

After discussing the speaker's favourite verse, we also sing a couple of his or her favourite hymns. The evening is rounded off with a prayer, but folk can stay around and have fellowship with one another.

Stonelaw in Action (SiA) launched Café Church in March of this year and the group has been very encouraged by the congregation's support in June and November. It is an ideal way of inviting friends and neighbours along to a church event. Why not think of someone you could bring? We look forward to seeing you.

Margaret A. Borland (SiA)

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

Reachout seeks to engage and support our young people to increase their understanding of the Christian faith, explore the Bible, and put their faith into action.

Back in late September, Reachout ran a Volunteers Afternoon which was attended by folk from Stonelaw and other local churches. The challenge was to fill 1200 bags for children to use as part of the P5 Boomerang resilience activity, and for the P6 interactive Christmas Unwrapped programme. Each bag filled represented a young person who would be hearing the gospel.



Due to recent staff changes, Ross Murray, the senior worker, is having to run everything single-handed. He is regularly in all the local schools, taking assemblies - and without a team to help him, is having to rely on the other chaplains (ministers and other church workers) to allow this to happen. There are three ways in which we can support Ross and Reachout:

- in praying for the right fellow workers to be found, and soon!
- in volunteering to help with Reachout's Easter activities next term
- in supporting Reachout's work financially. You can do this either by making a bank transfer to the Reachout Bank of Scotland account, as follows:
Sort code 80-22-60 **Account no.** 20215967 **Name:** Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Trust SCIO), or by sending a cheque, made payable to the Reachout name as above, to Alan Robertson, Treasurer, 69 Springfield Park Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 3RG.

The forecast for our crossing to the Outer Hebrides on Wednesday, 27th September was not good. However, after an overnight stay in Ullapool, the weather changed from the predicted Storm Agnes, and we sailed out through Loch Broom and out across the Minch in a flat calm.

The next day, we found ourselves huddled with our backs firmly stationed against the lighthouse wall on the Butt of Lewis. We had to! The strong westerly winds were causing the waves to crash onto the rocks on the northern shore of the island and if we hadn't been careful, we could have joined them.

We had come to Lewis to attend the 2023 Hebrides Revival Conference in Martin's Memorial Church in Stornoway and, being our first visit to the Outer Hebrides, we wanted to pay a flying visit to as many places as we could.

We attended the evening service at the Church of Scotland in Barvas, where the 1949-53 Revival started and called in at the Black House in Arnol. Then a long drive and a short visit to a rather more mountainous Harris.

Tommy MacNeil, the minister at Martin's Memorial, has a real heart for the church in Scotland, and has written the book 'The Sleeping Giant' to try to awaken the members of the Church of Scotland and set the church on fire.

However, the theme of the conference was 'I Will Build My Church' (Matt.16:18) and as he introduced us to the theme, he took a few minutes to emphasise each word:

Jesus said:

I Not 'we' or 'you'

Will Not 'could' or 'might'

Build Using 'us as the living 'stones' with Jesus as the cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4)

My Not 'our'

Church. Ecclesia. A coming out from where we are and a coming together as a community.

We were familiar with the preaching of both Tommy MacNeil and Kenny Borthwick and were looking forward to hearing them talk. We enjoyed the music and marvelled at the sight of around thirty teenagers attending all seven of the one-and-a-half-hour sessions which made up the conference on the Friday night, and then all day Saturday. They then turned up for the Service on the Sunday morning.

However, although the packed church, the enthusiastic singing, the quality of preaching and the friendliness of everyone, was very encouraging, the presence of God in the building was amazing.

It is impossible to translate through the written word the beauty of what Moira and I felt during the Sunday morning service in Martin's Memorial Church. The serene, still magnificence and gracefulness of the atmosphere during the service was breathtaking.

Having heard the speakers before, at a previous conference in Perth, we knew that we would not be disappointed in the messages they would bring. However, the welcome we experienced, from people in all age groups, reinforced our feeling that the Spirit was also happy to be welcomed in Martin's Memorial Church, Stornoway.

We had travelled to Lewis with excitement but also with concern. Between 1949 and 1953, in the little village of Barvas, on the west coast, people's lives were completely changed by a revival. Could it happen again?

On the Sunday morning, Tommy asked, "Why are you here in church this morning?" We could have given many answers: I like meeting people I know. I was on door duty. I was on tea duty. I was reading the scripture. I was giving the final prayer. I love singing. I bring someone who otherwise wouldn't manage. The list of reasons goes on and on, but there is only one true answer to that question: 'Because I have been chosen.' John 15:16. However, we have been given a free will to decide to go somewhere else and ignore God when he talks.

There is no space here to try and cover each of the weekend's seven sessions, but the message from a packed church was not, 'Look what we are doing!' but 'Thank you, Jesus, for what you are doing through us.'

Prayer is a major factor in the building of the church in Martin's Memorial and we are seriously thinking of returning to Stornoway for the Hebrides Revival Conference on Friday 14th & Saturday 15th June 2024.

As the Lord Seaforth sailed out of Stornoway on yet another flat calm at the end of our week-long visit, we remembered not only the changeable weather but also the beautiful coastline. It was easy to feel secure sitting in the pet-friendly lounge in such a large, strong, steady ship. However, we had been reminded by Tommy at the end of his sermon on the Sunday morning that although Martin's Memorial Church was fairly full, with over two hundred people of all ages, Stornoway still had another six thousand people who preferred to do other things on a Sunday morning.

Lack of interest, apathy and the misuse of drugs and alcohol, were all around. Just like on the mainland.

The encouraging message we were to take away, as we travelled back to our congregations throughout Scotland, was the comforting words of Jesus, assuring us that, in both our own churches and in our local communities, in spite of all our self-centred ideas, 'I Will Build My Church'.

John and Moira Shaw 07885 508130

N.B. The Martin's Memorial Church Youth Conference, "Awakening" will be held on 15th and 16th March 2024 in Trinity Church, Perth.

If you would like to read 'Sleeping Giant', please contact us. We have five copies ready to lend out.

STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

Mrs Catherine (Kit) Young died on 17th June 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sons and their families.

Mrs Dorothy Cordiner died on 20th August 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy's family.

Dr Malcolm Doig died on 25 November 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with his sons Colin and David and their families. (*See the next magazine for a tribute to Malcolm*)

Morag Moore, Church Rollkeeper

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A BIG WELCOME TO OSCAR ALLAN!

Warmest congratulations to Rachel and James Allan from your Stonelaw friends, on the baptism on 15th October of your son Oscar. Welcome to our church family! We wish God's blessing on all three of you.



THANK YOU, STONELAW!

From Sheila Forsyth

The family of Sheila Forsyth would like to thank Stonelaw Church for the beautiful flowers which were sent to Sheila. She was delighted to receive them and to know that she was being thought of. The family is also very grateful for the prayers which are said for them and for Sheila.

From Liz Tait

Liz would like to thank the church family for their prayerful concern while she was in hospital. Liz also wants to thank the church for the beautiful flowers for which she was very grateful.

From Mabel Crawford

I'd like to thank everyone in Stonelaw for the lovely church flowers and for all the cards, messages and good wishes sent at the time of my milestone birthday. .

Mabel

CATHERINE (KIT) YOUNG 1927 – 2023.

The editorial team would like to thank Kit's sons David and James and members of the congregation for sharing memories of her.

Many in the church family will remember Kit as a faithful Stonelaw Church and Guild member. She and her friend, the late Kay Kellock, often did tea duty together after Sunday morning services. She was a lovely, cheerful lady who was always very well-dressed.

Kit was born in Australia, but soon afterwards the family (parents Annie and Archibald Thomson and brother Donald) returned to Scotland, staying in a variety of homes in Ayrshire and Argyll. On leaving school she attended a shorthand and typing course in Prestwick and started in her first and only job, with the Inland Revenue at an office on Pollokshaws Road. Kit met Ian Young on a night out with friends at a Glasgow University Union dance. After a short courtship they



married on 2nd August 1954, in Queens Park Church. In those days, as a married woman, Kit could no longer work for the Inland Revenue, which provided a dowry of £150.

The Youngs settled down to married life in the house Ian had built at 70 Stonelaw Drive, soon joined by sons John, David and Steven in 1955, 1958 and 1961. Kit's busy family life didn't stop her other interests: country dancing, going to the theatre and cinema, shopping for clothes, completing puzzles and crosswords. Kit was very hospitable and loved family visits, always taking a keen interest in her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's lives.

John and his wife Joan's untimely deaths in 2009 and 2012 were a devastating blow to Kit, but still Kit remained steadfast, a constant in all the family's lives while managing her own deep sorrow. Their loss is still keenly felt by all the family. After 60 years of a very happy marriage Ian passed away in 2014. Kit stayed on in Stonelaw Drive until September 2022 when, after a fall, she moved to Georgia Park Care Home, where the staff made her very welcome and comfortable. Kit passed away peacefully on 17th June 2023, aged 95, surrounded by her family.

DOROTHY CORDINER 1931-2023



Dorothy died in August, just as our autumn magazine was going to print. We'd like to thank her family and Rev William Wilson (who took the service while Neil was on parental leave) for their kind assistance with her tribute. Thanks also to G S Munn and Co, who made it possible for us to include this photograph.

Dorothy was born in April 1931 to Robert and Suzanne Middleton. She and her brother Ronnie grew up in Rutherglen. After school, she went to work for Templeton's where she met Alex Cordiner; they were married in July 1955. The couple's first home together was in Castlefern Road, Fernhill. Dorothy became mother to Sandra, Sharon and Sheena and together they were involved in Fernhill Church.

It's fair to say that Dorothy inherited her mother's feisty personality; Dorothy didn't let anything stand in her way. She was born with a deformity in one of her hands but that didn't hold her back from knitting, something she was very fond of doing. Dorothy was very hospitable and looking after her grandchildren was a big part of her life. They all loved her lentil soup, vegetable soup and empire biscuits!

It was in the early 2000s that Alex and Dorothy became part of the Stonelaw Church family, bringing two of their grandsons regularly. Alex was an enthusiastic member of the choir. The couple went on a cruise for their Golden Wedding and were delighted to receive a letter from the Queen in 2015 on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

By that time, Alex had sadly developed dementia and moved to Roger Park Care Home, where he died in 2016. Sadly, their daughter Sharon died in 2006 and then Sheena too, in 2021. That same year, Dorothy went into Georgia Park Care Home, where she was well-cared for. It was a credit to the staff that she managed to retain her personality there. Dorothy passed away peacefully on 20th August, 2023.

As church elder to Dorothy and Alex, I had the privilege of getting to know the couple and their family. Dorothy (and Alex) are sorely missed by their family and friends. I shall leave the final words of this tribute to Ross, one of their grandsons, who said that he couldn't have wished for better grandparents.

Margaret A. Borland

FOODBANK APPEAL TO ALL CHURCHES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

Hi Everyone

Christmas is fast approaching, and we are preparing for the extra effort we always have to put in at this time of year.



We are also looking back at a year with unprecedented demand for the Foodbank, up by 49%, while donations have continued to drop, down by 57%. This means we are now facing a huge shortfall in our stock levels. We figured out that we need an extra 80,000 tins of food to make up for the deficit in donations! The items we need most at present are:

- **Tinned meat, fish, pasta, soup, tomatoes and fruit**
- **UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed)**
- **Jars of pasta sauce, jam and marmalade**
- **Sugar**

We are taking in donations at the back door of our warehouse in the Rutherglen Exchange on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during December (apart from 1 and 25 December) at 10-12 am. Access is down the lane beside Papa Joe's Pizza, in the first bay on the left. The warehouse door is in the left-hand corner of the bay, clearly labelled.

There are going to be some changes to our opening times during the festive season:

Fri 22 Dec	12.30-2.30 pm, Romanian Pentecostal Church, Cambuslang		
Mon 25 Dec	CLOSED	Tue 26 Dec	CLOSED
Thu 28 Dec	12.30-2.30 pm, Rutherglen Baptist Community Church		
Fri 29 Dec	12.30-2.30 pm, Romanian Pentecostal Church, Cambuslang		
Mon 1 Jan	CLOSED	Tue 2 Jan	CLOSED

Thank you as ever for your support.

Wishing you blessings for Christmas and the New Year,

Katharina Nimmo Foodbank Manager **07393 737 030**



Katharina Nimmo is on the right.

STONELAW FOODBANK COLLECTION

You can support the Foodbank by using their Reverse Advent Calendar – look in the Meeting Place, on the windowsill. If it's difficult for you to deliver items to the Foodbank yourself, please bring them to church and leave them in the labelled box under the window or drop them off at 21 Park Drive.

Alternatively you can support the Foodbank financially, by going to DONATE on their website: <https://rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk/> Or you can put a cash donation, or a cheque made out to Rutherglen and Cambuslang Foodbank, in a sealed envelope labelled Foodbank and pass it to me. Please include a note of your name and address inside, so the team can thank you!

Jean MacKenzie **07771 817 954**

CHRISTMAS UNDER PERSECUTION



All over the world, Christians are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. This is a special time of year when we can mark the occasion by coming together as Christians to enjoy fellowship with one another.

However, for many of our Christian brothers and sisters, Christmas is a time when some will have to meet in secret, forced to listen to prayers on

TV with subtitles to ensure no one can hear them expressing their faith in God. Others will have to mark the occasion far from home, after being forced to flee. Many will continue to mourn loved ones they have lost in violent attacks.

Christmas can be particularly difficult and lonely for persecuted Christians. Can you imagine being totally isolated in a prison cell, unable to celebrate the birth of Jesus with others? As Christians in the West prepare to celebrate Christmas with all the trimmings, elsewhere in the world, people of faith are forced to keep their celebrations almost invisible. There are no carol concerts or Watchnight services.

In Iran, for example, it is a really dangerous and risky thing for Christians to celebrate Christmas. Many of them become creative – they find other occasions to celebrate, which act as a mask for celebrating Christmas. One Christian woman admitted that her family celebrates Christmas on her daughter's birthday in January. In this way, they are able to bring family, as well as other Christian brothers and sisters, together. They can sing and exchange gifts. By doing this, they can celebrate Christmas together, but they have a cover story!

So, as you celebrate the birth of Jesus this year, either with others or by enjoying your own company, let us remember in prayer those persecuted Christians who cannot celebrate, cannot come together with fellow believers and have to acknowledge Jesus' birth secretly.

May you know God's joy and peace this Christmas.

Margaret A. Borland

If you'd like to know more about Release International's work, you can visit <https://releaseinternational.org> or ask me in church. The next Voice magazine should be out early in the New Year. Copies will be available in the Meeting Place.



RUTHERGLEN TO AUSTRIA AND BACK – BY TRAIN

When Alastair and I began planning our first post-Covid foreign holiday, we were aware of the carbon footprint we'd use by flying, so we discussed the possibility of travelling by train, at least part of the way to Austria. There were no direct flights to Innsbruck in September, but we'd heard that night trains have been making a comeback in Europe. At first, we explored the possibility of flying to Amsterdam and catching a Nightjet train to Innsbruck from there, but it turned out to be impossible to travel all the way without breaking our journey in a hotel somewhere. That would have cut into our time in Austria, as well as adding to the cost of the holiday.



After struggling to find suitable flights, I looked at The Man in Seat Sixty-One website: www.seat61.com which is a treasure trove of information and helpful links about train travel, both in the UK and abroad. This website helped us to find two pieces of good news:

- It would be possible to reach Innsbruck from Glasgow with only three changes of train,*a journey of about 27 hours in total.
- Our (Senior) Interrail passes would cover the whole journey from Rutherglen to Innsbruck! We could buy a Global Flexi Pass, which permits up to two days of train travel on the outward journey and the same again for coming home.

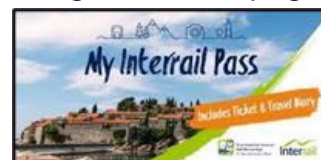
Suddenly, it seemed quicker, easier and less expensive than we had feared, to make the full journey by train. We would need to pay extra for our couchettes (bunks) on the Nightjet, - and also for our seats on the Eurostar, but not for a hotel - and the rest of the travelling would be covered by our Interrail passes – all the way there and home again to Rutherglen!

On a previous holiday we'd been stuck at Glasgow Airport for eight hours after our plane broke down, and another time, we missed the last direct train to our destination after taking twice as long as expected to travel from the airport to the station - so we knew that delays and cancellations can happen in any form of transport. In the end, however, we had a very smooth journey to Innsbruck and back, with only two minor delays. The trains were comfortable, apart from the shortest leg of our journey out, which was rather too crowded. And we were delighted to find that our couchette tickets on the Nightjet included breakfast!

With a sister and her family in New Zealand, I've not written off flying forever, but we've already started thinking about our next train adventure...

For inspiration, or even just for daydreaming, you might enjoy browsing these web pages: Please ask me if you'd like to read a printed version.

- https://flightfree.co.uk/how_to/
- <https://www.raileurope.com/en-gb/blog/travel-trains-vs-planes>



Jean MacKenzie Tel 0141 647 4914

**Change 1 was between London Euston and St Pancras to board the Eurostar, with a ten-minute walk between stations.*

Change 2 was between Paris Gare du Nord and Paris Gare de l'Est, to board the Nightjet train (destination Vienna) again with a ten-minute walk between stations.

Change 3 was at Rosenheim in Bavaria for the train to Innsbruck.

NEWS FROM THE RUTHERGLEN CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise an amazing **£1400** for Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal, by supporting our Coffee Morning in Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Church -you really encouraged us! Amid the ongoing violence in Gaza, this money will help Christian Aid to support local partners in the south of Gaza as they providing mobile medical and psychological care for people displaced in Khan Younis.



Christian Aid Charity Gifts

Christian Aid 'virtual gifts' (printed or e-cards) can be lovely presents for some of your friends and family. The prices range from £8.00 to huge! – but there's a good selection at under £20.00. To order by phone, call **0333 555 2025** (asap, to be sure they arrive in time) or go to <https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk>

Jean MacKenzie and Helen Paulsen

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

Starting back after the summer break is always an interesting time, because membership numbers can drop due to people moving house, family dynamics or a change of interests.

This session was no different: having finished last session with five Anchor Boys and 13 Juniors, we dropped 4 members, but gained 4! We are always looking to expand, so if you know of any young people who might be interested in joining our 131st BB Company, please get in touch with me.



The Boys' Brigade Headquarters have informed us that the 131st BB has moved from the "Red Zone" (Company in danger of disbanding) to "Amber Zone" (determined upward movement). It has been suggested that we could even be ready to move to the "Green Zone" (Company that is in a confident position of remaining in Service) but I have not pressed for this, as we are a strong core unit of Boys and Leaders, willing to receive this 'promotion' when we feel we have really achieved it. We are up for the challenge, which must always be within a safe, fun environment that we all enjoy.

Feedback from families continues to be positive and supportive. Our boys' parents are also good at passing on the name of the 131st BB; we give thanks for them.

Our Fancy Dress night was fun! One lad came in wearing a black painted, fully-formed, moulded-polystyrene T.V. all in black, with a screen front and a tiny light, held in place with chin straps. At line up, it was a unique experience to see a nodding T.V. signifying he understood instructions. But bearing in mind that he was flanked by superheroes and an assortment of other bizarre characters, maybe the nodding TV was not so surprising!

Anne and I, who at the time of writing have Covid, are disappointed that we will be unable to attend the Remembrance Sunday church service on 12th November. However, the Leaders and boys have stepped up to rehearse for the ceremony. Well done!

We would like to thank Jacky Shepherd for her assistance and the Girl Guide, Brownie and Rainbow leaders for their co-operation on this special occasion.

Walter Smyth and the 131st BB team: Mabel, Fozia, Emma, Anne and Kyle.

Mobile **07586 255 466** Email: walt_smyth1966@yahoo.co.uk

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES & MAGAZINE CALENDAR

GUIDANCE FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

A camera is in use on a Sunday morning so that our service can be recorded and displayed on our website. Please note that the chancel and the area in front of the door to the right of the chancel are in view of the camera and if you are in this area, you may be seen and recorded.

You can catch up with any service by watching the video recording on our website at www.stonelawchurch.org/service-recordings. Recordings are normally available at any time from about 2.30pm on the day of the service.

HOW TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON ZOOM

To use Zoom, you need a computer, iPad/tablet or smartphone. Download the app and choose Join Meeting. The Meeting ID and Passcode to log into Zoom meetings are shared in the Stonelaw weekly email. To sign up, please send your details to info@stonelawchurch.org

It's always easier if you try to log into Zoom about ten minutes ahead. If you have trouble accessing a Stonelaw event on Zoom, please contact Janis Neil on 07808 926 067.

JOIN OUR CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM Every Sunday at 10.30am. Our Communion Service is on the first Sunday of the month. You might want to have a piece of bread and wine/juice ready for when we are ready to celebrate the sacrament together after the sermon.

JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON ZOOM Every Wednesday from 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start and we finish by 8.10pm. All are welcome and there is no obligation to pray out loud! Neil starts us off with a Bible reading, then shares a worship song before we start praying.

If you'd like to share a need for prayer, and hear about those of others, contact John Shaw on **07885 508130**. We have a WhatsApp Group and can also share prayer needs via SMS or landline. If you're asking for prayer for someone else, please get their permission first.

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2023-2024 - AND THANKS

Seasons	Deadline for Submissions	Issue Date
Spring 2024	10th February 2024	3rd March
Summer 2024	11th May 2024	2nd June
Autumn 2024	10th August 2024	1st September
Winter 2024/2025	10th November	1st December

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

**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SPRING 2024 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2024**