

# Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



[www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org)

March 2016 Fifth Series 140

## *Letter from the Minister*

“I am proud to be a Christian” was Donald Trump’s response to Pope Francis’s jibe that “a person who thinks only about building walls...and not building bridges, is not Christian.” Donald then went on to pledge that as President he would use the might of the US military to defend the Vatican against ISIS.

Now, I have no desire to judge Mr Trump’s faith, and taking pot-shots at his politics is just too easy, but it did strike me that anyone who can use “pride” and “Christian” in the same sentence has indeed missed something quite fundamental about the Gospel. Whatever the Gospel is about it isn’t about publicly strutting your stuff and protesting what a good Christian you are. Nor can it be about gun-toting power-projection.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians “I resolved to know nothing when I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified”, and in the early chapters of this first letter he explores what it means to believe that the Cross of Christ is the centre of everything. We can so easily forget, after centuries of religious imagery, how degrading crucifixion was. The Romans wouldn’t even mention it in polite company. To say that the Lord of the Universe, the one more powerful than Caesar himself, chose to be humiliated in such a way: it was utterly ridiculous to their ears. Foolishness.

Yet the Christian is the follower of the humiliated one. We believe that this foolishness is God’s answer to the powerful, the rich and the seemingly wise. The Christian is the one who accepts that his or her salvation depends solely on what Christ did on the cross. Therefore as Paul says “let him who boasts, boast only in the Lord.”

On Easter Day we remember Christ’s victory and resurrection power: but before that Day of victory we pass through Lent, Holy Week, rejection, scourging, nails, Golgotha and death. As we do that, we need to reflect on what it means for our attitude and our understanding of successful living. (Read Philippians 2:1-5 on this.) It certainly suggests to me that the strong humility of Francis is to be preferred over the weak posturing of Donald.

With every blessing as we approach Easter,

**Alistair**

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# Church Diary

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

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

10:30 am House Group  
7:30 pm House Groups

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

10:30 am Communion Service  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians  
6:00 pm Alternative Evening Service

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

10:30 am Morning Service  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians  
6:30 pm Joint Lent Bible Study  
**@ St. Marks, Fernhill**

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday

10:30 am Morning Service  
(followed by Annual Finance Meeting)  
1:30 pm Church Meal: Burnside Hotel  
6:30 pm Palm Sunday Meditation

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

11.30 am Stonelaw High School  
Easter Service

## Joint Holy Week Services

7.00pm **Wednesday:**  
Stations of the Cross in St Mark's Church  
7.30pm **Maundy Thursday:** Service  
(with Communion) in Burnside Church  
7.30pm **Good Friday:**  
Service in Burnside Church

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March

9.00pm Evening Vigil (Meeting Place)

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Sunday

8:45 am Cathkin Braes Service  
9:00-9:45am Breakfast in the Church Hall  
10:30 am Easter Family Service  
6:30 pm Easter Evening Service

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

9:30 am Calderwood Primary Easter Service

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Low Sunday

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

## Annual Finance Report

A warm invitation is extended to all of our Congregation to remain with us after the close of our Morning Service on Sunday 20th March when our Treasurer, Iain Morrison, will deliver the Annual Financial Report.

## Fish Supper Service

As the risen Jesus ate fish with his friends, we'll have fish suppers etc. in the hall, followed by a short act of worship (suitable for all ages - make sure you book your supper beforehand).

## Time Capsule

You may be wondering what has happened to the Time Capsule. We are trying to source one and prices start around £100. If anyone would like to donate this item in memory of a loved one or as a gift for posterity, please get in touch with Jennifer Menzies.

# Church News

## Monthly House Groups

### Next House Group 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

We hope that House Groups can provide a relaxed and informal opportunity for fellowship where we can support each other with the day to day challenges of life and faith. There are now lots of study materials available which work well in a house group setting and focus on helping us to think together about the application of scripture in day to day living without getting too theologically challenging.

The groups meet on the **First Thursday of each month.**

We want to ensure that all the groups feel supported and connected to the wider church family. David Barr has agreed to coordinate the House Groups and will therefore also be happy to hear any feedback or answer any questions you have about how this is working.

#### Contact Details

**David Barr** - 0141 569 1742

### Thursday Evening Groups. 7.30pm - 9.00pm

#### David and Dorothy MacTaggart

97 West Coats Road  
G72 8DN  
0141 321 4083

#### David and Hazel Finlay

19 Dryburgh Avenue  
G73 3EG.  
07889846519

#### Gary and Anne Ross

83 Greystone Avenue  
G73 3SW  
0141 613 1085

#### Cameron and Jean Murray

10 Melrose Court  
G73 3DB  
0141 579 9738

### Thursday Morning Group. 10.30am - 12.00pm

#### Jennifer Menzies

46 Millburn Avenue  
G73 2AR  
0141 647 4664

## Activities

### The Wednesday Ladies

Please note these dates of the next meetings in your diary – 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH and 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL. Remember all are welcome.

*Myra Howitt*

### Acoustic Nights

#### @ The Meeting Place

The next meeting is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016 @ 7:30 PM and features **DADDY NAGGINS.**

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

*Alan and Louise Mairs*

# News from Alistair

## Shettleston Old Update

As you may remember, since December 2014, I have been serving as Interim Moderator of Shettleston Old Church (that means I chair their Kirk Session, while their locum tends to the regular pastoral and preaching work). Shettleston Old has been on a long journey, over a number of years, towards a union with Victoria Tollcross. In April 2015, a final appeal was heard by the General Assembly, and the painful decision that the Shettleston Old building would close was confirmed. However, since that disappointment, the congregation have been working well with Victoria Tollcross towards agreeing their eventual union, with the minister of Victoria Tollcross (Rev. Monica Michelin-Salomon) to become the minister of the united congregation (to be called “the Causeway Church - Tollcross”). There’s still a lot of work to be done, but the Presbytery now hope that the union will take place in early June, at which point I will cease to be Interim Moderator. Please pray for both congregations as they seek God’s will for their mission.

## The Columba Declaration

If you haven’t heard of it, this is a statement written by a joint working group of the Church of Scotland and the Church of England that was agreed by the General Synod of the Church of England in February, and will be presented to the Church of Scotland’s General Assembly in May. I have an interest in this as I was one of the Scottish representatives on the working group for part of the time.

The declaration itself is pretty innocuous: both Churches simply recognise each other as valid parts of Christ’s Church, and commit to continuing to work together in mission. Indeed, both Churches already have a host of similar agreements with various denominations across Europe – the surprising thing was we’d never had one with our nearest neighbours.

The history of relationships between the national churches of Scotland and England is chequered. Each was shaped differently by the Reformation (most obviously they have bishops and we don’t), and yet John Knox took shelter in England for many years (and was offered an English bishopric) and English troops helped eject the French from Scotland allowing the Scottish Reformation to happen. But after that things were less happy: Stuart Kings tried to impose English-style bishops on the Scots (which is one reason we don’t like the thought today) and at one point Scots tried to impose Presbyterianism on England.

Today, however, we face similar situations, and can learn much from each other. We are both committed to maintaining parish churches across the whole country, but feeling the strain. We are both part of the fabric of our respective nations, and yet increasingly marginalised. And we are each committed to sharing the same Gospel of Jesus Christ in our respective spheres. Whereas our nations may politically be moving apart, it is always important to stress that the Church of Christ transcends both nations and denominations.

It was a privilege to be part of the group, and to learn from it, although, as of yet, no one has offered to make me a bishop! (You will find more information on the Church of Scotland website.)

# News from National Mission Team

## Homeless Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup> January

A huge thanks to everyone who came to the Homeless Sunday lunch. An enjoyable time was had by all, and a large quantity of soup and sandwiches were consumed. Of course, it wasn't just about enjoyment – there were a number of serious issues to consider. During the service, we had heard from Eileen Baxendale about the Furniture Initiative at Castlemilk Community Church. We were delighted that Eileen and her colleague were able to join us for lunch and answer questions from those they met. To date, a total of £540 plus Gift Aid has been donated for Homeless Sunday; this will be split between the Furniture Initiative and the Lodging House Mission.

As part of our focus on Homeless Sunday, the NMT had asked you to donate boxer shorts for the Lodging House Mission. Your response was magnificent, with over 350 pairs being donated throughout January. The need was even greater this year, as the LHM has been hosting the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter. Here is a thank you message received from Gus Smeaton, Project manager at the LHM:

*Thank you so much from everyone at LHM for the huge haul of boxer shorts. These are always in great demand and probably something most of us fortunate people don't think of.*

*Additionally, we have the night shelter, and fresh underwear to those clients is a wonderful gift. We have a maximum of 40 spaces in the hall and turned away 13 people on Monday night. That was after most of them had walked from the city centre in the storm (Storm Imogen, 8<sup>th</sup> February) and pouring rain. Tragic!*

That certainly demonstrates one of the more serious aspects of Homelessness...

So thank you again for your donations of money and boxers; you really do help to make a tremendous difference.

## Coffee Morning - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Our next event will be a Coffee Morning in the Main Hall from 10:30 – 12:30 on 7<sup>th</sup> May. This will be in aid of The Well, the multi-cultural resource centre, located in Albert Road, Glasgow. More details will appear in the April magazine – but please put the date in your diary now.

*Janis Neil*

*Convenor, National Mission Team*

## Church Register

### Removals:

Mrs Muriel McIntyre, Rosaburn House Care Home, East Kilbride, died 23 January 2016.

Mr David Gillies, 46 Highburgh Drive, Burnside, died 04 February 2016.

### Additions:

Mr Walter Smyth, 131 Dukes Road, Burnside on 15 February 2016 by Certificate of Transference.

Mrs Ann Smyth, 131 Dukes Road, Burnside on 15 February 2016 by Certificate of Transference.

*Morag Moore*

## News from Therese.....

Amazing  
LOVE!



I'm forgiven because you were forsaken, I'm accepted, you were condemned. I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me, because you died and rose again. Chris Tomlin

### FRIENDS of OVERTOUN PARK

Easter Eggstravaganza **Saturday 26th March 1-3pm**

Friends of Overtoun Park - Our next event - the Easter Eggstravaganza - is taking place next month - yes, next month! This surely means that spring is just around the corner??! The sun shone on us last year; it was amazing. We'll have all of our usual attractions; face painting, bouncy castle, inflatable slide, egg hunt. If you would like to sign up for this event or to share it with your friends/family please click on the link below:-

<https://www.facebook.com/events/818675284911474/>

#### **Volunteer Opportunity**

At every Friends of Overtoun Park event Stonelaw Church provide the hospitality tent, serving tea and coffee to our community. Would you consider giving 3 hours of your time to this outreach ministry? If yes, please speak to Elaine Devlin or myself. Thank you.

#### **Stonelaw's Sunday Lunch Bunch**

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.

Costs no more than £15. The surroundings are clean and pleasant, the staff are lovely and the food fresh, hot and well presented.

This would be an 'opt in' lunch, an open invitation. I have given all the dates up to summer below 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 decide to appear at the one time...! Might give them a fright. You may of course extend this invitation to family and friends and it is not exclusively for those home alone.

Sundays 28th Feb, 27th March (Easter Sunday), 24th April, 29th May & 26th June.  
Linda Alison 07503 976486

## More from Therese...

**Here I Am, Lord ~ Women's Conference Saturday 19th March**

**Take me Deeper** (Clinearthill Parish Church)

Keynote Speaker ~ **Helen Anderson**

Workshops on

**Deeper into Wellbeing** ~ Fiona Merriweather

**Deeper in the world, but not of the world** ~ Pam Fulton

**Deeper into Love** ~ To be advised

**Tickets £10**

If you wish tickets for this event please give me a call 07508 213099 or email me at [therese.reid@gmail.com](mailto:therese.reid@gmail.com)

## **PALM SUNDAY 20th March - FAMILY BUFFET LUNCH - £9.95 each**

This could be the first of many Stonelaw Family Sunday Lunches - An open invitation extended to everyone in Stonelaw, including an invitation to your family and friends. Come along after the ABM and enjoy lunch together. Children 12 and under half price. Children 3 and under are free.

*Blessings of Peace from my home to yours,  
Therese x*

## **Walk More Feel the Difference**

**HOW** – Join Senior Strollers (Over 60's) – all abilities catered for

**WHEN** – Tuesday mornings, 10.30 till 11.30

**WHERE** – Overtoun Park (followed by coffee in the Meeting Place)

Walking gives you all the key health benefits leading to healthier heart, stronger bones, and increased flexibility. Exercise has a great effect on your condition. It helps circulation, sending fresh oxygen to your brain more quickly.

Walking is a safe activity. Especially for those who have not been active for some time. You can make new friends and feel part of your local community.

**INTERESTED** – Phone Lesley Robb (Walk Leader) Tel – 0141 562 4709

The group is part of Paths for all – a national charity which manages the Walking for Health programme in Scotland.



## Sundries

### Life is fragile – handle it with prayer!

As some of you will know, I had no internet access from home for over a month. My laptop wasn't working and I only had access when I was in at school. At the beginning, it was a wonderful feeling. I couldn't do any work or preparation for school, couldn't receive or send any emails and I couldn't browse the web. It gave me time to relax, read books and, generally, switch off from technology. It was wonderful! As time went on, however, I realised that the internet was a useful tool and (I hate to admit this) I missed it! Now, in the past, I have said that I am a techno-dinosaur! I believed I could cope on my own and didn't need the internet. I would survive without it and be able to carry on with life. But then I realised that, maybe, I did need it when I went into work one day and there were 70 emails waiting for me!

This made me think that for some people, this is their attitude to prayer. They think they can cope on their own and don't need to pray. They believe they can survive without it and carry on with life. Then something happens to them or a loved one and a decision has to be made. Prayer could be the answer to their problems. They have stuck their heels in and resisted the need to pray but then realise that life is fragile and it should be handled with prayer. As long as you keep trying to control everything on your own, your stress levels will keep mounting. But once you learn to hand things over to God, you'll wonder why you spent even a single day worrying.

An old hymn has the following words,  
'Ask the Saviour to help you  
Comfort, strengthen and keep you  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through.'

So, let's learn to put our trust in God and hand things over to Him.  
Excuse me while I go back to browsing the web! (Now that I can).

Margaret A. Borland (.com)

## Rotas

### Tea Duty Rota

Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Yvonne Barr	David Barr
13 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel Finlay	David Finlay
20 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy McTaggart	David McTaggart
27 <sup>th</sup>	Cathie Baillie	Moira Baird
Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Maureen Holland	Elizabeth McDonald

### Door Duty

Date	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle	Floater
06/03/16	J. Miller	A. Mclintock	B. Liggat	M. Doig
13/03/16	R. Taylor	M. Gault	J. Paulsen	M. Moore
20/03/16	M. Morrison	J. Shaw	G. Morrison	M. Shaw
27/03/16	C. Baillie	M. Ewing	A. Stewart	Mrs D. McTaggart
03/04/16	B. Stewart	E. McDonald	B. Stark	T. Finlayson



## Sundries (cont'd)

### Compassion UK

In February, we were delighted to have Donna Mack with us at our morning service, sharing a bit of the work of the work of Compassion UK – and particularly its child sponsorship programme, which a number of us signed up for. Donna writes the following:

Thank you everyone from Compassion. 7 children are now lifted out of poverty and have a much brighter future because of the ongoing generosity of the congregation of Stonelaw. I hope you enjoy the article below and thank you again for the incredible welcome and warm encouragement. God Bless, Donna Mack.

### JUSTICE IS LOVE IN ACTION

**"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed."**

Psalm 82:3

The slum neighbourhood of Korogocho, [Kenya](#) is home to around 150,000 people all living in an area of approximately 1 mile. The slum is situated close to the city's main [rubbish dump](#), providing a small source of income for many of the residents. There are many challenges for the people of Korogocho including high levels of poverty, violence, crime and corruption.

At the heart of the slum lives Pauline. A mother of two, Pauline was born and brought up in the Korogocho slum which is east of Nairobi. Until recently, her home was in a dilapidated state, the walls were caving in and the roof sagged alarmingly. Pauline was embarrassed by her home and feared the dangers it put her family in; "My door could not shut well at night and we feared being attacked at night," she says.

Pauline found help through the [local church](#) of Korogocho slum. One of the church members noticed her predicament and raised support for her with the help of Pastor Muthama. "The church members practically reconstructed the house," she remembers with a warm smile. "The church bought the posts, iron sheets and provided labour." Pauline's confidence has now been restored and she is thankful for the act of generosity.

This is just one of the many examples of how the local church is a shining light to the people in Korogocho. Pastor Muthama believes that the church is key to bringing people out of poverty. Compassion works in partnership with the local church in the Korogocho slum. We love the local church because it's God's chosen instrument to bring hope to a hurting world and to deliver justice to the poor and oppressed.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly father, we thank you for the local church. Thank you for the hope it is bringing to people like Pauline. We pray today for Pastor Muthama and his church, may it continue to be a beacon of light to those who are poor and oppressed. Amen.

### Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful flowers which were brought to me by John Shaw when my dad died and thanks to all the members of the Congregation who attended his funeral.

Thank you also for the two beautiful bunches of flowers which Isobel Wilson brought from the church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February. It's so kind of the congregation to think of mum and me at this time.

I took mum's flowers to her at Rowantree Care Home in Rodger Drive, where she's been since Friday night. She was very sleepy, but I'm sure she'll see them when she wakes up!

Regards, *Carol Gillies*

## Jean Donaldson's Story

Jean Donaldson died in January. We remember her as a woman of prayer, with a passion to see God's mission grow. Just days after she was married she went with her husband to Africa as a missionary. What happened next is a remarkable testimony to God's faithful answers to prayer. Here is Jean's story in Jean's own words, in serial format. Whether you knew her or not, I am sure you will find this a great encouragement.

### Part 1 - To Godonga

I have been asked to share my memories of the beginning of the work in "the village of Godonga" in French Cameroons. As I put pen to paper for the first time I realise afresh what treasures of answered prayer God granted to us, as faithful folks at home took on the burden of praying the gospel into this area, starting from nothing - no water, no house, no food supply, no language and certainly no "village of Godonga".

In February 1948 with my husband, the late Rev. Peter Donaldson, we sailed for Africa expecting to return to Maroua, where he had worked for eight years. At Maiduguri, northern Nigeria, as we waited for a ground nut lorry to take us down to French Cameroons, we learned of an appeal to the S.U.M. [Sudan United Mission] from the *Chef de Subdivision* at Mora for help in trying to bring some pacifying and stabilising influence to bear upon the pagans in the hills where there had been a history of conflict with the Muslims in Mora district and some very recent mayhem.

This appeal itself from French authority was an answer to prayer, and reinforced the early S.U.M. vision of the spread of the gospel across Sudan from west to east. The *Chef de Subdivision* was himself the son of a Christian pastor in Paris - hence his concern. It seemed that the Donaldsons had come just at the right time - God's time - and so to Mora we went, complete with tin trunks, camp beds, mosquito nets, a wood-burning stove in a precious wooden crate and whatever tinned food we could acquire before leaving Maiduguri.

We parked ourselves in Mora's native rest hut - or rather outside it, (where the air was fresher!) and my husband managed to buy a bicycle from a local trader, cycling out some four miles daily to the hills, seeking a suitable site, where we might settle before the rains descended. Peter's daily safaris into the hills were much prayed for (Many of the friends who prayed for us then are probably praising in glory now).

The day came when Peter found, in the middle of the flat scrub-land and near a dried-out river bed, surrounded on three sides by the troublesome hills, one solitary tall tree which obviously had just refused to die, and must have drawn moisture from somewhere below. He reckoned that if the tree could survive there then so could the Donaldsons! There was also a fair amount of cross-valley traffic as the pagans had to come down to a water-hole in the nearby river bed, all of which augured well, for making future contacts with the tribe.

Meanwhile news of our arrival had reached Maroua and soon Peter's faithful Fulani boy Bakari arrived, bringing a few friends, with spades, buckets, ropes and all the usual gear used in D. I. Y. building. Two blind men turned up to dig our well, a beautiful circular work of art about forty feet deep, our only water supply.

*More Next Month*

## Treasurer's Report

### General Fund Summary January 2016

	Month	Year to Date		Surplus /	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	(Shortfall)	
	£	£	£	against budget	
<b>Income</b>				£	
Free will offering	10,119	10,119	9,680	439	5%
Tax recovery	2,666	2,666	2,020	646	
Donations and other income	2,279	2,279	650	1,629	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,064</b>	<b>15,064</b>	<b>12,350</b>	<b>2,714</b>	22%
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Ministry, mission & wider work	0	0	0	0	
Local staffing costs	1,794	1,794	1,742	(52)	
<i>Building costs</i>					
Rates, water, insurances	1,197	1,197	1,206	9	
Power	0	0	0	0	
Repair costs	0	0	1,450	1,450	
<i>Other local costs</i>					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	93	93	90	(3)	
Organ & piano	0	0	0	0	
Other	953	953	468	(485)	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>4,956</b>	<b>919</b>	19%
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>					
<b>Surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>11,027</b>	<b>11,027</b>	<b>7,394</b>	<b>3,633</b>	

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

Please note that the Budget figures above are draft figures and may change when the Budget for 2016 is finalised.

### Development Worker Fund Summary January 2016

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	890	890
Tax recovery	189	189
Other Income	0	0
Grants	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>1,079</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salary, PAYE, NI	2,388	2,388
Expenses	69	69
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>2,456</b>
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>		
<b>Surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>(1,377)</b>	<b>(1,377)</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>4,800</b>	

**Contact Information:** [www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org)

Rev Dr. Alistair May  
80 Blairbeth Road, Burnside, Rutherglen G73 4JA 583 0157  
(Day off Monday - urgent calls only) [alistair.may@ntlworld.com](mailto:alistair.may@ntlworld.com)

**Outreach Development Worker**

Therese Reid  
07 508 213 099 (Day off Monday - urgent calls only) [therese.reid@gmail.com](mailto:therese.reid@gmail.com)

**Organist**

Alan Jenkins, B.Ed. 16 Eden Grove, Mossneuk, East Kilbride

**Church Officer**

Jackie Sheppard, Church House 647 5113 (Day off Monday)

**Session Clerk**

William K Liggat, 148 Langlea Avenue, Cambuslang. 562 0966 [bill.liggat@live.co.uk](mailto:bill.liggat@live.co.uk)

**Rollkeeper**

Morag Moore, 26 Buchanan Drive 647 2130 [moforever@btinternet.com](mailto:moforever@btinternet.com)

**Safeguarding Coordinator**

Elaine Devlin, Mobile 07811 591 684 [elainemdevlin@googlemail.com](mailto:elainemdevlin@googlemail.com)

**Preses**

Stuart Menzies, 46 Milburn Avenue 647 4664 [menzies06@btinternet.com](mailto:menzies06@btinternet.com)

**Clerk to the Managers**

Helen McKechnie, 21 Cragwell Park, Carmunnock. 644 3618 [helen.mckechnie@lineone.net](mailto:helen.mckechnie@lineone.net)

**Treasurer (inc. FWO)**

Iain Morrison, Flat G/L, 5 Parkhill Drive 569 3609 [iain.g.morrison@ntlworld.com](mailto:iain.g.morrison@ntlworld.com)

**Weekly Announcement Sheet**

Vetinia Gorman, 12 Calderwood Road 647 2488 [vetinia.gorman@googlemail.com](mailto:vetinia.gorman@googlemail.com)

**Church Flower Requests:**

Cathie Baillie, 583 5591

Margaret Stark, 258 8750

**Halls Booking Officer (inc. Meeting Place)**

Vetinia Gorman, 12 Calderwood Road 647 2488 [vetinia.gorman@googlemail.com](mailto:vetinia.gorman@googlemail.com)

**Church Magazine Editorial Team**

Stuart Willins, 42 Kingsburn Grove, G73 2EX 613 0858

Irene Lebeter [catherinelebeter@sky.com](mailto:catherinelebeter@sky.com)

**Magazine Deadline**

Items for the **April 2016** issue of the Church Magazine to be delivered to the editorial team no later than: **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**