

Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

April 2016 Fifth Series 141

Letter from the Minister

Last June, the Rutherglen Churches put up a bouncy castle in St Columbkilles Church carpark, and your unenthusiastic minister went to take his turn supervising children.

We struggle with Landemer Day. Those of us with history can recall when it was a big deal – floats, park jamborees, mass bands: and do I remember parachutists? But today our Gala day is much smaller, and it's tempting to give up on it.

Yet, there is the Landemer Committee, criticised by many, but working hard to hold it together when so many abandon community ventures. And shouldn't Christians be at the heart of that? Shouldn't we be the salt and light resisting the decay of community? That's why I persevere with Landemer: that and the chance to meet my neighbours in June's sunshine.

The other struggle has been for the Church to get a hearing. How do we get noticed? How do we get heard over the noise of the fairground and tombolas? Over the years we've handed out balloons, engaged in street theatre, brought in puppets, given away bubbles and a host of stunts with mixed success. So there we were last June, with a bouncy castle. And, I was frustrated as we'd forgotten the banner – no one would even know who we were.

But then it happened. Parents came up and asked "how much is it?" And we said "it's free". Children asked "how many goes can I have?" and we said "As many as you like".

And I spoke to one mother who told a tale of going to the street fairground with her four children: two pounds each and two minutes later it was over. As she declined their requests for another ride, the operator upbraided her for being mean. She felt fleeced.

And here was the Church, at the heart of the community, offering unlimited shots on a bouncy castle for free. It was a parable of grace, and we'd not even noticed it. It was a preaching of the Gospel, and we'd not said a word. I don't know what parents made of it, but I'll never forget it.

On PTAs, in Toddlers' groups, in uniformed organisations, in Meeting Places, on Main Streets and with neighbourliness: offering our service and resisting the what's-in-it-for-me ethos of our culture – Christians need to be at the heart of this, and (praise God) they are. That's how we earn a hearing above the noise.

I'm delighted the Rutherglen Churches are planning *two* bouncy castles this year, and we've agreed not even to accept donations, it will all be grace. June's a long way off, but if you want a part of it speak to Therese.

In the meantime, celebrate the Kingdom of the Risen Jesus, which is like unlimited goes on a bouncy castle – and for free.

With every blessing for this Easter season,

Alistair

Church Diary

Morning Services at **10:30 AM**, conducted by **Rev Alistair May** unless otherwise stated.

Friday 1st April

9:30 am Calderwood Primary Easter Service

Sunday 3rd April - Low Sunday

10:30 am Holy Communion
5:30 pm Fish Supper Service

Sunday 10th April – Easter 3

10:30 am Morning Service
1st Corinthians
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 17th April – Easter 4

10:30 am Morning Service
1st Corinthians
6:30 pm Evening Service

Saturday 23rd April

10am-12.30 Congregational Gathering:
Growing Stonelaw
(With Breakfast served from 9am)

9.00pm Evening Vigil (Meeting Place)

Sunday 24th April – Easter 5

10:30 am Morning Service
1st Corinthians
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 1st May – Easter 6

10:30 am Morning Service
Holy Communion
6:00 pm Alternative Evening Service

Congregational Gathering: Growing Stonelaw

In the recent stewardship discussions one of the requests that came from you was for an opportunity to discuss our life together as a congregation, ask questions and share concerns. Looking back since we moved away from formal Annual Business Meetings, we have somewhat neglected this helpful practice. Sorry. This year the Session decided to have two meetings, one to look at finances and the other (with a more relaxed format) to look at other aspects of our life together.

In March we had our finance meeting where our Treasurer Iain reported on our 2015 accounts. (We will be having Stated Annual Meetings every year from now on.) If you missed it, a copy of the accounts is available from Iain.

This month we will have a Congregational Gathering to discuss together how we grow as a Church. It's Saturday 23rd April from 10-12.30 (no later) but with breakfast available from 9am. Please do come.

Monthly House Groups

Next House Groups meet 5th May 2016.

As a result of the Easter holiday House Groups will **NOT** be meeting in April.

Church News

Boys' Brigade farewells

In March the BB closed its year with the annual display. It was a great evening, and there was a real sense of how much parents and boys appreciated the work of the BB. At the display we said thanks to Stephen Hoey who is stepping down as Captain after many years, as well as to Julie Hoey and Ian Bell who are leaving after many years as officers. We are grateful to the three of them for all their service to God.

The Kirk Session is committed to finding a new team for the next year. We are looking for people with a heart for boys and for Jesus. There's a huge opportunity here, and if you think you might be part of it please speak to Alistair or Therese.

News from National Mission Team

Coffee Morning - Saturday 7th May 2016

Our next event will be a Coffee Morning in the Main Hall from 10:30 – 12:30 on 7th May. This will be in aid of The Well, the multi-cultural resource centre, located in Albert Road, Glasgow. We have some exciting plans coming together to add interest to this event but we can't say any more at this stage! More details will appear in the May magazine – but please put the date in your diary now. Tickets are £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children (under 16).

Janis Neil Convenor, National Mission Team

Church Register

Removals:

Mrs Anne Gillies, 46 Highburgh Drive, Burnside, died 14 March 2016.

Morag Moore

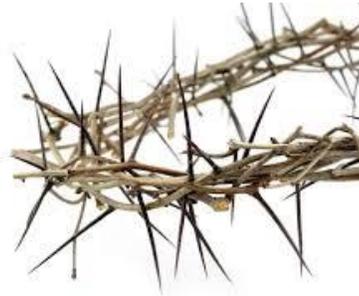
John Walden in Kenya

By the time you read this, John Walden will probably be back in Scotland after some three months on Christian Mission in East Africa. His original intention was to travel to various Churches, in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, but he found himself confined to the area around the City of Mombasa, on Kenya's Pacific coast, mainly Shanzu. He preached about the teaching of Jesus Christ, and played lots of his music in several local Churches there in Coastal Kenya. He was glad he went, but unfortunately he suffered some ill health which led to him having to get medical treatment there that he had to pay for.

He has been able to extend greetings from Bonnie Scotland to the people there in Kenya, which has been well received. He feels that God has truly blessed him by leading him to Africa, and he prays that he has achieved just a little good by encouraging fellow Christians, in this country where the growth of Islam is very apparent.

Reported by the editor Stuart Willins from notes from John

News from Therese.....



For You Jesus Christ came into the world;

for You he lived and showed God's love;

for You he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, 'It is accomplished';

for You he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life;

for You he ascended to reign at God's right hand.

All this he did for You, before you knew anything of it.

And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled;

'We love because God loved us first.'

Stonelaw's Sunday Lunch Bunch ~ 24th April, 29th May & 26th June. I'm delighted to report that in February seven of us attended our very first Sunday Lunch Bunch at The Lee Burn in East Kilbride (*just past Kingsgate - only 5 minutes up the road*). It was so lovely to relax in good company and enjoy the chat.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO YOU to join Linda Alison and me for lunch at the Lee Burn, East Kilbride, on the last Sunday of every month immediately after church, especially if you are going home to an empty house on a Sunday and would enjoy some company occasionally. Costs no more than £15. The surroundings are clean and pleasant, the staff are lovely and the food fresh, hot and well presented.

This is an 'opt in' lunch, an open invitation. Above, I have given all the dates up to summer and all I would ask is that if you wish to join us please call or text Linda by the last Friday of the month so we can book ahead, especially if 25 of decide to appear at the one time.....! Might give them a fright. You may of course extend this invitation to family and friends, it is not exclusively for those home alone. Please let us know if you need a lift, we have plenty of spaces in cars. Linda Alison 07503 976486

More from Therese

PALM SUNDAY 20th March - FAMILY LUNCH

Eighty five, yes 85..... people came to lunch at the Burnside Hotel on Palm Sunday and what a blessing it was. If you were unable to attend, you were missed, we'd love to have you join us the next time. It was a joy to spend such quality time together. We brought duplo and colouring in pictures and crayons to keep the children occupied plus one of our ex Toddler Group mums' Amanda came along and painted faces - check out the Stonelaw Church facebook page and see our gallery of pictures.

These lunches offer each of us an excellent opportunity to invite family and friends to join our fellowship in a non-threatening way. My daughter Rachel came with my grand-daughters Niamh and Callie and she "Thanked" me for the invitation. So if you have family members or friends who would not entertain the thought of coming to church, why not invite them to the next lunch which will be in June. Details to follow.

Friends of Overtoun Park

Sports in the Park - Saturday 23rd April 1pm - 3pm

Bring your family and friends to what has become another exciting annual Friends of Overtoun Park event. This year we will have an Olympic Theme, so come along and cheer on your community.

Blessings of Hope from my home to yours,

Therese x

Flower Rota

Here are the Flower Arrangers for the next couple of months.

Date	Name
3rd April	Isobel Wilson
10th April	Kathryn McCallum
17th April	Isobel Wilson
24th April	Isobel Wilson
1st May	Isobel Wilson
8th May	Jean Miller
15th May	Jean Miller
22nd May	Jean Miller
29th May	Jean Miller

Sundries

Something to think about...

God’s heart is to build each of us up in Christ. So we want to ask you how the shape of our life together in Stonelaw helps (or hinders) you in your life and growth as a Christian. We can consider growth in five ways:

<p>our relationship with God: sense of who we are in him: prayer, worship, knowing God’s presence in the good and bad.</p>	<p>our knowledge of the Christian faith, in what we believe, and how it applies to our lives.</p>	<p>our love of our sisters and brothers: being and feeling part of a supportive Christian community.</p>	<p>bearing fruit in our daily lives: being “salt and light” Mon-Sat as parents, employees, neighbours and friends.</p>	<p>confidence to share our faith, in appropriate ways, with others.</p>
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- Which do you struggle with most, and why?
- What aspects of our life in Stonelaw have you found helped you grow?
- Which of the five have you found least help with from our life together?
- What things (if any) outside of the life of our Church have you found helpful? (e.g. books, other events you’ve attended, online resources)
- What might we do as a Church now or in the future (or repeat) that might be helpful to you in one or more of these areas?
- Who has been helpful in encouraging you recently? Why not thank them?

<p>Our life together as a Church should be missional: aimed not just at helping us, but also including others. Most new people who come to Church activities come because someone they know invited them. Are we shaping the life of our Church in a way that makes it easy for us to invite others?</p>	<p>Think about the people you know well that are not church-goers, maybe family members, neighbours, friends or colleagues. Have you invited any of them to a church activity (social or spiritual) in the recent past? If so, what did you invite them to? Did they come? Did they enjoy it?</p>	<p>Are there types of events or activities that we might organise in the future that you would feel able to invite them to? Are there things about our current services or activities that would be an obstacle to your friends / family attending, or to you inviting them?</p>
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What to do now...

- think about your answers. Write them down if that helps, or maybe discuss them with a friend in the congregation. Your elder would also be happy to meet up with you and chat about your answers.
- Come and discuss them together at a **congregational gathering on Saturday 23rd April**. We will start at 10am and finish by 12.30pm at the latest. (But we’ll offer some breakfast from 9.00am)

Activities

The Wednesday Ladies

Please note the date of the next meeting in your diary – 13th APRIL. Remember all are welcome.

Myra Howitt

Acoustic Nights @ The Meeting Place

The next meeting is on Friday 29th April 2016 @ 7:30 PM and features the **JOHN HINSHELWOOD BAND**.

£5 suggested donation with tea/coffee & cakes. See you there!

Alan and Louise Mairs

Rotas

Door Duty

Date	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle	Floater
03/04/16	B. Stewart	E. McDonald	B. Stark	T. Finlayson
10/04/16	I. Wilson	M. Baird	J. Baird	G. Senior
17/04/16	L. Bell	C. Kennedy	M. Inglis	G. McKechnie
24/04/16	L. Alison	J. Sheppard	L. Gibson	J. Menzies
01/05/16	B. Liggat	J. Miller	A. McLintock	M. Doig

Tea Duty Rota

Apr	3 rd	Maureen Holland	Elizabeth McDonald
	10 th	Margaret Waterson	Moira Shaw
	17 th	Margie Kayser	Jane Paulsen
	24 th	Morag Taylor	Richard Taylor
May	1 st	Shona Forsyth	Geraldine O'Brien

Jean Donaldson's Story (Cont'd)

Here is Jean Donaldson's story in Jean's own words, in serial format. Part 1 was the beginning of the work in "the village of Godonga".

Part 2 Building a Hut

The next job was to build a small, hut just big enough to accommodate the camp beds, so the wooden crate was duly chopped up to make moulds for the necessary mud bricks, and soon we were able to live "on site". As the tropical sun baked the rows of bricks an area of the bush was cleared and the ground plan laid of what was to be a small mission house under the shade of the solitary tree. Never were bricks more prayed for as the rainy season approached: Daily we watched the outline of a house slowly with each row of bricks. Nightly we counted the bricks still baking. It was an exciting race against time, for some a day's output of bricks was washed away in a "light shower". Bricks were high on our prayer list!

So too were the pagans in the surrounding hills. All this activity in their valley aroused their curiosity, and they would come down, and skirt our area of cleared bush, giving a very wide berth both to us, and to the few Fulani helpers who were building what must have seemed a very big mud hut indeed!

As we observed the unwavering reserve of the pagans - they would come "so far, but no further" - it dawned on us that we had little hope of making any significant contact with them as long as our "foreign" Fulani helpers were in evidence. At the same time, our Fulani, friends were themselves anxious to return home to Maroua before the rains, so after much prayer (and many an apprehensive look at the unfinished house, unroofed and open to 'the heavens) we bade them farewell, and I wrote urgent prayer requests home to the U.K. for 1) some kind of relationship to develop with the pagans and 2) a supply of grass mats and grass bundles to protect our precious mud walls. Both prayers were abundantly answered. Slowly the pagans gained confidence to approach our compound, among them a young man called Dákoté who quickly shed his inhibitions. To our delight we discovered he had a smattering of the Fulani language, so he became our interpreter and soon there was a heartening line of pagans each morning armed with grass mats and/or bundles of grass, and some even willing to help.

But how to pay them? Cash was no use to them, but a handful of salt from our sack of French Government issue was like fine gold to them, and our supply of grass was assured! As we gradually used up our tinned food I had a little stock of empty tins which I suddenly found were worth just double a handful of salt. And if I had managed to preserve the label with a picture of a juicy pear or peach on it, the value trebled! Business flourished.

The rainy season began to flourish too. The A-frames cut down from the bush and erected to form the roof were slowly covered with grass mats and bundles of grass to protect the mud walls. Clouds gathered, rains became heavier and sundown seemed to come earlier, with the pagans making off home to their huts in the hills before evil spirits could waylay them. But the sovereign Lord had us and the house in the hollow of His hand. On a Saturday afternoon, my husband felt constrained to keep the pagans working later than usual on the roof until it was completely covered and every grass bundle securely in place. The roof was finished, and the pagans paid before scuttling up the hillside and we retreated exhausted to the tiny hut that had become "home" just as yet another "shower" came down. But suddenly the shower became a deluge the house and everything else was hidden behind a wall of tropical rain, with an accompaniment of thunder and lightning. We stood up instinctively, thanking God for his amazing providence that had so safeguarded the house up to the last minute.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Summary February 2016

	Month	Year to Date		Surplus / (Shortfall)	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	against budget	
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Free will offering	8,120	18,239	19,360	(1,122)	-6%
Tax recovery	0	2,666	4,040	(1,374)	
Donations and other income	529	2,808	1,450	1,358	
Total Income	8,649	23,713	24,850	(1,137)	-5%
Expenditure					
Ministry, mission & wider work	8,424	8,424	8,424	0	
Local staffing costs	1,849	3,642	3,484	(158)	
<i>Building costs</i>					
Rates, water, insurances	796	1,993	2,025	32	
Power	0	0	3,168	3,168	
Repair costs	0	0	1,770	1,770	
<i>Other local costs</i>					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	0	93	180	87	
Organ & piano	0	0	0	0	
Other	87	1,040	861	(179)	
Total Expenditure	11,156	15,193	19,912	4,719	24%
Income less Expenditure					
Surplus / (shortfall)	(2,507)	8,520	4,938	3,582	

Figures relating to funds such as the Development Worker Fund, the Capital Fund and the Fabric Fund are excluded.

Development Worker Fund Summary February 2016

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
Income		
Donations	840	1,729
Tax recovery	0	189
Other Income	0	0
Grants	0	0
Total Income	840	1,918
Expenditure		
Salary, PAYE, NI	2,388	4,775
Expenses	66	134
Total Expenditure	2,453	4,909
Income less Expenditure		
Surplus / (shortfall)	(1,614)	(2,991)

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Magazine Deadline

Items for the **May 2016** issue of the Church Magazine to be delivered to the editorial team no later than: **Sunday 17th April.**