

Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

February 2016 Fifth Series 139

Letter from the Minister

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Unsurprisingly these words from Psalm 133 are nearly always used in January as part of Christian Unity week: a prayer for the Church to be one. But, prior to that idea of unity is the simple idea of God’s people actually living together.

So much of modern living is compartmentalised. We live apart. We live as islands. We reside beside neighbours, but we rarely in any meaningful sense live *with* them. We work with colleagues, but they are rarely part of the rest of our lives. Even families so often live miles apart: geographically or emotionally. Church can be the same too: a place we go, sing, give, listen, and then leave in loneliness. But how good and pleasant it is when God’s people really live together – when the Church brings together ages, stages, genders and generations in a way that nothing else in our society does.

Sunday worship, coffee afterwards, lunch in the hall, a pancake service before Lent, a fish supper shared at Easter, a housegroup, a Bible-study, a popping into the Meeting Place, a visit from an elder or a Christian friend, a friendly face in a hospital ward, a sharing of the trials of parenting, faith, employment, ageing, or knowing God’s will – all examples of God’s people living together in unity. They are truly good and pleasant. Seek them, enjoy them, invite others into them, and give thanks for them.

Psalm 133 moves on to celebrate this “living together” with a rather impenetrable metaphor about oil dripping from the beard of a priest onto his garments (no, I’m not about to try it), but it ends with saying “for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore” - suggesting that Christian community can be a foretaste of heaven itself. Think about that!

There is much that is wrong in any Church, but in reflecting on all that you are to me, I cannot help but thinking that it is the experience of Christian love that more than anything else confirms my faith in the Gospel and encourages me to keep going when I’m despondent. Good and pleasant it is, indeed.

With every blessing

Alistair

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Church Diary

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

Thursday 4th February

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

Sunday 7th February

10:30 am Communion Service
Rev Daniel Frank
6:00 pm Pancake Service
(mark start of Lent)

Sunday 14th February

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

Sunday 21st February

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

Sunday 28th February

10:30 am Morning Service
1st Corinthians
6:30 pm Special Joint Service
For Lent (Venue ?)

Sunday 6th March

10:30 am Holy Communion
1st Corinthians
6:00 pm Alternative Evening Service

ThursdayNights@TheMeetingPlace

Each Thursday at 7.30-9.00pm we have an opportunity for discussion, prayer and learning together. At the moment we're doing **Discipleship Explored**, a course for anyone who wants to make the most of their Christian lives. Looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians, we discuss the meaning of Paul's words 'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain.' You are very welcome to come and join in. (The first Thursday of each month is a house group).

News from Old Parish Church

*Margaret Ferrier MP and James Kelly MSP will unveil two plaques commemorating William Wallace's association with the Church in Rutherglen in the Old Parish Church at **11.30 a.m.** on **Saturday, 13 February** 2016. The plaques have been donated by the Society of William Wallace and members of the Society will attend in period attire. As the monthly Coffee Morning takes place on that date the Old Parish will be open from **10 a.m.** and its members extend a warm welcome to you to attend either event, or both.*

Church News

New Copier

Many of you will have heard that the Risograph which was used to print the magazine has stopped working and has had to be replaced by a more modern photocopier. I wish to thank very much Vetinia Gorman for procuring a suitable machine, from the same suppliers as before. This wonderful, new machine can copy from single-sided masters to double sided copies, which can then be stapled automatically ! Most users of the new machine, which needs a security code to operate, will just have Black & White rather than full (or partial) colour. The church still has the existing photocopier for small jobs.

I have been the editor for just over two years now but the printing of the magazine has been done by others from the file I produce, for which I am grateful. These people are Morag & Richard Taylor, John Moore & Malcolm Doig and Jane Paulsen. If you are reading this on paper, then they (this month's team but also some of the others) will have succeeded in using the new printer !

Stuart Willins

Life & Work

Will those who have still not paid for Life and Work please do so as soon as possible. The price is £22 to be paid to the person who delivers your magazine or to myself. If this is not suitable please telephone me on 570 3712 and I will arrange a suitable time to collect it.

I would also like to thank those who deliver the magazines each month. It is an important job and appreciated by many in our congregation.

Best wishes

Isobel Wilson

Church Register

Removals:

Mrs Jean Donaldson, 1 Cameron Court, Rutherglen, died on 18 January 2016.

Morag Moore

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who gave my Dad and me comfort and support after the recent passing of my Mum, Margaret Barron.

Thanks also for your cards and flowers and those who attended the service at the Crematorium.

Your kindness has been very much appreciated.

Alison McCartan

News from Therese.....



To All You Cracked Pots Out There!

A water bearer had two large pots, each hung on either side of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day at the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you." "Why?" asked the water bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it leaked out half of its load, and so again it apologised to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other side?"

That's because I have always known about your flaw and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walked back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you, being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

The Moral of this Story

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We are all cracked pots.

In this world, nothing goes to waste. You may think like the cracked pot that you are inefficient or useless in certain areas of your life, but somehow these flaws can turn out to be a Blessing in disguise.

Kind of makes you proud of being a cracked pot!

Therese x

Monthly House Groups

Next House Group 4th February 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**. The group who normally meet at David and Dorothy's will meet at Highburgh Drive again this 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

Yvonne Barr
11 Highburgh Drive
G73 3RR
0141 569 1742

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

Tearfund Revisited

Two years ago our minister, Rev. Dr. Alistair May, was in Ethiopia finding out about the work that Tearfund is doing for Self-Help groups by, in this case, using their partner the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church to set up, support and train brand new self-help groups, empowering vulnerable people to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Many of the congregation (and others throughout Scotland) signed up to support Tearfund's *Self-Help Groups* by donating £10 a month (for a year) via Direct Debit. During the summer I read in Tear Times about the scheme being extended to other African countries.

During this past autumn, I realised that my year was up, and I decided that I would keep contributing to Tearfund, but change the target to *Where the Need is Greatest*. This I was able to do by phoning the local Glasgow office and making my request. I received a confirmation letter by return. The address is Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD – telephone (0141) 332 3621.

Were you one of the regular contributors ? Have you changed, continued or terminated ?

Stuart Willins

Activities

The Wednesday Ladies

The next meeting of the Wednesday Ladies will be on the 17th February at 2 p.m. We had a very successful first half and are looking forward to resuming our meetings in 2016. Once again a reminder that we would welcome any new ladies who wish to come along for tea and chat.

Myra Howitt

Acoustic Nights

@ The Meeting Place

On Friday 26th February 2016 @ 7:30 PM
The artists are **HIGH SPEED GRASS**.

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

Alan and Louise Mairs

6th Rutherglen Girls' Brigade

Since my last report here, we have increased the number of girls on our books to 20, with 7 in a Brigader uniform; not bad for our first year with a proper Brigader section. It has been particularly encouraging to welcome back the Brigader girls who had previously been members of the company.

In the run up to Christmas we had a few weeks of working together as a company to look at the Christmas story, do crafts and have a party. We have now returned to working in our sections and the Explorers have been looking at the topic of bugs; they preferred the butterflies and ladybirds to the spiders. The Juniors have been learning about "our town" and thinking about where they live. They were delighted to have Irene Lebeter and Moira Shaw join them one evening and to hear about Rutherglen in the past. The Brigaders have been looking at some of the "I am" sayings of Jesus and linking this into crafts such as making candles when we did "I am the light of the world". They also had fun making Scottie dog brooches from felt.

Elaine May

Rotas

Tea Rota

Feb	7 th	Alan Mairs	Bill Stewart
	14 th	Kay Kellock	Kit Young
	21 st	Carolyn Kennedy	Helen Paulsen
	28 th	Isobel Wilson	Tricia Finlayson
Mar	6 th	Yvonne Barr	David Barr

Door Duty

Date	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle	Floater
07/02/16	E. McDonald	B. Stark	T. Finlayson	B. Stewart
14/02/16	J. Baird	M. Baird	G. Senior	I. Wilson
21/02/16	C. Kennedy	M. Inglis	G. McKechnie	L. Bell
28/02/16	L. Gibson	J. Sheppard	J. Menzies	L. Alison
06/03/16	J. Miller	A. McLintock	B. Liggat	M. Doig

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Summary December 2015

	Month	Year to Date		Surplus / (Shortfall)	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	against budget	
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Free will offering	8,972	103,861	114,720	(10,859)	-9%
Tax recovery	2,756	26,958	25,730	1,228	
Donations and other income	8,691	19,499	10,001	9,498	
Total Income	20,418	150,317	150,451	(134)	0%
Expenditure					
Ministry, mission & wider work	0	88,376	88,376	0	
Local staffing costs	2,014	23,321	24,192	871	
<i>Building costs</i>					
Rates, water, insurances	1,191	12,213	12,527	314	
Power	575	8,856	9,600	744	
Repair costs	599	6,096	6,910	814	
<i>Other local costs</i>					
Reachout Trust	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	
Printing and stationery	321	2,269	2,500	231	
Organ & piano	0	306	350	44	
Other	445	5,273	4,496	(777)	
Total Expenditure	6,645	148,208	150,451	2,243	1%
Income less Expenditure					
Surplus / (shortfall)	13,773	2,109	0	2,109	

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

Thanks to the immense generosity of individuals and organisations within Stonelaw, we have achieved a surplus of just over £2,100 within the General Fund in 2015.

Development Worker Fund Summary December 2015

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
Income		
Donations	990	14,354
Tax recovery	327	4,007
Other Income	1,000	3,000
Grants	0	7,000
Total Income	2,316	28,361
Expenditure		
Salary, PAYE, NI	2,388	26,892
Expenses	344	1,444
Total Expenditure	2,732	28,337
Income less Expenditure		
Surplus / (shortfall)	(415)	24

Contact Information: 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

Outreach Development Worker

Therese Reid
07 508 213 099 (Day off Monday - urgent calls only) 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

Rollkeeper

Morag Moore, 26 Buchanan Drive 647 2130 moforever@btinternet.com

Safeguarding Coordinator

Elaine Devlin, Mobile 07811 591 684 elainemdevlin@googlemail.com

Preses

Stuart Menzies, 46 Milburn Avenue 647 4664 menzies06@btinternet.com

Clerk to the Managers

Helen McKechnie, 21 Cragwell Park, Carmunnock. 644 3618 helen.mckechnie@lineone.net

Treasurer (inc. FWO)

Iain Morrison, Flat G/L, 5 Parkhill Drive 569 3609 iain.g.morrison@ntlworld.com

Weekly Announcement Sheet

Vetinia Gorman, 12 Calderwood Road 647 2488 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

Church Magazine Editorial Team

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

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Magazine Deadline

Items for the **March 2016** issue of the Church Magazine to be delivered to the editorial team no later than: **Sunday 21st February.**