

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

www.stonelawchurch.org

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**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER 2024 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024**

MESSAGE AND PRAYER FROM NEIL



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Spring magazine and I hope it finds you well.

I know it is a terrible cliché for us in Scotland to speak of the weather but, if there is a word that sums up how these last few months have gone, it would be storms. Brutal, brutal storms!

This has caused me to recall the story of Jesus calming the storm in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 8:23-27). This miraculous act was done as a prophetic sign of Him bringing us peace during the particular challenges we face in life. Jesus did this on a practical level for the safety and well-being of His disciples, but by showing that He had absolute and immediate authority over the storm at sea, Jesus also made it clear that He has absolute and immediate authority over any storm within our lives, pledging His closeness in your midst. It should be of comfort to us to know that there is nothing that is too much for God. He can do all things and can bring peace to any and every situation. Knowing this should give us confidence as we surrender our "storms" to Him. And when the storm remains fierce, despite our prayers, we should be assured that it is for our good or the good of others because it's an opportunity to deepen our trust in Jesus and to know His closeness in those moments.

I wonder if you can identify a storm in your life right now. And if things are relatively calm, be grateful but be mindful that this will not always be the case. As I have said on numerous occasions, not one of us is immune to the challenges of this life and we must be ready for anything and everything that comes our way.

As you ponder a storm of life, do you feel Jesus there, in the midst, by your side, keeping you safe? God's love for you is perfect; He will never let you drown.

What a wonderful reminder to us as we journey through this new year!

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson

minister@stonelawchurch.org 07871 615 840

2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG



A PRAYER FROM NEIL

Calm me, Lord Jesus, as You calmed the storm.

Still me, Lord, and keep me from harm.

Let all the turbulence inside me cease and enfold me in Your peace.

Lord Jesus, You are my hiding place.

A shelter from the storm, a protection from the heat and I rest under the cover of Your wing.

Your love is all around me, it is above me to lift me up.

Your love is beneath me to support me and behind me to protect me.

Lord Jesus, You go before me to guide me.

You are around me to shield me and within me to strengthen me.

Lord Jesus, You are my hiding place, this day and forever.

You know me and You love me, and I share my life with You.

I'm thankful that You hear my prayer, as I offer it in Your precious and mighty name.

Amen

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

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

Please join us in the north transept to the left of the pulpit.)

Elizabeth Watson



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

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

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



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

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND STONELAW

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

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE The Café will be closed on Easter Monday, 1st April

Table Tennis in the Main Hall Mondays 2.00 - 4.00 pm

The Square Knitters Tuesdays 7pm - 9pm in the Meeting Place. All are welcome!

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

Past Times Dementia-friendly Community 2nd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.00pm and **Past Times Drop-in Café** 4th Wednesday of the month 3.00 - 4.00pm.

NB Both are by invitation only. (see p.11)

Join us for Prayer on Zoom Wednesdays 7.20pm (7.30pm start) till 8.10pm (see p.21)

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

at 10.30am with Jennifer Menzies. **07974 793 235**

at 7.30pm with Dorothy and David McTaggart. **07815 949 648**

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People's House Group: Every second Thursday, 6.30-8pm at the Manse. (see p.6)

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

2nd Rutherglen Rainbows: Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm

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

131st Boys' Brigade: Thursdays 6.30 - 8pm Contact Walter Smyth **07586 255 466** (see p 20)

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

2nd Rutherglen Brownies: Fridays 6.15 - 7.15pm.

2nd Rutherglen Guides: Fridays 7.30 - 9.15pm.

EASTER SERVICES 2024

Palm Sunday Service 24th March 10.30 am

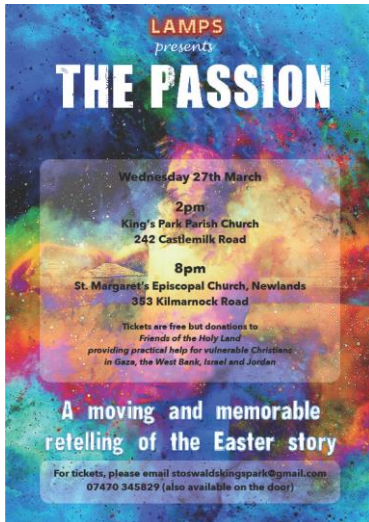
Holy Week Services Monday 25th - Friday 29th March at 7.00pm, in Stonelaw Church. Our minister Neil and Rev William Wilson of Burnside Blairbeth will share in leading these services, and people from both congregations are invited to come together for them.

Easter Day Sunday 31st March 10.30 am.

Do you remember Easter Day 2023, when we had a very special church family breakfast in the Sanctuary? Whether you do, or if you missed it last time, you'll be delighted to know that a similar format is planned for this Easter Day!



PASSION PLAY AT KING'S PARK CHURCH WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH



If you have ever seen a Passion Play, you'll remember how moving it was. Rev Mathew, who arranged for the Lamps company to fit two Glasgow performances into their tour, points out that "these could be perfect for friends and family - especially those who are less familiar with the Easter story." You can see this production on Wednesday 27th March, **at 2pm** in King's Park Church, 242 Castlemilk Road G44 4LB **or at 8pm** in St Margaret's Episcopal Church, 353 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands, G43 2DS.

Tickets are free (details below) but donations are invited in aid of Friends of the Holy Land, a charity providing practical help for vulnerable Christians in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Jordan.

For tickets, email Rev Alison Mathew at stoswaldskingpark@gmail.com, call **07470 345829** – or they will also be available at the door.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOUSE GROUP

The Young People's House Group (YPHG) has started to explore the Youth Alpha Course this session. We are having meaningful discussions, and hope that Youth Alpha will allow the group to explore and grow in their relationship with God.



The YPHG is held fortnightly at the Manse. On the alternate Thursdays, we are hosting a Youth Prayer space in The Meeting Place between 6.30pm-8.30pm, an idea run by the 24-7 Prayer movement. Prayer spaces give children and young people a way to explore personal reflection and prayer for themselves, using a selection of engaging and creative activities.

Please continue to pray for the children and young people in our church family and in our community.

In Christ,
Fiona Benson



RUTHERGLEN STONELAW CHURCH ONLINE CALENDAR



An online calendar has been developed to show all the events / activities taking place in Stonelaw. You can view the calendar here: www.stonelawchurch.org/whats-on-at-stonelaw If you would like to add an event to our What's On Calendar, please submit a request to Vetinia Gorman, who manages our hall bookings, at this email address: hallbookings@stonelawchurch.org.

Organisations and other users of our building (i.e. Brownies, Toddlers, Mid-week services, etc.) should use the same address to advise Vetinia of holiday dates. Please help us to keep our church calendar accurate, by updating Vetinia on any upcoming events and/or changes.

Janis Neil

GLASGOW PRESBYTERY CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE MARCH 9TH 2024



Church of Scotland Faith Action, together with Christian Aid, Eco-Congregation Scotland and the Guild, are running a Climate Roadshow on Saturday March 9th 2024 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m, in Cadder Church South Halls, Bishopbriggs G64 2JA

For directions and more details, go to <https://www.cadderchurch.org> or visit the Cadder Church Facebook page.

This Climate Roadshow is a half-day workshop for churches to network with others in their presbytery, and to hear from national organisations about campaigns, resources and activities that support local action on climate justice and reducing carbon emissions.

For more information please contact edinburgh@christian-aid.org or cflenley@churchofscotland.org.uk

LUNCH BUNCH



At the King's Park Hotel, February 4th 2024

The Lunch Bunch is a group of Stonelaw Church folk who usually meet on the last Sunday of the month after the morning service, for food and fellowship somewhere locally. It's an intergenerational group and we simply enjoy a chat with each other over a meal.

Whether you'd like to join us every month, or just once in a while, please look out for announcements in the church email or speak to me at church. We would love you to join us!

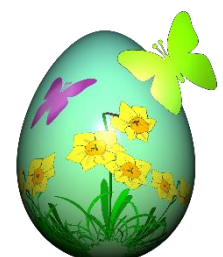
Margaret A. Borland

NATIONAL MISSION TEAM NEWS

The Lodging House Mission "Knit Together" Exhibition displayed 139 blankets from 30 local organisations, and over £800 was raised; the project was a huge success. Our own "Square Knitters" contributed an amazing 13 blankets and 3 lap blankets to the project.

The LHM Easter Egg Appeal begins on the 14th February and will run to the 24th March. Each egg will be labelled with the message "A Gift of Hope". These eggs will be given to individuals in temporary accommodation and hostels. A box will be placed in the Meeting Place from Sunday 18th February until Sunday 24th March.

Dorothy McTaggart National Mission Team Convenor



NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION AND MANAGERS

As announced in the Winter magazine, David McTaggart has stepped down after six years as Session Clerk. We thank David warmly, and welcome the new Joint Session Clerks: William Baird and Lesley Nisbet. (*More on this news will appear in the Summer magazine*)

ABBNEYFIELD CHURCH SERVICES

Stonelaw Church has recently re-established its long-standing links with Abbeyfield Care Home, at 78 Stonelaw Drive. Services take place on the last Sunday of each month and start at 2.00pm. Please feel free to join us for a joyful time of song and worship, led by Rev Neil Watson.

Tom Nisbet

RETIRAL OFFERINGS

Our next Retiral Offerings will be to the following organisations:

MAY: RELEASE INTERNATIONAL - a UK-based Christian ministry, supporting believers around the world who are persecuted for Christ and the gospel.

www.releaseinternational.org (See Margaret's Borland's article on p.17)

AUGUST: THE BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST - a national charity dedicated to ending homelessness in Scotland, one person, one family and one community at a time.

www.bethanychristianchurch.com

Please put cash or cheque offerings in a labelled envelope indicating where the money is to go and place it in the Meeting Place offering plate. If you prefer to make a bank transfer, in a branch or online, please use Sort Code **80-12-75** and Account Number **00465105** - and remember to use a reference that makes it clear which retiral offering your donation is for. Alternatively you can go directly to the charity's website and give online.

EXTRACTS FROM TEARFUND THANK YOU LETTERS

12TH DECEMBER 2023 HARVEST OFFERING

"Thank for you for your gift of £664. Your giving is helping to transform communities in countries like Uganda, where Tearfund's partner Eco Brixis is recycling tonnes of plastic waste into reusable items and creating 3,000 job opportunities for local people. Please continue to pray for Uganda and to pray for us."

3RD JANUARY 2024 EMERGENCY CHRISTMAS APPEAL

"Thank you so much for your generous gift of £758.70 to the Middle East Emergency Appeal. Thanks to your donation, local churches will be able to respond to the needs of people across the region. Please continue to pray for those affected by the conflict."

THE GAS MAN COMETH. AN ELECTRIFYING TALE OF TWO COOKERS

**"'Twas on the Monday morning, the gas man came to call,
The gas tap wouldn't turn, it wasn't getting gas at all;
He tore out all the skirting boards to try and find the main,
And I had to call a carpenter to put them back again!" ***

It seems that for years, the most exciting aspect of providing hot food from the church kitchen was the thrill of not knowing whether the gas oven would light, and whether it would be necessary to call on that select group of people who possessed the "special technique". So back in 2022, the Managers decided to investigate replacing it, as the faulty part was now obsolete.

When the gas man came to call, he confirmed that he could supply a reconditioned replacement for around £1,200, but that current regulations mandated a “gas interlock system” and a larger extraction hood (£3,600 to supply and fit) - an eye-watering total of nearly £5,000. This would necessitate the removal of one of the high-level cupboards and there would also be annual servicing and safety checks. It was suggested, however, that an electric cooker would be about half the cost and avoid the need to change the extraction hood.

When the electrician came to call, he recommended a Lincat Silverlink 600 of similar size to the existing cooker. A reconditioned model was available which, together with installation and removal of the old model, would cost around £1,300. We had an oven-ready solution.

The electrician also recommended a “3-phase” model. (Interested readers can look up the physics of 3-phase electricity for themselves.) Suffice it to say, this model is more powerful and efficient, but also operates at 415 volts instead of the usual 230 - so a suitable supply, with the necessary equipment at each end, would need to be wired into the kitchen from the distribution board in the “dunny”, at a cost of around £800. That was done in March 2023. However, it was necessary for the new wiring to be connected to the mains by our electricity supplier, as this required the temporary disconnection of the meter. Eventually, in June 2023, they quoted £400 to do this.

‘Twas on a Tuesday afternoon in July that their contractor’s electrician came to call, but despite having been informed of what was required, he was not qualified to work on 3-phase electricity.

“Twas on a Wednesday afternoon in late August that another electrician came to call, having cancelled an appointment three weeks earlier. At last! But no, he fitted a smart meter that had been requested months before, not the 3-phase connection.

A further electrician arrived in late September, but he was not qualified to do 3-phase work either! The job was eventually done a few days later. By this time, of course, the reconditioned cooker had long been sold, so it was necessary to purchase a new one of the same type. In November this was installed quickly and efficiently by local company Catering World at a total cost of some £2,700. We are grateful for their advice, and for the generous legacies that enabled the total cost to be met.

In the song, after various mishaps each day...

**“Twas on a Friday morning the painter made a start,
With undercoats and overcoats he painted every part,
Every nook and every cranny but I found when he was gone
He'd painted over the gas tap and I couldn't turn it on!” ***

Praise God, our comedy didn't end that way. We now have a brand-new cooker for much less than the gas alternative. We hope that those kind people who cater for us will enjoy using it without the need for special techniques to make it work – and we apologise to any who may miss the *frisson* of uncertainty.

John Cuthbert, on behalf of the Managers

* You can hear the full song, “**The Gas Man Cometh**” by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VKNF5mEXA4)



SANCTUARY LIGHTS UPGRADE

Have you looked up at our wonderful Sanctuary roof structure and noticed the new lights? Just before Christmas last year, all the high-level lights were replaced with modern LED bulbs, including the uplighters that illuminate the roof trusses. So, for the first time in many years, all the lights are not only working, but much brighter.

The upgrade took some time to complete! Back in 2019, during the Sanctuary modernisation works, a member of the congregation kindly donated money specifically earmarked for upgrading the Sanctuary lights. Due to the height, the high-level lights have to be worked on by professionals. It is necessary to go into the roof space above the timber ceiling in order to lower the lights, even to replace the bulbs. At that point we had a quote from a steeplejack company to do this, but for various reasons, the work didn't go ahead and then in March 2020, Covid-19 came along... putting the project on hold.

As things returned to normal, in Spring 2022, we took the opportunity, while the major roof repairs were under way, of using the steeplejack company, Airtex, to try lowering one set of lights (above the north side of the chancel area) replacing all the bulbs with 13-watt LEDs. This worked well, but we discovered that it was no longer possible to obtain bulbs for the original uplighters - so their full replacement was required.

In late 2022 we decided to experiment with a brighter 20-watt LED bulb. This proved successful and in early 2023 all the bulbs under and above the side galleries were replaced leaving only the high-level lights outstanding. Our local electrician, Angus Johnston, quoted to replace them, including fitting new LED flood lights uplighters. We accepted his quotation and the works were completed on 18th December last year.

The total cost of all of the upgrade was almost £1,900. Particular thanks go to Richard Taylor for his background work on this project. Hopefully, it will be many years before we have to replace those lights again!

HEATING PIPES REPAIRS

In November last year, a small leak was spotted adjacent to the cast iron radiators at the bottom of the north-west stairwell. The leak was coming from a section of pipework as it passed under the stairs, and unfortunately, there was no easy way to get into this void to repair the leak. As a temporary measure, to allow the Main Hall to be heated, we were able to isolate the halls' north side heating pipes, which was far from ideal (and meant the Creche lost its central heating) but it did mean that most activities could carry on as usual.

To repair the pipework, the most cost-effective option was to reroute the pipes within the Main Hall. This was completed in early February by Gibson and Goold (the heating contractor who undertook all the heating changes required by the 2019 Sanctuary modernisation project.) The new pipes are all stainless steel so easily spotted and they shouldn't rust! The total cost of the repair was £3,860.22 (including VAT). We should be able to claim back the VAT cost through the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme.

Stuart Menzies, Convenor of the Managers

Ed: It's clear from these three reports, along with other tasks not mentioned here, that a vast amount of hard work is diligently and patiently done, largely unseen, by Stonelaw's Managers. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!



December Meeting

Thanks to £500 of funding from Rutherglen Community Council, we were able to provide our visitors and guests with an afternoon tea and a small Christmas gift. Andrew McTaggart brought along two more opera singers and an accompanist, and they all entertained us with a selection of Christmas songs. One of our visitors (who lives with dementia) said on his way out that he felt he had been at a 'real concert'.
Job done!

January Meeting

Clyde Gateway (the regeneration body for Rutherglen, Bridgeton and Dalmarnock) blessed us with £500 of funding. This also had to be used for a party, so we had a lovely start to the new year. Another afternoon tea was followed by music from Alan and Louise Mairs, who got our toes tapping with a selection of music including some lively fiddle tunes. This was perfect, as we had a tartan theme, given that our party was held midway between Hogmanay and Burns' Night.

February Meeting

At our Valentine-themed session we were blessed with a wonderful entertainer, Neil Sturgeon. Neil sang and played the guitar for a wide selection of old favourites and our visitors (and volunteers) joined in with gusto!

One-to-One Music Therapy Pilot Project

At the time of writing, two more weeks of music therapy remain. Despite occasional inclement weather, problems with our heating (now resolved) and the odd absence due to illness, our Past Times visitors are continuing to enjoy their music therapy. Our music therapist Kim reports that those who were somewhat reluctant in the beginning are flourishing now they have settled in. Meanwhile those who threw themselves into singing and playing from the beginning are continuing to make the most of their access to therapy.

Thanks are due to Jean Murray and Jane Paulsen who have sewn a border (of the same fabric) on to the bottom of the curtains in Transept Corner. It was a time-consuming job to make them reach the ground but it has made a huge difference for music therapy, in terms of retaining the heat in this area. Thanks also to Stuart and Sandy Menzies who put the curtains up (and down) several times to make this possible.

Funding Update

The review date for our initial application for funding from the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was delayed at the beginning of the year to the 16th of February. We have also completed an application to a different (but very similar fund) called the Integrated Care Fund. We have recently discovered that this application will also be reviewed on 16th February. Our hope is that our application to one of these funds is successful, to allow us to expand, and so help more people living with dementia and their carers. Integral to this would be the recruitment of a part-time manager to look after our visitors and volunteers and secure a strong future for this important work. At the time of writing, we still do not know the outcome. We would welcome your prayers.

Janis Neil 07808 926 067

STONELAW CHURCH REGISTER

Mr James Young died on 5th February 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim's daughters Lorraine and Sharon and their families.

Morag Moore, Church Rollkeeper

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU, STONELAW!

My grateful thanks go to all the church family who were so kind and thoughtful during my spell in hospital. Your prayerful concern, messages and flowers were equally appreciated during my spell of recovery, easing my worries and discomfort. These thoughts will remain with me now as I return to be with you.

Móira Baird

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and the Church flowers I received after the recent passing of my Dad, John Barron. Thank you also for your kind thoughts and prayers. They were very much appreciated. It's just lovely belonging to this Church Family!

Alison McCartan

I should like to thank the church family for the kindness shown to me on my 'big' birthday last year. Unfortunately, my thank you didn't make it into the last magazine – but better late than never! Thank you for the flowers, cards, gifts and your good wishes, and for helping me to celebrate my birthday.

I also want to thank you all for your prayers while I was in hospital in November. Mum and I were very aware of being upheld in prayer and really appreciate your support and prayerful concern.

Margaret A. Borland

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BAPTISM, PHOEBE!

It was a special occasion on Sunday 7th January, when after weeks of illness, Phoebe had recovered enough to come to church for her baptism.

Stonelaw was packed with friends and family from near and far, who joined our church family to share in the celebration. Neil had invited two friends to help him: Rev. Allan P Morton, who administered the baptism, and the Rev. David McElrath who preached, allowing Neil and Elizabeth to focus on their role as Phoebe's parents. Later there was a lovely atmosphere down in the Main Hall where tea and cakes were served in abundance, and we had a chance to speak to some of our visitors.

In the next weekly email, Neil said, "It was truly wonderful to be able to celebrate and rejoice with everyone as we brought Phoebe forward for baptism. Our families and friends were all blown away by the love, joy, kindness, and hospitality that was on display within the Stonelaw family."



MALCOLM DOIG 1934 – 2023.

Many thanks to David Doig for sharing these memories of his father with us. Malcolm's death was announced in the Winter magazine.

Malcolm was born and brought up in Netherlee, Glasgow, but his parents later lived in Largs. They were fiercely Presbyterian; for example, members of Malcolm's family have memories of taking the Sunday roast dinner down to Largs and warming it there, because his parents would not undertake domestic duties on the Sabbath!

As a junior, Malcolm joined his local golf club, Williamwood, where he was a scratch golfer and went on to be a county golfer as well as being Captain. Latterly, he was a Life Member of Williamwood and a non-playing member of Pollok.

Malcolm attended Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School in Crown Street, Gorbals on a bursary. He did well academically and went to Glasgow University to study medicine. Both at school and at university, Malcolm was a talented sportsman and played in the first fifteen rugby teams.

Malcolm met his future wife, Greta, at an event on the clipper ship, The Carrick in 1957. They married in Stonelaw Parish Church in 1960 and enjoyed a wonderful life together in Thorn Drive, Burnside. Their sons, Colin and David, were born in 1961 and 1964 respectively. When there were school fees to be paid, Malcolm did three or four visits to Saudi Arabia and Baghdad, where he assisted in setting up Eye Clinics in hospitals-

After retiring, Malcolm spent much of his time serving as Greta's unpaid secretary when she was so heavily involved in her church, Guild and National Bible Society commitments. He laboriously typed out her talks and agendas for the endless committees in which she was involved.

Malcolm and Greta both served for a considerable period of time as Elders at Stonelaw Church, and as Glasgow Presbytery Elders. The family has received many messages expressing admiration of and gratitude for Malcolm's service to the church: as an elder, as someone who was always willing to give medical advice, and for stepping in as a first aider during services.

After Greta's death in 2020 (three months before their 60th Wedding Anniversary), Malcolm's health frailties became apparent, and he was a frequent visitor to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Malcolm spent his last year at the Balmoral Care Home in Kilmarnock Road, and it was a comfort to David's family to have him so close, as they could 'wheel' him along to their house to have meals with the family, sit in the garden or just watch TV.

Two late highlights for Malcolm, in 2023, were attending the wedding of his granddaughter Ailsa (David's daughter) and being visited by his great granddaughter, Henrietta (Colin's granddaughter).

After losing his mobility and sight, Malcolm was ready to go. His passing has left an enormous void in the lives of his family, friends alike.

We would like to thank James' daughters Sharon and Lorraine for their kind assistance with this tribute.

James, mostly known as Jim, was born in 1948 in Lennoxton, the only child of William and Ruby Young, and spent most of his life in Springburn. He attended Elmvale Primary school, then Albert Secondary School, until leaving to become an apprentice upholsterer. Jim met Isabel Brae at a Boys' Brigade dance when he was 16 years old. They married in 1966, at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, where his father was Session Clerk. Their daughter Sharon was born in 1967, followed by Lorraine in 1968.

Jim's career with British Rail began in the "Caley" works (St Rollox) in Springburn, but he soon progressed from upholstery to working in the engineering department, as a wheel balancer. Meanwhile family life continued in Carbisdale Street, Springburn. Thanks to free train travel for BR workers, the Youngs enjoyed many holidays in Spain, travelling 36 memorable hours each way, by train and boat.

Jim enjoyed his sports. First and foremost it was golf, for which he found he had a talent. He became a single-figure handicap golfer and achieved many holes in one. Jim tried to get Sharon and Lorraine involved, but to no avail. Jim played his golf with the "Caley" club at Littlehill golf course and won many trophies. Jim's other sporting interest was football. He trained as a football coach and volunteered at a youth club in Balornock Primary School.

Jim was a wonderful father, father-in-law and grandfather. He warmly welcomed Lorraine's husband Stephen and Sharon's husband Peter into the family, and was thrilled by the arrival of his grandchildren: Hayley, Nicholas and Zahra. Jim was gracious and thoughtful to others and when he could, he would offer help to anyone he came into contact with. After Jim and Isabel's divorce in 1997, Jim spent a lot of time with his father, who lived nearby. Jim often brought him over for Sunday lunch at Lorraine's, to see toddler Hayley.

Sharon, Peter and family settled in Australia and Jim made several long visits - to avoid the Scottish winter and enjoy the summer climate in Melbourne. He spoke about kangaroos on the golf course, and the occasion when, soon after Peter had picked him up from the airport, they hit a kangaroo on the motorway! Happily the kangaroo managed to bounce away, Jim got over his shock and Peter's car suffered little damage.

In 2019, Jim moved from Springburn to Rutherglen to be closer to Lorraine and Stephen, and quickly settled into his flat in Stonelaw Court. Soon after moving, Jim began attending Stonelaw Parish Church, where he enjoyed Sunday worship and various social events, including visiting the Meeting Place Café and attending Café Church. Jim felt welcomed into the congregation and was so friendly that he quickly became part of our church family. He always spoke very fondly about his own family - in Scotland and in Australia alike.

Eventually, ill health and dementia set in, but Jim tried to battle on. With Isabel's help, he attended the Stonelaw Dementia Friendly Café where he enjoyed the entertainment and, in particular, the singing from their special guests.

Jim had drawn closer to God in his final years – surely an answer to his father's prayers. On 9th April 2023, at the Easter Day service, Jim, along with Kirsteen McLaren, professed publicly his faith in Jesus and became a member of the Church of Scotland. We know how much this occasion meant to Jim, because he had his Membership certificate, stating 'I Belong' proudly displayed on his Stonelaw Court sitting room wall. Jim will be sadly missed by his family and by his many friends.

REFIRED – NOT RETIRED!

I'd like to begin with a wee thank you for all my cards, flowers and good wishes on my big birthday in January. I'm sure I can hear some of you chuckling as I say, "I can't believe I'm this age!" But here I am, and I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful family and extended family in Stonelaw. For this I thank God, every day.

God has been so good to me! I've been blessed with a wonderful family in my husband, children and grandchildren, and as I look back over my seventy years, I thank God for His faithfulness. Even when I have not been so faithful to Him, He has never let me go.

Life is not about looking back, though! I now look forward to what God has in store for me and the family of believers where He has placed me. I could sit back and say, "Well, I'm over the hill now - I can relax!" - but in saying that, I am reminded of Tommy MacNeil's book "The Sleeping Giant" where he writes: "In God's service we don't retire but REFIRE!" What a challenge - or privilege. That means not saying, "I'm too old! Why would God choose me to do that?"

Well, the answer is as true today as it was on the day that He called us into His service. He loves us and He chooses us to do our part. We have to realise the privilege it is that God chose you and me. He sees something in you and me that we cannot see ourselves. This is mind-blowing, such an incredible thing! If only we could grasp what God sees in us, and rise to the challenge, what kind of Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Glasgow, Scotland could we have?

Let's ask our Father to forgive our lethargy and to give us instead a daily infilling of His Holy Spirit, to make us the people He has called us to be. Let's do our bit to see His Kingdom come. We pray it every week, but do we realize what it could mean, if we were to be REFIRED in our service of the King of Kings?

My prayer is "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." I believe that in 2024 God has a special thing in store for us, and I don't want to be left out. Do you?

God bless you all,

Jean Murray

MORE WHAT'S ON NEWS FROM DANNY SMITH

HEALTHY N HAPPY runs a wide variety of free activities for all ages, at their No 18 Venue in Farmeloan Road and across Rutherglen and Cambuslang.

www.healthynhappy.org.uk Tel. 646 0123

For example, Danny recommends their Qigong class on a Friday 1.00 -2.00 pm. This exercise uses slow and precise body movements with controlled breathing and mental focusing to improve balance, flexibility, muscle strength, and overall health.

ROCK CHOIR is another community activity that Danny has heard about - but he's not yet tried it out. Have you? If so, please tell him and us about it! The nearest Rock Choir for our area meets in Springhall Community Centre, on Thursdays at 7.45-9.15pm. A taster session is free, and membership costs £110 per term or £27.50 per month.

For details, go to <https://rockchoir.com/> or phone **01252 714 276**

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

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



Please pray for Ross, Alison and all volunteers involved with Running Easter Code in 14 local primary schools. Please pray that the young people would take time to reflect on the events of the first Easter.

Please pray for the interviews for a Youth and School worker to work alongside Ross. These will take place on Wednesday 28th February in the evening.

Give thanks that we have appointed an admin assistant who will hopefully be starting in early March. More details to follow soon.

Give thanks for the Lanarkshire primary weekend. 40 young people attended and were looked after by a wonderful team. Everyone had a great Wonka-themed weekend, with lots of opportunities to explore the Bible and respond to Jesus.

To give financial support to Reachout, you can either make a bank transfer to the Reachout Bank of Scotland account:

Account Name: **Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Trust**

Sort code **80-22-60** Account no. **20215967**

or you can send a cheque, made payable to the Reachout name as above, to Alan Robertson, Treasurer, 69 Springfield Park Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 3RG

PRAYING ON ZOOM FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Are you feeling helpless and distressed as you read or hear about the Middle East Crisis? Here's something that might help, if you have access to Zoom or can take part with a friend or family member.

Why not join the Church of Scotland, Christian Aid Scotland and some of their other partners in praying together once a month for peace in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory? These gatherings give us a chance to hear from the

church's partners in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, and are part of a worldwide prayer movement. No-one is expected to pray out loud and you don't need to sign up beforehand.

So far, the day and time seems likely to vary each month, perhaps to suit a range of people. Look out for future dates and log-in details in Stonelaw's weekly email, or keep an eye out for news at :

www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-locally/scotland/events-scotland

Would you like more information about the Church of Scotland's Middle East involvement? This page is worth visiting: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-views/church-of-scotland-in-israel-and-palestine>

Jean MacKenzie

NORTH KOREA: A VERY SECRET COUNTRY

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who signed Christmas cards which found their way to persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. They were such a blessing to those suffering for their faith. Release International was most grateful for our support.



It's fair to say that we are fascinated by the country of North Korea - a very secretive country. We don't know what it's like to live there and we certainly don't know what it's like to be a Christian there.

With this in mind, can I encourage you to listen to a podcast called 'Faithful where we are'? This can be found on the Release website at <https://releaseinternational.org/podcast/> (Scroll down to find the recommended title.)

You will hear Eric Foley, South Korea head of the charity 'Voice of the Martyrs' speaking about his ministry and how it was transformed by listening to, and understanding, North Korean Christians.

We can find it difficult to know how to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters, so I am including prayer points from Release's prayer diary for this quarter: <https://releaseinternational.org/pray> I hope these will be helpful to you and that you will be encouraged to remember the persecuted in your prayers.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our suffering brothers and sisters who have fled persecution.

Comfort those who mourn the loss of home, family and livelihood.

Establish them in a new community where they can heal and flourish.

We pray especially for Christians in North Korea, that they would remain faithful witnesses.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

Margaret A Borland

If you'd like to know more about Release International's work, you can visit <https://releaseinternational.org> or ask me in church.

NEWS FROM THE RUTHERGLEN CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE

RETURN OF THE CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT!

The Rutherglen Quiz Night for Christian Aid will be held on Friday 8th March at 7.30pm in the Hamilton Road Halls, 27 Hamilton Road, Rutherglen G73 3DF. Please come - on your own, with a friend - or round up a team! Tickets, at £5.00 including refreshments, are available from Helen and Jean (see below), or, depending on how fast they sell, at the door.



SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY 12TH MAY

Christian Aid Week starts with a Big Brunch on 12th May downstairs, after our morning service. Please come, and bring a friend!

Jean MacKenzie 07771 817954 and *Helen Paulsen* 07743 028307

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

The 131st Boys Brigade Company finished 2023 by attending the pantomime at Rutherglen Town Hall. The boys, leaders and family members all enjoyed it, especially when the 131 and a couple of the boys were given a shout out.



Our return in January was busy. We updated merit badge records, set up a programme and discussed our goals for the future. Our leaders, both of the Junior (age 8-11) and Anchor (age 5-8) sections, are closely involved. Active recruitment of Anchors Section boys will be a priority for us, as in two years, up to 11 boys will move from Juniors to the Company Section (age 11-14). We need to boost our numbers now.

We have a good rapport with families. Every week we send an update on the night's activities to our 131st BB Family WhatsApp group. The camaraderie that the boys share, and their triumphant reactions to overcoming a company challenge, would make Scrooge smile. There is no doubt that the younger boys gain confidence from the vocal support of the older lads, and this shows in all activities.

We are applying for funding to various groups, as the cost of building a Company and participating in Battalion events can be a financial challenge. We want to thank our church for the support we receive, and I would also like to thank the leaders for the time and effort they give willingly for the well-being of the 131st Company and its members.

Walter Smyth and the 131st BB team: Mabel, Fozia, Emma, Anne and Kyle.
Mobile **07586 255 466** Email: walt_smyth1966@yahoo.co.uk

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES & MAGAZINE CALENDAR

GUIDANCE FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

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

HOW TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON ZOOM

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

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

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

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

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

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2024 - AND THANKS

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

Many thanks from the editorial team to everyone who has contributed items for this issue. We are also very grateful to Eleanor Crawford of Burnside Blairbeth Church for printing it, to Jane Paulsen for collecting the printed copies, and to Fiona Benson, Isobel Wilson and her team for distributing it.