



# Stonelaw Church Magazine

News For and From The People of Stonelaw  
[www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org)

**December 2011 Fifth Series Issue 93**

## **Letter From The Minister**

The great philosopher Mike Tyson once said “everyone has a plan ... until you get punched in the mouth”. Recently, I have found those words chime with many people: you are living your life, doing your thing, looking forward to your next holiday, and suddenly - wallop. Illness, redundancy, money worries, relational conflict, or some other calamity hits you out of the blue.

It has happened to every single one of us at some point.

The question is what we do with it – or indeed what it does to us. I meet any number of people who’ve had more than their share of blows – some who’ve endured the most horrific suffering in life - yet each responds differently. Some people grow understandably bitter: they become angry and resentful. However, others seem to grow through the experience: their resilience shining as an inspiration to others. Suffering causes them to realise what’s important in life and let go of the trivia that so entangles many of us. No doubt you can think of examples of each.

Christian faith too can be made or destroyed by pain. Some people simply lose all belief in God’s goodness, and conclude he’s simply not there. Others have the opposite experience; seeking and finding a deeper knowledge of God through their struggles, and finding a profound hope and comfort in his promises (see the Psalms for examples). As St Paul put it “we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us.”

Understanding why suffering happens is often beyond us, but understanding its potential to make us stop and consider what really matters, is something we all experience.

As CS Lewis put it, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

Rightly, most of us will seek to avoid the boxing ring, and body swerve as many of life’s blows as possible. But perhaps next time we feel the punch on the mouth, it might be worth asking what it is doing to us – or what God is calling us to hear.

With every blessing this advent season,  
Alistair May

# Church Diary

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

**Sunday 4th December – Advent 2**

11:00am Holy Communion

6:00pm Alternative evening service (with Communion)

**Thursday 8th December**

7:30pm Community carol service

**Sunday 11th December – Advent 3**

11:00am Morning service

6:30pm Evening service

**Wednesday 14th December**

7:00pm Christmas Concert with Stonelaw High School.

(Festive music in the church, featuring talent from both school and church - pay at door).

**Sunday 18th December – Advent 4**

11:00am Family service – Discoverers taking part

3:00pm Service at Abbeyfield – Alistair conducting

6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

**Tuesday 20th December**

11:00 Stonelaw High School service in the church

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

9:00am Calderwood School Service

**Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve**

7:00pm Pyjama service (pyjamas and Christingle optional)

11:30pm Watch night service

**Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day**

11:00am Short family service (with informal communion)  
(no evening service)

**Sunday 1st January**

11:00am Morning Service

(no evening service)

**Sunday 8th January**

11:00am Morning Service

6:30pm Evening service (Communion)

### **Cartoon Club is back – with coffee!**

Our monthly Cartoon Club will meet 2:00-3:30pm on December 3rd and then February 8th (no meeting in January).

### **Community Carol Service**

Many in the congregation and community just enjoy singing carols. That's all this evening will be about. Songs and fellowship. Please do bring your friends.

### **Christmas Concert**

After the snow cancellation last year, this is the sixth appearance of this great evening. It's a mixture of the sacred and the secular, from the concert band and young voices of the school, to the (nearly as youthful) voices of our praise group. It's a great way of us building bridges into the community – so please do support it.

### **Pyjama service and Watch night service**

Not only do we enjoy these, but they particularly attract folk who don't often come to church. So, please do come and join us at least at one – have you friends or neighbours you can invite? (You don't even need to be a child to come to the pyjama service.)

### **Counting us in**

Glasgow Presbytery are currently drawing up a new Presbytery Plan – which is a vision of how we want to deploy all our ministers within the Presbytery. We have to do this because there are currently more ministries in that the Church o Scotland can financially sustain. When the current plan was formed, the sole criteria for deploying ministry was the number of people living in each parish. This time the Presbytery is using a more sophisticated measurement, looking at the needs, strengths, finances, and outward looking focus of each congregation. Part of that measuring that was to ask every congregation to count the number of people at Sunday worship on two particular Sundays. So all of you who were with us on Sundays 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November were counted in.

The results for Stonelaw were quite encouraging and were: ...

	<16	16-25	26-40	41-65	66-80	81-100	>100	total
<i>30th Oct</i>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188</b>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> Nov</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187</b>

Rev. Alistair S. May

# Jesus is Love

## December 2011

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](http://www.plassandlucasontour.com) or call 01903 705 360

## An Invitation

We are delighted to invite our friends at Stonelaw Church to our charity concert to raise money to help feed and educate the street children of Kenya.

### January - Auditions Sunday 15th from 13.00hrs

Perhaps most excitingly, we are offering the opportunity for local school age children to come to our 'Glasgow's Got Talent' Auditions on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 to share an act of their choice. We would like to invite children at Stonelaw Church to audition their performing talent at St Columbkilles Church hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> January - auditioning will begin at 13:00 and light refreshments will be provided. Five lucky winners will perform on the evening of the charity concert which is to take place on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2012 in St Columbkille's Church Hall in Rutherglen.

The Kids of Kenya Charity Concert *with Special Guests* is brought to you by Colum Music Group, who have in their time raised thousands of pounds for various charities. We have some fantastic prizes for the raffle on the evening and have secured two high calibre performers as guests.

We hope to see you all at the auditions and concert and look forward to sharing the stage with some of our best local talent! The closing date for all entries is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2012.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 07941354260 or email [columcharityconcerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:columcharityconcerts@hotmail.co.uk)

## February 2012

### ***YOUR KINGDOM COME***

ONE BIG DAY - TO ENVISION & ENCOURAGE THE CHURCH IN PRAYER,  
MISSION AND JUSTICE.

SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2012 - GLASGOW UNIVERSITY BUTE HALL

Nicky Gumble

Pete Gregg

Tim Hughes

Alan McWilliam

Paul Davie

and many more

For more info: [ALPHASCOTLAND.ORG](http://ALPHASCOTLAND.ORG) [FACEBOOK.COM/ALPHASCOTLAND](http://FACEBOOK.COM/ALPHASCOTLAND)

The King will reply, "I tell you, whenever you do this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!" *Matthew 25:40*



### **CAN you please help?**

For almost two years one of our members and her mother have been volunteering at a soup kitchen on Cadogan Street in Glasgow City Centre which was managed by the Glasgow Simon Community. Sadly Glasgow Simon Community (like so many other charities) has lost it's funding.

However most of the current volunteers are happy to continue with this essential and valuable lifeline to some of the vulnerable people in our society. The Buddhists are happy to continue to provide soup, the Jehovah's Witnesses will continue to provide tea, coffee and biscuits.

Could we possibly provide some groceries for folk to take home? I hesitate to ask as you do so much already. I fully appreciate and I am humbled by all you do in Jesus name here in Stonelaw, supporting the Lodging House Mission, Starter Packs and The Well. I only ask because the needs are so great.

Please do not feel in any way pressurised to respond to this appeal but if you wish to, we would appreciate it if you could add an extra can or something small onto your weekly shop and hand it into The Meeting Place anytime Monday - Friday mornings or Thursday afternoon.

Buy from the supermarkets basics range

beans	hot dogs	spaghetti	macaroni
soup	pot noodles	powder milk	biscuits
tea bags	cuppa soups	coffee	sugar .....anything at all

Boxes will be left in the transept corner for any donations.

### **A Christmas Prayer for my Stonelaw Family**

**Dearest Jesus,**

**Son of God, who fills my world with light and love and hope.**

**Shine down on all who gather here and bless each one...**

**Bring them your peace and hope and joy to warm their hearts**

**and then let them know how much they're loved by you.**

**I thank you Lord, Amen.**

**Heartfelt Christmas prayers for a season and a year filled with Gods most wondrous blessings!**

*With love in Jesus name, Therese x*

## Treasurer's report

### Cash Summary October 2011

<b>Income</b>	Month Actual £	Year to Date Actual £	Budget £	Surplus / (Shortfall) £	Note
Free will offering	7,932	91,584	88,775	2,809	
Tax recovery	2,119	22,025	20,870	1,155	
Donations and other income	642	7,703	6,723	980	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,693</b>	<b>121,312</b>	<b>116,368</b>	<b>4,944</b>	4%
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Ministry, mission & wider work	7,318	69,848	69,848	0	
Local staffing costs	1,660	17,832	18,573	741	
Building costs					
Rates, water, insurances, cleaning	1,061	10,803	11,172	369	
Power	0	5,149	4,080	(1,069)	(1)
Repair costs	3,211	9,392	8,200	(1,192)	(2)
Other local costs					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	109	1,910	1,638	(272)	(3)
Organ & piano	0	288	225	(63)	
Other	203	3,498	3,750	252	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>118,720</b>	<b>117,486</b>	<b>(1,234)</b>	-1%
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>					
<b>Surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>(2,869)</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>(1,118)</b>	<b>3,710</b>	

Figures relating to the Development worker fund are excluded.

Notes

(1) Higher usage of power throughout the year.

(2) Includes roof repair, £ 936 and Church House ceiling damage, £900 (subject of insurance claim).

(3) Cost of additional circulars this year

Despite the shortfall this month, the overall position remains satisfactory.

# Organisational News

## TUESDAY CHAT GROUP

Thank you to everyone who visited Wesley Owen in November. There was a very good turnout. At least that was a start to some Christmas shopping, followed by tea/coffee and cake and chat! Hope everyone enjoyed their evening.

Our last meeting in 2011 will be on Tuesday 13th at 7:30pm in the mid hall. This will be our Christmas Celebration with 'Secret Santa'. There may be some Christmas pies and mulled fruit wine, so do come along and join in the fun.

Remember pressie value £5.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Alison McCartan (secretary)

## 6th Rutherglen Girls' Brigade

We have had a busy few weeks with both groups.

On October 29th we took all but two of the girls to the Kelvin Hall as part of the Girls' Brigade Glasgow Party which was attended by around 700 girls from Girls' Brigade companies around Glasgow. The girls took part in various activities and they all came home with beautifully painted faces.

At our fancy dress party on October 31st we had the theme of someone or something from around the world. Most of the girls wore something that represented someone from a particular country but we also had an American cupcake and a monkey.

Our trip around the world has now taken us to France and the girls have completed their passport page for this. France is famous for its vineyards so we have looked at the Bible story of Jesus turning water into wine and the story Jesus told of the man hiring people to work in his vineyard.

In December we will take a break from our travels (well, everyone wants to be home for Christmas) and we will think about how Christmas is celebrated around the world and do some Christmas related crafts. Our final meeting before Christmas will be a party and we look forward to seeing all the girls in their party dresses.

Elaine May

## Roll Keepers Report

### **Addition to Roll**

Ms Jacqueline Robertson , 21 Baronald Street, by resolution of session 1/11/11

### **Removed from Roll**

Mr Alan Carmichael, Flat 12, Stonelaw Court, 3 Johnstone Drive, by certificate of transference 23/10/11

Mrs Margaret Carmichael, Flat 12, Stonelaw Court, 3 Johnstone Drive, by certificate of transference 23/10/11

Grant McKechnie

# Movember

Yes that`s correct, Movember, not November.

I'm often quite lazy about shaving - you probably knew that. But this month, it is not mere laziness: I've banded together with a few of my colleagues for "Movember", the charity that raises money for prostate and testicular cancer research.

Here's the website address for more information:

<http://uk.movember.com/mospace/2653374/>

At the moment, the only photo is of Paul McGann in "Our Mutual Friend". That's what I'm aiming for, but I might have to adjust and go for something more achievable in the time. In any case, I'm going to look quite ridiculous. Watch that space for an update!

Cheers  
Iain Morrison.

**Thanks Iain for raising my awareness about the good work being done by this lesser known charity. Although November is the fund-raising month I am offering some information in this December copy of the magazine for those of you who wish to help Iain in his fund raising efforts.**

Editor

**Movember** is an annual, month-long event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November. The Movember Foundation runs the Movember charity event, housed at [Movember.com](http://Movember.com).

Since 2004, the **Movember Foundation** has run Movember events to raise awareness and funds for [men's health](#) issues, such as [prostate cancer](#) and [depression](#), in Australia and [New Zealand](#).

In 2007, events were launched in Ireland, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, the United Kingdom, Israel, South Africa, Taiwan and the United States.

Movember started in Australia in 2003. It has spread from down under to South Africa and Europe, and five years ago it reached American shores. In 2010, Movember merged with the testicular cancer event [Tacheback](#).

The [Movember.org](http://Movember.org) event was conceived in 1999 by a group of Australian men from [Adelaide](#).

## Magazine Deadline

**Please note that the last Date for January Magazine Submissions will be December 11<sup>th</sup> one week earlier than usual. This is to allow us time over the holiday period to prepare, print and collate. I hope you are not inconvenienced.**

Editor

## **Hello From The Editor**

December - Cold and dark. Short days and long, long evenings? Does it have to be as prescriptive as this or can it sometimes be the transition period, the gentle wind-down towards the shortest day on 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by a gradual awakening to the brighter days ahead?

I love the rhythm of life; the recognition of the ups and downs; that all things pass and that NOW is the time God has given me to pay attention to, as best I can.

Yet NOW seems to incorporate the past, the present, as well as the future; it all comes together somehow in the mystery of NOW.

NOW, in the season of Advent, we are living each moment, but we are also waiting....living in expectation.

May your expectations, your hopes and dreams be realised this Christmas.

May you also be aware of NOW and of those around you who have no expectations, hopes and dreams.

Wishing you love at Christmas.

Irene Munro

Did you know that our much valued `Nine Lessons and Carols` originated on Christmas Eve 1880, when Rev Edward White who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury, devised an order of service that would eventually become a well known and much loved liturgical tradition – Nine lessons and Carols.

## **Spirit of Life Youth Choir**

### **Nine Lessons and Carols**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm**

**All Welcome**

**Donations towards The Haven, Kilmacolm – A safe place to be.**

**Motherwell Baptist Church 43/47 Windmill Street, Motherwell, ML1 1RT**

Remember we also have `Nine lessons and Carols`  
here at Stonelaw on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm

## A Birthday Invitation

As you will know we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think this year the celebrations will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, tv commercials and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It really is very nice to know that at least once a year some people think of me. As you know the celebrations of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a bit of fun but they don't know the reason for the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honour. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts.

But do you want to know something? I wasn't invited.

I was the guest of honour and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when the great day came, I was left outside. They closed the door in my face....and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner.

They were all drinking. There were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time.

To top it all this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling `Ho Ho Ho`. He seemed drunk.

He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying "Santa Claus Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honour!

At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other. I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and ....do you know....no one hugged me. Suddenly, they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation.

When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one?

I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse.

People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the pastries and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognise the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you on the cross, to save you. Today I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside.

Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love You.

Jesus.

**Writer unknown.**

**Submitted by a member of Stonelaw Congregation.**

### **Happy Christmas Wishes**

As in previous years, we will once again have a board in the sanctuary on which you can post your Christmas greetings to the rest of the congregation. Donations in lieu of what you would otherwise have spent on cards can be placed in the offering plate and will be added to the special offerings taken at the Christmas services.

Elaine May

### **Thank You**

We wish to thank everyone in the congregation who has expressed such warm sentiments towards us. We are greatly touched by all the love and friendship.

We plan to have a small intimate marriage service in the spring of next year and we trust that the congregation will understand our wishes.

Your love and friendship is enough and we don't wish any gifts.

On our return, there will be a special 'Stonelaw tea party' for everyone.

David and Elizabeth

## Two Opportunities To Give:

**If you can never find the time to give blood, here it is!**

**When?** Tuesday 29th November 2:00-3:45pm and 5:15-8:00pm

**Where?** The Grand Hall, Town Hall, Main Street ,Rutherglen

**How old do I need to be, to start giving?** Age 17-65

**Why?** Your donation will be available within the next 24 hours to help save or improve the life of someone in hospital in Scotland .

**Want to know more?** Tel. Scotblood on 0845 90 90 999 or try

[www.scotblood.co.uk](http://www.scotblood.co.uk)

## *Got any old clothes or rags? Our Dalek will take them!*

*We now have a Dalek that lives at the foot of the stairwell under the Meeting Place. This is a large recycling bin, in which you can put old clothes and fabrics, whether in excellent or poor condition. They will be taken by 'Glasgow the Caring City' – a charity in partnership with Glasgow Presbytery that works mainly with underprivileged children across the world.*

*The Charity will use what it can, sending it overseas. The rest will be taken by a recycling company and either is sold on to charity shops or recycled – with the Caring City gaining financially from this.*

*If you already take stuff to a charity shop, don't stop doing that. But if you don't, or you've got stuff you're not sure a shop would want, then toss it in the Dalek, and let someone else sort it!*

*You can learn more about Glasgow the Caring City at [www.glasgowthecaringcity.com](http://www.glasgowthecaringcity.com)*

## And An Opportunity To Receive:

### **Missed a Sunday Morning?**

Recordings can be downloaded from [WWW.stonelawchurch.org](http://WWW.stonelawchurch.org) and copies of the sermon are available in the Meeting Place as a CD – please help yourself.

# What really happened in Garelochhead?

For those of you who, like myself, enjoyed hearing the young people demonstrate their musical abilities a few weeks ago, Julie & others have volunteered to share some of the highlights of their time in Garelochhead.

Editor

On the first weekend in October, a group of seven of our P6 to S2 young people had a weekend to remember in Garelochhead. In between climbing wall high jinks, playing Stephen's strategy games late at night, an almost-continuous sugar high, supplemented by a visit to the sweet shops of Helensburgh, a Saturday film night ("How to Train a Dragon"), a warm welcome at Garelochhead Church (we even got to ring the bell!) and very little sleep, we had fun talking, eating, playing and sharing together. Here are some reviews....

## **Garelochhead 2011**

After spending a weekend with my friends from church, I feel like I have become a lot closer to them all. I also feel like I know a bit more about them after spending more time with them. It was an amazing experience, being away with everybody. I had so much fun and would definitely go again.

It was really nice to visit a new place and I would definitely go again if there was another weekend away again. The accommodation was very nice, modern and there was a lot to do!

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the leaders who gave up their own time to take us and made the weekend so good!

I would like to also thank everyone who planned the weekend.

Thank you so much! ☺

**Orla Jenkins**

From Rebecca:

When we went away too Garelochhead it was great fun.

The centre was really good with a climbing wall, a gym and a hub. The hub was really good with a Wii, an x-box, a huge TV projector and lots of comfy couches and stools. The dorms were great with three sets of bunk beds in each one. I was in a dorm with Brea, Orla and Ruth. CalumS ,Calum L , and Euan shared a dorm as well, though Calum I insisted on going into an empty dorm on the second night as the other two were too noisy and he couldn't sleep.

We went away with Julie, Steven, Jennifer, Stuart, Sam, Sandy, Duncan and Fraser. Jennifer was our cook and Julie, Steven and Stuart were there to supervise us.

It sometimes seemed like Sam, Sandy, Duncan and Fraser were there to entertain us as that's mostly what they did.

On the Saturday Alan, Louise and David joined us and did art, music and drama with us and we presented our artwork and music at the morning service on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

We all liked the climbing wall, though sometimes we couldn't go on it because Sam and Duncan kept rolling on the mats beside it, fighting and jumping on top of each other.

All in all it was a great weekend and we all enjoyed it, although I must admit most of us didn't get much sleep.

*Rebecca May.*

## Garelochhead 2011

I had a great time at the weekend away in Garelochhead. When we arrived we put our bags into our rooms and set the table for dinner. It was Julie's delicious Macaroni Cheese, and Garlic Bread. I loved it. We had loads of laughs at night time, (especially in the girls' room, hehe.) I feel I have become even closer to great friends. I always had a great laugh with Orla, Ruth and Rebecca. In our rooms we had 3 bunk beds which were awesome. We had great food to eat, breakfast, lunch and dinner, amazing. Thank you so much Jennifer☺. It was such a pleasant and relaxing place. We had great fun in the 'Hub', playing the play station, the Wii, Pool, and Football. There was loads to do in the 'Hub'; you couldn't possibly be bored at all. A group of people had the chance to go into Helensburgh for a look about and spend our money. The one shop that we all spent money in was a shop called 'I like Candy'. Oh, it had 1000's of sweets, I bought Chocolate Mice and a Sour Spray. I also got Strawberry Bon Bons for my Dad, (his all time favourite,) Tablet for my Mum, (she loved it,) AND I got Chocolate Buttons for my wee sister Erin, (Deeeeelicious.) I don't think any of us enjoyed leaving the shop,☹. That night we picked up a Chinese and a Chippy for Dinner. It was delicious. After we had dinner we watched a Movie which was How to train

your Dragon. I had already seen it before, but I still enjoyed it. We also went in the Gym a lot, I enjoyed running on the Treadmill with Ruth. There were two so we both went on next to each other at the same time. We sometimes just burst out laughing for no particular reason, probably because we were having so much fun!! Not long after breakfast on Saturday morning, we went out for a walk. We walked across a path just next to the sea side. Everyone loved going down for a couple of minutes. Sam, Sandy and Duncan loved it, 😊. Once we got back we went down into the 'Hub' and played about for a while. Then Louise, Alan and David arrived. In the big hall Alan and David did Drama games while the great musicians practiced "I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church together". It was a great practice. I enjoyed it very much. After Drama and Music we had our Lunch. Once we tidied up the tables we began to make a banner for the Church. The banner says "We are the Church together". We used torn pieces of paper with letters that were cold colours on a warm background and Warm coloured letters on a cold coloured background. Sounds confusing; not at all. We had so much fun in Garelochhead, I would definitely go again. Thank you to the leaders for such a great time in Garelochhead.

By Brea Jenkins xx

## Tea Rota

Dec	4th	Anne	Stewart	647 3422
		Bill	Stewart	647 3422
	11th	Janice	McInnes	569 0229
		Isobel	Wilson	570 3712
	18th	Carolyn	Kennedy	643 0321
		Helen	Paulsen	643 1929
	25th	Malcolm	Doig	634 4888
		Greta	Doig	634 4888
Jan	1st	Sheena	Goldie	641 8764
		Irene	Munro	01698 822525
	8th	Cathie	Baillie	583 5591
		Moira	Baird	647 1382
	15th	Moira	Shaw	569 8344
		John	Shaw	569 8344
	22nd	Maureen	Holland	569 9920
		Elizabeth	McDonald	569 5092
	29th	Margaret	Waterson	647 2285
		Margaret	Willoughby	562 7937

Thanks to everyone who meets us at the door or provides us with a welcome cup of tea or coffee – we do appreciate you.

DATE	NORTH AISLE	DRYBURGH	SOUTH AISLE	FLOATER
11/12/11	M Moore	J Paulsen	B Liggat	B Shields
18/12/11	M Shaw	M McDougall	M Taylor	J Shaw
25/12/11	M Ewing	P Howitt	G Doig	A Stewart
1/1/12	P Finlayson	B Stewart	L Nisbet	B Wilson

# 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2010

and I was in a rush.

I left work at tea-time to make my way to a friend's house to deliver Christmas presents to her young daughter from a number of staff in our office and then to collect my mother and bring her to our house for something to eat then on to the Christmas Eve Service at the church.

We had been told that we could leave the office at 3 o'clock but I had too much to do to take up this offer, although others seemed able to.

I prayed to the Lord for travelling mercies and set off in my little car through the wet and icy roads between Dumbarton and Glasgow. On the way, John had phoned me (on my Bluetooth so I spoke to him hands-free) to say that our central heating boiler had broken down and asking if I wanted him to cancel the 14 people who were coming to us for dinner on Boxing Day.

Of course not!

I was running late to deliver the Christmas presents and to collect mum and I now had something else on my mind. Perhaps this contributed to what happened around 15 minutes later. At a busy junction just up the road from Anniesland Cross I was involved in a car crash, and everything came to a halt.

As I went through the 'green' traffic light, my car was hit by another vehicle. When I realised what had happened I pressed the brake pedal, causing the car to spin round to a halt on the icy road ahead.

I did not have control of the car, which was slipping on the ice but there was no damage to the cars parked on either side of this road and, more importantly, no pedestrians were injured.

I had minor injuries and the passenger in the other car had a minor seat belt injury.

I thanked God for His travelling mercies.

As the driver of the other car was being interviewed by police I had time to sit and think about what had happened and to talk with, and listen to, God.

I took time to pray and to be aware of any impression that God was putting on my heart and in my mind.

The words "Be still ..." came to mind and I knew that God was with me, urging me to focus on what was really important.

I sat conversing with Him about Christmas – not the presents, collecting my mum, or the possibility of a cold house because of the central heating boiler breakdown, not the parties over the next couple of days, but on CHRISTmas; celebrating Jesus' birth and what this means for me - and thanked Him for saving my life.

Impressions!

I had experienced God's grace during the car crash and I now felt His love, His peace and His wisdom envelop me as I sat shivering, waiting to be interviewed by the police. While the car crash had been an ordeal, it had not been a disaster, but the reality that the crash could have resulted in my (or others') death or in debilitating injuries was, however, very powerful.

I had, not for the first time in my life, experienced God's presence and He had made me glad in the midst of confusion, physical exhaustion and shock!

“What A Friend We Have In Jesus.”

In his book 'The Magnificent Defeat', F Buechner \* writes, “ For what we need to know, of course, is not just that God exists, not just that beyond the steely brightness of the stars there is a cosmic intelligence of some kind that keeps the whole show going, but that there is a God right here in the thick of our day-by-day lives who may not be writing messages about himself in the stars but in one way or another is trying to get messages through our blindness as we move around down here knee-deep in the fragrant muck and misery and marvel of the world. It is not objective proof of God's existence that we want but the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle we are really after and that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get.”

- Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat (San Francisco: Harper & row, 1985) p47 quoted in The Ragamuffin Gospel, B Manning (Authentic Media, Milton Keynes 2005) p71.

Margaret

**Many thanks to Margaret Willoughby for sharing her experience of God`s presence with her.**

Editor

## **Funny Old World**

“This is just the tip of the iceberg.” I have said this so many times to mum as we have looked through some of dad’s articles which he has kept. I came across some snippets which he was going to include in September’s magazine so I have put them together for this month and would like to share them with you as 2011 draws to a close.

There is a saying that you have to walk a mile in another man’s shoes before you are entitled to criticise him.

It’s nice to be big but you don’t have to be big to be nice.

Love is blind – marriage is an eye-opener.

Have you ever noticed that people who have irritating coughs never go to the doctor? They go instead to the theatre, the cinema, the concert hall etc.

Modesty is a precious quality which is often underrated. I have never forgotten the piece of advice a teacher once gave our class, “If at first you do succeed, don’t look smug about it.”

(Overheard by one of our very young people). The child was putting out some little chairs in the hall. He was asked what he was doing and he replied, “We’re playing at churches”.

I also came across this very old poem. Dad had written it on a piece of paper which had turned yellow with age! I rather liked the simplicity of the poem. Its meaning goes much deeper than expected.

My granny’s bell

My granny had a little bell  
which I would often ring  
to drown the noise which granny made  
when granny began to sing.

For granny couldn’t sing at all  
I’m sorry for to tell.  
We much preferred to listen  
to the clanging of the bell.

But now that granny’s dead and gone  
the bell I often ring.  
But how I’d much prefer to hear  
my dear old granny sing!

Wishing you all a truly blessed Christmas and a new year of good health, happiness, and God’s richest blessings on your lives.

Margaret A Borland

**Thanks Margaret for offering us another view of our `Funny Old World`**

**Editor**

Christmas is a time for memories isn't it? One of our members who wishes to remain anonymous has forwarded two articles for inclusion this month. Some of you may have read them before, but I'm sure they will be new to others. I do hope you enjoy them.

**Editor**

A thought for Christmas, from abroad.

### **Shoes**

It was only four days before Christmas. The spirit of the season hadn't yet caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our local discount store. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last minute shoppers jammed the aisles. Why did I come today? I wondered. My feet ached almost as much as my head. My list contained the names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn't buy them anything. Buying for someone who had everything and deploring the high cost of items, I considered gift-buying anything but fun. Hurriedly, I filled my shopping cart with last minute items and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest but it looked as if it would mean at least a 20 minute wait. In front of me were two small children – a boy of about 8 and a younger girl. The boy wore a ragged coat. Enormously large, tattered tennis shoes jutted far out in front of his much too short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands. The girl's clothing resembled her brother's. Her head was a matted mess of curly hair. Reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny gold house slippers.

As the Christmas music sounded in the store's stereo system, the girl hummed along, off-key but happily. When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the shoes on the counter. She treated them as though they were a treasure. The clerk rang up the bill. "That will be \$6.99", she said. The boy laid his crumpled dollars atop the stand while he searched his pockets. He finally came up with \$3.12. "I guess we will have to put them back", he bravely said. "We will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow." With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl. "But Jesus would have loved these shoes", she cried. "Well we'll go home and work some more. Don't cry. We'll come back", he said.

Quickly I handed \$4.00 to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around me and a small voice said, "Thank you, lady".

"What did you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?" I asked. The boy answered, "Our mummy is sick and going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus". The girl spoke, "My Sunday school teacher said that the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't mummy be beautiful on those streets to match those shoes?" My eyes flooded as I looked into her tear-streaked face. "Yes", I answered, "I am sure she will".

Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving. 'Tis the season! Remember that it's better to give than receive.

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Items for the next issue of the Church

Magazine to be handed to the editorial team

**no later than Sunday 11th December 2011.**

















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