



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

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**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER.**

MESSAGE FROM NEIL



Dear Friends,

Firstly, I'd like to welcome you, both to this latest edition of the Stonelaw magazine and to my first message here as your minister. I hope you have had a great summer and that this magazine finds you in good health and fine spirit.

Over these past few weeks, I have been spending time going back to re-read the book of Genesis and have arrived at the story of Joseph (of Technicolour Dreamcoat fame!)

There are a number of things that have struck me about Joseph's story, but none more so than his willingness to hold steadfastly to the promises that God had made to him. I guess Joseph's life can very much be seen as a rollercoaster - filled with many highs and just as many lows. Whether he is suffering betrayal at the hands of his own brothers, being accused of crimes he didn't commit and thrown in prison, or being positioned as Pharaoh's right-hand man, Joseph's faith remains strong throughout.

Joseph is able to do this because he knows that God's promises are binding and secure; that while he may have found himself in deep trouble at times, the promise he had received from God in a dream - to deliver him to a peaceful and prosperous life - hadn't yet been fulfilled. That's why Joseph knew that his journey couldn't possibly be coming to an end.

Our own lives can be very much like Joseph's rollercoaster - filled with times of real joy and, equally, times of deep distress. During the past year and a half, our rollercoaster might well have been going at quite a speed, with some days definitely better than others.

It may be that you find yourself feeling excited as restrictions start to fall away; perhaps you can't wait to get back to doing all the things you could do before the pandemic. Equally, you may find yourself a little anxious and uncertain about all of this, and possibly not yet ready to fully engage in activities that you enjoyed before.

Regardless of where you find yourself on the rollercoaster of life at the moment, you may want to take some time to reflect prayerfully on all the good things God has given you and give thanks for them, while also taking to God in prayer those things that have been a real challenge. In all of this, hold on to God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 to take care of you and give you a hope for the future.

As always, I am available to have a chat and pray with you, if that is something that you would like. I can be reached by telephone on **0787 161 5480** or by email at minister@stonelawchurch.org.

Yours in Jesus,

Neil

Rev Neil H Watson

Ed: Thanks to the Rutherglen Reformer for permission to use the photo above. It appeared on 4th August alongside an article by Jonathan Geddes. Photographer: Douglas McKendrick.

A PRAYER FROM NEIL

Generous God and Giver of all things, I rest in your loving care.

I am revived, restored and renewed by your strength and encouragement.

You go before me in life, leading me in pathways that are secure, without the confusion of becoming lost.

I know that I always need to follow you; and so, once again, I put my trust in your guidance and wisdom.

As a human being, I know there are times of stress, when my body or mind lets me **and** you down; I know there will be dark times too, when life seems to be nothing but struggle; and it is in those times especially, that I rely on your presence deep within me to guide and bless me.

I offer my struggles and confessions to you.

Grace-Giving God, you provide me with the tools I need for the tasks I will face, and for this I give you my trust and thanks.

Life-Giving God, as I come before you in worship, you nourish my soul and body through your goodness and your tender mercies; you heal my wounds; and your generous love fills me to overflowing.

You have promised that your unfailing love will stay with me always, and for this, I praise you and give my thanks.

I offer this prayer in the precious name of Jesus who, when teaching us to pray, taught us to say these words:

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

IN THE STONELAW CHURCH BUILDING

Every Sunday 10.30am Morning service with a crèche for children under 3, Discoverers for pre-school and primary age and Connect2 for secondary age. The first Sunday of the month is a Communion Service.

Please note, it is helpful if you continue to book for the Sunday and monthly Wednesday services. To do so, please contact Thérèse Reid on 07508 213099 (by text message if possible). We will be continuing on Zoom for those who are unable to be in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday 1st September 2.00-2.30pm Mid-week service.

Sunday 19th September National Giving Day. See page 6 for details.

Wednesday 6th October 2.00-2.30pm Mid-week service.

Thursdays 26th August to 16th September only, at 6-7pm

131st Boys' Brigade meets at the Stonelaw High School Community Wing. Details p 21.

Thursdays 23rd September onwards at 6.30-8pm

131st Boys' Brigade will meet in the Main Hall, Stonelaw Church. Details p 21.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-12.30pm Summer Hub in the Meeting Place. No need to book a table. See page 12 for details.

Every Friday 9.45 – 11.30am Stonelaw Toddlers Group. For details, see p.7 and p.13.

STONELAW CHURCH ON ZOOM

See the Saturday email for how to access our Zoom events.

To sign up, please email info@stonelawchurch.org For more details, see page 26.

Every Sunday 10.30am Church Service on Zoom

The first Sunday of the month is our Communion Service.

Every Wednesday 7.30pm Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Every Thursday 2-4pm Coffee and Crafts with Fiona Benson. See page 12 for details.

Thursday 2nd September 10.30am Zoom House group with Jennifer Menzies.

Thursday 2nd September 7.30pm Zoom House group with Dorothy and David McTaggart.

Thursday 7th October 10.30am Zoom House group with Jennifer Menzies.

Thursday 7th October 7.30pm Zoom House group with Dorothy and David McTaggart.

Every Friday 5.30-7pm Grace and Truth Bible Study with Mada and Mirriam

FLOWER MINISTRY IN STONELAW

We all enjoy the beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning. Those who receive the flowers, whether it's because they are celebrating, recovering, mourning or being thanked, take great comfort in knowing that we care. This is such a beautiful and practical way to express God's love for one another. However, the Flower Fund is sadly depleted and, in fact, the money we have now will run out at the end of September.



Many of you already donate, but we would encourage those of you who don't, to consider making a donation to pay for the flowers one Sunday in the year. Many people choose a date that is significant; perhaps to mark the birthday of a loved one or the anniversary of their loss. If you would like to do this, please pass your donation to Margaret Stark. Or put your donation in an envelope marked **Flower Fund** and place it in the collection plate located in the Meeting Place on a Sunday morning.

But we are not just short of money. Over the last year or two, we have also lost some of our flower arrangers. If you would like to arrange the flowers for one week - or more - in the year, please pass your name to Margaret Stark or Janis Neil. If you have no experience, don't worry, we can provide you with training!

Janis Neil jneil1@virginmedia.com

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL GIVING DAY – 19th SEPTEMBER 2021



Congregations across the Church of Scotland are invited to take part in a one-off National Giving Day initiative this autumn. At our last Kirk Session meeting, it was decided that we would choose Sunday 19 September as the date for our Gift Day.

The aim is to offer congregations an opportunity to reflect deeply on God's loving presence with us during these challenging times and to express our appreciation and gratitude through giving generously ourselves.

Gifts can take many forms and can include offerings of time and effort shared within congregations as well as monetary gifts that can be used for a congregation's agreed purpose or project.

Stonelaw's Kirk Session will be discussing this at the end of the month, after which further information will be shared.

For more information about the Kirk's National Giving Day, you can visit

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/churches-invited-to-take-part-in-a-national-giving-day>

TODDLERS ARE BACK!

Our Toddler Group reopened on Friday 20th August. We are open every Friday in the school term from 9.45 - 11.30am. All parents, grandparents and carers of babies and toddlers under the age of 3 are welcome, but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please note that at this time we are unable to offer a Wednesday session, as we do not yet have a team.

To register, please email Adele Molloy on molloyadele@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERING AND PVG (PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS) REGISTRATION

Things are slowly getting back to normal and church groups are looking for volunteers. Since the long break due to Covid19, some people have decided that they no longer wish to continue volunteering. Please let me know if you no longer wish to help out so that I can take your name off the register. I will also need your phone number and/or address so that I can arrange to drop in a leavers' form.

You can text the information to me on 07811 591 684 or email it to me at elainemdevlin@googlemail.com.

We are always looking for new helpers, so if you are interested in volunteering within the church, please contact me. To volunteer with any of the children's groups, you will need PVG registration. If you wish to volunteer with another group, please still get in touch with me and I'll let you know if you need PVG registration.

Thank you.

Elaine Devlin, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

REFUGEES AT HOME

We have all been watching the disaster of Afghanistan unfold on our screens this week. We weep and wonder, "What can we do?" Well, Glasgow Presbytery has sent out this appeal from Sabine Chalmers, who is a Church of Scotland employee and Co-ordinator of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees:

"A quick note to say that Refugees At Home has let us know they are urgently looking for hosts in Glasgow at the moment, to host destitute asylum seekers.

Refugees at Home is a fabulous hosting organisation providing extensive support for hosts to participate. Please, can you circulate this appeal to your Glasgow church network?"

If you are able to help, please contact Sabine at SChalmers@churchofscotland.org.uk



WHAT IS COP 26 AND WHY DO CHRISTIANS WANT TO SUPPORT ITS WORK?

COP26 is just the short version of the very long full name of the upcoming conference in Glasgow. COP26's real name is the **26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties**, and it takes place from 1st to 11th November.

Why support the work of COP26? Here's one answer, from the Very Reverend Susan Brown, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland:

"We need to ensure that the voices of those who are experiencing the effects of climate change are heard loud and clear. This is what we in the Church of Scotland should do for our brothers and sisters around the globe. Together, let us make a stand for justice."

The 2021 General Assembly Report of the Faith Impact Forum concluded that:

"The task facing the Church is, without further delay, to make a commitment aligned with our Christian obligation to care for creation. Environmental concern is God's mission, for it is a public proclamation of God's love for the world."

One simple action that you might like to take is to read and (if you agree with it) sign the [Climate Coalition's Declaration](#) – This asks us to urge the UK Government to protect our environment and get us on track to net-zero emissions.

For other ideas of how we might 'stand for justice', see below, and/or follow this link: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/kirk-marks-100-days-until-cop26

COULD YOU BE A COP26 STREET PASTOR?

During COP 26, Glasgow City Centre will be busy with guests from across the world attending the conference. Glasgow Street Pastors have been 'listening, caring and helping' on the streets of Glasgow for the past 12 years, assisting individuals who become vulnerable or require assistance for a variety of reasons. This work is done by committed Christians, minimum age 18, from a wide range of church backgrounds, united in a desire to demonstrate the love and compassion of God in very practical acts of service.

Volunteers from churches in the Glasgow Presbytery are invited to join with Street Pastors to provide an additional caring presence on the city streets. Working with experienced Street Pastors, you will have the opportunity to be involved in a two-hour afternoon patrol (1-3pm) or three-hour evening patrol. (8-11pm)

An application form can be obtained from coordinator@gsp.scot.

Your minister or church leader will be contacted for a brief comment in support of your application. A training day has been arranged on Saturday 2nd October at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church from 10:00-15:00. Attendance at this training is essential for volunteers.

This article was published on the Presbytery of Glasgow's website.

STONELAW'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE!

What are you already doing, to protect God's world? Have you any tips for us? Let's share our ideas, starting with the November issue of this magazine.

Email magazine@stonelawchurch.org or call/text Jean MacKenzie on 07771817954, as soon as you like!



ART FOR THE PLANET: CREATE A BANNER FOR COP26!



The Church of Scotland has invited groups of members who like sewing to create 'patches' one metre wide by one metre long. These, once combined, will form a huge banner to hang from New College, on the Mound in Edinburgh, overlooking Princes Street.

Each patch will contribute to an artwork that is designed to raise awareness of the Climate Emergency and the COP meeting in Glasgow. This will be a faith-based and artistic way of supporting the aims of COP26

The patches have to be submitted by 1st October, when they will be sewn together to form two banners. You can find out more about this project [here](#).

PAST TIMES CAFÉ



At some point in the weeks ahead, we hope to open the doors of the Meeting Place to a new, very special group of customers.

Over two years ago, a Stonelaw committee was set up to develop the Meeting Place as a Mission Hub. They decided that we should set up a dementia friendly café. It was to be named Past Times Café and the intention was to open one afternoon a month. The committee spent months visiting other dementia friendly cafes, speaking to a number of experts and attending a conference on dementia. Plans were drawn up on how the café would operate. It was agreed that dementia sufferers must be accompanied by his or her carer at all times, as the café is for the benefit of both. A number of volunteers were identified who were keen to help out. And then Covid-19 struck...

Now that restrictions are lifting, it is time to get things moving again. Elaine Devlin, Stonelaw's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, is working with our volunteers to ensure the essential PVG accreditation is in place. We need this before we can open.

We've established contact with members of the Community Mental Health Team for Older People, based at Rutherglen Health Centre. They are really pleased to hear what we are planning and are keen to refer patients who they feel would benefit from the café. They have also offered to be with us when we are open, to provide advice and guidance to those who attend. This is very encouraging.

At this point, we have no idea how long it will take to register all our volunteers with a PVG certificate. If you think that Past Times would be of benefit to someone you know, then please get in touch. We can then let you know as soon as we have an opening date.

Janis Neil jneil1@virginmedia.com

CHURCH REGISTER

Mrs Jean MacDonald died on 16th August 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son Andrew, her daughters Kay, Margaret and Eleanor, and all the family.

Ed: See below for a few words about Jean.

Certificates of Transference have been requested by, and issued to, **Mhairi Cavanagh** and **Margaret Waterson**, both of whom have left the area with their families and have joined a new church. Mhairi has joined St John's Parish Church in Hamilton and Margaret has joined Bishopton Parish Church. We wish them both well in their new church families.

STONELAW CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please send any Church Family news that you would like to share to magazine@stonelawchurch.org or phone any of the editorial team – see page 27.

THANK YOU, FRIENDS AND STRANGERS

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who came to my rescue back in June, when I took a nasty tumble in Stonelaw Road, after visiting the Spring Hub. I had had such a lovely time chatting to folk I hadn't seen for a while. Little did I know that straight after that I would be in an ambulance on my way to hospital with a very bad gash in my head! Thanks go to the church family members who were still in The Meeting Place (sorry for the fright I gave you!) and also to the strangers who appeared from nowhere to help me up onto my feet and out of the way of traffic.

Thank you all for your prayers and concern as well as practical support. The church flowers were absolutely gorgeous – thank you so much. Thanks be to God that I didn't need stitches or a head scan. I wonder if the fall knocked any sense into me? Time will tell!

Margaret A. Borland

THANK YOU STONELAW



I was delighted when Stuart (my son) handed me such gorgeous flowers from Stonelaw Church congregation, in celebration of my 100th birthday on 14th June. Thanks also for the lovely cards from members of the congregation.

May you and your minister, and all members of Stonelaw, be richly blessed.

Maud Willins

Ed: Maud sent her lovely handwritten message on the card shown above.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO MHAIRI AND MARGARET

We'd like to express our thanks, and very best wishes in your new churches, to Mhairi Cavanagh and Margaret Waterson. Mhairi was for many years a valued member of the Discoverers team, while Margaret regularly read the Bible for us on Sundays, was an active member of the National Mission Team, the Praise Group and the Welcome Plus team, and enjoyed taking part in the Tuesday Chat get-togethers.

Thank you both, for all you have contributed to the life of Stonelaw Church. We'll miss you!

JEAN MACDONALD

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of one of our longest serving Stonelaw members, Mrs Jean MacDonald, who was married to the late Tom, a Stonelaw elder. Jean was a very talented and unassuming lady who played the piano beautifully and had excellent sight-reading skills. She played not only for the Women's Guild but also accompanied The Stonelaw Singers, who were all Women's Guild members during the ministry of Rev Tom Morton.

Jean played for the singers at events in and around Lanarkshire, including their final singing event, the Induction in 1987 of Rev Alistair Morrice. She was also a faithful member of the church choir, singing in the alto section, and helped with the arranging and distribution of the church flowers.

Latterly, ill-health prevented Jean from attending church. One of her daughters, Margaret and her husband moved into the family home to be with her during her later years.

Jean is survived, and missed, by four grown-up children and their families. She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Myra Howitt (and Margaret Borland)

TEA AND COFFEE VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE!

As we head back to normality after the pandemic, we hope to be able to resume serving tea and coffee after the morning service in the near future.

To be ready, it would be good to have a list of folk willing to help each week. Normally, I will set up everything prior to the service and volunteers would serve and clear up.

If you would like to help, please let me know. –

Moirá Shaw moirashaw.7152@gmail.com

CRÈCHE



Please note that we are now able to offer a crèche again on Sunday mornings. If your child or grandchild is under three, you can bring him or her to church, knowing that during the sermon, the children will be taken care of by a team of volunteers with full PVG accreditation.

NEWS FROM THÉRÈSE AND THE NEXT STEPS GROUP

"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man." Mark 1:41

NEXT STEPS GROUP STEPS DOWN...

Below are only some of the projects led by the Next Steps Group while our church was in vacancy. A huge thank you to the team for their enthusiasm to serve and encourage others in any way they could.

- Outreach on Church Railings "God's Love Is Real and Forever."; Prayer Railing
- Bake Along; Coffee and Crafts
- Phone Tree; Jars of Hope; Christmas Angels; the Advent Challenge
- Easter Hope for our Young People - Bags of Hope and Love distributed to the children in our congregation



THE NEXT STEPS TEAM: Joyce Allan, Fiona Benson, Shona Forsyth, Marlene Galt, Susanne McCabe, Dorothy McTaggart, Jennifer Menzies and Thérèse Reid

SPRING & SUMMER HUB IN THE MEETING PLACE MAY – SEPTEMBER 2021

Our Spring Hub opened its doors on 17th May with an enthusiastic team: Adele Molloy, Mary McDougall, Linda Alison, Shona Baird, Pauline Cuthbert, Joyce Allan and Thérèse Reid. Thank you for opening our church doors two afternoons a week.

The Summer Hub commenced on Tuesday 6th July with new teams, opening up from 10.30am to 12.30pm, also for two mornings a week. These volunteers are: Adele Molloy & Elizabeth McDonald; Morag Moore & Moira Baird, George & Mavis Morrison, Anne & Walter Smyth, Jane Paulsen, Elspeth Baird, Jane Russell and Thérèse Reid. This team will continue until the end of September when it is hoped that the Cafe@The Meeting Place will take over.

Both teams have undertaken stringent Covid Compliance training to ensure the safety and well-being of all customers served in The Meeting Place. We now have increased capacity due to one-metre distancing.

COFFEE, CRAFTS AND COMPANY ON ZOOM THURSDAYS 2-4PM



Everyone's welcome, for half an hour or two hours. Bring a craft to do if you like, or just come for a blether!

See the Saturday email for the Zoom log in, or contact Fiona Benson, who hosts this group, on 07980 734182 or fiona.benson@sky.com

COMING SOON: THE RETURN OF CAFÉ@THE MEETING PLACE!

Good news! As soon as our new coffee machine is installed, Café@the Meeting Place will re-open, from Mondays to Saturdays from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

We are hoping that this may be possible by the end of September. See you there!



STONELAW TODDLERS GROUP STARTS BACK ON FRIDAY AUGUST 20TH

I am delighted to report that after a gap of 18 months, our Toddlers Group is ready to re-open our doors to the community on Friday 20th August at 9.45am. Once more, without an amazing and dedicated team, none of this would be possible. We have carried out a deep-clean and are ready to go.

Our Friday Team is led by Adele Molloy, supported by Carolyn Kennedy, Jennifer Menzies, Allie O'Brien and Thérèse Reid. Margaret Breckenridge, Elaine Devlin, Doreen Frew and Jean O'Brien will serve the group on a rota basis. Sadly, at this time we do not yet have enough volunteers to re-start our Wednesday group.

JUNGLE ADVENTURE HOLIDAY CLUB TUESDAY 10TH-THURSDAY 12TH AUGUST 2021



And what an adventure it was! We had three fun packed mornings with our Perfect Parrots, Playful Pandas and Giant Giraffes, games, songs, Bible teaching and lots of very happy children.

The Amazing Jungle Adventure Team consisted of Rev Neil, Ross Murray & Alison Kennedy (Rutherglen & Cambuslang Reachout Trust), Jennifer Menzies, David & Dorothy McTaggart and Thérèse Reid.

Jesus Calls was Tuesday's theme, and our Bible story was based on Matthew 4:18-22, when Jesus

called his disciples to follow him. On Day 1 we wanted the children to discover "I am special to Jesus and he calls me to join his team too."

Jesus Provides was the theme on Wednesday. The Bible story was based on Matthew 14:13-21, the feeding of the five thousand, and the aim was for the children to discover: "Jesus loves to provide for my needs."



Jesus Guides was our theme on Thursday. We thought about the Bible story of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-29 as the discovery we were aiming for on our third and last day was: "Jesus is the best guide ever, showing me the best way to live."



Our Young Leaders were Sandy & Duncan Menzies, Lauren Murray and her friend Holly.

Hospitality for the children and team was provided by Elizabeth Watson, Susanne McCabe, Morag Taylor, Carolyn Kennedy and Flora Wilson

Thank you all for your prayers. They held us up throughout the week in everything we did.

We'd like to say a massive thank you to Ross and Alison of the Reachout Trust. Their input was immeasurable.

NORMA CHURCHILL RETIRES FROM TODDLERS AFTER 34 YEARS' SERVICE

What can I say?! Norma, who has led the Wednesday group for all those years, is well loved by all the parents, grandparents and carers. It has been an absolute delight to work alongside her in the Toddlers group. Norma has been serving our community in Jesus' name ever since Day 1 in 1987, when she helped Mary Morrice to set it up from scratch. I honestly struggle to find adequate words to express my admiration for her dedication and faithfulness to this ministry. I thank God for her and for all the families who have been blessed by her throughout the years.

Mary Morrice adds a few words:

"Norma has been God's gift to Toddlers since the group began. It was her friendly smile that welcomed newcomers and she showed a real loving concern for adults and children alike. I appreciated her friendship, her practical resourcefulness, her sense of humour and her willingness to try out new ideas such as the Christmas Pram Service. Her years as crèche leader meant that newcomers from the group felt welcome on Sundays and for generations she has been a blessing and a steady help to many mums and carers. We give thanks to God for her."

Ed: For those who don't know Mary, who pioneered what was then known as the Mother and Toddlers Group, she is married to Rev Alastair Morrice, Stonelaw's minister from 1987 to 2000. She and Alastair are still good friends of many Stonelaw members.

Adele Molloy describes Norma as

"a Volunteer Extraordinaire, who has overseen the early lives of many in our Church family - people who now, in turn, bring their own children along to Toddlers. That's how I came to know Norma, through working with her and learning from her experience, but I would add that she is also a generous and joyful friend, to myself and to many others in this congregation. Thank you, Norma!"

Ed: And finally, to make Norma blush even more, some of you may remember seeing a South Lanarkshire Council Twitter post back in January, that Jennifer Menzies shared:

"Congratulations to one of the (South Lanarkshire Council) Provost's Community Award winners, Norma Churchill. She was a founding member of Stonelaw Church Mother and Toddler Group in 1987. The group is still running and Norma has been a faithful volunteer every Wednesday since. Well done, Norma!"



"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man." Mark 1:41

Always remember what Rev Neil said: "YOU are the Bible that people read."

Let us be Jesus to our families, to our friends, to one another, to our community, that they too may know Jesus' presence with them, his hand touching them exactly where they need to meet with him.

Therese x



Stonelaw Church

As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Lanarkshire, I would like to thank you all for the wonderful contribution you have made during these extraordinary and difficult times.

It has been heartening to see so many people coming together to help others in their community. It has been a great help over this very difficult year.

The collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by volunteers across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Haughey'.

**Lady Haughey (Susan) CBE
Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire**



**Lady Haughey (Susan) CBE
Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire**



**Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire
Lady Haughey (Susan) CBE**



The Lord-Lieutenant is Her Majesty The Queen's personal representative in Lanarkshire. She represents Her Majesty The Queen on a wide variety of occasions which merit Royal support and which celebrate significant achievement in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

WHAT DOES RELEASE INTERNATIONAL DO?



Release International is an interdenominational Christian ministry working through local church partners in more than 25 countries. This ministry helps persecuted Christians prayerfully, pastorally and practically.

Release International bases its work on Hebrews 13 v 3: ***‘Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are***

mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering’.

The organisation was founded in 1968, inspired by the testimony and ministry of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned for his faith for 14 years in communist Romania. In his book, **‘Tortured for Christ’**, Wurmbrand states:

‘... The West sleeps and must be awakened to see the plight of the captive nations.’

Over the summer, I was approached about becoming a church representative for Release. After giving it prayerful thought, I decided that this was something in which I could be involved. My role would be to raise awareness of and support for the people they help in our church. There are many ways of doing this: for example, encouraging prayer for persecuted Christians, promoting their free quarterly ‘Voice’ magazine and supporting some fund-raising projects. Recently I read about a Release fundraiser who took part in a triathlon while another did a skydive. Don’t worry – I won’t be organising anything as daring as that! However, if you feel you might want to do something equally challenging to raise money, please don’t let me stop you! There are various fund-raising ideas suggested by Release, so watch this space.

The first prayer event I can tell you about is the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. This is to be held on Sunday 7th November 2021 and will be an online event. More details will be available as we approach the date.

The Release International website at www.releaseinternational.org is full of information, stories, videos and podcasts which will not only interest you but will also make you realise how blessed we are to be able to worship God and come together with other Christians in freedom.

Thank you to those of you who pray for courageous followers of Jesus.

LIFE AND WORK OFFER TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS - UNTIL 30TH SEPTEMBER

Life and Work, the Church of Scotland magazine, has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging Church of Scotland members for over 140 years. This summer, to encourage new subscribers, the team is offering a special promotion.



ANNUAL PRINT SUBSCRIPTION: Buy 12 issues for the price of 10 - pay only £30.

Purchase and save at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe Promotion code **LWS2021**

OR Call **0131 460 7487** or write to **Life and Work**, 121 George Street, Edinburgh E2 4YN.

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PLAYLIST CHALLENGE



Here at Stonelaw, we have always had a passion and love for music. We are blessed to have so many talented musicians and singers, and musical gatherings. Every day, whether in the Stonelaw Church WhatsApp group, through emails or in our services and outreach, music is at the heart of our praise, worship and mission.

Music has such an incredible influence and impact on our lives. It helps us to connect with each other and those around us. Music helps us to reach out and to share our ideas, feelings and experiences; it also helps us to encourage one another in faith and love.

I am so grateful for the music that is shared among us; it has become a really important way for me to connect and spend time with God, to deepen my understanding of his love for me and to find the courage and the words to talk about my faith and experiences. When I listen to music, I always have an increased sense of God being there with me.

With so many musical enthusiasts and talented musicians among us, and the enjoyment and importance of music to us here at Stonelaw, I wondered if we might start a regular feature in the magazine with a focus or spotlight on music, where we could share our favourite songs or artists, or create a playlist?

To start things off, I thought I'd share my own playlist with you; I hope you find some new music to listen to. For our next magazine, I nominate and challenge our own minister, Rev. Neil Watson, to share his favourite songs and playlist with us.

MY PLAYLIST

- Smile - Sidewalk Prophets www.youtube.com/watch?v=15V2sXSJ8Co
- Christ Our Hope in Life & Death- Steph McLeod www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgwdrtZkZws
- What a Friend we have in Jesus – Celtic Worship ft. Steph McLeod www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi1-5kmbkyQ
- Nobody - Casting Crowns (ft Matthew West) www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yBzlt_z8oY
- Sunday Morning Feeling - Apollo LTD www.youtube.com/watch?v=kectZGXcuZI
- Just be Held - Casting Crowns www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIZitK6_IMQ
- Holy Spirit - Francesca Battistelli www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvBBC7-PSHo
- Build My Life – Housefires www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32HiCoFzIU
- The God Who Stays – Matthew West www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPwd_TQpsHY
- It's Always Been You – Phil Wickham www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDURInx_GUK

Happy listening!

Liz Maltby





Unfortunately SU residential holidays were once again unable to happen as normal this summer. Although in 2020 all SU holidays were cancelled, the easing of lockdown restrictions this year has allowed lots of events to take place, with creative ways found to open the Bible, share the Good News of Jesus and give young people a fun time - all with measures in place to reduce the risk of Covid spread.

There were expeditions, with young people sleeping in individual tents and taking part in activities each day. There were also short one- or two-day camps at various SU centres. An innovation this year was 'Holidays Unleashed' – these were like a holiday club, with added exciting activities. They gave young people a taster of what an SU residential might be like, while sleeping in their own beds at night. The Reachout Trust ran two of these events, based at Flemington Hallside church, with activities in various parks across Cambuslang.

In July, Shona Forsyth, Jennifer and Stuart Menzies and the Menzies boys all took part in one- and two-day camps at Scoughall, near North Berwick. Around 20 young people came each day and enjoyed fun activities on the site and beach. It was hard getting to know them in such a short space of time, but they had great fun and were able to share the Bible in a brief way. Some of the day camps had “evening meetings” just after lunch (and they all took place outside!) We pray that the young people will remember much of what they heard and that next year, residential events will be able to return fully.

To find out more about SU holidays - please speak to Shona, Jennifer or Stuart or go to www.suholidays.org.uk

Shona: shona.forsyth@live.co.uk

Jennifer: jennifermenzies70@gmail.com

Stuart: menzies06@btinternet.com

To support SU Holidays, call 0141 352 7620 or go to www.suholidays.co.uk

NEWS FROM STONELAW'S YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

6TH RUTHERGLEN GIRLS BRIGADE – STONELAW CHURCH



On 14th March 2020, Elaine May (Captain of the 6th Rutherglen Girls Brigade) received an email from the Chief Executive of Girls' Brigade (GB) telling her that all GB companies were to close, due to the risk of Covid 19. With Elaine leaving the church and other Officers moving away, retiring etc. this was already going to be our last year of running the Girls' Brigade in Stonelaw, so it was unfortunate for things to end so abruptly.

However, when restrictions eased, and with the help of Rev Neil Watson and Thérèse Reid, we arranged a special service on 27th June 2021, to acknowledge the commitment from the following Officers and volunteers: Elaine May (Captain), Leza Lafferty (Officer), Fiona Benson (Former Captain), Rebecca May (Officer), Lesley Kelly (Volunteer) and Anne Ross (Volunteer). We also wanted to celebrate the 15 years of the GB being at Stonelaw and award the girls with their badges, which they were still to receive from 2020.

We were delighted to be joined by nine girls and their parents, as well as by some other visitors from the church. It was a bit emotional to be saying goodbye to the GB at Stonelaw but five of the girls from the company are moving over to 2nd Cambuslang Girls Brigade which is held in Cambuslang Parish Church. We wish them all the best for the future and would like to thank all who have helped or attended the GB in Stonelaw over the past 15 years.



Leza Lafferty

131ST COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

After a long break and a complicated dialogue with leaders, families, our local BB Battalion, BB HQ and Stonelaw Church, the 131st BB Company is finally ready to meet in person again. If you have a son, grandson or neighbour aged 5 to 10 who might like to give us a try, please get in touch – see below for details.



We start back on **Thursday 26th August** from 6pm to 7pm, and for the first four weeks, we'll meet at the Stonelaw High School Community Wing for mini-football, basketball and games. On **Thursday 23rd September**, we return to Stonelaw Church Main Hall, meeting from 6:30pm to 8pm, for team games, football, basketball and crafts.

Our team of adult leaders - Anne Smyth, Amanda Stewart, Mabel Moore, Dorothy McTaggart and myself - and Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers - Elizabeth, April, Katie and Andrew, are all looking forward to joining the boys for new adventures on Thursday evenings!

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

2ND RUTHERGLEN RAINBOWS



The Rainbows ended last term with an outdoor meeting in the grounds of the Clincarthill Guide Hall. During our meeting, we finished the Camp Skills Builder badge which we had been working on for a few weeks on Zoom. The girls made their own 's'mores' (an American campfire treat*) to cook on the bonfire as part of our 'Kitchenless Cooking' activity; they played a game called 'Rain or Shine' while thinking about different clothes and accessories for different situations and weather - and at long last, we gave out some badges in person!

This was the last night for two of our most enthusiastic girls, who will be moving on to Brownies next. So, while we were sad to see them go, it was lovely to welcome three new faces into the unit as they made their Rainbow Promise.

Following many months of virtual meetings carried out over Zoom, the Rainbow leaders are cautiously beginning to plan for face-to-face meetings this coming term. While the details of our start aren't confirmed yet, we are looking forward to seeing everyone after the break and inviting some new girls from our waiting list as we go back to having a slightly larger group.

Helen Paulsen 2nd Rutherglen Rainbows Leader

*A digestive biscuit sandwich with a large chocolate button and a marshmallow in the middle.

2ND RUTHERGLEN BROWNIES



Brownies have a full intake in September and again at Christmas, so we now have a waiting list for joining in summer 2022! We are hoping to return to the Stonelaw Church building soon.

Look out for a more detailed update in the November magazine.

Diane Wilson, 2nd Rutherglen Brownie Leader

2ND RUTHERGLEN GUIDES



2nd Rutherglen Guides will be starting back on Friday 3rd September at 7.30pm. At present we are unsure what format we will be able to operate, but we look forward to welcoming the girls back.

If you would like your daughter to join 2nd Rutherglen Guides, please register at this address: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Thank you,

Jan Morgan 2nd Rutherglen Guides Leader.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MANAGER

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Day Centre Manager, June MacLeod. June brings a wealth of experience and is passionate about tackling poverty, inequality and social isolation.



UPDATE ON OUR CHAPLAIN CLAIRE

As many of you will know, our chaplain Claire Herbert took unwell following her second vaccination and was hospitalised. We are pleased to report that Claire is much improved and is recuperating at home. Claire extends her sincere thanks for all the messages and prayers of support during her illness and hopes to be back with us in the autumn.



DAY CENTRE RE-OPENING PLANS

We are currently in the midst of a phased re-opening of our Day Centre and hope to be operational by the end of July, depending on Government guidelines and the availability of staff and volunteers. Covid precautions may restrict a full return to “business as normal” but we shall be striving to assist and support as many clients as possible. See our Facebook page for bulletins on our progress towards Re-Opening!



MODERATOR'S VISIT

LHM was honoured earlier this month to be paid a visit by the new Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, Mr Robert Hynd, a long-time friend and supporter of our work. Robert expressed Presbytery's thanks to the staff and volunteers at LHM for the work they do to help Glasgow's most under-privileged citizens. He added: “Each of you do something very special, something quite beyond value, in that you intervene in often chaotic lives for the better and thus His promise in all its fullness can begin to be made real”.



PRAYER FROM OUR DIRECTOR, REV. LOUIS REDDICK

Loving God,

You are the one upon whom we can always depend. We come grateful that LHM has been able to re-open its doors. We thank you for the appointment of LHM's new manager, June MacLeod, and for all the staff and volunteers.

We pray for our Service Users – those who have returned to LHM already, and those who have yet to do so. We pray for peace, for healing and a growing awareness of your love - that they, and all of us, may hold onto the promise that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. We remember before you those from our Service User community who have passed away whilst we have been closed. We ask that you would console and comfort all those who will miss them, and we continue to hold the Mitchell family in prayer. We think also of LHM's Chaplain, Claire Herbert, and ask that your healing hand would continue to be upon her. And as we look ahead, we pray that LHM will continue to be a place of hospitality, help and hope, where people can meet in safety and experience the love of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer,

Amen.

*If you would like to support LHM's work, you can send a cheque to **Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell St Glasgow G1 5GT** or give online at www.lhm-glasgow@org.uk*



Registered Scottish Charity No. SC017283

UPDATE FROM CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN REACHOUT TRUST

Many thanks to all who prayed about Reachout's work with local youngsters this summer. We helped to run two successful holiday clubs, one in Stonelaw Church (see page 13) and the other in Flemington Hallside Church.



Please continue to pray that the children who attended, and their parents, can come to know Jesus, and that we are soon able to resume our work in local primary and secondary schools.

Ross Murray, Alison Kennedy and Greg Senior

How to contact Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust:

Cambuslang Parish Church, 1 Arnott Way, Cambuslang G72 7JQ Tel 07837 193028

Email greg.crrt@outlook.com Website: <https://crrt.org.uk/>

MESSAGE FROM RUTHERGLEN AND CAMBUSLANG FOODBANK

To all Rutherglen and Cambuslang Church Congregations,

I hope you're all well and that your congregations are able to pick up normal church life again, to some degree. If you're anything like me, you will rejoice in the fact that we're finally able to sing in church once more!

Since my last newsletter, we have had a successful Food Drive at Tesco in Dalmarnock Rd. It was great to have some extra volunteers from some of the churches, and also from local businesses. Thank you to everyone involved. We received over two tonnes of food in donations, for which we are very grateful.

Sadly, the need for the foodbank is ever greater. In the first six months of this year, we fed over 3,000 people, nearly half of whom were children. With the furlough scheme phasing out, and the extra £20 on Universal Credit coming to an end, we expect the demand to rise even further.

I know our local congregations are at different stages in their journey back to normality. Some of you have been collecting donations for the foodbank regularly already – thank you so much! If you are able to consider starting a church collection, we would be very pleased to help. We could provide a list of the items we are short of, and a poster to display at the collection point. Please let me know if this is something you might consider.

Harvest Thanksgiving is not that far away. Last year, in spite of the restrictions, some congregations held very successful collections for us – thank you! Hopefully this year we will be able to have a service that is a bit more like normal. If you are considering having a Harvest Thanksgiving collection for the foodbank, please do get in touch. We can help you.

We are most grateful for all the support that local churches give us and we really value our connection with you all. Please keep us in your prayers!

Best wishes,
Katharina Nimmo, Foodbank Manager
on behalf of the Rutherglen & Cambuslang Foodbank Committee.

07393737030 or at info@rutherglencambuslang.foodbank.org.uk



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK UPDATE

By late July, Christian Aid was thanking its UK supporters for raising a milestone high of over £3 million, with lots more still to come.

Meanwhile the local total raised by Rutherglen church members, between all the donations made and activities run, was a very pleasing **£5,155.62**. This was nearly £2,000 more than last year, when things were so difficult. That sum will make a huge difference to Kenyan villagers like Rose and Florence, who, because of climate change, have been struggling without a reliable water supply. Please give yourselves a pat on the back!



Thank you once more, Stonelaw, for all your support this year and over very many years.

Jean MacKenzie and *Jill Rennie*

hjmackenzie27@btinternet.com jillrennie@hotmail.com

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE

STONELAW CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a prayer request, **or** would you like to pray for others in the congregation, in our local community and beyond? Why not sign up for our Prayer Chain?

Please contact John Shaw: prayerchain@stonelawchurch.org

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 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. These are shared each week in the Saturday Congregational Email. To sign up, or for further information about any of our meetings, please email info@stonelawchurch.org

EVERY SUNDAY Morning service on Zoom at 10.30am

EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH House Groups on Zoom, for Bible study, discussion and fellowship.

**PLEASE EMAIL ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE
TO MAGAZINE@STONELAWCHURCH.ORG BY SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER**