

***Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community***

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## WORSHIP WITH US BY TELEPHONE

Did you know that you can join in the **Zoom Sunday Service at 10.30am** and the **Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm** live, by telephone? First, ask anyone who gets the Saturday emails, or anyone in the Contacts list on page 22, for the specific Zoom Meeting ID and passcode.

Then, 5 minutes before the start time, dial **0131 460 1196**. You will be asked to enter the specific Meeting ID and then the passcode for that Zoom meeting.

Another option is to listen to the **audio recording of the Sunday Service on 0141 465 4638** from Sunday 2.30pm onwards. The call is charged at the local rate.

You can also join one of the **Thursday House Groups** live by phone. These meet on the first Thursday of the month. Call Jennifer Menzies on **07974 793 235** for the 10.30am group or Dorothy McTaggart on **07815 949 648** for the 7.30pm group.

## LETTER FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTER

The old joke goes something like this:

Question: How many Elders does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Change? Why change?

Change is something that affects us all. Sometimes, it is straightforward to deal with. Our forebears lived without electricity and running water. Many of us can remember days when we didn't have indoor toilets and baths were something for which you had to travel. Those who are younger may recall the introduction of computers and mobile phones. Yet there aren't many who wish we didn't have our utilities, sanitation and electronic devices.

Likewise, we change our clothes, hairstyles, beds, carpets, décor and shoes; our bodies regenerate and change as we grow. We all live with change. Indeed, we often say things like, "I need a change", or "it's time for a change". When change is something we instigate, it is a powerful motivator.

The difficulties arise when we don't understand the need for change, or when the change is outwith our control, especially when we feel forced into it.

There is a significant factor confronting us as a congregation which will certainly involve change. I'm thinking of the process of calling a new minister. Are we ready at this point, or do we (or the things we do and the way we do them) need to change?

We are already contending with the changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. That hasn't been easy and the end is not yet in sight. Perhaps more change will be required. Yes, there are interesting days ahead for us. Change and consideration of change is beckoning. Do we need to change? Are we ready for change? Are we willing to change? The precise detail and nature of any change may not yet be visible, but it is coming. Do not fear it; embrace it. Remember, change can bring blessings and growth.

The best way to approach a time of change is to focus our minds on God and seek His will in prayer. God is dependable and faithful. He is in control of all things. He is there before the change, ever-present during the change and continues to be there after the change.

Have a look at Psalm 46 and see how the Psalmist reacts to being threatened. These verses show that his trust remains in the Lord:

*"The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress*

Psalm 46 verses 7 and 11. (English Standard Version)

God, grant us discernment, wisdom and vision as we look to the future, with all the possibilities which change presents.

*Rev John Martindale*

## NEWS FROM STONELAW'S KIRK SESSION WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Session recently formed a Worship Committee to plan our worship up to Christmas.

We have decided to invite our uniformed organisations to join us on Zoom on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, as it is not possible to have our customary 'parade' service due to Covid restrictions.

We arranged our usual Christmas services and look forward to Discoverers taking part on Sunday 20th December.

We also decided to continue using Zoom for Sunday worship, but with the Rev John Martindale leading worship from the Sanctuary, starting on Sunday, 8th November. Our organist, Alan Jenkins will be there, along with Erin, on violin. Joanne will also host the Zoom service from the church but there will be no congregation, at least in the short term.

Session had successfully trialled Presbytery's recommendations for public worship in the Sanctuary at a Wednesday service in September. So the Wednesday 2pm service will restart on the 28th October, followed two weeks later on the 11th November. It is not possible to have any music or singing at these fortnightly services but Rev John will lead worship with Bible readings and prayers. All worshippers will need to wear face coverings and further details will follow. Numbers are limited, so if you wish to attend the Wednesday 2pm service please let Thérèse Reid know in advance.

You can contact Thérèse on **07508 213 099** or at [therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com](mailto:therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com) (Therese's days off are Saturday, Sunday pm and Monday; urgent calls only please.)

## STONELAW MANSE

At the June 2020 Session meeting, Stonelaw Kirk Session agreed that we should sell our traditional red sandstone manse, which was in need of upgrading, to buy a house which will be more cost effective to maintain. An offer has recently been accepted on our current manse (Subject to Concluded Missives) and we are actively searching for a suitable replacement property.

## NEW STONELAW WEBSITE

Our new website went live this week. Please visit [www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org) to check it out. If you think there are any inaccuracies or omissions, please get in touch by emailing: [info@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:info@stonelawchurch.org).

## GRACE & TRUTH BIBLE STUDY

Are you young, or young at heart? Let us study the Bible together!

*'As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby'*  
1st Peter 2:2 (KJV)


**Date and time:** Every Friday 5.30 – 7pm

**Platform:** Zoom

**Contact:** Mada at [madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com](mailto:madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com) or on **07789 619 349**

*Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje*

## HOW TO JOIN STONELAW'S ZOOM EVENTS

We have four regular meetings on Zoom. For each meeting, you need to find out the specific Meeting ID and passcode; see your Saturday Congregational email or ask the host. It's easier for him or her if you log in about 10 minutes ahead of the start time. 

**Sunday Morning Service** at 10.30am, with Breakout Rooms for Discoverers and Connect2. After the service we are invited to join Breakout Rooms for fellowship in small groups.

**Wednesday Prayer Meeting** from 7.30pm – 8pm with a short time for fellowship afterwards.

On the first Thursday of each month there are two options:

**Thursday Morning House Group** at 10.30am. Contact Jennifer Menzies on **07974 793 235**

**Thursday Evening House Group** at 7:30pm. Contact Dorothy McTaggart on **07815 949 648**

**Friday Grace & Truth Bible Study from 5.30 – 7pm.** Contact Mada on **07789 619 349** [madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com](mailto:madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com) For more details about this group, see page 4.

## BIG QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF TEARFUND

Stonelaw Church has supported Tearfund in various ways in the past and now we are going to do something completely different! We are going to hold a Zoom Quiz Night on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30.



Join us for a night of fun and brain-teasing action. The Zoom codes will be sent out on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Feel free to send the codes to family and friends. More teams mean more fun and money raised.

Given current Covid-19 restrictions, it looks unlikely you will be able to physically get together to play as a team, but as long as one member of a team is connected via Zoom, you can join up with someone else by telephone. What a great way to involve someone who is normally excluded from online events!

As well as having fun, we hope to raise as much money as possible for Tearfund. You can do so on this special JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stonelawchurch> Alternatively, call Tearfund Scotland on **0141 332 3621** or send a cheque to Suite 529-534, Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6HJ

Make your donation before, during or after the event. Every pound raised will be passed directly to Tearfund so you know it will be put into good use: to transform the lives of people like Alaya from Malawi. Alaya can no longer feed her family. Weather patterns that have guided her farming for generations have changed. Crops are failing and floods are bringing sickness and disease. Lives are at risk.

Details of how the quiz will operate will be provided on the night but if you have any questions now, please contact Janis Neil on [jneil1@virginmedia.com](mailto:jneil1@virginmedia.com) or 0141 634 1901.

## LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE 2021

The price for a 2021 subscription to **Life and Work**, the Church of Scotland monthly magazine, will be £36.00, which is an increase of £5.00 from this year. The discount to congregations has been discontinued.

However, the publishers are offering a special promotion, for 2021 only, to anyone switching to a personal order payable by Direct Debit, to be sent to their home address. The offer is £30 for a 12 months' subscription, which amounts to two free issues.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please contact me for the Direct Debit and Order forms. These should both be returned by email to [admin@lifeandwork.org](mailto:admin@lifeandwork.org) or by post to Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN.

Savings can also be made by subscribing to a digital edition at <http://www.lifeandwork.org>. If you haven't seen 'Life and Work' magazine, you might like to view a sample issue at: <https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe>

**Please let me know by 13th November** if you wish to change to a personal order, so that I can adjust the order from the church.

Best wishes

*Isobel Wilson* 0141 570 1712 [isobelwilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:isobelwilson@yahoo.co.uk)

## RUTHERGLEN STONELAW CHURCH MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2020-2021

Month(s)	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
December/January 2021	15th November 2020	6th December
February/March 2021	17th January 2021	7th February
April/May 2021	14th March 2021	4th April
Summer 2021	16th May 2021	6th June
September/October 2021	15th August 2021	5th September

## CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

Jean MacKenzie 647 4913

Margaret Borland 647 5280

Vetinia Gorman 07799 645 114

Derek Westwood 01292 286 923

Contributions and suggestions are always welcome at [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org).

For the **December & January magazine**, please email items or give us a ring by **SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER**

## CHURCH REGISTER AND NEWS

Mrs Jessie Stewart died on 10th October 2020. Our prayers are with her husband Davie, their daughter Christine and son-in-law Robert.

Mr Laurie Kayser died on 13th October 2020. Our prayers are with his wife Margie, their daughter Margaret and son Graeme.

Certificates of Transference have been issued to Alan and Louise Mairs, Hazel Mairs, and Alex and Mattie Downie.

*We hope to include tributes to Jessie Stewart and Laurie Kayser in the December/January magazine. If you have memories to contribute, please send these as soon as you can, to [magazine@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:magazine@stonelawchurch.org).*

## WELCOME TO STONELAW CHURCH

We were very happy to welcome Mabel Crawford to the membership of our church on Tuesday 6th October. Mabel has been worshipping with us since Easter 2019 and in that time has very quickly become an active member of our church family. Welcome, Mabel!

## THANK YOU STONELAW

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and good wishes during my recent illness and recovery. Your kindness was very much appreciated - thank you.

*Tricia Finlayson*

Thanks very much to the Prayer Chain (see p.13) for praying for my friend Linda's daughter, Amy Blake, who died recently aged 39 years. Please pray for Amy's husband Campbell, the children and the wider family. Your support has been appreciated,

*Sandra Coia.*

## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

If you would like to support this year's Shoebox Appeal you can download a leaflet by scrolling down to the foot of this page: <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal-registration>  
Alternatively, we can deliver a leaflet to you - just give one of us a call - see below.

If you would like to give money to cover the cost of delivering the shoeboxes, this can be done at: <https://blythswood.org/donate/> or if you prefer, you can write a cheque. Just let Jill or Mary know and they will deliver it to Blythswood along with the shoeboxes.

Please have any completed shoeboxes and cheques ready for us to collect from **Sunday November 15th**

With thanks,

*Jill Rennie* (569 9340 or 07751 896 009) and *Mary McDougall* (634 6549 or 07795 957 226)



## *A Message of Hope at the Gate of the Year*

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*by British poet Minnie Louise Haskins*

### PHONE TREE

We have set up a Phone Tree. If you would simply enjoy having a chat on the phone with a real person or if you would like someone to pray with you, please let me know and I can organise this. Equally, if this is a ministry you could offer, please get in touch with me. (Mobile 07508 213099)

### PRAYER RAILING

We also have a Community Prayer Railing outside our church. The banner reads:

If there is someone or something you wish to pray for, or about,  
in this time of uncertainty,

please feel free to tie a ribbon to our railing  
and spend a moment in prayer

*(N.B. Please bring your own ribbon)*

### NEXT STEPS GROUP

We seek God's will to help us find useful activities and ways to offer support wherever the need is, from now until April at the earliest. Having looked at the Church of Scotland website\* I see that many churches are being very creative, not only in how they support their own congregation but also in how they offer support to their wider community, within the government guidelines.

I pray that now is the time for us to engage with as many people as we can, young and old; in our congregation and in the community; to be the light in the darkness, to offer hope, to bring joy and help us all get through winter safely together.

*I will close asking God's glorious blessings of peace on each of one of you and on those whom you love.*

**Thérèse x** mobile 07508 213 099 [therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com](mailto:therese.stonelawchurch@gmail.com)

\* [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)



## CHALLENGES TO US AS CHURCH

In a recent Facebook post,\* Pete Greig - respected author, Tear Fund Ambassador, Senior Pastor of Emmaus Rd Church, Guildford, and founder of the global 24-7 Prayer Movement (whose videos on prayer have been appreciated by members of Stonelaw) - writes about recent conversations with two Christian men, both highly involved in congregational life, but now 'repelled by Christianity' because of 'the terrible, appalling attitudes held and atrocities done by its leaders'.

This is strong language, and Pete Greig does not spell out these 'attitudes' and 'atrocities', no doubt in the interests of discretion and confidentiality, but admits that he feels sad as a Christian and as a church leader.

Pete's article is meant to shock and challenge all those of us 'safely within the fold' - because the 'ninety-nine' in our church family need to be nourished by us, even while we search for the 'one lost sheep'.

Here are some of Pete Greig's challenges to us, as Church:

- We aspire to be good witnesses to the world...yet at times we can alienate and even hurt our own family. Our sons and daughters are leaving the fold by the thousand. The Gospel is not the problem - we in the church family are the problem.
- We must do more than just preach the Gospel and try to be nice. We must also urgently, practically, nurture communities of healing and Gospel life.
- We need systemic change in the institutional church. And, of course, we must hold leaders to account whilst raising up women and men whose integrity matches their ability.
- We must be done with sentiment and nostalgia. There is hard graft - dirty and difficult work to be done: first, burying the dead religious rituals despised by Jesus (it won't be popular), and then actively building the living, loving community he actually came to establish.
- We must also be prepared to go on many long journeys with those we have lost, listening to them respectfully and befriending them unconditionally. One whiff of Bible-bashing and they will run a mile. But give it a few more chats over a few more months and there may well come a night, when one or other of these men will turn to me and finally say 'OK, talk to me about the Jesus stuff. How can you really believe all that rubbish? Tell me more.'

Our back door is bigger than our front door and it has a long and winding driveway.  
Kyrie, Eleison\*\*

\*Posted on Pete Greig's Facebook page, 1st August 2020 at 08.17

\*\*Greek expression, translated "Lord, have mercy"

Unfortunately, Christ is being judged by our failings and we, as a church, must do all in our power to check what we say and do, both in and outside our church family, so that others may see Christ in us and want more.

*John Shaw and Derek Westwood*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Friends

There has been a temptation to turn every Treasurer's update since traditional Sunday worship was suspended by Covid-19 into an appeal to the congregation. Recognising that there will be members of the congregation feeling the impact of government restrictions on their jobs and livelihoods, and not wanting to overburden people with appeals, I have tried to hold off on making a formal financial appeal until it is absolutely necessary.

Unfortunately we have now reached the point where it has become absolutely necessary to make a financial appeal to the congregation. Under normal circumstances, I would be making one from the front of the Church.

I would be very grateful if you could give this appeal, and the explanation of our financial position below, your prayerful consideration.

Using our financial position in September as a base, I have started forecasting what our position will look like come the end of the year. While we seem to have avoided the risk of depleting the General Fund in the year, I am currently forecasting a significant deficit that could reach as high as £10,000. This appears to result from a combination of the reduction in contributions from organisations impacted by Covid-19 and the loss of ordinary offerings.

This being the case, I would be very grateful if those who are able to do so would prayerfully consider increasing their donations to the Church.

To give the congregation as full a picture as possible – although our immediate focus is on the General Fund - I would also like to discuss the position of the Fabric Fund and the Development Worker Fund.

The Fabric Fund currently holds approximately £23,000. However, Managers have identified approximately £6,900 worth of fabric costs as necessary. (For details, see Stuart Menzies' update on p.12) While the General Fund is in deficit, we will not be able to rebuild a reserve in the Fabric fund once this expenditure is made. This is an issue which will require to be considered by the Kirk Session and Managers.

Finally, the Development Worker fund is the one area of our finances which has not been impacted by Covid-19. Thanks to the work of the Development Worker Management committee and the support of those who donate to the fund, the balance in that fund at the end of September was approximately £9,100. While the Development Worker Fund is under less strain than the General Fund and the Fabric Fund, I would like to make it clear that the donations to this fund are still necessary; I would ask those who donate to it not to divert those donations to other funds.

This being the case, I would like to include a reminder on the next page, for anyone who wishes to do so, of the ways in which you can donate to Stonelaw Church.

## **STANDING ORDER/ ONLINE BANKING**

Either a one-off payment or a standing order can be set up using online banking.

Our bank details are:

Account: Stonelaw Church; Account Number: 00465105; Sort Code: 80-12-75.

If you wish to set up a standing order but do not have access to internet banking, a Standing Order Form (to send to your bank) can be found on our website at: <http://stonelawchurch.org/giving> or contact me and I'll get one to you. If you are thinking of setting up a standing order, then please remember that you are free to cancel this at any time.

## **POSTING A CHEQUE**

We are also able to accept donations by cheque. These should be made out to

Stonelaw Church and posted to our Free Will Offering Treasurer:

Iain Morrison, Flat G/L, 5 Parkhill Drive, Rutherglen, G73 2PJ

## **TEXT DONATION SERVICE**

We have set up a text donation service to allow donations by text for those who are not able to use online banking or cheques.

To use this service, text STONELAWCH followed by the number of pounds you wish to donate to **70085**. E.g. STONELAWCH 5 to donate £5.

If you are thinking of using this service, then please remember that we will not keep a record of your phone number or use it to contact you for any reason.

## **GIFT AID**

No message from the Treasurer would be complete without a reminder about Gift Aid.

If you are a UK taxpayer, donating through the Gift Aid scheme means that we are able to claim back 25 pence for every £1 that you give - without your giving anything extra.

If you would like to give using the Gift Aid scheme, you will need to complete a declaration form (also available on <http://stonelawchurch.org/giving>) which should be completed and returned to Iain Morrison, as Freewill Offering Treasurer, at the address above.

If possible, please keep Iain updated with any changes either to the way you give, or the amount, so that he can keep his records accurately.

As a final point, I realise that there has been a significant change to the format of the Treasurer's Report in the last few months. I am happy to provide the more detailed table on request.

**Euan Campbell** Email: [treasurer@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@stonelawchurch.org) Tel: 07413 580 103

## MANAGERS' CHURCH FABRIC UPDATE

This year has been very different for all of us. Although we haven't been worshipping in our sanctuary for over half the year, the Managers have had the continuing task of looking after our building. Having now gone through the Church of Scotland's reopening process (in two phases: firstly the halls and secondly the Sanctuary) we have had to address various issues as well as the routine maintenance of our building and the manse. This article details the main areas which have needed attention.

### ELECTRICAL 'C2' ITEMS

Every five years we are required to undertake a fixed electrical installation inspection. This took place in February (costing just over £1,400) and identified a number of 'C2' and 'C3' defects. The 'C2' defects are classed as "potentially dangerous" and require attention, whereas 'C3' defects are where improvements are recommended. (There are also 'C1' defects – these are where there is an imminent danger – but fortunately we didn't have any of these).

For insurance purposes we have to rectify all 'C2' defects and we instructed the electrical contractor to do these in March. In normal times, these should have been done in a few weeks but, of course, this year has been very different to normal. When lockdown came, like so many in the construction industry, our contractor put most of his staff into furlough.

In following the reopening guidance issued by the Church of Scotland, we were informed that rectifying the 'C2' items was a mandatory part of the process before Presbytery would allow us to reopen our halls (Phase 1 of our reopening). At this stage we thought it would be straightforward to get our contractor out to sort the defects. Unfortunately, the contractor had a backlog of work (with other churches in a similar situation to ourselves). We managed to resolve this by using our local electrician (he had a large job cancelled and was able to start straight away – this was a real answer to prayer).

The cost of these works was just under £700.

### PLUMBING WORKS

In the reopening process, one of the requirements was to ensure our hot and cold water systems were fully compliant with legionella (Legionnaires' disease) guidance. Unfortunately, the toilets off the main hall were not compliant. In particular, this requires hot water temperatures to be above 50°C. As a short-term measure, we were able to increase the thermostat on the hot water tank; however, when making these adjustments we discovered a small leak in the tank. Our plumber has recommended its replacement.

One consequence of the higher hot water temperatures is the need to fit thermostatic mixer valves at each sink to ensure we avoid a scald risk. In addition, again to address the risk of legionella, we have identified various other issues which we need to address – such as removing "dead legs" (these are lengths of pipes which don't connect to anything allowing water to stagnate – a known legionella risk factor). Furthermore, there are various minor plumbing issues which need addressed. The total cost of all these works is just over £1,900 (excluding VAT). We have recently accepted a quotation for this work and hope to have it completed shortly.

## ROOF WORKS

Presently we are awaiting quotes for work on our roof. This will cover both maintenance (principally gutter cleaning) and repairing leaks above the north-west stairwell and the south side of the sanctuary. We are also asking for quotes to install bird spikes at some of the windows to address the ongoing problem of pigeons (and the health risk they bring). The total cost of this may be around £5,000.

## THE MANSE

This year, although we are in the process of selling the manse, we have had various repairs. These have included the kitchen roof and gutters and the front roof. Other necessary works have included repairing the alarm system. The total cost of these was almost £1,300.

## FABRIC FUND

Much of the expenditure detailed above comes from our Fabric Fund. As detailed in the Treasurer's report this fund is going to be significantly depleted by these works, especially as this year we have little or no incoming funds earmarked for Fabric. The Managers ask you to consider prayerfully a donation that is specifically for this fund. Indeed if you are able to you may wish to give to one of the items that has been highlighted above. If you want more information on any of the above works please get in touch (contact details below). Please contact the Treasurer directly about giving to the fund.

*Stuart Menzies*

Convenor, The Managers [menzies06@btinternet.com](mailto:menzies06@btinternet.com)

## NOTE

For the plumbing and roof works on the church building, as it is a listed structure (Grade B) and as these will almost certainly cost more than £1,000, we should be able to reclaim the VAT element through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme – which of course would help significantly with this cost.

## 'THE SERVICE' ON SUNDAYS AT 12 NOON ON THE BBC SCOTLAND CHANNEL

In case you haven't already heard, the BBC Scotland Channel has introduced a new programme, 'The Service', which is shown live at 12 noon on Sunday mornings and is available afterwards on the BBC iPlayer.

'The Service' is described as 'a series of religious service from a number of faiths across Scotland at a time when attendance at normal places of worship is not possible.' In the last two months, nearly all the services have been Christian.

## STONELAW CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to respond to prayer requests from the congregation, from our local community and from overseas, please phone John Shaw on **0141 569 8344** or at [johncshaw@live.co.uk](mailto:johncshaw@live.co.uk). Or contact Janis Neil whose contacts details are on page 22.

## NEWS OF ORGANISATIONS USING OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

### STONELAW PRESCHOOL

The Stonelaw Preschool, like all schools and nurseries, was forced to close in March when we went into lockdown. This left our building empty of all its usual activities, until August when the Preschool was able to reopen. Before this, we had to meet the Church of Scotland's reopening requirements: to check that our building was safe, including checking our cold and hot water systems (see p.12)

We also had to adopt a new letting agreement with specific COVID-19 clauses requiring the Preschool to submit risk assessments and operating plans detailing various procedures, e.g. how they would clean their spaces, signage, social distancing measures and strategies to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. For example, the children now stay in two "bubbles", one based in the Crèche Room and the other in the Mid-Hall.

In addition, consent was needed from the Kirk Session and Glasgow Presbytery before reopening the halls. This was a substantial task which was achieved in a very short time. We had our approval on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August and Preschool resumed the next week.

For the Preschool, this new term also marks a new daily format. Previously there were two separate sets of children in the morning and afternoon. As the Scottish Government has increased the number of free nursery hours, the Preschool have adapted their format accordingly. They now have just one set of children each day (with lunch being provided).

In addition to the halls, the Preschool has the use of the garden area on the south side of church. As part of their COVID-19 response, nurseries are being encouraged to have the children outside as much as possible, so, to help with this, they applied successfully for a grant to upgrade the garden with a new shelter and activities. The first stage of this work was completed during the October break.

I hope you will agree that it is really good news that our building is once again being used on a daily basis by 17 local children and the Preschool staff. Of course, we really want to get back to how it was before COVID, with other organisations using our halls. Please pray that we can find ways of bringing more organisations and church activities back to Stonelaw in the months to come.

### CALDERWOOD OUT OF SCHOOL AND HOLIDAY CLUB

Over the last ten years our halls have been used by Calderwood Out of School Club to provide childcare during the school holidays. This is run by Vetinia Gorman. With the successful reopening of the halls, Vetinia applied to the Kirk Session to use the Main Hall for the September weekend and the October break. Like the Preschool, the club had to sign up to a COVID letting agreement and submit risk assessments and operating procedures for approval. Session agreed to these in September, and the club used our halls during the October break.

The reopening of the Preschool and the Out of School Club not only brings Stonelaw some much-needed income, but also marks the first small steps back to having our building used as it should: to serve our community.

*Stuart Menzies*, Convenor of the Managers' Committee.



## 131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

By the time the Covid-19 pandemic hit Scotland in March, the 131st BB company had grown from 4 boys to 14, seven each in the Anchor Boys and the Junior Section, meeting 6.30-8pm on Thursdays in Stonelaw's Main Hall.



The company is led by Walter and Anne Smyth, with support from Amanda Stewart, Mabel and Archie Moore and Dorothy McTaggart. They also recruited four enthusiastic teenagers who signed up to complete the Volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh award, but found they enjoyed BB so much that they chose to stay on as regular helpers!

Here's an update from Walter:

"Since the lockdown began, we have kept in contact with the boys, their families and the BB team via our 131st Company WhatsApp group - posting out a programme of projects for the boys to try with their families. The boys' latest challenge was to find a large stone or pebble and paint a red poppy on it. These will be left at the Old Parish Church War Memorial.



Please pray that the boys maintain their interest in the Boys' Brigade until it is possible for us to meet again safely."

## GIRLGUIDING: 2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS



The Rainbows (aged 5-7) normally meet on Tuesday in our Main Halls from 6 - 7.15pm. Since the lockdown began, we have kept in touch with the girls' parents via WhatsApp, suggesting a variety of Guiding at Home and badgework activities for them to try.

We are hoping to start back face to face soon. However if this isn't possible, we may have to try virtual meetings.

We currently have a long waiting list for 2nd Rutherglen Rainbows. If you would like to register your interest as a volunteer, or know someone who might like to join a group, please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

*Helen Paulsen*, Rainbow leader.

## 2ND RUTHERGLEN BROWNIES



The Brownies (aged 7-10) normally meet in our halls on a Friday evening from 6.15 - 7.30pm. Diane Wilson brings us up to date:

Our last meeting in Stonelaw Church Hall was held on 13th March. Over the months when we were not permitted to meet, we kept in touch with the parents via text and emails, sharing Girlguiding resources and activities.

In September, Girlguiding Scotland allowed outdoor meetings to start and we were lucky to secure the use of the outdoor space at the Guide Hall in Clincarthill Road. It was great to see all the girls again and to finish off the badgework that had been left incomplete due to COVID. We were also able to say a proper goodbye to our 10-year-olds who were moving on to Guides.



In October, we were able to resume indoor meetings and welcome new girls to our unit. We are currently meeting in the Guide Hall on Friday evenings from 6 - 7pm but hope to be back in our home at Stonelaw Church in the near future!  
Any enquiries should be directed to: [2ndrutherglenbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:2ndrutherglenbrownies@gmail.com)

*Diane Wilson* Brownie Leader.

## 2ND RUTHERGLEN GUIDES



Guides (aged 10 -15) normally meet in the Main Hall on a Friday evening from 7.30 – 9.15 pm. Since March we have been unable to meet face to face, but we had a very successful first Zoom meeting on Friday 23rd October and hope to meet regularly from now on, following a programme of games and badgework linked to the new Girlguiding programme.

For more information on Girlguiding activities, to register your interest as a volunteer or to join a group, please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

*Jan Morgan* Guide Leader.

## STONELAW POPPY DISPLAY

Who is this for? – all ages in the congregation and friends

What? – a display of paper poppies

When? – on display in the week beginning **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Where? – at the front entrance to Stonelaw Church.



By working together as a church family, this display will be a visual reminder to all who pass the church building that we are very much alive here at Stonelaw.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to take part. All you require is red and black paper, glue and scissors.

Paper templates will be available in a box at the side of the Menzies family home and you can also drop off any finished paper poppies there. Just call one of us if you're not sure of Jennifer's address. She and Jean MacKenzie are happy to drop off the paper and pick up the completed poppies from you, if that's easier.

Please return the poppies by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

If you are passing the church that week, please take time to stop and reflect.

*Margaret Borland* 0141 647 5280 and *Jennifer Menzies* 07974 793 235

To make a donation to Poppy Scotland 2020, you can either go to [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk), call 0131 550 1543 to make a donation, text POPPY to 70007 or send a cheque to Fundraising Department, Poppyscotland, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4HQ

## LODGING HOUSE MISSION NEWS

At Stonelaw's Harvest Thanksgiving service, we often bring gifts to church of tins and packets of food for the Lodging House Mission. As this was not possible this year, the LHM team have asked if we might instead consider making a financial donation to the value of what we might have spent. As we all know, homeless people's need is greater than ever during these difficult times, and especially in the colder, darker months ahead..



Payments can be made online at the LHM website: [www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/](http://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/) or cheques can be sent to the office at 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DT.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FROM CLAIRE HERBERT, LODGING HOUSE MISSION CHAPLAIN

As autumn plans and preparations get under way, we ask for your continued prayers for:

- the Lodging House Mission Family: our staff team, our dedicated volunteers and our agency partners as we look towards winter planning
- our vulnerable client group and all who are recipients of LHM's emergency support.
- wisdom and compassion as partner agencies plan for the Winter Night Shelter
- Our wider church family as they celebrate Harvest and support our Harvest Appeal.

Let us look to the assurance of God's blessings amidst all the uncertainty.

*Deacon Claire Herbert*, LHM Chaplain

<https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/>

## LODGING HOUSE MISSION CHRISTMAS CARDS

Claire Herbert has asked that we order this year's Lodging House Mission Christmas Cards directly rather than online "*as the logistics are easier for us - but please use the method which suits you best.*"

Here are the options, in order of convenience for the LHM team:

1. **Call Jane Paulsen on 0141 643 1929** or email her at [spaulsen@btinternet.com](mailto:spaulsen@btinternet.com) as soon as possible to request a brochure, or by **Thursday 19th November** to place an order.
2. Email: [enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk)
3. Write to Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DT
4. Order online at <https://www.charitycardsonline.com/lhm> but remember there will be a delivery charge. Why not view the designs online, even if you are placing your order with Jane - to save her giving you a brochure?

## REMEMBRANCE UNDER RESTRICTION



As I write this article, more restrictions on our lifestyle have come into force. I'm sure some of you will agree with me that they have all been rather confusing! We shouldn't be meeting in other people's homes, all licensed premises will be required to close, public transport use should be minimised as much as possible and there should be no live outdoor events.

At this time of year, we remember atrocities from both World Wars and other hostilities. These battles are commemorated in many different ways; for example in church parades, wreath laying and marches. But things are rather different this year. The annual Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall will go ahead. The Royal British Legion has developed plans to ensure that it happens, working together with the BBC to create a pre-recorded programme that will be broadcast on BBC One on Saturday 7 November. In the light of current government restrictions and social distancing guidelines, they are unable to offer the opportunity for members, staff, volunteers or members of the public to attend the filming of the event. This will be disappointing news for many, but it is a necessary step to comply with government guidance and to protect the health and well-being of those who would be travelling to and attending the event whilst Coronavirus is still present.

There is no doubt that this year's acts of remembrance will be very different occasions. So, as we recall the courage and sacrifices of our armed forces, let us also bring to mind all those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by Covid-19 and the repercussions that the virus has had on weddings and funerals.

In spite of the lockdown, however, no one can restrict our beliefs or thoughts. We cannot be prevented from remembering the past, both the good and the not so good memories.

We will remember them.

*Margaret A. Borland*

## NEWS FROM THE FOODBANK COMMITTEE

### **FOODBANK MANAGER**

We are pleased to announce that Katharina Nimmo is the new Foodbank Manager for the Rutherglen and Cambuslang Foodbank. Katharina will take up this new post on Monday 26th October. We are delighted that Katharina is joining us and we look forward to working with her in the future.



### **WE ARE OPEN AGAIN!!!**

Once more the Foodbank is open again. Anyone in need of food is invited to come along at our opening times:

**St Columbkille's, Rutherglen on Mondays and Thursdays from 12.30pm - 2.30pm**

**The Baptist Church, Cambuslang on Friday from 12.30pm - 2.30pm.**

Since we reopened in September we have been working within the new procedures to keep everyone safe during this Covid crisis and have been able to help many single people and families with food.

If you need food, please come along to either Centre and someone will be there to help you. If you **can** bring a Red Voucher please do so, but if you cannot bring one, please come along anyway and we will help you out.

### **WAREHOUSE**

We hope to finalise details of our new premises very soon.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your continuing help and support.

Best wishes,

The committee members of the Rutherglen and Cambuslang Foodbank

**Mobile – 07393737030 – [info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk)**

*Ed: Due to Covid-19 regulations, donations of food and basic toiletries cannot yet be handed in at the local Food Bank itself, but these can be left at Tesco in Dalnarnock, Morrison's in Cambuslang and, on Rutherglen Main Street, at the Co-operative, Nationwide Building Society and Laurie Ross Insurance. Boots also collect toiletries for the Food Bank. Burnside Tesco's Food Bank appeal supports a wider area of South Lanarkshire.*

## CATCH UP HERE ON THE SATURDAY CONGREGATIONAL EMAILS

*We only include here items that have not already been mentioned in this issue of the magazine.*

### SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

I hope you all received our Interim Moderator's email or letter earlier this week giving the result of the Nomination Committee election. How blessed is Stonelaw Church, that sixteen people were willing to serve in this most important current task of finding our new minister. Please pray and encourage the nine who were chosen for this task. Also remember the seven who were willing to serve but were not elected, that they will not feel alienated from the process but will be led to serve Jesus in other ways.

So what comes next? Rev Gavin McFadyen, our Interim Moderator, will convene the first meeting on the 13th October when the task ahead will be set out and advice given by Rev Linda Walker from the Presbytery Advisory Committee. The Committee will have a series of confidential meetings on Zoom and end up nominating a candidate for our vacancy. Then it is up to all of us to respond by confirming the call or not, in a process to be outlined nearer the time.

Meanwhile, look after your own health by following the current advice and please look out for each other, especially those who are beginning to really struggle with the current restrictions. Perhaps it's time for some creative thinking about how we can offer further practical support to our congregation - watch this space!

*David McTaggart, Session Clerk*

[sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org) or call 07825 137 168

### SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

We are familiar with Hamlet's words from Shakespeare's pen about the choice between continuing with a difficult life or ending it. Sombre words indeed, but very much in tune with the modern spirit of sharing our troubles and speaking openly about our mental health. For Shakespeare, the unknown prospect of the afterlife: "to sleep - to sleep, perchance to dream?" tilted his choice towards continuing with this life, for all its slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

The Christian's hope is in Jesus and His resurrection from death. We too have slings and arrows to bear in this life but we are encouraged to "Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" Hebrews ch12 v2.

So what should we make of the Coronavirus pandemic? Specifically, should we reopen Stonelaw for public worship, albeit a different kind of worship with social distancing, no hymns and not even a cup of coffee and a chat afterwards?

To be open or not to be open, that is the question Session has been considering for some months. Our Zoom services have been a great success by any measure, with our Locum

Rev John Martindale leading worship faithfully and even performing some tricks to entertain the children. Other churches without online worship have had to or have chosen to reopen more quickly to meet the spiritual needs of their congregations.

To reopen or not reopen, that is a tricky question. To open our sanctuary just now, when the virus is spreading so much that Government and Presbytery advice is to reduce our activities, seems perverse. Yet to ignore the needs of our congregation seems cruel. What to do?

Session will shortly come to a conclusion about public worship in the sanctuary. (see p 4) Meanwhile, may I make a simple suggestion which we can all consider acting upon, for our own good and that of others?

Pick up the phone and invite someone you know to meet up, perhaps for a walk in a park or for a coffee and a chat in one of our local cafes. No need for a rota or permission from anyone. Why not try it, if you aren't doing so already? I think it will be good for our fellowship, good for our health, physical and mental, and good for our souls.

*David McTaggart*, Session Clerk

[sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org) or call 07825 137 168

## SAD NEWS

### **Jessie Stewart**

You may remember back in May we celebrated the 95th Birthday of Davie Stewart and the 89th Birthday of his wife Jessie, not too long after both had started living in Rodger Park Care Home. We are sad to tell you that Jessie passed away at the QEUH on 10th October. Jessie's funeral will be conducted by Rev John Martindale on Tuesday 20th October. Please pray for Davie as he tries to comprehend what has happened.

### **Laurie Kayser**

We are sorry to announce the death of Laurie Kayser. After a short period of ill health, Laurie died in Hairmyres Hospital on Tuesday 13th October. Please remember Margie, Margaret and Graeme in your prayers.