



Stonelaw Church Magazine

News For and From The People of Stonelaw
www.stonelawchurch.org

October 2011 Fifth Series Issue 94

Letter From The Minister

In September we lost some dear friends, and we will miss them. We have given thanks for their love and their faith in Christ, but the grief is real and it comes because we love. Through these difficult weeks, we have been reading Paul's letter to the Philippians and its great themes of joy. Paul is giving thanks for what God is doing, and he strikingly writes: "rejoice in the Lord always, and I will say it again, rejoice" (4:4)

But rejoice *always*? Really?

At first read these words can seem unrealistic – indeed insensitive. Is Paul like one of those irritating people who command us to "cheer up", whilst being quite oblivious to our painful struggles?

Yet, Paul's words take on a different meaning when we consider they are written from a prison cell. He has been scourged, shipwrecked and then imprisoned. He is alone, frustrated and confined – aware that any day may be his last. These words are written from a place of pain, but a pain transformed by Christ, so that he can write, "for me to live is Christ, to die is gain".

But these words are also written to a people for whom Paul deeply cared. His Christian friends in Philippi are his joy, for whom he gives thanks, about whom he worries and for whom he constantly prays. When he commands them to "rejoice," it isn't that he's indifferent to their struggles – palming them off with superficial nonsense. Rather his joy comes from the sense of partnership in Christ: that we Christians rejoice in each other, and give God thanks for each other, stand together in suffering, and seek that each other would grow in Christ. We are to pray constantly for each other, and do so meaningfully.

When times are tough in Stonelaw, I am always grateful to God for the care and compassion that I witness. Let's give thanks for that.

But let us also pray for each other – for those bereft – but also that all of us will grow together in Christ, and learn what it means to rejoice in him.

With thankfulness to God for all of you,
Alistair

Church Diary

Sunday services at 11:00am and 6.30pm, conducted by
Rev Dr Alistair May, unless otherwise stated.

Diary for October

Sunday 2nd October

11:00am Holy Communion
6:00pm Alternative Evening Service (with communion for all)

Sunday 9th October

11:00am Harvest Thanksgiving
6:30pm Evening Service

Sunday 16th October

11:00am Morning Service
6:30pm Evening Service

Sunday 23rd October

11:00am Morning Service (Sacrament of Baptism)
6:30pm Evening Service

Sunday 30th October

11:00am Morning Service
6:30pm Evening Service

Sunday 6th November

11:00am Morning Service
6:00pm Alternative Evening Service

Philippians

Throughout October, we continue looking at Philippians at morning worship. Why don't you sit down and read it through?

Retiral of Rev Jack Drummond

After many years as minister of Rutherglen West, and now West and Wardlawhill, Jack retired in September. Please do remember Jack, and the congregation, in your prayers. Difficult times lie ahead as decisions over the future shape of the Church of Scotland in Rutherglen are made in the coming months.

Please continue to pray that all of our congregations, and their leaders, would be guided by God's Spirit.

Harvest Appeal

This harvest, rather than asking you to bring an offering, we are again inviting you to buy a gift from our fair-trade shop – and then to give it away to someone. By buying from the shop you help third-world producers, and then you can give the gift to a friend, neighbour, or family member and show them your love or appreciation. That way the thanksgiving multiplies. Alternatively (or additionally) you could give your purchase to the Lodging House Mission which works with the homeless. The fair-trade stall will be well-stocked and open on Sunday 9th October, so just remember your wallet and your generosity.

Counting you in?

As part of the Presbytery's planning exercise, the numbers attending worship in every congregation are to be counted on October the 30th and November 6th.

This will be one factor in determining how ministers are deployed in future – and whether Stonelaw keeps one!

While we are not seeking to engineer an inflated attendance on those Sundays, it would be disappointing if the numbers attending don't reflect the normal health of our congregation.

Your presence would be greatly appreciated (as indeed it is every week!)

Early Morning Prayer – 7:00am (Yes AM!)

"O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch." Psalm 5v3

In September we started an early morning prayer meeting each Tuesday. Currently about ten of us are gathering to pray each week for our Church, community and nation. The Meeting Place is open by 7:00am for a quick coffee and we begin prayer from 7:15 until 8:00am. At 8:00 am there's coffee and toast.

You are welcome to arrive and depart at any time. Could you join us?

Other opportunities for prayer

- Wednesdays 10:30am in the Session House
- Place requests in the Prayer Box in the meeting place
- Ask elders to pray with you any Sunday morning
- Or just pray right now!

Alternative Evening Services: 'child-friendly'

Please note that the first evening service each month is an alternative service (singing, storytelling, and short!) designed for all worshippers age 0-99. It will **start at 6:00pm** and last 45minutes or less!

Cartoon Club

Our monthly Cartoon Club meets October 2nd and November 5th, 2:00-3:30pm. The Meeting Place will also be open for all. Parents can either leave the kids, or wait and have a coffee. Even if you've not got kids, perhaps you'd like to use this Saturday opportunity to buy fair-trade goods.

Missed a Sunday Morning?

Recordings can be downloaded from www.stonelawchurch.org.

Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored midweek courses continue through October.

LOVE

Dum Spiro, Spero "While I breathe, I hope"

HolyTrinityChurch, St. Andrews

The Great Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Matthew 22: 34-40GNB

Jesus wept.....I believe Jesus is looking at his world and his heart is breaking. He is calling us to be beacons of his love wherever we are. He is calling us to feel his pain and have compassion on his church and on his people. He rejoices over our decision as a church to draw close to him in prayer. The same God, who listened as Moses cried out in prayer for his people, will hear our cries when we gather to pray for our church and our community. Join us if you can for an hour if you can, any Tuesday morning at 7:00am in The Meeting Place.

Faith as small as a mustard seed, will move Mountains by the power of God.

Believe what Jesus said was true, believe He meant it just for YOU.

Wait and see what God will do

when you pray.

Jesus said to Peter, "do you love me?"

Let us at Stonelaw respond and show Jesus our love for Him as we endeavour to reach out to others in our church and in our community.

John 21:15

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him,

"Take care of my lambs."

Jesus said, "Take Care of My Lambs"

Friends of Overtoun Park - Loud'N' Live Summer 2011

Summer Programme from Saturday 25th June - Saturday 13th August

Friends of Overtoun Park have worked in partnership with the organisations listed below for the past year to enable us to deliver a full summer programme of events aimed at young people from 3 years up to the age of 25 years.

Organisations

- StonelawChurch
- CHI
- Bike Club
- The Den
- Regen FX
- Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire
- Universal Connections
- Camglen Radio
- Project 31
- Friends of CambuslangPark

Events

- Music Festival (OvertounPark)
- BMXtreme (weekly OvertounPark)
- Still Game (weekly Overtoun&Cambuslang Parks)
- Graffiti Art Workshop (OvertounPark)
- Treasure Hunt (CambuslangPark)
- Ghost Hunt (CambuslangPark)
- I t's a Knock Out (CambuslangPark)
- Talent Contest (CambuslangPark)

A head count was taken with around 900 young people attending the programme, however this does not include the numbers from BMXtreme or the Ghost Hunt which is still to take place in October.

Again a huge "thank you" to all Stonelaw people who came along to support these events by either running the tuck shop or stewarding.

Jesus said, "**Take** Care of My Lambs"

OkeyDokey

On Saturday 17th September that's exactly what we did here in Stonelaw. Working in partnership with The Reachout Trust, we took care of Jesus' lambs.

Our **OkeyDokey -Champions Challenge** post-Holiday Club children's outreach ministry event was led by Ross Murray of the Reachout Trust along with teams from both Stonelaw and Burnside Blairbeth Churches. We shared this incredible, delightful, fantastic afternoon which was a feast of fun, frolics, craft, games, music, drama and an amazing puppet show presented by Dream Team.

What did we teach? Listen and obey. How many children heard this gospel message? **Fifty-three**.

Alice Burn and David Mairs 'stepped out' of their comfort zone to lead this ministry event from the front. It was a joy and delight to see these two wonderful young people (*two lambs*) from Stonelaw, **embracing** new responsibilities.

John 21:16

A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus said, "**Take** Care of My Sheep"

This month has been particularly difficult and sad for our members here in Stonelaw. Many of us have had to say goodbye to people we love. So please respond to Jesus' call to take care of His sheep. Let us remember and support their families plus the family and friends of all those we know who have recently been bereaved. These sheep are hurting, be Jesus' arms to them, reach out and love them, comfort them, talk with them, pray for them, remember with them the loved one they are missing.

John 21:17

A third time Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was sad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" so he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!" Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus said, "Take Care of My Sheep"

Today (Thursday 22nd Sept) in the Meeting Place, I listened to an incredibly kind, gentle, loving member of our congregation who was experiencing an 'upside down' kind of a day. Have you ever had that kind of a day? I listened to this gracious person as they described their day, the trials and obstacles they faced (*my words not theirs*) as they endeavoured, and succeeded in, going about **our** Father's business in a quiet, unassuming way; I was prompted by God to recognise and call for prayer for all of those in our fellowship who go about Jesus' ministry, quietly, gently, unseen by most of us.

I believe Jesus is saying He sees it all, He rejoices and give thanks to the Father for who you are, and all you do in His name. He asks us to pray into and give thanks for all of our brothers and sisters in Him who quietly go about the work of taking care of His Sheep.

What's Coming Up?

November

"Getting Your Kids Through Church Without Them Ending Up Hating God"

Wednesday 2nd November at 7:30pm in the Clyde Auditorium

If you have children this Care for the Family conference led by Rob Parsons is not to be missed. Worship led by Saltmine & Phatfish
Tickets cost £14.00. For more information log onto www.gyktc.org.uk or call 02920 810 800

Pre Christmas Fundraising Evening for Ronald McDonald House

Saturday 19th November at 7:00pm in the main hall, Stonelaw Church.

Tickets cost £2.00 (includes coffee & Cake)

Toddlers Group Outreach

- we are currently raising funds for Ronald McDonald House where accommodation is provided for families of long term critically ill children at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.
- To date we have raised a total of £382.00 by saving 20p coins in `Smartie` Tubes.
- I also plan to organise a visit to Ronald McDonald House Glasgow for those interested in seeing first hand the excellent service provided, mostly by volunteers, for families.

In an effort to raise some more funds for Ronald McDonald House, Stonelaw Toddlers in partnership with Julie Kershaw are offering you an ideal opportunity to come along and support a very worthy cause whilst supporting local small businesses by doing some Christmas shopping too. Any donations of baking would be greatly appreciated.

December

The Seriously Funny Tour

Friday 2nd December at 7:30pm Findlay Memorial Church (56 Maryhill Road, G20 7QB)

Adrian Plass & Jeff Lucas

Tickets costs £12.00. For more information log onto www.plassandlucasontour.com or call 01903 705 360

*I believe we are in a season of new beginnings. With love in Jesus' name,
Therese x*

Treasurer's report

Cash Summary August 2011

Income	Month	Year to Date		Surplus /	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	(Shortfall)	
	£	£	£	£	
Free will offering	8,491	75,115	71,675	3,440	
Tax recovery	1,653	15,720	16,934	(1,214)	(1)
Donations and other income	586	6,483	5,385	1,098	
Total Income	10,730	97,318	93,994	3,324	4%
Expenditure					
Ministry, mission & wider work	7,318	55,212	55,212	0	
Local staffing costs	1,609	14,322	14,602	280	
Building costs					
Rates, water, insurances, cleaning	1,060	8,682	8,499	(183)	
Power	946	5,149	4,080	(1,069)	
Repair costs	383	5,952	6,500	548	
Other local costs					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	278	1,083	848	(235)	
Organ & piano	0	0	150	150	
Other	959	2,952	2,580	(372)	
Total Expenditure	12,553	93,352	92,471	(881)	-1%
Income less Expenditure					
Surplus / (shortfall)	(1,823)	3,966	1,523	2,443	

Figures relating to the Development worker fund are excluded.

Notes

(1) Timing issue - should catch up

Thanks again to Gus for the time & trouble he takes to make sure that we are informed of our financial state.

Editor

Church Register

Mrs Janet Anderson, Abbeyfield Templeton House, died 2/7/11

Mr Muir Johnstone, 67 Rosslyn Avenue, died 31/8/11

Mr John Borland, 164 Dukes Road, died 7/9/11

Mr George Baillie, 18 Albert Drive, died 13/9/11

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Being a very fair minded individual, Jean is keen that anyone who has recently joined our congregation be invited to join her team of volunteers. So, if you feel inclined, please do not hesitate to contact her.

Editor

Do you enjoy reading aloud?

Can you read clearly, loudly and slowly enough for each word to be heard by the congregation? If so, you might like to contribute to our Sunday morning worship by reading God's Word for us. We are very glad of the many existing volunteers but are always happy to welcome new readers, so please think about whether you or someone you know might like to serve us in this valuable way by joining our team of readers. I'd also be glad to know if any 'regulars' have changed their telephone number or e-mail address, or if you have read for us in the past but would now rather not do so.

I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Jean MacKenzie

tel: 647 4913 e-mail: hjmackenzie@ntlworld.

PERINATAL (ante & postnatal) DEPRESSION

Post natal depression is a debilitating condition that can affect men as well as women and the impact on the whole family can cause severe distress.

However, by intervening at an early stage, positive changes and growth within relationships can be brought about.

Counselling can offer the opportunity for parents to understand their depression, to look at the changes in themselves and to find ways to help them cope in a safe, compassionate environment.

Crossreach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, offers a specialised counselling service to people suffering from PND.

In Glasgow, this can be accessed at the Tom Allan Centre, Elmbank Street.

This service is supported by The Guild under the umbrella of Bluebell PND Support.

Information leaflets are on the notice boards - in the Meeting Place and also downstairs in the hallway. Please take one if you feel it can be of help to someone you know.

Irene Munro

A Note From The Managers

Like everyone else in the church, the managers were sad to learn of the death of George Baillie.

George served on the managers' court on 2 separate occasions. He had a strong faith and a deep commitment to the church.

Coming from a professional background and with a sharp business brain, George took a particular interest in the property issues which arose. Looking after a 100 year old building is a 'challenge' and we were comforted that we had an expert in our team and on to whom we could pass responsibility for the 'big' problems.

He was able to speak to contractors and other specialists on their own level (or higher) and he enjoyed nothing better than a technical debate.

Never a man to speak and say nothing, George was reserved in many ways. Conversely, when he had something to say he came forward and his contribution was always sensible and worthwhile.

We are grateful for his dedicated service and give thanks for a quiet, well respected and likeable manager.

Most of all, we say goodbye to a good friend.

We extend our sympathy to Cathy and her family.

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Thank you

Nancy and Margaret would like to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to Alistair and the Stonelaw Church family for their prayers, flowers, cards, letters, visits and practical support during this sad time.

The loss of John is immense but we feel truly blessed to be supported by the church family here.

Nancy and Margaret Borland

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This has been a particularly sad and challenging month for many of us here in Stonelaw. We give thanks for the lives of those who have left us and also for those who mourn; may they be comforted in part by our fellowship.

Editor

Organisational News

6th Rutherglen Girls' Brigade

Our new session is well under way and the girls seem to be enjoying the programme. It has been a time for settling in for everyone. We are having fun learning about each other and about God. We all pray that this will continue.

As well as the original team we have a new helper although any future volunteers would be welcome.

Please continue to pray for us as a Company as we continue to spread the word of God to girls in our area.

Fiona Benson (Captain)

After a busy summer, it's back to normal for the Guides.

During the summer, a group of the girls went to PGL in Dalguise for the weekend. They had a great time participating in lots of activities such as a challenge course, abseiling, zip-wire and motorsports to name a few.

Then the older guides and leaders went through to Edinburgh for the day for a spot of shopping, to see a show and finished off with a delicious dinner.

We have a busy session ahead, doing fun activities, badge work and planning our trip to Disneyland Paris next year.

We have a couple of fundraising events this session such as a Line Dancing Night, a Christmas Coffee Evening on 25th November and we are bag packing in Tesco Burnside.

We hope we can count on your continued support.

Finally we have places for girls aged 10-14 who would like to come along to Guides. We meet on a Friday night at 7:30 to 9:30pm in the Church Hall.

Thanks ,

**Roseanne ,
2nd Rutherglen Guides.**

TUESDAY CHAT GROUP

Thanks to Jane Paulsen who showed us lovely photos of her 'Diving Adventure' in St Kilda and told us all about her trip. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Thanks also to everyone who came along.

Our October meeting will be on the 11th at 7:30pm in the mid hall. All welcome to come along to hear Billy McClung talking about Rwanda.

The November meeting will on the 8th when a visit to Wesley Owen is planned. If you are interested please give your name to Jill Rennie. The price this year is £10.50.

Looking forward to seeing you all in October.

Alison McCartan (secretary)

CONNECT2 – Connecting Young People to God



PROGRAMME 2011

SEPTEMBER 18th – Take Away – Church @ 7pm

OCTOBER 2nd – Crazy Golf @ Xscape
Leaving church @ 7pm; cost £3 each.

NOVEMBER 6th – Laser Tag @ The Zone, Motherwell
Leaving church @ 7pm; cost £3 each.

DECEMBER 4th – George Square (Ice Skating?)
Details to follow

DECEMBER 18th – Christmas Party
Church @ 7pm

For more information contact William or Shona Baird on 97988 877 953 or
shona.baird@googlemail.com / william.baird@ymail.com

October Newsletter from Jean Miller
Flower Convenor, Stonelaw Parish Church

As the year comes around again and the flowers change in colour and shape, thanks are due to the many people who give freely of their time and talents, week in week out, to produce the gorgeous arrangements that you see in church. Thank you, everyone.

Our grateful thanks also go to those who contribute to the flower fund – without your generosity the church would be a less colourful place.

The flowers every week are divided up after the church service and taken to members of the congregation who are unable to be with us at Stonelaw on a Sunday. It is a small way of showing these members that we are thinking of them.

If you enjoy seeing the flowers or know someone you think would like to receive flowers, please contact me (Jean Miller) any Sunday morning.

Lastly, if you feel able to contribute, distribute or create in however small a way, I would love to hear from you. We need everyone's help to continue this lovely tradition.

I look forward to sharing another flower-filled year.

With many thanks

Jean Miller
Flower Convenor

Thank you Jean, I love the thought of another `flower filled year`.
editor

Coming soon - Movie Premiere - Stonelaw Church - Sunday 2nd October 2011

All summer, the young ones at Stonelaw have been making a movie. Inspired by Sam and Silvana Shaw's dramatic retelling of the time when Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41), the pupils at the Summer Movie School (aka Summer Discoverers) decided to have a go at dramatising the story themselves. The littlest ones designed and created props, recorded the soundtrack and explored the story each week together in different ways. The older ones discussed their approach (puppets, actors, animation?), the characters (Jesus, his disciples, the crowds) and their reactions, wrote the screenplay, carried out casting, rehearsed, filmed and produced the final cut. Not bad for eight weeks of 20 minute slots (and a few extra slots after the service)! We hope you'll enjoy it and be reminded of the power of Jesus, that day when the wind ran out of breath....

Thanks should go to Morven Campbell for the original idea of making a movie, and to Marlyn, her mum and Shona Baird, who were Executive producers, showing equal measures of patience and flair! As with all movies, many more were involved - we hope we've included all of them in the credits. Let us know if you've been left out: you'll get a special mention if that's the case!

Julie Hoey

Morning Tea Duty Rota

Tea doth our fancy aid, repress those vapours which the head
 Invade and keep the palace of the soul serene.
 Edmund Waller (1606 – 1687) British poet

Thanks again to everyone for their contributions to this appreciated service.

Oct	2nd	Tricia Finlayson	641 2778
		Morag Moore	647 2130
	9th	Maynie Mason	647 3026
		Adele Molloy	586 4616
	16th	Cathy Doyle	583 0266
		Margaret McDade	569 3599
	23rd	Sandra Coia	647 9041
		Lesley Shaw	587 8480
	30th	Joanne Jenkins	01355 263726
		Jean McKenzie	647 4918

My dear, if you could give me a cup of tea to clear my muddle of a head, I
 should better understand your affairs. Charles Dickens

Door Duty Rota For October

Thanks again to George for organising this, to everyone who takes part and to those who enter our doors. May you feel welcome.

DATE	NORTH AISLE	DRYBURGH	SOUTH AISLE	FLOATER
9/10/11	M Doig	J Miller	J Hoey	E Minelly
16/10/11	B Shields	B Liggat	M Moore	J Paulsen
23/10/11	M McDougall	J Shaw	M Shaw	M Taylor
30/10/11	A Stewart	J Robertson	P Howitt	M Ewing
6/11/11	L Nisbet	B Wilson	P Finlayson	B Stewart

Autumn Nights Out

While it may feel like winter at times, officially we are still in autumn....but the nights can be long, so here are some suggestions for joining with other folk, for purposes none other than pleasure!

Looking forward to seeing you.....

Friday 21st October

Blantyre Haven`s Concert at Burnside Blairbeth Church.

The concert will take place in the Rodger Memorial Building at the foot of Blairbeth Road, Burnside, beginning at 7:30pm.

Concert:-East Kilbride Ladies Choir

Conductor Jane Pelosi

Accompanist:- Anne Cowan

Anne tells us that there is no need to pre-book, just come along, but if you would like further information, please contact the following centres:

Haven June 01698 727 886

Marion @ Hair First, Dukes Road, Burnside.

Wednesday 2nd November

Helen Shapiro Gospel Outreach Concert at Shettleston Old Church of Scotland, Killin Street, Sandyhills, Glasgow, G32 9AH. The concert begins at 7:30pm.

Early booking recommended.

Please phone 01555 860 716 or 07734 015 087 for tickets costing £5 each.

Friday 2nd December

Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas will be at Finlay Memorial Church, 56 Maryhill Road, G20 7:30pm as part of their Surprising Funny tour, tickets costing £12 each.

Early booking recommended. Telephone 01903 705 360 or

And of course we have our very own `Accoustic Nights` at Stonelaw, courtesy of Alan, Louise & friends. Please see our weekly announcement sheet for up to date details.

Pause For Thought

This month we have our last `Pause For Thought` as a tribute to John. We have been saddened by the loss of our faithful contributor.

I know of many people who will miss John`s regular and varied contributions and we felt that some of John`s own story would be appreciated by those who never met him.

Editor

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John, who died age 92 on 7th September, was one of the last veterans of the 51st Highland Division who were captured at St Valery in June 1940.

He was later a Boys` Brigade leader mentoring many boys in Govan and Rutherglen – including a young Alex Ferguson – and later served for 27 years in hospital chaplaincy.

Born in Ibrox in 1919, to Robert and Helen Borland, owners of a general store in Dalmarnock, John enlisted in the Queen`s Own Cameron Highlanders, in January 1940.

After six weeks training at Inverness, he was deployed to France as part of the 51st Highlanders, who were left holding the line, as British forces were evacuated at Dunkirk. On 11th June, without ammunition, food or water, John was cut off at the lighthouse at St Valery, and after his commander was shot dead, he crossed the dangerous beach to surrender to Rommel`s forces on the cliff top above.

He always said that an angel was watching over him that day.

As John was taken by the enemy, he pocketed a stray bit of paper that chanced to blow past. It was entitled “Good News to all men” and included a selection of Bible verses, on which someone had pencilled “Don`t give up”.

He described that paper as a “window in my prison house” – and would use it to conduct services during his years of confinement.

Marched, half-starved, and then herded onto cattle trucks, John was taken to Stalag 20A in East Prussia – his parents not learning of his fate for some weeks. There he spent the next five years, leaving the camp only to work on farms.

Hunger was a constant problem.

On the night before his 21st birthday, John hoarded two slices of bread under his pillow, only to have them stolen before his celebratory breakfast.

On another occasion, quite the daredevil, he stole a chicken from the farm, and smuggled it back into the camp to share.

He also told of acquiring a trumpet and learning to play for a hobby until, at Christmas 1944, he was so famished that he traded it for three eggs and two loaves.

In those years, he vowed that if he survived he wanted only good food, good holidays, and to serve his God all his life.

In January 1945, with the Russians advancing, the prisoners were taken on a ‘death march’ through Poland. Cold and hungry, they were marched 20 miles a day – and many died. By April John had had enough and, rolling into a ditch, he waited for the line to pass.

He made his escape through a wood, only to encounter a tank – thankfully American. Flown back to Britain, his doctors told him he would be lucky to see fifty.

John subsequently invested many years in mentoring boys through the Boys' Brigade, in Govan and later in Rutherglen – particularly through football.

Years before, while at Ibrox Primary School, he had told his teacher he wanted to be a football manager, only to have his ambition dismissed – because football managers didn't count for anything!

However, at John's memorial service at Stonelaw Church, Sir Alex Ferguson spoke movingly of how John had instilled a sense of discipline and Christian values into Ferguson and other boys – through BB, Sunday School and football training – and how he took a passionate interest in their formation and wellbeing.

John followed Sir Alex's career over the next sixty years, and the two spoke regularly.

In 1960 John married Nancy, exclaiming that he'd been "captured twice" in his life. Despite illness caused by his wartime experiences, John worked hard to support Nancy and daughter Margaret and, after years of service with Charles Rattrey and Co, set up on his own in the tailoring business.

He also acted as a visiting preacher. Once, asked by an impressed Session Clerk which theological college he had attended, John replied, "None, I'm in the rag trade".

After marriage John moved to Rutherglen, joining Rutherglen East Church, where he served as Sunday School superintendent and BB leader.

Later he joined Stonelaw Church, and when an appeal came for chaplaincy volunteers, John offered his services to the Royal Infirmary – serving 27 years as a visitor – only reluctantly resigning earlier this year.

Whether as chaplain or neighbour, John devoted himself to visiting "old people". He had the energy of a man forty years younger – maybe through the dose of olive oil and hot water he took each morning for his complexion.

Forthright as ever, even a fortnight before his death he was challenging his carers to attend church.

From the 1950s John regularly visited St Valery. As recently as 2010, he was an honoured guest at the 70th anniversary.

In France, as elsewhere, he made many deep friendships – a stray conversation would lead to a lifelong friendship.

But then John, always with a bulging address book, made friends everywhere, and despite his age they were remarkably multi-generational.

At Stonelaw Church, Rutherglen, on 12th September, his family and friends celebrated his remarkable life, service, and faithful Christian witness.

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Design
Anna Mason
Kenya

The Baobob Tree

Among the first trees God made in Africa when he created the world was the Baobob tree, it was a mighty tree to see.

Then God made the tall and slender palm, but when the Baobob saw this it cried, "Why am I not as tall as the palm tree?"

So God made the baobob tree taller.

Then God made the Flame tree full of beautiful flowers, but when the Baobob tree saw this it cried, "Why don't I have flowers like the flame tree?" So God gave the Baobob tree lots of flowers.

Then God made the Fig tree with its magnificent foliage and fruit, but when the Baobob tree saw this it cried, "But I have no fruit on my tree!!"

God now became so angry that he walked up to the Baobob tree, pulled it up by the roots and turned it upside down to keep it quiet.

So that's why the Baobob tree looks the way it does today.

Submitted by a member Stonelaw congregation

The Church is a People

“And when the people gather, there`s singing and
there`s praying
there`s laughter and there`s crying sometimes,
all of it saying:

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world,
yes, we`re the church together

Hymn 204

Just a wee note of thanks to everyone, for their prayers, cards and good wishes.

Over the summer months, as many of you know, I had an operation on my eye which I had been having a bit of trouble with. I had been losing my vision in it occasionally for some time now, so they decided to try and at least stop it getting any worse. I have to say it was not a prospect I was relishing, but thanks to Malcolm who was amazing at putting my mind as much as possible at rest, I went through the op on the 1st July.

Amazingly I was home after treatment and my second op on the Wednesday evening. I have to say two months on it was a well worth operation. I have vision which is now better than it has been for over two years and would like to give God thanks for this. As I have already said, it is quite scary having someone playing about with your eye so I am so thankful for the skill He has given these surgeons. I cannot say this has been an easy road to travel on nor one I would have chosen, but I am thankful for the way God has shown me how much He cares for me, through the love of many of you.

Also for many of you who have been praying for Cameron since he lost his job 8 months ago, he has now started in a job back in carpets, his old haunt, which he is thoroughly enjoying. Our journey this year so far has not been a bed of roses as one would say but it has been a road with in which I have been taught many things least of all patience which does not come easily to me, but I do thank God for the way he gently leads, and does have all in control.

I would just like to leave you with the words of a favourite song of mine,

“Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow
and I KNOW HE HOLDS MY HAND”.

Jean Murray

Thanks Jean for sharing some of your pain & joys of the past year, with those who read the magazine, hopefully encouraging others in difficult circumstances.

May you continue to hold His hand.

Editor

Well, what is Caroline doing now?

Please read on.....

I have just started a complementary therapies course at Langside college, Glasgow and I am enjoying getting embroiled in body massage, health and safety, research and methodology and reflexology.

I have never done anything like this before, and when I started I felt overwhelmed by the workload and not sure if I could complete it! However, four weeks into the course and I have successfully passed my essays and am doing OK in the practical aspect of the course.

Why do people choose a course like this? The majority of my colleagues are, like me, mature students looking for a change in their lives, and have some sort of interest in complementary therapies. Complementary therapies are becoming increasingly popular, with the NHS now providing massage in hospitals and GP's recognising the importance of alternative therapies as a way to treat complex problems such as ME and mental health issues.

It can be a great way to relieve stress if you get a massage, and it is less expensive than costly consultations with surgeons and consultants.

It is also very relaxing and the art of healing by hand is of course as old as time itself.

I was initially sceptical about the reflexology aspect of the course as I was not sure if I really believed that you could determine how a person was from looking at their feet. It seemed too improbable. However on my first session with the reflexology lecturer, she could see that I had previously had a bladder problem, and she was very wise regarding how I was generally. Therefore I must confess that I was swayed into believing that reflexology has its own merits and although it can not tell you everything about your health, it can give you a few important pointers.

In reflexology we are encouraged to massage our client's feet using little thumb walks, and also using the first phalange of the index finger. This is great for stimulating deep tissue relaxation, and it releases endochrines, the body's natural painkillers. It stimulates growth and brings a sense of real calm and happiness.

I enjoy body massage too. The moves are gradually built up over the weeks, getting more difficult to remember as they are pieced together and practised. We practise on each other. However as time develops it is necessary to get external case studies to practise on. This is because, the teacher says, we are too nice to each other and never tell each other when we have done something wrong!

I am very nervous about the external case studies although the more practise that I get the better I will be at my craft.

The theory of the course is quite difficult. We are somewhat thrown in at the deep end, with several essays due straight away and more to come.

The health and safety is necessary in case you decide to open your own salon, and you are employing staff. It is important to ensure that all oils and other equipment is stored safely and without hazards. In research and methodology we research how to start up our own businesses, looking at local resources and the needs of a local client base.

This involves questionnaires, observation, case studies and telephone surveys. It is quite demanding on your time, and is very worthwhile once you have completed it- all your hard work is not in vain!

Although I hope to work for someone else, it is still good experience and I enjoy learning these skills.

I learn on the course through multi-media. The reflexology moves and the body massage moves are recorded on video and downloaded onto the blackboard site of the college website.

Then you use your computer to download the materials and you can practise to your heart's content.

I am always open to people who want a free reflexology or body massage session coming to me for a booking as I am looking to practise as much as is possible to ensure that I pass the course! I work from home (Wardlaw Avenue, next to the church) and I have my own table and music. So do feel free to contact me on 07581 531 896 if you would like a session.

I will complete the course in June. I will keep you updated on my progress as I pass through the oncoming months and hopefully onto a new skill mastered.

Caroline Sloan

Many thanks to Caroline for sharing what it was like for you to begin something new – and for inviting us to `help you out` by offering our selves for your practice.

Editor

Hello From The Editor

Well, it`s been quite a month hasn`t it? Grey skies and rain, the weather we complain about....but recently I met a man from Cape Town for whom our weather is just wonderful; reminds me of the story of the Baobob tree.

Alistair asks us in the `Church Diary` this month, to come & be counted `in`. I wonder if you ever feel as if you are not `in`? I know I sometimes do. I`m learning to accept that when it happens, although I feel so bad, if I can struggle through my pain and anger, beyond the grey skies and the rain in my heart and hear the words of those who care about me, I can come closer to the wonderful weather that is all around me and begin to see things in a new way.

Becoming new is painful but in the pain, we are not alone.

I pray that you come to this.

Irene Munro
Editor

October 6th is National Poetry Day in Britain, so I have taken this excuse to indulge myself and share with you one of my passions, the poetry of the Christian mystics.

Editor

I Loved What I Could Love

I had a natural passion for fine clothes, excellent food, and lively conversation about all matters that concern the heart still alive. And even a passion about my own looks.

Vanities: they do not exist.

Have you ever walked across a stream stepping on rocks so not to spoil a pair of shoes?

All we can touch, swallow or say aids in our crossing to God and helps unveil the soul.

Life smooths us, rounds, perfects, as does the river the stone, And there is no place our Beloved is not flowing though the current`s force you may not always like

Our passions help to lift us

I loved what I could love until I held Him, For then – all things - every world disappeared.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Walk in the Dark

If a man
wishes to be sure
of the road he travels on,
he must close his eyes
and walk in the dark.

*

St John of the Cross

Wring Out My Clothes

Such love does
the sky now pour,
that whenever I stand in a field,

I have to wring out the light
when I get
home.

*

Saint Francis of Assisi

God, whose love and Joy

God, whose love and joy
are present everywhere,

can't come to visit you
unless you aren't there.

*

Angelus Silesius

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Items for the next issue of the Church Magazine to be handed to the editorial team

no later than Sunday 22nd October 2011.

Please remember you can submit articles at any time before this date.

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