

Sharing God's Love – Caring for our Community

www.stonelawchurch.org

DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021 MAGAZINE CONTENTS

Letter from our Locum Minister	3
Stonelaw Church Prayer Chain.....	3
Farewell to Rev John	4
Grace & Truth Bible Study	4
Dates for our Diaries	5
Christmas Bake Along Saturday 12th December - Save the Date!.....	6
Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal	6
The Service: Sundays at 12 noon on the BBC Scotland Channel	6
When we get a glimpse of God's purpose for someone.....	7
Stonelaw's Big Quiz Night for Tearfund	8
Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust.....	8
Church Register and Stonelaw Family News.....	9
Letter from the Treasurer	11
News from Thérèse and the Next Steps group	12
Remembrance Day Service 11th November 2020.....	16
News from the Lodging House Mission.....	17
News from the Foodbank Committee	18
The Chosen	18
New Stonelaw Church website	18
A Miraculous Mess	19
Freedom From Fistula: Good News!.....	20
Christian Aid News	21
Leap Christmas Activities on Zoom	21
Catch up here on the Saturday Congregational Emails.....	22
Stonelaw Church Magazine Calendar 2020-2021	23



If you'd like to join our Zoom Sunday 10.30am Service live by phone, or the Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm, please ask anyone who sees the Saturday emails for the specific Zoom Meeting ID and passcode.
(See Contact Information on page 24.)

Five 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.

Or listen to the audio recording of the Sunday Service from 2.30pm onwards each Sunday, on **0141 465 4638**. All calls are at the local rate.

On the first Thursday of the month you can also join a House Group live by phone.

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

“All I want for Christmas is...” I wonder what you might say to finish that statement? What’s on your list this year? Maybe you haven’t thought about it yet; maybe you don’t usually make a list. But what do you **really, really** want for Christmas? Think carefully before you answer - but be honest.

I suspect most would probably respond with the longing that Covid-19 would be at an end. Some people desire to see peace, justice and so on. Lofty and laudable ideals, yet it would be good to have these things, wouldn’t it? Other folk may be less altruistic or noble in their thoughts; answers could include clothes, jewellery, money to buy things, perfume, gadgets, ornaments and sports gear. In theory there is an infinite list, because we are all individuals with a variety of interests and aspirations.

When people call for peace, it seems a pious hope, for peace is beyond us. But although that may be true, peace is not beyond God. The Christmas message is that God acted in history to bring peace:

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)
With God all things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

We need to remember, as well, that God works through us. If we really want peace, we must be prepared to pray and work for it. Maybe your response to the line, “All I want for Christmas is...” will form the basis of your New Year resolutions? If you want peace, be determined to pursue it.

Christmas for some people is such a lonely time. Covid-19 isolation is a reality for all. On top of that, some will be coping with bereavement, some with loneliness; some will be housebound by ill health or frailty. Such people can feel an overwhelming sense of sadness that they are alone, with no one caring about them.

Spare a thought for lonely people. It’s nice to be remembered, even if only by a greetings card. If you can do more, do it!

Jesus’ coming at Christmas heralded God’s Good News: that we are not alone, and that we are of great value to him. It’s our job not simply to spare a thought, but to share that message, both in word and action.

Whatever you want, and get, this Christmas, may you never lose sight of the meaning of Christmas - the birth of a Saviour (Luke 2:11) – the proof of God’s love for you.

God grant you your heart’s desire as it accords with his will and glory.

Rev John Martindale

STONELAW CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request **or** would like to respond to prayer requests from the congregation, from our local community and beyond, please contact John Shaw.
Tel **0141 569 8344** Email prayerchain@stonelawchurch.org

FAREWELL TO REV JOHN

It is with great regret that I have to inform you that the Rev John Martindale will be stepping down as Locum Minister at the end of this year.

Before John arrived, I asked if he would write something to introduce himself to the congregation. In it he said that he “enjoys prestidigitation” which got me looking for my dictionary. We now know he was referring to his all-age addresses which have entertained, enlightened and often provoked the response: “How did he do that?!”

Our new locum quickly became known as “Rev John”. This was partly because we already had a number of Johns in the congregation, but also due to our growing respect and affection for him.

Rev John has prepared meticulously and prayerfully for our Sunday services and often accompanied his sermons with helpful illustrations - skills which became vital in March, when we were forced to begin holding our services on Zoom. John coped very well with this unexpected challenge, quickly familiarising himself with this new technology and including others in our worship by inviting them to lead us in prayer, to read the Bible passages, and to contribute during the all-age address. He also set up the Wednesday Prayer meeting for the congregation. Rev John’s gift for pastoral work and his comforting way of conducting funerals has been much appreciated by those families who have suffered bereavements this year.

During his year with us at Stonelaw, Rev John has shown himself to be a faithful servant of the church and of his Saviour. We will miss him.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through him people might believe. John 1:6

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

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: 

Contact: Mada at madalitsochikumbanje@gmail.com or on **07789 619 349**

Mada and Mirriam Chikumbanje (See page 7 for Mada’s latest article)

DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

MIDWEEK SERVICES IN STONELAW CHURCH

Wednesday 9th December at 2pm

Wednesday 13th January at 2pm

Sadly we are limited to a maximum of 20 people at any worship activity in our buildings. This includes the worship leader, stewards, Church Officer and up to 15 worshippers.

If you would like to attend one of our Midweek services, please contact Thérèse:

Mobile: **07508 213 099** Email: Thérèse.stonelawchurch@gmail.com

WORSHIP ON ZOOM

You need a Meeting ID and Passcode to log into Zoom. These are shared each week in the Saturday Congregational Email. To sign up, please email info@stonelawchurch.org

SUNDAY MORNINGS ON ZOOM

Every Sunday at 10.30am with Breakout Room for Discoverers and Connect2, and time for fellowship afterwards.

PRAYER MEETINGS ON ZOOM

Every Wednesday 7.30-8pm, with a short time for fellowship afterwards.

GRACE AND TRUTH BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM (see page 4 to contact Mada and Mirriam)

Every Friday 5.30-7pm

HOUSE GROUPS ON ZOOM see page 2 for how to join in by phone

The House Groups meet on the first Thursday of the month, so our next meeting will be on **Thursday 7th January**

Morning House Group at 10.30am.

Contact Jennifer Menzies on **07974 793 235**

Evening House Group at 7.30pm

Contact Dorothy McTaggart on **07815 949 648**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ON ZOOM

Sunday 20th December 10.30pm All-Age Service with Discoverers' Nativity Play

Christmas Eve - Thursday 24th December Crib Service at 5:45pm

We thank Flemington Hallside Church for inviting us to join their Zoom Crib Service. Settle down with the kids and enjoy the fun! We will be making Christingles – so if you'd like to join in, you will need: an orange, a candle, some tin foil, some ribbon (red if possible), cocktail sticks, dried fruit or sweets, and a pair of scissors. If you can, find or borrow a bell or two as well!



Watch Night Service Thursday 24th December 11.30pm

Christmas Day All-Age Service Friday 25th December 10.30 am

Both of these will be Zoom services which we also intend to livestream on our YouTube channel. For details nearer the time, please visit www.stonelawchurch.org

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 27th December: Morning Service 10.30am

Sunday 3rd January Morning Service 10.30am

Thursday 7th January House Group (details above)

Sunday 10th January Morning Service 10.30am

CHRISTMAS BAKE ALONG SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER - SAVE THE DATE!

Fancy some Christmas fun? Join our Christmas Bake Along on Zoom, on the afternoon of Saturday 12th December!



The recipe and ingredient list will be distributed beforehand so that you can come prepared, then we'll work through the simple recipe together, hopefully having a bit of a laugh on the way.

This is **not** a competition! We'll just be baking together and hopefully getting to taste our creations at the end. We are really keen for this to be an all-age event, so no-one is too old or too young (although some might need a bit of assistance!)

If you don't fancy baking, please join us for the company anyway. Come as you are, but feel free to get into the festive spirit with Christmas jumpers or hats.

Recipe, Zoom details and times will follow soon. Questions? Please just ask us!

Thérèse Reid and Jennifer Menzies

Thérèse.stonelawchurch@gmail.com

jennifermenzies70@gmail.com

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL

Do you know that last year, between us, our congregation gave more than two thousand used stamps to the World Mission Appeal during December and January? A fantastic contribution.



Each year a different foreign project benefits from the proceeds of the Stamp Appeal. The 2020 appeal proceeds will go to the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka, which runs a project to support women and girls who have survived rape or sexual violence. The centre gives them somewhere to stay, supports them in caring for their children, helps them return to education, if they wish, and trains them in skills to make a living when they leave.

Although we are not in the church building these days, I hope you will keep your stamps (we all get more traditional mail around Christmas!) until things return to normal.

Please leave a little paper border from around each stamp or set of stamps.

I look forward to finding them on the table in The Meeting Place.

Thank you,

Leslie Gibson

THE SERVICE: SUNDAYS AT 12 NOON ON THE BBC SCOTLAND CHANNEL

In case you don't already know, the BBC Scotland Channel has introduced, 'The Service', which is shown live at 12 noon on Sunday mornings and is available afterwards on the BBC iPlayer. Most, but not all of these services are Christian.

On Sunday 6th December at 12 noon, Church of Scotland minister Rev Aquila Singh will conduct a service from Fernhill and Cathkin Parish Church, Rutherglen.

WHEN WE GET A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S PURPOSE FOR SOMEONE

Amidst celebrating the birth of Jesus, we might take the opportunity to learn something related to the mystery that God places in a child. We know from Scripture that everyone has a designated purpose, even before birth.

For example, while many people saw the baby Jesus, God was seeing a King and a Saviour (Matthew 2:2 and Luke 2:11). We also notice this in Genesis 25:23, where Rebekah was expecting twins, but God told her, "Two nations are in your womb..."

Usually, parents are the first ones to gain an idea of God's purposes in a child. Mary and Joseph knew about Jesus; Rebekah knew about Esau and Jacob; Zachariah knew about John (Luke 1:13-17). Sometimes, other people also get a glimpse of the purposes of God in someone.

Here are lessons from those who had a glimpse of God's purposes and plans in Jesus:

1. Honour God's purpose, like the Wise Men

Immediately after Jesus was born, wise men from the east knew about this new king, and they travelled a long distance to honour him. They did not wait until he was popular before they brought him gifts befitting a king.

They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." – Matthew 2:11 (NLT)

2. Do not desire to kill God's purpose, as Herod did

Sometimes, God's purpose for someone else may look like a threat to ourselves. When that is the case, we should not succumb to the temptation to destroy such purposes - as King Herod did.

"...He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under,...." Matthew 2:16 (NLT)

3. Declare God's purpose, as Simeon did

If we get to have a glimpse of what God has planned for someone else, let us declare, encourage, and support it, as Simeon did in the verses below. Perhaps such an inspired declaration may encourage or remind those who are closest to the one carrying that purpose.

"Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, 'This child will be rejected by many in Israel, and it will be their undoing. But he will be the greatest joy to many others. Thus, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.'"

Luke 2:34-35 (NLT)

Friends, anyone who has ever been a child was born with a divine purpose. If we get a glimpse of God's plan for someone else, let us honour it, declare it, and not desire to destroy it. Enjoy your Christmas.

Madalitso Chikumbanje

STONELAW'S BIG QUIZ NIGHT FOR TEARFUND



Our first virtual Quiz Night took place on Zoom on Saturday 14th November. We were delighted to be one of 476 churches in the UK which took part, with more than 17,000 people involved. So far, we have raised £800 for Tearfund - thanks to everyone who has donated.

As well as raising money for Tearfund's work, we had a lot of fun. It was great to see many happy faces on the screen mixed with a reasonable number of puzzled frowns!

Again, we thank the local businesses which provided us with prizes: Sweet P, Jingers and Janette Mitchell Flowers.

It's not too late to donate to Tearfund – here is our 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.

Janis Neil

CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

If you were able to participate in Stonelaw's Zoom Church on Sunday 22nd November, you'll have seen this [5-minute video](#) about how the Reachout team has responded to the pandemic, and maintained their Christian outreach to children and young people in Rutherglen and Cambuslang. If you missed the video and have Internet access, it's well worth a look!



The Reachout made three prayer requests:

- **Please give thanks** that the team's new fortnightly video assemblies have been so well received by local schools
- **Please pray** that these two projects will be fruitful:
Christmas Unwrapped, which unpacks the Christmas story and allow children to look more deeply at the meaning of Christmas.
Boomerang which aims to support teachers in encouraging resilience in children and young people.

Let's keep Reachout team members Ross Murray, Alison Kennedy and our own Greg Senior in our prayers as they adapt their working methods to fit in with these difficult times.

How to contact Reachout

Tel: 07837 193028 **Email:** greg.crrt@outlook.com **Website:** crrt.org.uk/

Address: Cambuslang Parish Church, 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang G72 7JQ

Jean MacKenzie

CHURCH REGISTER AND STONELAW FAMILY NEWS

Certificates of Transference have been issued to Mr John and Mrs Maureen Mason, who moved away from Rutherglen in 2003 and will be joining Giffnock South Parish Church. Mrs Ann Law died on 25th November 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann's brother Archie and his family.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO ALAN AND LOUISE

As you may know, Alan and Louise Mairs moved some time ago to Glassford, near Strathaven. They are now worshipping with the congregation of St Ninian's Stonehouse.

We would like to thank Louise and Alan for all they have contributed to the life and work of Stonelaw over the years, but particularly for the huge contribution they have made through their gifts and talents in the creative field, as artists and musicians. Among other things, they designed many of Stonelaw's Christmas and Easter cards, set up Film Nights and the Acoustic Nights, were very involved in Acoustic Sunday evening services and, working with our children and young people, produced beautiful banners for our Sanctuary.

We send our best wishes to Alan, Louise and their family.

THANK YOU FROM THE KAYSER FAMILY

We want to thank everyone at Stonelaw for their prayers, cards and flowers. The last four weeks have been very hard, but the kindness shown by everyone has helped immensely. We would also like to thank Rev John Martindale for his kindness and the beautiful eulogy he gave at Laurie's funeral, which captured his life and spirit so fully.

We will miss Laurie every day but are consoled that he is now at rest with the Father. Thank you and God bless you,

Margie, Margaret and Graeme Kayser

(see page 10-11 for a tribute to Laurie)

THANK YOU

Mum and I have been overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of the church family. Thank you very much for the many acts of kindness during and after my recent hospital stay. I know that progress will be slow and painful, so your prayers are much appreciated. My sincere thanks for your prayerful concern.

Margaret A. Borland.

FROM THE MAY FAMILY

Dear Friends,

At the end of what has been a very strange year for us all, we simply wanted to send you our greetings for this Christmas Season, and an assurance of our prayers for you in 2021.

Despite the difficulties of getting to know so many new people here in these times, we are settling in well, and are grateful for your prayers and encouragement.

With all our love,

Alistair, Elaine, Rebecca and Hannah

As a congregation, we are sad that in these difficult times we cannot attend the funerals of church family members. For this reason, we include the following tributes. Many thanks to past and present Stonelaw members for writing them.

JESSIE STEWART

Jessie Stewart, who died on 10th October 2020, was a long-standing member of Stonelaw congregation. She and her husband Davie were a devoted couple, often seen walking together round Rutherglen. Jessie, like Davie, was always bright, cheery and happy to have a chat when meeting familiar faces from Stonelaw.

Outside church life, the Stewarts were keen members of Rutherglen Bowling Club. During her last illness Jessie and Davie were visited regularly and faithfully in hospital by a number of friends, including our Locum, the Rev John Martindale, until lockdown ruled that out.

On 31st May of this year, to celebrate their birthdays one day apart, the staff of Rodger Park Nursing home brought the 89 year-old Jessie and 95 year-old Davie out to the paved garden area where around a dozen members of Stonelaw, seated and safely distanced, shared birthday cake and sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Jessie is survived by Davie, their daughter Christine and son-in-law Robert.

John Shaw and Derek Westwood.

LAURIE KAYSER: A GENTLE GIANT

I was privileged to be a friend of Laurie, who died on 13th October 2020. He was a kind, friendly, Christian gentleman.

In the late 1970s he joined the Stonelaw Church Manager's Court. At that time Laurie owned the joinery business, John Gibson, with premises at the gusset where the Main Street meets Cambuslang Road and was the go-to carpenter of Stonelaw Church. In the 1980s, Laurie built a fine wooden boat in the back garden of the Hillend Road house. Our friendship was sealed with a common interest in boats and the sea.

In time, Laurie became Joinery Manager of Hunter and Clark, a well-regarded company that specialised in refurbishment of listed buildings, churches and castles. Laurie was responsible for the rebuilding of the roof of a church in Queens Park, following a fire - just think of the timber roof work of Stonelaw and the skill required to replace that! I also remember inspecting a wooden, oval, spiral staircase for a castle, being assembled in his workshop. What a wonder that was - but just an interesting task, for the master joiner.

Laurie retired around the time that Alastair May was called to Stonelaw and he willingly joined in refurbishment of the manse. Then followed the removing of pews to create Transept Corner, designed and constructed by Laurie; surely a continuing testament to his craftsmanship. This was a time of change: next, the solid oak doors fronting Stonelaw Road were removed and the inner doors fitted with clear glass.

At Hillend Road he had built a well sized double garage that was his home workshop, and crafted many and various things there, from the Transept Corner tables to spinning wheels. Laurie never lost his interest in and passion for woodworking, and I never tired of looking in to inspect the latest project.

When Gus Smeaton was Preses, a 'safety committee' emerged and we three met socially. An outing to Glengoyne Distillery was memorable and we had a few days on Islay, when I had my boat berthed in Port Ellen. Laurie and Gus joined me by steamer for a memorable investigation of the distilleries and of the fine round kirk of Bowmore.

Laurie's faith and family gave him his compass in life. We sailed together both physically and in fellowship and I salute the passing of a master craftsman, sailor, Stonelaw friend and gentleman.

David Jamieson

Gus adds:

Our friendship spilled over from the church and (...) we spent many a night sorting out the world's problems. In fact, the longer we chatted, helped by Scotland's national drink, the more problems we solved. While we may have forgotten the solutions the next day, we never forgot Margie's delicious suppers.

Despite his many and varied interests, Laurie's passion was his family. Though reluctant to talk about himself, conversations about Margie, Margaret and Graeme were frequent. He was rightly proud of all of them and it was great to see that the love he gave out was returned in abundance.

A gentle giant, a generous spirit, and an inspiration to us all. Thank you, Laurie.

Gus Smeaton

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Friends

As it is part-way through November at the time of writing, I'm not able to update my forecast for the General Fund for 2020, or provide any of the usual commentary. However, I did not want to let this month's magazine go out without taking the opportunity to update and thank you, following my appeal in the last issue.

I am still expecting to predict a significant deficit when I update the forecast at the end of November. However, I also expect my next forecast deficit to be lower than the £10,000 which I anticipated in last month's Treasurer's Report.

This improvement is thanks to an encouraging response to my latest appeal. I would like to thank everyone, whether you responded financially or in prayer.

Best wishes

Euan Campbell, Treasurer

WALKING

How life changes, during lockdown! I am now out walking twice a week, with my wonderful walking partners, Susanne McCabe on Wednesdays and Adele Molloy on Fridays. Sandra Coia is about to join in too. Now, I am a lazy person; I have never liked walking - so what happened?

On 17th August I went to Millport for a week, grandchildren-free, internet-free, TV-free. I did have the option of playing DVDs on my laptop, so I took six with me, along with a 1000-piece Jigsaw (what a challenge that was!) and a book: *Rewilding the Church* by Steve Ainsthorpe, which was recommended by our current Moderator, Rev Dr Martin Fair. I cannot recommend this book highly enough; we should all read it! I would even make it compulsory reading for 2021.

The house where I was staying was one street back from the sea front. The weather was kind and most days I was able to walk down to the waterside, sit on a bench and read my book. I watched a couple of the DVDs - in fact I watched *Amazing Grace* twice! It's about William Wilberforce, a Christian leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. If you have not seen this film, you must - you can borrow my copy.

However, in the stillness of Millport, Jesus moved in my life. I cannot explain it. I came back as though I had just left a retreat, honestly. And that's when I suddenly felt a compulsion to walk.

I spoke to Susanne about this new feeling, explaining how lazy I have always been. We started with a 30-minute walk, but now we can be out for an hour or two, enjoying God's creation. I am discovering all the wonderful green spaces around us, some of which I did not even know existed: Cuningar Loop, Glasgow Green, Fernbrae Meadows, Holmhills Park, Tollcross Park, the Clydeside Walkway from the Athletes' Village and another stretch of walkway from behind Braehead shopping centre. Where next? Watch this space!

NEXT STEPS GROUP

You will see some articles in this month's magazine from members of the Next Steps Group, which was set up to try to identify some of the needs of our congregation and our community during this period of Covid-19 disease. I fear for these winter months: dark nights, possibly rising virus numbers, the frustrations, the loneliness. If you can identify with any of these feelings, please fill in Susanne's questionnaire on page 25 and help us to help you. And if you are well, and still able to be out and about perhaps you could consider helping us to help others? If so, please let us know!

NEXT STEPS GROUP MEMBERS

Susanne McCabe
Joyce Allan

Jennifer Menzies
Dorothy McTaggart

Fiona Benson
Shona Forsyth

Marlene Galt
Thérèse Reid

Susanne: Co-ordinator Questionnaire

Jennifer: Co-ordinator Christmas Angels

Fiona: Co-ordinator Christmas Jars

Marlene: Co-ordinator Advent Challenge

Joyce: Co-ordinator Phone Tree

Shona: Co-ordinator Outdoors Project

Dorothy: Co-ordinator Community Project

PHONE TREE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR - JOYCE ALLAN

For those who are unable to go out of the house alone and find that extremely frustrating and isolating, we have set up a Phone Tree. The idea is that someone from the church would call you once a week for a wee chat. Currently we have three volunteers who each have three other members to call and keep in touch with.

Would you appreciate a call from another church member once a week?
Or do you enjoy talking to people? Would you consider joining our Phone Tree Team?

If I decide to volunteer with the Phone Tree Team, what would I have to do?

We would simply (*with their permission*) give each volunteer the telephone numbers of three other people for you to call once a week.

If you are interested in the Phone Tree, please phone Thérèse on **07508 213099**.

Thinking of others in our community

Do you have a neighbour or a friend that you know is struggling and would benefit from a phone call? If yes, can you ask their permission for us to get in touch?

Joyce Allan and Thérèse **07508 213 099** Thérèse.stonelawchurch@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS ANGELS CO-ORDINATOR: JENNIFER MENZIES



Would you like to knit some angels for a Stonelaw Christmas display? You can use any pattern you like, make up your own, or use [this one](#). It's very simple and adaptable, as you can use any colour of knitting wool, and any medium-sized needles. Thanks, Cathie Gray, for sharing this lovely photo! Cathie has sewn faces on hers, but that's not essential. You can also crochet or sew your angels.

If you need a paper copy of the pattern, let us know, and one of us will drop it off to you. And if you would like to take part, but don't have needles or wool, please let us know. Between us we are sure to have supplies to share, lurking in cupboards!

Please keep your angels until nearer Christmas, when we will decide how we can use them, depending on the restrictions at that time.

If you can, why not post photos of your angels on the Stonelaw Church Facebook page? Happy knitting!

Jennifer Menzies **07974 793 235**

ADVENT CHALLENGE CO-ORDINATOR: MARLENE GALT

This Advent challenge is for us all, no matter what age you are! If you can, please post a photo and a comment about each challenge on our church Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/StonelawChurch>

Week beginning 29th Nov....1st week in Advent challenge

Make a miniature Christmas tree out of materials you've collected, e.g. twigs, card, wool, cloth, wire, dough etc.

(Try to find out roughly when and where the Christmas tree tradition began.)

Week beginning 6th Dec....2nd week in Advent challenge

Make a simple gift for an unknown person in your street. First, find a clean, empty jam jar or a nice wee box in your house. Line it with a piece of coloured tissue paper and put some unusual sweets or chocolates or wee biscuits in it. Decorate the outside of the container and finish by including a warm Christmas wish.

(Ask an adult to come with you to take this lovely gift - to an older person, perhaps, or to someone who lives alone near you.)

Week beginning 13th Dec....3rd week in Advent challenge

Make a Christmas card for a person living alone near you.

(Perhaps write a wee note about yourself/your family and wish them a happy Christmas. Deliver the card with an adult in your family. Ring their doorbell and give a big smile!)

Week beginning 20th Dec....4th week in Advent Challenge

Create your own idea of the FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS in that stable. You could draw, paint, or construct a 3D model of the scene: out of plasticene, card, dough, material - or a mixture of all of these!

(Please include a suitable Bible verse, probably from St Luke's Gospel Chapter 2.)

These challenges could be for the whole family, or they might be an opportunity to share your own creativity as you give gifts to others. It is our hope that our Advent Challenge will be issued to Calderwood, Burgh, Bankhead and St Columbkille's primary school children. We look forward to hearing how you get on and to seeing your photos!

Marlene Galt *(Any questions? Please contact Thérèse on 07508 213 099)*

OUTREACH QUESTIONNAIRE CO-ORDINATOR: SUSANNE MCCABE

Attached, along with this magazine, you should have a questionnaire from Stonelaw's Next Steps Group. We are researching how we can best support our congregation and our community, at a time where it is not easy to attend church in person.

We'd love your input on how we can help you and your family at the moment! Please return it to me, Susanne McCabe at sue@frozencoast.com or to the address provided.

OUTDOOR EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: SHONA FORSYTH

If you pass our church when you're out and about, please look out for Christmas silhouettes on the glass doors of the Stonelaw Road entrance.

Coming soon - stars bunting on the railings, produced by members of the congregation! Hand made, as a sign to our community that Stonelaw Church is still alive and active.

CHRISTMAS JARS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR: FIONA BENSON

'Be kind to one another' Ephesians 4:32

We could all do with some kindness, especially during these trying times.

Could you spread a little kindness by filling a jar with some treats and passing it on to someone who would be blessed by this act of kindness? This could be a friend at school, a neighbour, an elderly person who lives alone in your neighbourhood, the crossing patrol person, the local shopkeeper, for someone's birthday - be adventurous!

If you can, please take a picture of your jar and post it on the Stonelaw Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StonelawChurch>

Tell us the story of who you gave your jar to and why. We don't want to stop at one person, so when you pass your jar on, please encourage the recipient to do the same.

What you will need:

- Any jar
- Something nice to put into it
- Something to make it pretty (i.e. ribbon, string, bow, raffia etc.)
- An encouraging message about kindness (see below)

We hope that as many people as possible will help to spread a little kindness.

Messages of Kindness

- Kindness costs nothing, but means everything.
- Kindness is free; let's pass it on.
- Throw kindness around like confetti.
- Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

God bless you,
Fiona Benson

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THÉRÈSE

The brightest star; angels singing;
Shepherds watching; wise men waiting.
And to this earth our Saviour comes,
Born humbly, to parents scared and alone.

So, let us love one another. Remember those scared and alone,
Suffering grief and illness, feeling trapped in their homes.
Lift their names in prayer, to Jesus our Lord
A gift so precious we could never afford.

A gift from our Father in Heaven above,
To be the light of this world, to show us his love
So come and adore him and give him your praise,
Telephone others and brighten their day.

Let us share the Good News with many that Jesus is born!
Christmas Blessings, sent with love from my home to yours,

Thérèse x



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE 11TH NOVEMBER 2020

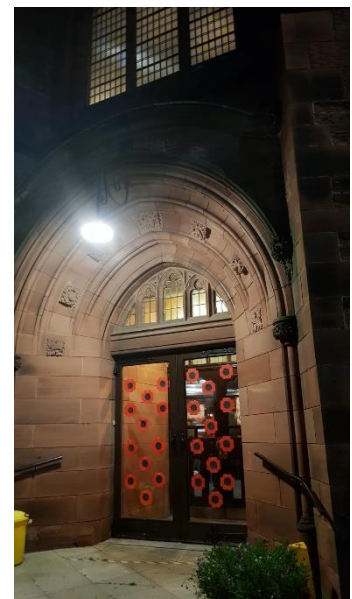


Our fortnightly midweek service, led by our locum Rev John Martindale, coincided with Remembrance Day. Although our numbers were restricted, it was a very special event.

Both the outside and inside of the church were decorated with poppies, all hand made by members of the congregation. The poppies and the banner outside the building have shown our community that we are still here and that we continue to honour the fallen.

Our BB company, the 131st, have worked hard to make their banner and paint poppies on stones. Three of their officers, Walter and Anne Smyth and Mabel Moore, were at the service to represent the company.

We thank everyone involved for making this a very special, even if a very different Remembrance Day.



NEWS FROM THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION

As the temperatures drop, we are reminded of the additional hardships faced by individuals who find themselves homeless and vulnerable during these winter months. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all in Stonelaw who contributed to our Harvest appeal. There are still donations being received and we are grateful for your ongoing support.



We have been faced with difficult decisions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic - sadly, LHM is having to make some staff members redundant. This is because a thorough Covid-19 Risk Assessment made it clear that re-opening the Day Centre building would place our staff, volunteers and clients at unacceptable risk of contracting the virus.

This is not to say that LHM has ceased operating - far from it - but for the foreseeable future we shall continue (as we have since March) to work in partnership with other agencies, providing food, clothing and toiletries as well as outreach and pastoral support to those in most need, scattered throughout the city. In this way, we can assist greater numbers of the most destitute. New staff positions are being created to meet this different way of working and it is hoped that some of our existing staff will fit into these new roles.

Please pray

- For all those individuals who will find themselves without shelter, rough sleeping, sofa surfing or in temporary accommodation, and all who need emergency support.
- For all those working year-round on the frontline and in support agencies to reduce the harms caused by homelessness.

Claire Herbert, Lodging House Mission Chaplain

LHM 2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL: SPONSOR A WINTER WEATHER PACK



A Winter Weather Pack contains gloves, a hat, a scarf, a face mask, and a phone number providing access to support and chaplaincy services.

You can sponsor the cost of a Winter Weather Pack at £12 or simply make a donation to our Christmas Appeal and help us to continue to care for and support those who are isolated and without a home over the festive period.

If you would you like to support the Lodging House Mission Christmas Appeal, go to

www.lhm-glasgow@org.uk or send a cheque to **LHM 35 East Campbell St Glasgow G1 5GT**

NEWS FROM THE FOODBANK COMMITTEE

Anyone in need of food is invited to come along at these times:

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

The Baptist Church, Cambuslang on Fridays, 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

If you need food, please come along to either Centre. 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.

The Foodbank Manager is Mrs Katharina Nimmo.

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, but these can be left at

- Tesco in Burnside and Dalmarnock,
- Morrison's in Cambuslang
- On Rutherglen Main Street, at: The Co-operative, Nationwide Building Society and Laurie Ross Insurance. Boots also collect toiletries for the Food Bank.

THE CHOSEN

When browsing Facebook recently, I came across clips of *The Chosen*, a new American series about the life of Jesus, which interested me greatly. Subsequently, I downloaded the free app on to my phone. (Listen to me, talking as if I'm an IT professional -some of you know that is not the case at all!)

Watching the eight episodes in Series One of *The Chosen*, I have been very moved. Jesus has been brought to life for me as never before, in his humanity, and his love.

This series was made in 2019 and released this year, 2020, thanks to record-breaking crowd-funding. The writers, directors, producers and some of the actors are all believing Christians. Looking at this trailer might help you to decide if you'd like to watch it too:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBXOFnNTULFaAnj24PAeblg>

Adele Molloy

NEW STONELAW CHURCH WEBSITE

Our new website went live last month. Please visit <https://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

A MIRACULOUS MESS

A 2-minute read from the Tearfund Prayer Team, in which Gideon Heugh reflects on how the birth of his own daughter gave him a fresh perspective on Advent.

At 4.37pm on Sunday, 23rd September, my daughter was born. And it was the most astonishing, beautiful, messy, wonderful, transformative and terrifying moment of my life. Birth is one of the most natural things in the world. Yet there is an astonishing depth to it, a sanctity – labour rooms practically hum with holiness. What could be more sacred than new life coming into the world?

The weight of heaven

But what the story of incarnation shows is that this isn't true. Jesus' birth was the divine colliding with the dirt, the mysterious entering the mundane. You will have experienced moments of incarnation in your own life. It could have been watching a sunrise, cradling a newborn child, or holding the hand of a loved one on their deathbed.

Maybe the ground is always holy. Maybe the sacred and the everyday aren't so far apart. Maybe ordinary things can be charged with the extraordinary. In traditional rabbinic teachings on the book of Exodus, the bush that Moses encountered was always burning. It's just that he happened to notice it for the first time (Exodus 3).

This is what I experienced when I held my daughter. Something so simple, so natural – so messy – yet with all the weight of heaven. A miraculous mess.

Shallows and depths

But it's easy to get distracted and miss the burning bushes in our own lives.

The world does its best to make us live in the shallows: the garish lights of shopping and TV and social media. It wants to drag us away from the deep, rich things of life: faith, family, nature, relationships, joy, grief, wonder.

This is why Advent is more important than ever. It's a chance to look up from our busy lives and notice the holiness all around. To look to the arrival of the divine. To see that miracles are everywhere.

Let's pray

Father God,

As we enter the season of Advent, we ask that you open our eyes to the extraordinary, miraculous nature of life. We pray that this will be a time of reflection, of deep love, and of hope. In Jesus' name, amen.

www.tearfund.org/2018/11/a_miraculous_mess/

Thanks to Derek Westwood for suggesting we share this article, which was first published in November 2018

**THE CUT-OFF FOR THE FEBRUARY & MARCH MAGAZINE IS SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY
PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG**

FREEDOM FROM FISTULA: GOOD NEWS!

Back in our May update, we had been forced by the pandemic to suspend our work with fistula patients – women who have suffered serious injury, arising from prolonged, obstructed labour with no access to a C-section.

Sadly, our work in Africa is still affected, but amidst the gloom, we have some very good news to share!



This month, we have been able to restart our fistula service at the Aberdeen Women's Centre in Sierra Leone, which is a great joy to the whole team. So far we have helped more than 20 women and girls and we hope to treat 60 patients by the end of the year.

If you can, read about patients like Memunata, who features in this Al Jazeera story series, recently published online:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/15/motherhood-in-crisis>

The COVID-19 virus has not 'taken hold' in sub-Saharan Africa in the way it has elsewhere, which is a great blessing for the people of those countries, who already live in extreme poverty and have poor healthcare systems. The virus did, however, put a stop to our fistula services in Madagascar and Malawi.

The good news is that the Ministry of Health in Malawi has, finally, agreed to return our Fistula Care Centre to us, as it is no longer required as a COVID-19 treatment centre.

While international flights into Madagascar remain suspended, we are unable to restart our fistula project there, but we are planning to reopen in January. The team has continued identifying patients over the last few months to ensure that we can 'hit the ground running'.

We are very grateful to Stonelaw for your ongoing support. We know everyone's finances have been impacted over the last few months and so your commitment to us is greatly appreciated.

100% of your donations go directly to our projects* in Africa, so every £1 goes a long way!

Thank you and stay safe.

Lois Boyle

Stonelaw member and Director of Operations and Communications, Freedom From Fistula

**This is possible because administration costs are covered by the Ann Gloag Foundation.*

Freedom From Fistula, The Steading, Kinfauns, Perth, PH2 7JU Tel 01738 633264

www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk/

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Of course, the Rutherglen Churches' Christian Aid committee was severely hampered in its efforts this year, having to cancel many planned Christian Aid Week fundraisers, as well as the Fun Run/Walk and the October 2020 Coffee Morning. However, we do have some good news!



Between three 'virtual' fundraisers: the 150k in May Challenge (in which seven Stonelaw members participated), the Rutherglen and Burnside Christian Aid Week JustGiving Page (which replaced the Christian Aid Week envelopes) and the 30,000 steps in May Challenge (taken on single-handedly by Rhona Robertson of the United Reformed Church) the amazing total of **£2796** was raised in our local area. Many thanks to all in Stonelaw who supported any of these, or who sent donations directly to Christian Aid.

Overall this year, nearly **£4 million** was raised in the UK – less than usual, but still well worth celebrating.

In a message to UK churches, Sophie Brightwell of the Christian Aid Week Team said, *"(...) we could not be more grateful for all your hard work and passion. Your fundraising was amazing! You shared with us your sponsored head shaves, prayer camp outs, cookbook sales and fitness challenges, as you made the most of the good weather.(...) As we now look towards Advent and to making the most of the Christmas period, we hope this serves as a reminder of how special our Christian Aid Community is."*

Next year's Christian Aid Week will pick up on the stories of Rose, Florence and their communities in Kenya and explore how climate chaos is affecting their livelihoods. Let's hope that by May 2021, restrictions will be relaxed enough to let us enjoy our Christian Aid Week Big Brunch and to hold our postponed Fun Run/Walk in June!

Jean MacKenzie

LEAP CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES ON ZOOM

Have you heard of LEAP? It is a charitable organisation based in Cambuslang, set up, as many of you will know, to enhance the lives of over-50s in Lanarkshire.

In normal times, LEAP organises various clubs (table tennis, badminton, curling, walking group) and classes (computer, mobile phone, art) for Seniors in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area. They also run Friendship Groups and a Handyperson Service which, during the pandemic, can deal with emergencies only.

This year, as those activities have had to be cancelled, LEAP has produced a Christmas catalogue detailing a wide range of events, classes, crafting, which, if you have access to the Internet, you can enjoy on Zoom from your own living room. Some of these are free, and others cost from £3 per session.

Check out what's on here: www.leap-project.co.uk/learning-and-leisure-activities

Adele Molloy

LEAP, 197 Hamilton Road, Cambuslang, G72 7PJ

Tel: 0141 641 5169 Email: enquiries@leap-project.co.uk Website www.leap-project.co.uk

CATCH UP HERE ON THE SATURDAY CONGREGATIONAL EMAILS

We only include here items that have not already been mentioned here or in the previous magazine.

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Dear Friends

These are indeed strange times, but I'm struck by the familiar things which still surround us. There are fireworks in the air, as our dogs Baggins and Frodo can tell you. There are pictures of children dressed up for Halloween, although nobody going door to door. The clocks have gone back and it's dark by teatime. The autumn leaves were beautiful before the recent rain and wind stripped them from the trees. The familiar seasonal cycle remains even if our lives have been curtailed by Covid-19.

I'm seeing the same contrast in our church life where the familiar spiritual cycle remains. Worship still takes place on the Lord's Day and even the Wednesday 2pm service is restarting on a fortnightly basis. The church's weekly prayer meeting still takes place, now on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. The same is true for Session and Managers' meetings which take place regularly on Zoom. And now the Nomination Committee is seeking God's will and the person he has chosen to become our next minister. This spiritual cycle remains, although our usual cups of tea and coffee are missing.

The cycle of the seasons and offices of the church continue faithfully, just as our Lord faithfully cares for us and hears our prayers. Covid's challenges are at a microscopic level, small compared to planetary cycles and God's eternal love in Jesus. Yes, it is a challenging and worrying time, especially as the 'second wave' appears. Please continue to pray for our politicians, leaders and health workers as they make decisions and work hard to keep us all safe. Please remember the government's advice as you go about your everyday activities and make plans. And please keep in touch with family, friends and fellow members of Stonelaw as we face this pandemic together, with God's grace to sustain us.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk

sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org or call **07825 137 168**

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Dear Friends

Well, I've really done it this time, something I've never done before, although that is no defence. I could say that I'll never do it again but that may not be true or enough. I can see the angry faces of some when they find out what I've done. Many will not speak to me but I can see the disappointment in their eyes. There will be emails and a phone call from Gavin, our Interim Moderator, perhaps from Presbytery too.

You see, I put up our Christmas lights on Friday night! Yes, I know that is so wrong - far, far too early. I know that some of you buy a real tree a couple of weeks before Christmas and leave it up until Twelfth Night. Others with artificial trees may go a bit earlier as dropping pine needles are not a problem. And that the first Sunday of Advent is when the church starts its Christmas season, this year falling on Sunday the 29th November.

But this year has been like no other. Many of our church traditions have had to change to help us through this pandemic. I've been so impressed by older members who've learned to use Zoom to access worship. Zoom breakout rooms also allow us to chat afterwards but there's not a cuppa in sight. If we'd stopped having tea and coffee after worship in the sanctuary, we wouldn't have liked that. Just think about how much paper we've not used putting our weekly offerings into little envelopes to be counted by the Managers. The large increase in bank standing orders has saved us from an even larger deficit. Many other cherished habits have changed this year, including how we usually meet with our friends and families.

We needed to put up our Christmas lights early this year. We needed their warmth and reassurance that better times are coming. We need Advent when we celebrate God breaking into our sad winter of sin with the birth of a Saviour. We need Jesus, this year more than any I can remember. So with that hope in my heart, I'll continue to witness to Jesus' birth this very different Christmas.

David McTaggart, Session Clerk
sessionclerk@stonelawchurch.org or call 07825 137 168)

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN

This year, the young people (aged 4 – 16) connected to Stonelaw have been invited to help design the cover of our Christmas card. This will be distributed to all homes in our parish area. The theme is Traditional Nativity.

We will choose the design which we feel best suits our theme, but we hope the children and young people have fun doing it. We will display all designs on our website.

Please draw on A4 white paper (portrait) and use coloured pens.

Please write your name and a contact email address on the back.

We would like your design by Sunday 29th November, please. To find out where to drop off your design, email info@stonelawchurch.org

STONELAW CHURCH MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2020-2021

Month(s)	Deadline for submissions	Issue Date
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, and Derek Westwood 01292 286 923, with extra help from Morag Moore.

Many thanks to Richard and Morag Taylor and Sandy and Jane Paulsen for printing the magazine, and to Janis Neil and Isobel Wilson for organising its distribution.

THE CUT-OFF FOR THE FEBRUARY & MARCH MAGAZINE IS SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY
PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG