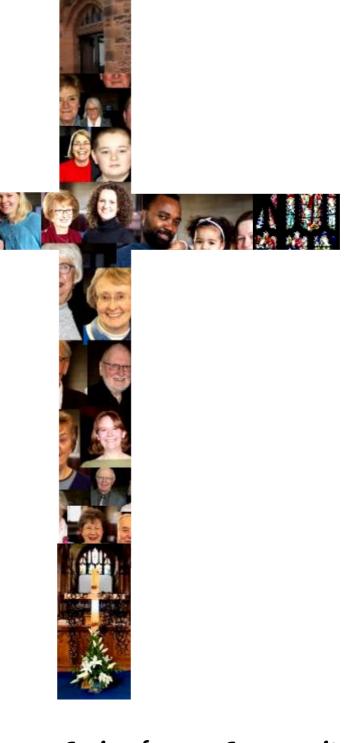


Magazine

April & May 2022 Sixth Series 5



Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community www.stonelawchurch.org

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PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER 2022 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 15TH MAY

MESSAGE FROM NEIL



Dear Friends.

I hope this edition of our magazine finds you well.

As I recently mentioned, the Church of Scotland is going through a period of drastic, quick changes. These changes will require us all to make sacrifices and get involved in ministry to our parish and beyond. That can be quite a daunting thought, but we can always receive encouragement

from God's word, such as in this verse from Hebrews that says God will:

...equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:21 ESV**.

A crayon is a useful thing. It can be used to create beautiful artwork; things that bring joy. It can be used to fashion objects of usefulness. There are 64 crayons in certain boxes of crayons... Midnight Blue, Maize, Pine Green, Carnation Pink.

We are all somewhat alike because we are all made in the image of God. But there are also obvious differences. We are each made with unique talents and gifts. Like the Potter's clay, the crayon is not the artist. We are not the creator, but the tool the Creator uses. Any beauty that we create is due to the gifts which he gave us. Any good work that we perform is from His strength and the talents that he equips us with.

We were not made to be ornaments on display, any more than a crayon was made to be unused and pristine. We were made to glorify God and to serve Him in accordance with His will. A crayon starts its life bright and fresh. It even smells nice! As a crayon does its intended work, it changes. The point is worn down; it gets bumped, even broken. It is sometimes refashioned in the sharpener. The label might become worn or even go missing. Eventually it ends up in that big bin of broken crayons.

When I was a child, I had a box that was full to the brim of worn crayon pieces. Some had been broken, and all of them had flecks of other colours all over them! But I loved that box because the crayons were still useful and brought me joy. God calls us by name. God knows us and cherishes us. God knows all our scars and brokenness and he still treasures us. At times he refashions us in what seems at the time like a crayon being sharpened.

I truly believe that God wants us in the Church of Scotland to remember we need his power, his strength, and his direction. He yearns for us to remember our dependence on him, and that he delights in us when we rely on his power and strength to do the good things he intends for us.

Let's always remember to rely on God to give us the good things we need.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev. Neil H Watson minister@stonelawchurch.org 2 Dryburgh Avenue, Rutherglen, G73 3EG 07871615840



I hear You calling me, Lord.

Give me grace to pause and be still; still my pre-occupied mind; still my gaze to see, with Your joy, the wonder of Your creation.

Guide my seeing and my hearing, my words, and my actions, to the quiet place of Your presence.

Stir in my heart a new passion: a passion for justice and peace, grounded in Your wisdom; a wisdom that I can faithfully pass on to others.

Lord God, You are the breath of life sustaining me each day.

You are with me in my journeying and in my resting, my companion and teacher along the way.

You, Lord Jesus, are my hope and my strength.

Your grace is found in everything and everywhere.

Forgive me when I turn away from You; for when I'm distracted by worldly cares.

When I'm wrapped up in myself and fail to pass on the good news of Jesus Christ.

Forgive me when I fail to hear Your words and I'm distracted by my own voice.

I offer myself to You again, Lord Jesus, and offer this prayer in Your precious name:

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done

On Earth as it is Heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from the evil one

For yours is the kingdom,

the power and the glory forever.

Amen

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

JOINT SERVICES FOR RUTHERGLEN CHURCHES

Holy Week Services will be held at 7pm in Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Church from Monday 11th till Good Friday, 15th April.

A Christian Aid Week Service will be held in Burnside Blairbeth Church on Sunday 15th May at 6pm. Charlie Meiklejohn from Christian Aid Scotland will be speaking.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE STONELAW CHURCH BUILDING?

Every Sunday at 10.30am we have our **Sunday Morning Service**, 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.

Wednesday 6th & 20th April 2.00-2.30pm Wednesday 13th April 2.30-4.00pm Sunday 24th April 5.30pm Wednesday 4th & 18th May 2.00-2.30pm Wednesday 11th May 2.30-4.00pm Mondays to Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm Mid-Week 30-minute Service.

Past Times Dementia Café (see p.9)

Fish Supper All-Age Service (see p.8)

Mid-Week 30-minute Service.

Past Times Dementia Café (see p.9)

Café@The Meeting Place

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Thursday 14th April 6.30-8pm Young People's House Group * Young People's House Group * Thursday 12th May 6.30-8pm Saturday 23rd April 2.00-4.00pm Children's Easter Eggstravaganza (see p.8) Tuesdays 6.00-7.15pm 2nd Rutherglen Rainbows (see p.19) Wednesdays 9.45-11.30am **Stonelaw Toddlers Group** (see p.9) Thursdays 6.30-8pm 131st Boys' Brigade (see p.19) Fridays 9.45-11.30am **Stonelaw Toddlers Group** (see p.9) Fridays 6.15-7.15pm 2nd Rutherglen Brownies (see p.20) 2nd Rutherglen Guides Fridays 7.45-9.15pm

STONELAW CHURCH ON ZOOM

To log into Zoom events, please see the Stonelaw weekly email, or to sign up for it, il, contact info@stonelawchurch.org *NB For details about our Zoom events*, see page 25.

Every Sunday 10.30am **Join our Church Service on Zoom.**Our **Communion Service** is held on the first Sunday of the month.

Tuesday 5th April & 3rd May 7.30pm Thursday 7th April & 5th May 10.30am Thursday 7th April & 5th May 7.30pm Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm Fridays 5.30-7pm Kirk Session Meetings
House group with Jennifer Menzies.
House group with Dorothy McTaggart.
Coffee and Crafts with Fiona Benson
Grace and Truth Bible Study
with Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje

^{*} For details about the **Young People's House Group**, please email fiona.benson@sky.comFor enquiries about Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

RUTHERGLEN CHURCHES TOGETHER HOLY WEEK 11-17 APRIL 2022



Holy Monday service West and Wardlawhill Church @ 7pm



Holy Tuesday Reflection
West and Wardlawhill Church @ 7pm



Holy Wednesday ecumenical Stations of the Cross West and Wardlawhill Church @ 7pm



Communion service
West and Wardlawhill Church @ 7pm



Good Friday services
Salvation Army Church @ 11am
West and Wardlawhill Church @ 7pm



Easter morning ecumenical gathering
Cathkin Braes @ 8.30am
Easter Sunday all-age Communion service
Stonelaw Church @ 10:30am

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE TO VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Many in Stonelaw will already have made donations to support the Ukrainian victims of the Russian invasion, perhaps through the Disasters Emergency Committee. Another option is to donate via the Church of Scotland, to the Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RCHA).

Through RCHA we can support those who are fleeing from the east and coming to the west of Ukraine, where they can be helped through the churches there; those in the west already, who don't have access to their money when the banks run out and who will need food and help; and those who cross the borders into Hungary, Slovakia or Romania.

The bank details you will need are:

Royal Bank of Scotland Church of Scotland No 1 Account

Account no: 00134859 Sort code: 83 06 08 Reference: RCHA donation

CHILDREN'S SATURDAY EVENTS IN STONELAW



On Saturday 5th March, we held our **Pancake Party**. We welcomed around 15 children and a similar number of adults. We had great fun decorating and eating pancakes big and small, including fresh ones made to order, hot off the pan by our expert team!

Neil shared some Bible stories with us and we had fun with action songs and even more fun with Marlene's pancake games.

Thanks to all involved in the planning and organising and to everyone who came along.



Our next event is our **Easter Eggstravaganzva** on Saturday 23rd April, from 2 to 4pm. We will explore the Easter story, finding out what it teaches us, along with our usual mix of fun games, songs and of course some Eastery food! You can sign up here or go to www.stonelawchurch.org. All children are very welcome. Children in P1-7 can come on their own, but under 5s must bring an adult with them.

Please get in touch for more information or if you would like to help.

Jennifer Menzies jennifermenzies70@gmail.com

FISH SUPPER EVENING SERVICE SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 5.30PM

At Stonelaw we love to eat together! It is wonderful that restrictions have finally lifted, allowing us to do so again. After a gap of three years, we hope to hold our popular Fish Supper Service on Sunday 24th April at 5.30pm. This service is suitable for all ages, so please encourage your family and friends to join us. We will eat, have fellowship and share a short time of worship.

Orders will be taken nearer the time, and you don't have to eat fish, as other options are also available. If you have any questions, just ask!

Jennifer Menzies jennifermenzies70@gmail.com

PAST TIMES – DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ UPDATE



Since our update in the last magazine, we have had two meetings; in February and March. Each meeting sees more people join us as we have had even more referrals from the Older Adult Team at Eastvale, Rutherglen Health

Centre. In fact, we now have a waiting list as we have reached capacity for the moment.

At our meeting on 9th February, we expected 17 visitors, although only 15 were able to attend. We adopted a 'Valentine' theme and our visitors enjoyed listening to romantic songs from their era, making a Valentine card for someone special and taking part in a musical sing-along quiz. We also celebrated the upcoming Golden Wedding Anniversary of one of our couples by presenting them with a card and flowers. They danced to 'The Anniversary Waltz' and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

On 10th February, the Lanarkshire Dementia Advisor from Alzheimer Scotland delivered a training course called 'Dementia Friends' to 10 of our volunteers. We learned a lot on the short course and can now proudly wear our 'Dementia Friend' badges.

We had 20 visitors at our March meeting and they all had a wonderful time. We had engaged the services of a professional pianist, Alan Penman. (Alan is an Edinburgh based composer, musician, musical director, arranger and producer.) Alan proved to be most entertaining and our visitors responded well to his personality as well as to his skill as a pianist.

Plans are now being made for our April meeting – you will hear all about that in the next magazine!

If you have any questions about Past Times, please contact me on **0141 634 1901**.

Ianís Neil

NEW STAMP APPEAL PROJECT FOR 2022

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing so faithfully to the Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal.

This year the proceeds will go towards supporting pastors in Syria and Lebanon, where the economic crisis in the country, and the consequences of the huge explosion in Beirut have struck communities very hard. Last year the pastors gave half of their very modest salaries to establish a relief programme for the neediest families around their congregations.



The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, a partner of the Church of Scotland, is now struggling to pay even those low salaries so the Stamps Appeal aims to help. Please keep saving your used stamps! Just pop them in a bag or envelope and leave them on the table in the Meeting Place. I check for donations every Sunday. Thank you

Leslie Gibson

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/campaigns/stamp-appeal

STONELAW TODDLERS

Our Toddler groups meet on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Main Hall, from 9.45 to 11.30 during the school term.

To join the Wednesday group, please contact Mary McDougall at mcdoums@yahoo.co.uk

To join the Friday group, please contact Adele Molloy at molloyadele@gmail.com



BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 1.30 - 3PM



Come along for some fun, company, tea and biscuits. You might win some games and lose some, but you'll have a laugh doing so!

See you in The Meeting Place!

Marlene Galt and Linda Alison.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our survey about the church magazine. We had 21 online and 7 printed responses, with many interesting comments and suggestions. Look out for a full report in the June magazine.

We are very grateful to Liz Maltby for designing and managing the survey for us.

The Magazine Team

APPEAL FROM REV JANE HOWITT

As many of you know, Jane, who grew up in Stonelaw, is minister of St Rollox Church in Sighthill, Glasgow. Jane urgently needs friendly volunteers of all ages (no experience required, as leaders will be on hand) to help the team running English classes for asylum seekers.



To find out more, please contact St Rollox Community Outreach on **0141 237 4044**

RECYCLING FOR RUTHERGLEN: MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS



Did you know that branches of Superdrug, including the branch in the Rutherglen Exchange, collect medicine blister packs for recycling? The box stands in front of the pharmacy counter. The blister packs are sent to Terracycle.co.uk, a company which claims to be "recycling the non-recyclable."

For more details, go to www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/medicine-packet-uk

If you find it hard to believe that these products really can be recycled, you can read about the process at www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/how we solve

Jean MacKenzíe



We are so excited that SU residential events are back at last, for Easter and Summer 2022!

SU holidays give young people the chance to explore the Christian faith through memorable activities and have fun with friends old and new. There are holidays for P5 - S6 at venues across Scotland, with various price and activity options - multi-activity holidays, various specialist sports, creative arts, etc. Children and young people of any faith, or none, are welcome at all SU Holidays.

Fraser Menzies is going to Scoughall in East Lothian at Easter and the Menzies family are all going back in the summer. Ross Murray and Reachout are leading the KX1 event on Arran in the summer too, with lots of local children and adults going. (see Reachout p 18)

If you would like to know more, please speak to me or Stuart or any of the Menzies boys or go to suholidays.org.uk. You can also phone the SU Glasgow office on **0141 352 7620** Monday to Friday 12noon - 4.30pm

Jennífer Menzies







CHURCH REGISTER

Mr Matthew Inglis died on 8th February 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with Matt's partner Carolyn, his daughter Fiona and his son Alistair.

Mr William Neithercut died on 9th February 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's daughter Peggy, his sons Duncan and Stewart and their families.

Mrs Catherine Cumming died on 22nd February 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rena's husband Jim, their son Derek and his family.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are delighted to report that Mirriam and Mada Chikumbanje's baby son Andrew, who was born in January, very early, has thrived and was able to come home from hospital on 16th March. Thanks be to God for answered prayer.

JANICE ELIZABETH MCINNES

Janice died on 28th December 2021. She was a good friend to many in Stonelaw Church and will be sadly missed.

Janice was born in Singapore in December 1940 to David Dunlop Blair (Dunny) and Elizabeth Smellie Pettigrew (Beth). At the outbreak of war, Dunny joined up. He was captured and sent to a POW camp where he died in January 1945. Singapore was occupied in 1942, forcing Janice and her mother to return to Scotland via Australia. After leaving Australia, their liner was torpedoed in the Indian Ocean and the lifeboats were rescued by an American warship taking them to Baltimore, where Dunny's brother met them before they sailed to Scotland.

On returning to Glasgow, Janice and her mother lived in Motherwell with her grandparents and Janice attended Hamilton Academy. They then moved to Cupar where Janice was a pupil at Castlehill Primary and then at Bell Baxter High School. She won many prizes at school and a scholarship to St Andrew's University where she met John, her husband for 58 years. They married in August 1963 in St Andrew's University Chapel and set up home in Underwood Road, Burnside with Janice working as a school dentist. Soon three boys followed: Iain in 1964, Alastair in 1966 and Kenneth in 1968, and the family moved to Albany Drive. In 1971, Janice started work in a dental practice in Rutherglen Main Street. Two years later, Andrew Wishart, who is known to many in Stonelaw, took over the practice and there began a very happy working relationship which lasted for 33 years.

Janice and John had joined Stonelaw Church in 1964. Janice served as an elder for many years and enjoyed visiting her district and helping them where she could. She was a very popular Sunday School Teacher and played the piano for the Primary Department. She also helped in the crèche, worked in the cafe and helped with many other things as required. Janice was also an enthusiastic Guild Member and served on the committee for many years.

Janice had a lovely, bright personality and a kind word for everyone. She will always be remembered with affection.

Isobel Wilson

WILLIAM NEITHERCUT

My old friend Mr Bill Neithercut, who was born in April 1923, died at his home in Albany Drive on 9th February 2022. Bill came to Rutherglen as a baby to live in Mill Street. He attended Fairie Street School then Rutherglen Academy, and was a member of the 113th Scouts in Burnside, attending the 1937 World Jamboree in Holland, where he made lifelong friends. He went on to study dentistry at Glasgow University. During the Second World War, Bill served with the Royal Army Dental Corps, returning after demobilisation to Rutherglen, to set up his dental practice in Burnside.

Bill and Margaret were married in Stonelaw Church in 1951 and the couple went on to have three children: Peggy, Duncan and Stewart. The Neithercuts were active members of Stonelaw Church for well over 50 years. Bill served faithfully on the Managers' Court and in the Manse Committee. He was also an enthusiastic stamp-collector who, in the 1980s, served a term as President of the Caledonian Philatelic Society. For several years after his retiral, Bill delivered Meals on Wheels for the WRVS.

Bill Neithercut had a long and happy life and will be missed in lots of ways by his many friends.

Jean Miller

NEWS FROM OUR KIRK SESSION

Some of you will know that Neil has signed up as Team Chaplain for Rutherglen Glencairn Football Club. Look out for more about this in the next magazine!

Neil has been appointed as Interim Moderator of Ruchill Kelvinside Church in Shakespeare Street, Maryhill, Glasgow. Please pray for him as he takes on this big responsibility.

COMING SOON: Church Membership classes and a Bible Society course on Zoom.

RETIRAL OFFERINGS

Thank you to everyone who gave Retiral Offerings for The Well on 27th February. This raised £512. (See p.18 for the Treasurer's Letter). Our next Retiral Offerings in 2022 are: **SUNDAY MAY 29TH**: The Bethany Christian Trust:

SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST: Release International www.releaseinternational.org

Here's how to give online via the church, if you wish, to the May Retiring Offering: Account Number: 00465105 Sort Code: 80-12-75 Reference Bethany Christian Trust

WHAT IS THE BETHANY TRUST, AND WHY ARE WE SUPPORTING ITS WORK IN MAY?
Bethany Christian Trust is a national charity which began in Leith Baptist
Church, Edinburgh. Their mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the longterm needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. Bethany supports
almost 7,000 people a year across Scotland in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bathgate,

Dundee, Aberdeen, Dumfries and Fife, focusing on homelessness prevention, crisis intervention, housing and support.



"Ending homelessness in Scotland...one person at a time; that's what we're about." To find out more, visit: https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

RECHARGING THE ELDERSHIP:

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SESSION CLERK, DAVID MCTAGGART

I'm told that March's conference in Glasgow for over 150 elders from all over Scotland was a first for the Church of Scotland, and also a first is that the current Moderators of both the General Assembly and Glasgow Presbytery are elders, not ministers.

Our Presbytery Elder Janis Neil and I enjoyed meeting fellow elders in discussion groups. Keynote speakers included both Moderators and others keen to encourage elders to take on more responsibility for the running of the church in these days of fewer ministers. About a third of ministers are due to retire in the next five years - quite a prospect. The journeys each speaker had taken to greater service were as varied as the spring weather. They included Dave Kendall, who holds the relatively new post of Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland and who is an elder in East Kilbride.

The challenges in realising this vision - of increased engagement by the 28,000 elders nationwide - will be considerable. As the day drew to a close, I was left with the impression that our speakers were sincere about their intention to seek more active involvement of elders in the running of the church. However, it was a pity that little was made of Jesus' calling and teaching of the first disciples, and of the key role elders and lay people played in the New Testament church. Perhaps therein lies the spiritual energy needed to recharge both the eldership and membership of our Church of Scotland in these days of accelerating change to our traditions. Focusing on new arrangements for deck chairs never solved a crisis, whether on the Titanic or in the Church. What we need more than ever is to look to our Captain Jesus to chart our beloved church safely through these dangerous waters.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

AND THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESBYTERY ELDER, JANIS NEIL

Did I leave the conference feeling recharged? Yes, I did. I came away with ideas, some of which would require major change which only the General Assembly can authorise, but others might be adopted locally, if our minister and the Stonelaw Kirk Session agree. Now you may want to know what these ideas are...

- Elders all have different talents, yet are asked to carry out the same duties would we be more effective if we were relieved of the things which are a struggle for us? And if we need to take on more duties/roles going forward, we have to be able to specialise in what we are good at and comfortable with. Yes, we'll need good training to equip us.
- We need to get to know the elders in local churches. If we are going to be working together, we need to feel part of the same team (i.e. God's Team) and not rivals for resources.
- Elders should have sabbaticals
- Do all elders need to sit on Session?
- Session meetings should include a 20 minute 'education' slot. Elders should develop each other and learn from each other.
- Do elders have to be trustees?

So how do we recharge Stonelaw's elders? Perhaps our next step should be to run a 'Recharging the Eldership' conference in Stonelaw to generate more ideas and look at how we can change to face the challenges ahead?

Janís Neíl

ROOF REPAIRS UNDERWAY

In our previous magazine I reported on the roof problems that were identified last year following a detailed (drone) inspection of the roof. As the article indicated, our roof has various defects such as missing slates, coping stones which require repointing and missing or loose skews (the mortar fillet) at the interface of the coping stones with the slates. These issues almost certainly mean water is getting in, so repairing them is urgent. Some of these issues also represent a safety issue.

To satisfy Presbytery (and our own) procedures, we had to seek three quotations for the repairs. We managed to obtain quotes from three reputable contractors (two traditional steeplejack companies and one local roofing contractor). The Managers prepared a tender report and its recommendation was unanimously accepted at March's Kirk Session meeting: to appoint the steeplejacks Airtex Structural Height Specialists, based on their quote of almost £52,400 (including VAT).

Airtex is the company that undertook the maintenance work last year and erected the north side suspended scaffolding in January. They started on Friday 11th March and have indicated the works will take approximately 11 weeks although this is subject to whether unforeseen issues arise. Access around the building may be affected during the works and, unfortunately, the Meeting Place café will have to close while works are taking place above the main doors.



Our cross was inspected by one of the tenderers.
Thankfully, while suffering bad erosion, it is stable and does not require major works.

The Managers are currently considering adding in some additional works, principally the painting of the gutters and downpipes, to take advantage of the scaffolding since it provides good access to these hard-to-reach parts of the building.

While last year it was a shock to be told of the roof problems, it is really good to be able to report that we are now addressing these. We hope that in a few weeks our roof will be in a much better state.

If you have any questions about this work, please speak to any of the Managers.



South side high level suspended scaffolding – nearly complete.

Stuart Menzies, Convenor of the Managers

A CHILDLIKE FAITH

Easter was never an easy subject to teach in primary school. There were many reasons for this. I taught in a multi-cultural school where, in a single class, I could have Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Sikh children as well as those of no faith.



The concept of someone dying and rising from the dead was a difficult one for children (and some adults) to grasp. A story which was used to help young people understand this Christian belief was 'Water bugs and Dragonflies' written by Doris Stickney. This story was written to explain to youngsters what Christians believe about death.

It tells the tale of a colony of water bugs who notice that sometimes one of the water bugs would climb up the lily stem, disappear and never come back. They were all very puzzled and decided that the next water bug to climb the lily stem must promise to come back and tell the others where he went and why. Not long after that, a water bug found himself climbing the lily stem. When he reached the surface of the water, he was so tired he lay on a lily pad and fell asleep. When he woke up, he couldn't believe what he saw. An amazing change had come over his body. He had become a dragonfly! He felt so exhilarated in his new world, flying, swooping and dipping in great curves. When he landed on the lily pad, he saw his friends down below and remembered his promise to return and tell them where he went. He tried and tried to fly into the water but he kept bouncing off. He couldn't return! Even if the water bug went back to his friends, he realised that they wouldn't recognise him in his new body. He thought that they would just have to wait until they became dragonflies and then they would understand what happened to him and where he went.

The dragonfly flew off to enjoy his wonderful new world.

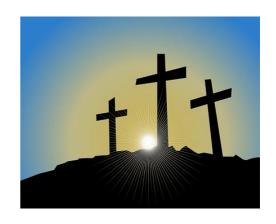
Let us thank God for the miracle that makes shiny dragonflies out of water bugs. Let us also be thankful that, when a friend leaves the 'pond' in which we live, they will be granted a good life in a wonderful new world where we can be with them again.

Sometimes, it is quite helpful to have a child-like faith where one doesn't doubt or question the evidence.

As Christians, we have a wonderful Redeemer who, not only died for us but, rose again and DID return to tell us what would happen to us after death and where we would go. We don't have to wait until we die to understand what happened to Jesus and where he went.

Hallelujah! What a Saviour! Easter blessings to you all.

Margaret A. Borland



PLAYLIST CHALLENGE 5: JEAN AND CAMERON MURRAY



When Moira & John nominated us to do this Playlist, I thought: "10 of our best loved songs! How can we pick only 10? I have so many, going back to my childhood..."

But here goes! Forgive me as you listen - and I do hope you will listen, at least to some of them - as there is quite a difference between our choices. Some are old, some not so old. I think there is a place for both, and I wouldn't like to lose these precious memories. I pray, as you listen, that you will be encouraged, challenged, and blessed.

- 1. **Shout to the North** by Delirious. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctc3GqWaV3U I heard this for the first time at Ross's baptism in Bury St Edmunds. Sadly, Cameron was unable to get the time off work to be there, but I was one very thankful and proud mother.
- 2. Here I Am, Wholly Available www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hzV8K3h1js
 When we started coming to Stonelaw Church we frequently attended the Bible study and prayer meeting on a Thursday evening and often sang this. We both love it.
- 3. **God Will Make A Way** by Don Moen. www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zo3fJYtS-o I was sitting pondering which songs to choose when I heard that Russia had just invaded Ukraine. The chorus spoke so clearly to me: it's not us, but Father God, who is in control.
- 4. These are the Days of Elijah by Robin Mark. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9LnzJnpjQ
- 5. **He Went to the Cross Loving You** by Wilson Fairchild I have been a fan of the Statler Brothers for a long time now. They had such a gift from God, which they never took for granted and always gave Him the glory. During lockdown, I learned that two of the Statlers had sons who performed as "Wilson Fairchild". While listening to their music, I heard this song which their fathers had sung years before. I think you will agree, if you listen to both versions, that the sons sing it better than their dads did! www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JiBtQ7ann4
- 6.. **I Wrote it in Red** by Jimmy Fortune www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jstssB0fJg Jimmy was also one of the later Statler Brothers. This and song number 7 were his.
- 7. **I Believe** by Jimmy Fortune not The Bachelors! www.youtube.com/watch?v=etcT7VRIAWA
- 8. **How Great Thou Art** www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_n0WKOZf7U
 We both love this hymn. It was my dad's favourite, and my brother asked me to sing it at his funeral. I did so but at the last verse my voice crumbled. Imagine my delight when I heard one, then two, then a few and then most people singing along with me! I thank God every time I think of it, for that one person who started singing.
- 9. In His Time by the Maranatha Singers www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJeNUINY7lw
- 10. **Shine Jesus Shine** by Graham Kendrick www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iB30gCqAc
 This is Cameron's favourite song one that he has liked ever since first hearing it when we began worshipping in Stonelaw, back in 1990.

Tom and Lesley Nisbet, we nominate you to create a Playlist for the Summer magazine.

Jean and Cameron Murray

SAVE THE DATE! 12TH JUNE FOR CHRISTIAN AID FUN RUN/WALK



Please keep the afternoon of Sunday 12th June free, if you'd like to have a go at the second Rutherglen Christian Aid Fun Run/Walk. Both the 5K and the 1K will be for all ages, in and around Overtoun Park. The focus is firmly on fun, not on fierce competition!

Details will follow soon, but meanwhile, please share this date with friends and family, to help us spread the word! (See p.22 for Christian Aid Week news.)

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Hello all,

As we are only two months into 2022 at the time of writing, it would be hard enough in a 'normal' year to predict what the Church's running costs will be. As anyone who has seen reports about the rising cost of living will know, there is an even greater level of uncertainty this year.

That being said, I have put together a budget based on an expectation of what those costs will be. The early headline is that they will be higher than last year, primarily driven by an increase in our Ministry and Mission Allocation. As we get further into the year I will, as ever, keep you updated with how we are tracking against that budget. Currently, we look to be tracking behind it; however, it is too early to draw any firm conclusions.

I also have two other pieces of news to report. Firstly, our retiring offerings in February have gathered £512 for The Well, in addition to any donations paid directly to the charity.

Secondly, I can report that the Church has received a legacy from the estate of Mrs Maynie Mason, who died in March 2021.

As always, I would like to sign off by thanking the congregation for their support and generosity - whether in time, talent or money.

Euan Campbell Church Treasurer 07413 580 103 treasurer@stonelawchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

It was great to hear from Ross and William, who participated in our Sunday morning service on 13th March, just how welcoming local schools are to Reachout's work with children and young people.
Ross has asked for our prayers as follows:



- Please give thanks that 12 local primary schools invited us into the building to deliver the **Boomerang** resilience project in person.
- Give thanks for Alison Kennedy, for her three and a half years of service to God's
 work within the Trust, and for God's wonderful timing, which gave us the opportunity
 to appoint Andrew Robertson on a short-term contract till the end of May. We thank
 God for continued financial provision in the midst of challenging times, and pray for
 enough funds going forward to sustain Reachout's work and allow us to recruit a
 permanent part-time Youth and Schools Worker.
- Please pray that our P5 **Easter Code** events reach the young people we serve, helping them to reflect on the Easter story and what it means for them.

Looking ahead to the summer term and beyond, please pray that the P7 It's Your Move and P6 Buddying projects in the summer term will have a real impact on the young people, and for safety, fun, engagement – and good weather! - for the KX1 Scripture Union summer camp on Arran. (See page 10 for more about SU camps!)



Ross Murray, Andrew Robertson and Greg Senior

Reachout Trust, Cambuslang Parish Church, 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang G72 7JQ Tel **07837 193028** Email greg.crrt@outlook.com Website: https://crrt.org.uk/

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

We are still busy in the 131st Company! The boys are learning The Lord's Prayer, with a colouring book for the younger members. We are certainly asked some tough questions but that is the whole idea. (Well done, Mabel Moore!)



As a craft activity, the younger boys are learning basic horticulture from seed to flowering. Each boy is responsible for his own plant. There is competitiveness, as they see whose plant is growing fastest. The boys are also creating 3D shapes using paper, paste and a lot of imagination.

Recently we've had four older boys joining the Company. They are constructing nesting bird boxes, overseen by yours truly. Hammers, nails, battery screwdrivers, and enthusiastic boys present a potential danger to fingers, but so far we've had good results, with boys learning how to set up a satisfying project.

Everyone was involved in creating a large peace card about the Ukraine crisis. You can see it for yourselves on the external notice board in front of the church!

We still have a vibrant physical activities program, of which the favourite is basketball. The individual penalty shoot-out has seen low scores increase to 80% success, and the youngest member will fearlessly challenge the tallest boy.

On Sunday 13th March, eight of the boys, accompanied by parents, the Company leaders and our minister, went to the Emirates Stadium to see a professional basketball game between the Glasgow Rocks and the Plymouth Patriots. Everyone had been looking forward to it and the boys practised tirelessly, "in case they ask for volunteers, Mr. Smyth!" We leaders always leave the session with a smile.

This BB trip was a new experience for all of us and great fun. It was also a great opportunity to introduce Neil to the boys. A long-time supporter of the Glasgow Rocks team, Neil was able to give us advice on the rules of the game and was delighted to see his team win. This photo shows some of his calmer moments! The boys went home excited and tired, but happy.

Walter Smyth, Lt. 131 Company Boys Brigade, Rutherglen. Mobile 07586 255466 Email: walt_smyth@yahoo.co.uk

2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS



Like other groups, the Rainbows had a slightly delayed start to the year. We had a few meetings on Zoom before returning to meeting at the church at the beginning of February. When meetings resumed, we invited three new girls from our waiting list and in very exciting news, we also have had two new helpers join

us. We remember Mia & Jenny from their time in Rainbows and we're very happy to have them return to help, now that they've just finished their time in Guides.

This term we've given out Promise badges to the girls who've joined recently, as well as Nature Interest Badges and an Animal Lover Interest Badge to girls who chose to tackle these in their own time.

As a unit we've been working on our Live Smart Stage 1 Skills Builder badge, which is part of the Skills for My Future theme. Our activities have included **Marvellous Money** - looking at coins and trying to guess the value from feeling the shape without looking; **Stick it**, **Fix it** - looking at different ways to repair a cardboard box and what it could be used for, **Feeling Fruity** - we prepared different types of fruit by washing, peeling or chopping and then enjoyed the end product with our pancakes and **Safety Superheroes** - when we turned the hall into an imaginary town and went on a walk identifying anything that could be dangerous. As with most groups, I think, the highlight for the girls was the week that involved food and pancakes!

After Easter, we are losing two of our older girls as they turn seven, which means we can invite another two girls from our waiting list. We are currently full until late 2024, so it's always nice to be able to invite girls to join us rather than tell them we have no spaces!. We are looking forward to warmer, sunny Tuesday evenings and more outside activities for a change.

Helen Paulsen 2nd Rutherglen Rainbows Leader

2ND RUTHERGLEN BROWNIES NEED VOLUNTEERS



2nd Rutherglen Brownies has lost both a leader and a unit helper this year, due to changes in personal circumstances. Additionally, our young leader in training, Katy, will be overseas from September to April. Diane and Rachel would love to welcome a new volunteer - or even two!

We meet on Fridays in the school term in the Main Hall, from 6.15–7.15 pm. As you know, we run a very popular unit and our waiting list now extends to the end of 2024. If you are interested in finding out more, please email us T 2ndrutherglenbrownies@gmail.com I would be happy to have a chat.

Díane Wilson 2nd Rutherglen Brownies Leader

RUTHERGLEN AND CAMBUSLANG FOODBANK

Please keep our local Foodbank in your prayers. The items needed most at the moment are:

Small jars coffee UHT milk (full-fat or semi-skimmed) Tins rice pudding, custard Jam Sugar Tins tomatoes



These can be handed in at any of the Foodbank's permanent collection points: **MORRISONS**, Cambuslang

THE CO-OPERATIVE, NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY, and LAURIE ROSS INSURANCE - all on Rutherglen Main Street

BOOTS on Rutherglen Main Street collects toiletries for the Foodbank.

TESCO Dalmarnock, during the month of May, is a collection point for the Foodbank. (This Tesco collection alternates month about with Glasgow SE foodbank.)

TESCO Burnside donations go to FareShare, which fights hunger by supporting groups rather than individual households. https://fareshare.org.uk

If you can spare some time to help with the Foodbank, they would welcome more volunteers. Please contact Katharina, the manager.

Katharina Nimmo, Manager, Cambuslang and Rutherglen Foodbank 07393737030

LATEST NEWS FROM THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION



Dear Supporters,

We are in the midst of a Lenten reflection upon the Wilderness, recommitting ourselves as *Pilgrims and Strangers on The Way*. Our day centre is experiencing an increase in visitors and in the excitement of

voices and activity we recognise the need for solitude.

We are **seeking a team of new volunteers to join our chaplaincy work**, providing a quiet prayer space and willing to offer skilled listening. All training will be given (enthusiasm for mission and openness to others are essential) to join a rota of weekly sessions of up to 2 hours. Is God calling you to a season of listening and prayer? Are you being led to a community who hunger for hope; who struggle to make meaning or sense of their experiences? Are you willing to help others explore a conversation with God through prayer? Get in touch with our chaplain, Claire Herbert; cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk or call 0141 552 0285.

February marked our weekday service fully reopening, and we have seen an increase in the number of meals we serve:

Food service	Breakfast	Lunch
Sit in meals	427 (+21)	917 (+200)
Take-out meals	33 (+1)	113 (+43)

At the beginning of Lent we launched our Easter Egg Appeal. We are collecting Easter Eggs every day of Lent and on Easter Sunday we will be distributing them amongst people living in homeless hostel and temporary accommodation across Glasgow. Accompanied by a card, these Easter symbols are a reminder people are not alone; that:

'God so loved the world that he sent his only son...' John 3:16.

In LHM we share this message of hope, practically, among people who often feel forgotten.

We are pleased to say our **Community Singing Group** is re-starting on a Tuesday morning and we are also running a **Pilot Guitar Group** with twelve guitars, starting on Fridays. It is wonderful to have the gift of musical expression back in our building. If you could volunteer to play, learn to play, or sing, no matter your skill level, please pop in or contact our chaplain for more information.



We ask for your **prayers** for all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, for those of our guests with families in Ukraine and Poland and those who, having previously fled war zones, are struggling with the news at this time. As we advertise for new Chaplaincy volunteers, may those whom God is calling be inspired and obedient to that call. Pray that the Easter Egg appeal reaches those able to help and those most in need of hope and new life. May the Spring season offer new opportunities for the team and our guests to work together, reducing harm and restoring dignity.

In this season of Lent, Lord, don't let us be tempted by the easy path; be with us in our times of weakness, and in the stranger, may we meet Christ on the journey. (adapted from Matthew 6:13)

Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain to LHM. https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/

WHAT COULD RUSSIA'S ATTACK ON UKRAINE MEAN FOR CHRISTIANS?



Ukraine - the largest country in Europe - is sometimes called the breadbasket of Europe due to its rich, fertile soil which is ideal for growing wheat. It has seven world heritage sites protected by UNESCO and has been described as a beautiful, well-preserved country. That description could have been written on February 23rd 2022 but, the next day, when Ukraine was invaded by Russia, it would be described very differently.

Attack on religious freedom

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dominated the news recently, but Christians have already faced restrictions in those parts of Ukraine which were already under Russian separatist control. Church services have been closed and books banned. In March 2019, all Baptist Union congregations were ordered to halt public worship or face punishment. Since the passing of the Religion Law, registration has been refused for every Protestant, Baptist and Pentecostal community.

'The situation for all Protestant churches is bad,' a Protestant from Kyiv said. 'We do not have registration and do not have the right to meet in our buildings which are closed.'

John's Gospel banned

Along with the closing of churches, the Russian-backed authorities banned a number of Christian books as "extremist". These included an edition of the Gospel of John. Among the twelve titles banned in Luhansk are a Baptist hymn book and books by Charles Spurgeon and Billy Graham. The Justice Ministry added these books to its State List of Extremist Materials. One pastor said, 'If the word of God – the gospel of John – is deemed extremist, this represents a rebellion against God himself and everything sacred.' Christian communities have been put under surveillance and gas, water and electricity have been cut off to all places of worship owned by unregistered communities.

Repeated raids

A Christian insisted that Baptists would continue to meet, regardless of the raids by police which stopped services and dispersed members. Some of the Church members told the police, 'Christ's commandments are higher than human laws. We cannot obey laws which contradict the holy scripture, because we serve God who is the highest power over all.'

All of these restrictions happened BEFORE the war. It is impossible to imagine the treatment of Christians now.

A partner of Release International is currently in Ukraine and was shaken from his sleep on February 24 by powerful explosions, as the Russian attack began. Ukrainian air defences were shooting down Russian missiles or drones in the sky over Kyiv.

Prayer

Please pray for the nation of Ukraine at this desperate time. Pray particularly for those Christians who have lived under restrictions in the last few years. Pray also for the safety of the Release International partner currently in Ukraine.

Thank you for your prayers.



Margaret Borland

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022: 15TH - 21ST MAY

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Drought robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families. For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising, because of Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis.

In Zimbabwe, southern Africa, women and men are hungry to provide a more hopeful future for their children. One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi (above). Drought makes every day a struggle for survival, for Jessica, her husband and her children.



'My children long for a good meal, but I can't provide it,' Jessica says. 'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

Our gifts could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. We could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, we in Stonelaw can each be one of the hundreds of thousands of supporters who give, act and pray for our global neighbours. Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their lives. This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** what you can spare to help women grow crops that can survive drought.
- Act and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign here
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

HOW DO I MAKE A DONATION? Take your pick...

- Put your donation in your Christian Aid envelope, once we're into May, if you've collected one at church. If you don't have one and would like to make a donation, please phone Jean or Jill and we'll get you one. (see below to contact us) Hand it in at church if possible, or if not, just phone one of us to collect it.
- **Give online**, to the Rutherglen Churches Christian Aid Week Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/rutherglencaweek2022
- Or Call Christian Aid on 08080 006 006 to give by telephone.

• Take part, if you are able, in the 150k in May 2022 Challenge! Or sponsor us! To sign up, please contact Jean. Our challenge is to try, independently or with someone else, to walk, jog or run an average of 5k (3 miles+) a day in May. Please, if you can, invite friends and family to sponsor you, either online at www.justgiving.com/150kinmayca2022 or ask us for a paper sponsor form.

We'd like to thank you very much for whatever you do to support Christian Aid Week 2022 – whether that's by giving, by taking action or by praying for families like Jessica's.



Jean MacKenzie 07771817954 and Jill Rennie 569 9340 hjmackenzie27@btinternet.com jillrennie@hotmail.com

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE

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.

HAVE YOU MISSED A SUNDAY SERVICE?

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 GIVE TO STONELAW CHURCH

We are still unable to pass the plate on a Sunday during the service. However, there will be a collection plate available at the door for anyone who wishes to give their offering in this way.

STANDING ORDER/ ONLINE BANKING

Either a one-off payment or a standing order can be set up using online banking. Our bank details are as follows:

Account: Stonelaw Parish Church, **Account Number**: 00465105, **Sort Code**: 80-12-75. If you wish to set up a standing order but don't do internet banking, a Standing Order Form (to send to your bank) can be found on our website at: http://stonelawchurch.org/giving - or contact the Treasurer to ask for one. Please remember, if you are thinking of setting up a standing order, that you are free to cancel this at any time.

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

If you are a UK taxpayer, donating to the church through the Gift Aid scheme means that we are able to claim back 25 pence for every £1 that you give – at no extra cost to you. 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 lain Morrison, as Freewill Offering Treasurer, at the above address.

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.

You need a specific Meeting ID and Passcode to log in to Zoom meetings. These are shared each week in the Saturday Congregational Email.

To sign up to these emails, 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 call Janis Neil on **07808 926067**.

EVERY SUNDAY Morning service at 10.30am

EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm

To join the Wednesday Prayers WhatsApp group - for prayer updates and to ask for prayer for yourself or others - please contact John Shaw on **07885 508130**

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH House Groups, for Bible study, discussion and fellowship. All welcome.

Call Jennifer Menzies on 07974 793 235 to join the 10.30am group

Call Dorothy McTaggart on **07815 949 648**, to join the **7.30pm** group.

EVERY FRIDAY Grace and Truth Bible Study at 5.30-7pm.

This group is led by Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje. Are you young, or young at heart? Let us study the Bible together!

To join this group, please contact Mada on madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com or on 07789 619 349

MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2022

Month(s)	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
Summer 2022	15th May 2022	4th June 2022
September & October 2022	14th August 2022	4th September 2022
November 2022	16th October 2022	6th November 2022
December 2022 & January 2023	13th November 2022	4th December 2022

PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER 2022 MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 15TH MAY