

Stonelaw Church Magazine



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April 2010, Fifth Series Issue 81

Letter from the Minister...

Of all the Easter stories, my favourite has always been the story of Thomas. We call him 'Doubting Thomas', which is a little unfair, since Thomas is neither cynic nor agnostic. Rather he's the questioning disciple who wants to use his brain, his eyes and his ears, as he seeks to believe. There is much that is commendable in Thomas.

Sometimes we give the mistaken impression that questioning is a bad thing – as if faith would dissolve if we thought too hard about it. The mischievous schoolboy definition is: "faith believes things you know aren't true". But that certainly should not do for the Christian. It is a good thing to ask questions – may we never stop doing that.

I am not a Christian merely because I find it to be comforting, nor because it is a useful guide to life. Rather, I am a Christian because I believe the Gospel to be true and I find in Scripture a reliable understanding of the world as it is. Faith needs to be rational, realistic, and robust – open to our honest questioning, and unafraid of open scrutiny.

In this last month, our Adult Sunday School explored the theme of science and faith – and we had the advantage of being led by a scientist rather than a minister. It was a refreshing reminder that we have nothing to fear in this type of debate. This month we will go back to the beginning with Genesis on Sunday mornings, as well as exploring our Christian thinking further as Adult Sunday School moves to Thursdays for a block of evening classes. Do come and join us.

The great thing about Thomas is not really that he doubted, but that he had the courage to question, and then the commitment to listen, combined with the openness to have his mind changed by an encounter with the Risen Lord.

May all of us have that openness to God's spirit in the month ahead.

With every Blessing for this Easter period.

Alistair

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Church Diary

Services at 11:00am and 6:30pm, conducted by Rev Alistair May unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 4th April – Easter Sunday

8:45am Easter Service at Cathkin Braes
9:30am Easter Breakfast in the Main Hall
11:00am Easter all-age Service
6:30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 11th April

11:00am Morning service – Allan Milloy
6:30pm Evening service

Sunday 18th April

11:00am Morning service (Back to the beginning – Genesis)
5:30pm Fish Supper Service!
As the risen Jesus ate fish with his friends, we'll have fish suppers etc. at 5:30pm in the hall, followed by a short act of worship at 6:30pm (suitable for all ages - make sure you book your supper beforehand).

Thursday 22nd Adult Sunday School
Evening Class

Sunday 25th April

11:00am Morning service (Back to the beginning – Genesis)
6:30pm Evening Service

Thursday 29th Adult Sunday School
Evening Class

Sunday 2nd May

11:00am Morning service (Back to the beginning – Genesis)
6:00pm Alternative Evening Service

Alternative 'child-friendly' Evening Services

With a growing number of children at Stonelaw, we've decided to experiment with an alternative evening service (singing, storytelling, and NO LONG SERMON!). This alternative service will be designed for all worshippers from age 0 - 99. It will start at 6:00pm and last about 45 minutes or less - so we can all be away by 7:00pm for bedtime! Please put May 2nd in your diary now. If successful we'll repeat this on the first Sunday of most months, moving the usual monthly evening communion to the second Sunday.

Cartoon Club with Coffee!

Our monthly Cartoon Club will be on May 1st. On April 3rd we have 'Okey Dokey' for kids instead. And remember, the Meeting Place is also open for business from 10:30 - 12:30 on Cartoon Club days.

Adult Sunday School – Evening Classes

Between now and the summer, Adult Sunday School is moving to Thursday evenings! (I know that makes it Thursday School – but it doesn't sound as good). There's going to be a new block of lessons, each having its own separate theme – which means you can come to all of them, or just the evenings you can manage.

So whether you've been to Adult Sunday School, enjoyed Café Church, or are new to both, do come along. Each evening Alistair will give us a talk on the subject with time for questions and discussion (and probably quite a lot of coffee). We'll start at 7:30pm and finish about 9:00pm. (Café Church will be back over the summer months.)

Wednesday Morning Prayer Meeting

These meetings are held in the Session Room from 10:30 to 11:30am with tea and coffee from 10:00am.

Anyone wishing prayer can phone Greta Doig on 0141 634 4888 or alternatively you can write your prayer requests on a 'leaf' and either drop it in the box in the Meeting Place or attach it to the Prayer Tree in the Transept Corner. (Blank leaves are available at both of these venues.)

We will not meet on Wednesday 7th and 14th April but will meet on 21st and 28th April.

Homosexuality (again!)

You may remember that last year's General Assembly had to wrestle with the issue of whether a man in a same-sex relationship could be a minister. That Assembly set up a special commission to review the issue and report back in 2011 – and it ordered that, for the sake of the peace of the Church, no controversial decisions or statements should be made in the meantime.

Although the newspaper headlines ran with “Kirk bans discussion”, in fact the Assembly instructed the commission to consult all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions before making its report. That means all of Scotland's 40,000 elders are being asked what they think – hardly a ban on discussion! It is the biggest consultation exercise ever.

During April and May, all Sessions will be considering the issue and each elder will fill in a confidential questionnaire on their views. We will need to consider what Scripture teaches, where the Holy Spirit is leading, and what is the right, wise, true and loving approach to take.

Please do pray for the whole Church at this time - pray particularly for our Kirk Session, and for the members of the Special Commission. There is, of course, much more to be said, but for now let us begin with prayer.

Church Register

Additions

Sandra Coia, 17 Victoria Road, by profession of faith 14/3/10

Hazel Mairs, 164 Stonelaw Road, by profession of faith 14/3/10

Carolyn Kennedy, 24 Hawthorn Way, by profession of faith 14/3/10

Removals

Evelyn Eunson, Flat 23 Aidan's View, 1 Aidan's Brae, Clarkston by certificate of transference 20/3/10 to Williamwood

Business Matters

Budget

Detail was given at the congregational conference of the main items making up the annual budget. Arising from this, a 1% increase in income is required to meet our commitments and liabilities for 2010. As always, some members will not be able to afford any increase while others will hopefully compensate for this. There is also a pattern of the same members responding every year. My request for 2010 is as follows: If you have not reviewed your financial contribution in the last 2 years, will you give serious thought to doing so in 2010 (3 months already gone)?

Thank you to all members of the congregation who contributed to a successful financial year in 2009.

Gus Smeaton, Treasurer

Bon Voyage, David

David Jamieson leaves soon to sail to this year's destination, Norway, and other places. He will be afloat (we hope) till mid September and no doubt gather many new experiences (most) to be recalled and displayed at his annual Guild invitation.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable trip, David, and thank you for the enormous time and skill you have given to the church since you last returned.

Holiday Time

The church officers will be on holiday from 27th April until 11th May.

Treasurer's Report - Cash Summary February 2009

Income	Month	Year to Date		Surplus /
	Actual	Actual	Budget	(Shortfall)
	£	£	£	£
Free will offering	7,483	17,242	17,012	230
Tax recovery	4,120	4,120	4,276	(156)
Donations and other income	874	1,800	1,654	146
Total Income	12,477	23,162	22,942	220
1%				
Expenditure				
Ministry, mission & wider work	7,015	7,015	7,015	0
Local staffing costs	1,528	3,012	3,134	122
Building costs				
Rates, water, insurances, cleaning	606	1,803	1,769	(34)
Power	810	1,903	1,960	57
Repair costs	4,177	6,183	5,500	(683)
Other local costs				
Reachout Trust		0		0
Printing and stationery	76	169	212	43
Organ & piano	0	0	0	0
Other	117	238	640	402
Total Expenditure	14,329	20,323	20,230	(93)
0%				
Income less Expenditure				
Surplus / (shortfall)	(1,852)	2,839	2,712	127

Figures relating to the Development worker fund are excluded

A satisfactory start to the year

The high maintenance expenditure was anticipated

Please ask the treasurer for clarification or information on any financial matter.

DOOR DUTIES

DATE	NORTH AISLE	DRYBURGH AVE	SOUTH AISLE	FLOATER
11/4/10	M Shaw	M Taylor	J Shaw	M McDougall
18/4/10	J Robertson	A Stewart	M Ewing	P Howitt
25/4/10	B Stewart	B Wilson	L Nisbet	P Finlayson
2/5/10	J Baird	M Baird	C McKechnie	I Wilson

Organisation News....

GUILD

Members of the Guild thank all who attended our concert on 10th March. We had a large audience of members and friends and a great evening was enjoyed by all. The amount raised for our projects and charities was £535 and we were all delighted.

Our meeting on 7th April is an open night and we invite people from the congregation to come and hear about the work done at The Well. Many people have heard about The Well but don't know about the valuable work done there, so now is the time to find out. As usual a warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 7th April.

Myra Howitt, Convener

TUESDAY CHAT GROUP

At short notice we had to change our speaker in March. David Jameson kindly came along and gave us a wonderful tour of the islands of Scotland and sailing around Ireland. The scenery was spectacular. It was lovely to hear of his adventures. Good luck in your next journey, David. Happy Sailing!

We will meet on Tuesday 20th April and discuss our May commitments. We will have tea and coffee as usual.

Our May meeting will be our walk around the Heritage Loch in Stewartfield and back to the church for supper and we will have our AGM then.

Our June meeting which is the last in the session will be a bit different. More info in the May magazine.

Alison McCartan (secretary)

6th RUTHERGLEN GIRLS' BRIGADE

What is the Girls' Brigade?

In the past few months I have been asked on more than one occasion what the Girls' Brigade is so I thought I would give a brief history of the organisation.

The Girls' Brigade was founded in Dublin's Sandymount Presbyterian Church in 1893 for girls to take part in physical training and Bible Class. Its aim was "The extension of Christ's Kingdom among Girls". The emblem of the organisation was formed round a cross. In February 1900 Dr William Somerville founded the Girls' Guildry in Anderston in Glasgow to provide girls with a similar organisation to the Boys' Brigade. Two dozen girls attended the first meeting and before long there were Guildry companies throughout Scotland. The emblem of the Guildry was a lamp, taken from the story of the wise virgins and the motto was "wise unto that which is good". In 1902, the National Sunday School Union formed the Girls' Life Brigade in England. Its motto was "to save life" and the badge featured a crown. 1923 saw the forming of the first group overseas, in Jamaica, and from there the work spread to the 60 countries that have Girls' Brigades today.

In 1964, the Girls' Brigade, the Girls' Guildry and the Girls' Life Brigade agreed to amalgamate to form the Girls' Brigade as it is today. The first meeting of the Brigade International Council was held in June 1968. A common badge was adopted worldwide and the motto "seek, serve and follow Christ" was adopted. The badge has 4 main elements:

In the centre a **Cross**, the symbol of Christ and His Church.

Below it a **Lamp**, that our light may shine out upon the world.

Above the Lamp is a **Crown**, that we may own Christ as our King.

Behind all a **Torch**, the flame of Christ's living Spirit.

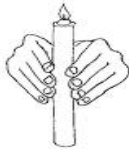
The Girls' Brigade in Scotland divides into three sections age-wise. Explorers is for girls in Primaries 1 to 3, Juniors are Primaries 4 to 7 and Brigaders are Secondary school age. The 6th Rutherglen Company which meets in our church currently has Explorers and Juniors, although we have one Primary 7 so we may have a Brigader next year.

Elaine May





FAIR TRADE SHOP & COFFEE SHOP



HOPE



'Then they will answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and would not help you?' The King will reply, I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' Matthew 25:44-45

Fairtrade & Coffee Shop

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to our teams of Fairtrade and Coffee Shop volunteers, without whom this valuable outreach ministry to our local community and our ministry to the wider world mission would not be possible. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for prayer for all of our volunteers, asking God for an outpouring of His blessings of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience on each and every one, as this ministry can often be challenging.

Sport Relief - A Stroll in the Park

Friends of Overtoun Park - Community Event

Over two hundred people turned out on Sunday 20th March for 'A Stroll in the Park.' It was a cool, yet bright, sunny afternoon. The park was buzzing with mums and babies, bagpipes, grandparents and grandchildren, African drummers encouraging walkers on, families and friends gathered, old and young together, folks with dogs, children on bikes and scooters. Community.

'Thank You' Stonelaw, it was heart warming to see so many of you there. Thank you for being such a caring congregation, thank you for 'Stepping Out' into our Community with Friends of Overtoun Park; let's do more, much more!

Girls Allowed @ The Meeting Place

All Are Welcome - 7:30pm (for 8pm start) - 9:00pm

Tuesday 27th April

We invite you to explore your beliefs and develop your faith by joining with us to watch a short DVD followed by a time of informal discussion. Girls Allowed will meet on the last Tuesday of each month in The Meeting Place at 7:30pm for 8pm. You do not have to be a member of Stonelaw Church to attend. If you have any friends or neighbours who are searching..... please feel free to invite them along.

Coffee & Crafts @ The Meeting Place

All Are Welcome - from 7:30pm - every Wednesday

A warm invitation is extended to all who can sew, quilt, knit, crochet, cross stitch, needlepoint, paint, make cards, make jewellery and to all those cannot, why not come along and be taught?! We would love to see you, bring your friends too.

Platform 4 -yf @ The Session House

Sunday April 25th at 7:45pm

Shona and Hazel have put together a fun-filled programme including Bible study, prayer and Café.



The Meeting Place



FAIR TRADE SHOP & COFFEE SHOP

Live in Vienna @ The Meeting Place

An Evening with André Rieu

All Are Welcome - Friday 7th May at 7:30pm

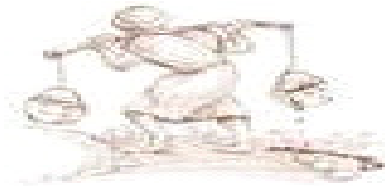
Maureen Holland extends a warm invitation to all to join with us in The Meeting Place for a very entertaining evening watching André Rieu's DVD, Live in Vienna. André Rieu is a Dutch violinist, conductor, and composer best known for creating an international revival in waltz music with his Johann Strauss Orchestra.

Café Church

The Meeting Place

Café Church will resume in early summer.

Be A 'cracked pot' for Jesus



Ministry & Outreach Opportunities

Could this be you?

An afternoon café for the 'Older Person' 2pm - 4pm

I would imagine this to be either a Wednesday or a Friday, possibly fortnightly. Programme to be decided but will involve four young people from Calderwood Primary School coming along each week as part of their Good Citizenship Awards. If you would wish to explore this wonderful opportunity further please join me for a meeting on Tuesday 20th April at 7:30pm in The Meeting Place.

'Friends of Overtoun Park' Monday 3rd May

In The Meeting Place.

If you would like to 'Step Out' and become more closely involved in our local community please feel free to join us at the next meeting, details above.

Through this forum Elaine Devlin and I have been working in partnership with Changing Places Regeneration Partnership, CREATE, Regen FX Youth Trust, SLC Universal Connections, NHS Lanarkshire, Cambuslang Health Initiative, SLC Community Learning, SLC Leisure, South Lanarkshire Community Police and Friends of Cambuslang Park. This is only the beginning!

Next event, Pentecost Praise in the Park Sunday May 23rd.

If you would like to be involved in the ministry and outreach of our church in any of the above positions, please give me a call, I would love to hear from you.

Therese x *(My contact details can be found on back of this magazine)*

Local Interest....

Holiday Club: Monday 2nd – Friday 6th August

Some advance notice of the Holiday Club arrangements for this year which will be in the usual first week of August, i.e. 2nd – 6th August from 10:00am until 12 noon.

It takes a good number of people to run a successful Holiday Club and we need your involvement and support if this outreach event is going to go ahead. Could this be your year to give it a go? It's really not too awesome; ask anyone who has done it before. All teaching and other materials are provided.

We have chosen the Scripture Union programme 'Rocky's Plaice' for this year's Holiday Club. The action is set in Rocky's café, with five daily themes: Ascension of Jesus, Pentecost, Peter and John heal the lame man, Peter and Dorcas and Peter and Cornelius. These are all taken from Acts and centre on the characters and experiences of Peter. The materials provided include a DVD of the stories, a short drama, songs, games and crafts, which together make for a busy week of fun and learning.

If you can be available during that week, or even part of the week, to help in any way, please come along to our first meeting in the vestry on Sunday 11th April. This will take place immediately after the morning service (bring your tea / coffee with you) for a brief discussion on the programme. If you are unable to attend on the 11th and are keen to help, just let me know – I'll be glad to add your name.

Thank you

Adele Molloy (586 4616)

Thank you

On behalf of my whole family, I would just like to say thank you to everyone for their kind words, cards and prayers that have been expressed to us since our sad loss. We have been really comforted by all the support that people have shown us both during Mum's illness and since her passing. It really means a lot to us to know that people care.

Thanks again.

Helen McKechnie

CAMGLEN FAIRTRADE FORUM

The forum has held a couple of major events in the last few weeks. On February 10th we held a Fairtrade evening in St Brides Church in Cambuslang. This included our AGM but was primarily an evening about Fairtrade. We had Fairtrade food and wine tasting, quizzes, discussion groups and the main part of the evening was presented by Betsy Reid who is the coordinator of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum. Betsy is a wonderful speaker and her enthusiasm for Fairtrade was infectious.

As part of our remit for Cambuslang and Rutherglen to become Fair Trade towns, the forum is required to arrange an event in Fairtrade Fortnight. We almost achieved this and had a ceilidh in St Columbkilles Halls on March 12th (a week late). The ceilidh was a great success and well attended. One of the Steering Group attends Castlemilk Community Church which has a large number of people from overseas attending it and the ladies from there were mobilised to produce a most wonderful international buffet which incorporated Fairtrade ingredients.

Elaine May

He paid what he thought you were worth

Is a rich man worth more than a poor man?
Is a stranger worth more than a friend?
Is a baby worth more than an old man?
Your beginning worth more than your end?
Is a President worth more than his assassin?
Does your value decrease with your crime?
Like when Christ took the place of Barabbas
would you say He was wasting His time?

I suppose that you think that you matter?
Well, how much do you matter – to whom?
Is it easy at night when with friends and bright light,
much less so all alone in your room?
Do you think they'll miss one in four billion
when you finish this old human race?
Do you think it really will matter
when your friends have forgotten your face?

If you heard that your life had been valued,
that the price had been paid on the nail,
would you ask what was traded, how much,
and who paid it?
Who was he and what was His name?
If you heard that His name was called Jesus,
would you say that the price was too dear?
Held to the cross not by nails but by love.
It was you broke His heart, not the spear.

Would you say you are worth what it cost Him?
You say 'No' but the price stays the same.
If it don't make you cry, laugh Him off, pass Him by;
but remember the day when you threw Him away,
He paid what He thought you were worth.

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Contributed by Margaret Borland

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL MISSION TEAM

The NMT has received lovely letters from both the Lodging House Mission and Scottish Churches Housing Action, thanking us for your donations on Homelessness Sunday 2010. Thanks to you we had been able to send both organisations a cheque for £360 and of course we overwhelmed the LHM with the number of jars of coffee and tins of meat that you donated. All the members of the National Mission Team are very grateful for your help and support.

Thanks also to those of you who have already donated items for Starter Packs Glasgow. If you've missed out so far on the opportunity to donate your unwanted household items, don't worry, the Meeting Place will be open for tea / coffee and home baking on Saturday 1st May. But even if you've not got items for Starter Packs - please come along between 10:30 and 12:30 for a cuppa and a blether. We'd love to see you there!

Janis Neil, Convenor

Funny old world

Sometimes my mind will go completely blank,
Can't think what I was going to say,
Or when greeted by a familiar face,
Their name slips completely away.

Recalling my childhood is easy,
Remembering those days I'm a winner.
But I really can't say what's happened today,
Or what I've just had for my dinner.

Finally . .

My New Year resolution was to do as I was told at home. It lasted four days.

Looking through an old diary, I came across the following:

Jesus had no servants, yet they called him master;
no degrees, yet they called him teacher; no medicines, yet they called him healer; no army, yet kings feared him.

Jesus won no military battles yet he conquered the world.

Jesus committed no crime yet they crucified him.
Jesus was buried in a tomb yet he lives today.

Feel honoured to serve such a leader who loves us.

Other quotes:

God promises us a safe landing, not a calm passage.
Worry is like a rocking horse – it keeps you going but gets you nowhere.

John Borland

Pause for Thought

‘Very early in the morning.’

The early morning is a strange time. It can be filled with positive expectation or deep apprehension. How are you, early in the morning? Personally I’m a morning man, simply because I rise very early, but come afternoon I’m ready for a nap.

The fifteenth chapter of Mark’s Gospel opens with the words, “Very early in the morning” and then goes on to tell us what took place in those history-splitting pre-dawn moments. The Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, had been arrested in the night by Jerusalem temple guards who had known where to find him because his close friend and follower, Judas, had betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver. His yet more trusted friend, Peter, had openly denied even knowing him. The High Priest in Jerusalem questioned Jesus in public and condemnation soon followed. Urged on by the early morning crowd, Pilate delivered Jesus to the executioners. To curry favour with the volatile citizens, the Governor then released from prison a known killer called Barabbas. All this early morning action was but a prelude to Golgotha, the place where Jesus would die. First they mocked him and abused him. They thrust a crown of thorns on his forehead. Then came history’s most tragic, poignant walk, all the way, outside the city walls, to Golgotha. There, with two common thieves, Jesus was put to death by crucifixion, a cruel and exceptional punishment by today’s standards.

At the very end, six hours later, he muttered to his Father in Heaven asking forgiveness for his persecutors.

Very early in the morning is a good time to ponder these events. Jesus himself was accustomed to rising early in the morning to seek out the presence and the face of God the Father. Pre-dawn for some is a time for dubious deeds. It was like that for the arresting guards and their masters. It was as though their plotting needed to be done in secret and completed in a hurry. The goodness of Jesus was to them a threat, not a blessing.

How do you see it all? In the stillness of that “very early in the morning”, how does it all look to you? Do the events of that night and next day, as recorded in the Scriptures, arouse your emotions? Do you feel the tragedy and pity of it?

Yet at the same time Jesus knew exactly what he was doing. He faced it all with determination for our sakes.

Very early in the morning we begin to see also the growing light of a new dawn. It is the glow of the Resurrection morning and the empty tomb. It is always good to come to the Lord early in the day, each and every day.

Easter tells you all families are eternal. A family never dies, but is always passing from one generation to another, the likeness, the traditions. Easter means far more. It means somewhere, somehow, the family lives forever. This is something worth making a song about. Make it a song, then go out and sing it by living like a person who cannot die.

An empty cross. An empty tomb. A living Saviour. Accessible to all. Active in the world. Alive for all time.

Finally, let me share with you an incident from a notorious prisoner of war camp. The sergeant major who was in charge of this camp pleaded with the German Commandant to allow us to have a short Easter service but this was refused. (This Commandant, by the way, always carried a whip. Enough said.) However, suddenly on Easter morning he relented and informed us we would be allowed to gather in the compound for fifteen minutes only. There and then we held our short service. At the finish, as we filed back to our different huts, one of the prisoners was halted. The guard took a small cross from inside his tunic and handed it to the prisoner and simply said, “He is risen”. Yes, everything depends on Jesus.

He is our guarantee of ultimate forgiveness, acceptance, joy and freedom. That being so, imprisonment or cruelty are only passing trials to be endured as Christ endured. The one certainty is that in Christ Jesus our Lord, all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well. The Easter story is much more than a moral tale of no pain, no gain. It tells us that God in Jesus is with us in all our suffering. There is no hell on earth or beyond that is outwith the reach of our Heavenly Father.

To each and every one, a happy and joyous Easter.

John Borland

Contact Information

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Items for the **May** issue of the Church Magazine
to be handed to the editorial team
no later than **Sunday 18th April 2010.**