

Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

January 2016 Fifth Series 138

Letter from the Minister

I always find the January letter the hardest to write.

It is written in December. That's a struggle, not only because it's a busy month, but because I write in a different context from the one in which you read. As I write, the days are growing shorter: as you read they are lengthening. As I write, the year is drawing to a close: as you read it is starting. As I write, I'm aware of all that's not been done in 2015: as you read you're facing all that might be in 2016. I write at the end: you read at the beginning.

But even were I writing at the start of 2016, could I say anything about the year ahead? I'd thought to write about some priorities and plans for us as a congregation in 2016, but I rejected this as foolishness – a presumption which would be contradicted by events. But, even without being the prophet, perhaps I can make some certain predictions for 2016.

This year, we will need to pray. If we do, God will honour us. This year we'll have opportunities for mission, and the Spirit will invite us to respond. This year, we will be called to welcome new people and take them to our hearts. This year, we will be challenged not to want a church for our needs, but a church for needs of the most vulnerable. This year, there will be sadness, and we will be called to stand together in love. This year, there will be disappointments, and we will be called to keep

believing in the Christ. This year, we will be let down by others, and we will let others down, and we will be called to forgive and seek reconciliation. This year, our hearts will sometimes break, and sometimes be filled with joy, and we will be called to know God's heart is too.

How do I know this? Because that's what happened in 2015. It is how it always is with God's people. The Scripture writers didn't know either what the future of God's people would be – but they wrote words that are shockingly relevant, because they knew that our God, the same yesterday, today and forever, is always leading his people on.

So, if you have one New Year's resolution, let it be this: go into this year looking for God and expecting to find him.

And may the Lord be with you.

Alistair

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Church Diary

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

Sunday 3rd January (Epiphany)

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

Thursday 7th January

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

Sunday 10th January

10:30 am Morning Service
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 17th January

10:30 am Morning Service
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 24th January (Homelessness)

10:30 am Morning Service
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 31st January

10:30 am Morning Service
Compassion UK
6:00 pm Alternative Evening Service

Sunday 7rd February

10:30 am Holy Communion
Rev Daniel Frank
6:30 pm Evening Service

Compassion UK

In January we will have Donna Mack from Compassion UK with us. Compassion is Christian child development and advocacy ministry which partners with local churches in developing countries to release children from poverty, mainly through Child sponsorship. Come and find out more.

ThursdayNights@TheMeetingPlace

Each Thursday at 7.30-9.00pm we have an opportunity for discussion, prayer and learning together.

Discipleship Explored starting January 21st, an 8-week course for anyone who wants to make the most of their Christian lives. Looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians, guests can explore for themselves the meaning of Paul's words 'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain.' Each session has a group discussion, picking up on the previous week's material and a short study in Philippians, a short talk or DVD as a theme for that week, and a further group discussion on issues arising.

DO YOU NEED A LIFT TO CHURCH?

There must be few things worse than wanting to go somewhere but not being able to get there. And that must be especially true when you want to get to church. There are a number of our members who already benefit from the kindness of others who take them to and from church on a Sunday morning / evening. But inevitably, over time more people find they need help, especially in bad weather. If you would like someone to drive you to and from church, please get in touch and I will try to match you up with a driver.

Of course, this means that we need volunteer drivers. Ideally, with a few volunteers we can create a rota which means you would not need to be on duty every week. Again, please let me know of your availability.

Janis Neil (634 1901)

Church News

Tribute to Bob Wilson

Since his untimely passing, a lot has been said, and written, about Bob. I would just like to add my personal view of Bob.

Bob served Stonelaw for thirty years, having been ordained in the East Parish Church. I use the word 'served' advisedly, because he was unstinting in his work for the congregation. If he saw that some repair was needed, he went ahead and did it – no waiting to be told. He never sought praise or thanks. Indeed he always seemed rather embarrassed by thanks – to Bob he was only doing his Christian duty.

As regards his pastoral role, he was highly regarded by those he visited, and he will be sadly missed by them.

As a member of Session he was not afraid to speak his mind, either at Session meetings or in more informal settings. Any time we disagreed (which was very rarely) he always strove to be constructive, and this applied to all his contributions to the work of Session, and if he lost an argument, he always accepted defeat gracefully.

It would be no understatement to say that Bob was a 'true Christian gentleman', but I prefer to use the phrase used by one of his fellow Elders – 'he was a special friend'.

And so say all of us!

Bill Liggat

Tea & Coffee Providers

On behalf of the church we would like to thank the many people who offer their help regularly to serve the Tea and Coffee after the morning service each Sunday. Coming together as a church family for a chat is a major part of our Sunday Worship and we appreciate the work and service carried out by everyone who is on the Tea Duty List. If you are not on the list and feel that this is something you would like to do please contact Moira and John Shaw on 07885508130 (Mobile) 0141 569 8344 or email johnshaw@live.co.uk Because there are already around 30 people on the list you will only require to be on duty every 15 weeks or so.

John & Moira

Church Register

Removals:

Mr Alexander Gray, 148 Calderwood Road, Burnside, died on 10 December 2015.

Mr Robert Wilson, 22 Fishescoates Avenue, Burnside, died on 13 December 2015.

Morag Moore

THANK YOU
Lord for

2016

News from Therese.....

A prayer for our congregation.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit we pray, we thank you for this new day, this new year.

Today, we bring our congregation before you Lord, with hearts full of thanksgiving and praise. We are a people who gather to hear your word, a people who gather to glorify your name. Brothers and sisters in Christ. We lift the names of any whose hearts are sore today, we lift them to you, give them your peace we pray. We lift the names of those who are ill at this time, those who are frail, those who are failing, your faithful ones who have served you for many years, be near them Lord Jesus, let them know your love.

We lift the names of those who serve you daily within Stonelaw Church, those who serve you within our community, our schools, our shops, the banks, the park, the health centre, those who serve you within their communities, their workplaces, wherever their frontline may be. We thank you and give you praise for the new families you are drawing near, help us to welcome them, to nurture and encourage them. Father God, we lift the names of all of your children, your strong ones, your old ones, your young ones, the babies, your stropky ones, your insecure ones, your noisy ones, those who do not linger for fellowship, those who lead, those we love to be around, those we struggle with, the knitters, the bakers, the plumbers, the doctors, the nurses, the teachers, the homemakers, the retired, the lonely, the busy, Lord the list is exhaustive. Yet you know each one by name.

We thank you for this melting pot of humanity, such a diversity of people Lord, each one unique, beautiful, fearfully and wonderfully made, each one created in your image. Come Lord Jesus, be with us, bless us, pour out your Spirit upon us, guide us in all we do today and throughout 2016 in your holy name. Amen

Dates for your diary 2016

Here I am, Lord ~ Take me Deeper **Women's Conference** Clincarthill Parish Church

Saturday 19th March 2016 10am - 4.15pm

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

Community of Faith Conference 2016

Glasgow: Saturday, 13th February - Burnside Blairbeth Church

Cost: £10

Times: 9.30am registration opens, event 10am - 4pm

This conference is for volunteers (Sunday School leaders, GB/BB officers, youth club leaders, holiday club volunteers, Messy Church volunteers, elders etc), ministers and paid workers alike. There will be a range of workshops, worship, a keynote speaker and the opportunity to share good practice with one another.

If you wish tickets for either of these events please give me a call 07508 213099 or email me at therese.reid@gmail.com

Christmas Holiday Club ~ Christmas All Wrapped Up

The thoughtfulness put into each box was amazing, each one unique. Each box so beautifully planned, crafted and created with the children in their groups. The children fully engaged in the activities, they completely entered into the stories, I loved walking past and hearing the leaders take them to a beautiful place, a deeper place, they took them beyond the surface story, they took them to the reality of the story from the Angels appearing to Mary to Jesus birth in Bethlehem.

Our narrators, Katie Baird & Callum Devlin, each delivered the story with such confidence. They held the attention of the children and adults alike. I know I speak for the other leaders too, when I say that their enthusiasm and willingness to be part of our team simply filled our hearts with Joy! Thank You Both. Julie Hoey taught us two beautiful new Christmas songs, Shine from the Inside Out and Underneath the Shining Star, which were fun, refreshing and thought provoking, you can check them out on YouTube. The photographer's sketch by Alistair was brilliant, the (real) photographer arriving from the Reformer when he did, was perfect timing, God's timing, you couldn't make it up. Each family was presented with a beautiful little gift from Stonelaw Church.

The Prayer Space, Sandra Coia & Linda Begg, created a beautiful space. In the midst of conversations, background music and general melee, children and adults alike responded to this safe place where they could bring the names of those they love before God. I sense this is only the beginning for prayer spaces in Stonelaw.

Throughout the week preceding our holiday club our team made time to sit at the Father's feet, to adore him, to be in awe of His glory. We prayerfully brought one another, the children, the parents and our congregation before his throne. We cried out "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus." And He came,

he moved among us, he poured out His Spirit upon us, he blessed us, Heaven touched Earth. We give Him all the praise and all of the glory.

On reading this through I see that I have used the word Beautiful over and over again. I make no apologies for this as it truly reflects the whole event. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave their time and their talents to make it all possible.

In 2016 - SHINE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

chorus:

Know me, love me, fill me, send me...!

Could this be your prayer for 2016?

*New Year Blessings & love from my home to yours,
Therese x*

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL MISSION TEAM

- We knew there was a need (the Sunday Night Soup Kitchen)
- We wondered how best to fill that need (???)
- We came up with an idea (let's have a Coffee Morning!).
- And YOU proved that we could fill that need! (we raised £1000 for the Soup Kitchen!)

Thank you for your support at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 28th November. Despite a really nasty wet morning, we had loads of people in the Main Hall. You told us our tea / coffee was great. You loved the baking and you thought our service was top notch. You almost cleared out the Home Baking Stall and many of you bought items from our Nearly New and Christmas Stall. We are delighted you enjoyed yourselves and we thank you most sincerely for your contribution to the Sunday Night Soup Kitchen.

Homeless Sunday – 24th January

This year, Homeless Sunday will take place on Sunday 24th January. The National Mission Team will once again provide a focus on homelessness during the morning service and afterwards we are pleased to invite you to a Soup and Roll Lunch. We have been doing this for more years than we care to remember and the sad fact is that the issue of homelessness has not improved over this time; it has only got worse...

Traditionally, throughout January we collect items to support the work of the Lodging House Mission and this year is no exception. We asked the LHM what they would like us to collect and they have said: "Boxer Shorts – sizes small, medium and large, but no extra large please."

This year, the LHM has many extra visitors who will benefit from our collection of boxer shorts. These extra visitors arrive at the LHM to take advantage of the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter (GWNS), which is being hosted by the LHM this year. We have received this interesting information about the GWNS:

The Glasgow Winter Night Shelter is a partnership of charities, organisations and housing associations concerned with tackling homelessness. During the cold winter months, many people sleep rough in the streets of Glasgow. Rough sleepers and people with nowhere else to sleep are welcome to use the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter for emergency accommodation. In the mornings, we'll connect them to Glasgow City Council's homelessness case team in order that homeless accommodation can be found.

This year's Glasgow Winter Night Shelter will operate from December 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016, an extra month due to demand. The service will operate from Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell Street, G1 5DT. In the morning, users of the service can remain in Lodging House Mission and take advantage of free food, accommodation, warmth, and a host of support facilities such as health improvement, legal advice, social services, form filling and many other services and activities.

In 2014-15 (3 months only), a total of 407 individuals used the shelter, between them accessing the service some 1,501 times.

So, it is obvious that there will be an even bigger demand for underwear than in previous years. If you are out in the January Sales, please look out for bargains – it is probably safe to say that quantity rather than quality will be most appreciated. Bring your boxers to the church any week in January and we will pass them on.

We do hope you can join us at the Homeless Sunday lunch on the 24th – it is a lovely time of fellowship and sharing of food in warm comfortable surroundings. We are blessed.

Sundries

Words of Wisdom for the New Year

I thought I would share this 'alphabet' with you at the start of a new year. I think you'll agree that there are some excellent pieces of advice!

Twenty - six ways to be happy, holy and wise

- A**ccept each new day as a gift.
- B**elieve in your goodness and the goodness of others.
- C**heer for others and their successes.
- D**on't ever give up.
- E**very moment is a gift for you - live it.
- F**orgive others and yourself.
- G**ive thanks for all your blessings daily.
- H**ave faith.
- I**nvoke others to share moments with you.
- J**oin groups and be involved.
- K**eep in touch with those you love.
- L**augh, laugh and laugh some more.
- M**ake some mistakes daily - on purpose.
- N**ever judge - give others the benefit of the doubt.
- O**ffer to share your time and talents.
- P**raise the good works of others.
- Q**uit worrying.
- R**elax and rest and live each day fully.
- S**ay nice things to and about others.
- T**ake time to play.
- U**nderstand that everything won't be perfect.
- V**alue what you have.
- W**ish for the stars.
- X**-plain things when necessary.
- Y**ou are important; don't forget that.
- Z**ap life into everything.

Taken from 'Live, laugh and be Blessed' by Anne Bryan Smollin.

Margaret A. Borland

Thanks	Thanks from Bob Wilson`s family
<p>Jessie McCandlish would like to thank the congregation of Stonelaw Church most sincerely for your best wishes and prayers, and also for the gift of the beautiful church flowers.</p> <p><i>Best wishes Lynne (on behalf of Jessie).</i></p>	<p>Very many thanks to everyone who visited Bob in hospital and at home. He enjoyed your visits very much. Thanks too for all your prayers, visits, cards etc and to all who attended his Thanksgiving Service. Your help and support has been very much appreciated.</p> <p><i>Isobel</i></p>

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 29th January 2016 @ 7:30 PM come and hear **WING & A PRAYER**.

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

Alan and Louise Mairs

Door Duty

Date	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle	Floater
10/01/16	B. Liggat	M. Doig	J. Miller	G. Doig
17/01/16	M. Gault	J. Paulsen	M. Moore	B. Shields
24/01/16	M. Shaw	G. Morrison	J. Shaw	M. Morrison
31/01/16	A. Stewart	P. Howitt	M. Ewing	C. Baillie
07/02/16	E. McDonald	B. Stark	T. Finlayson	B. Stewart

Tea Rota

Jan	3 rd	Margie Kayser	Jane Paulsen
	10 th	Morag Taylor	Richard Taylor
	17 th	Shona Forsyth	Geraldine O'Brien
	24 th	Alison McCarten	Ann Ross
	31 st	Sandra Coia	Morag Moore
Feb	7 th	Alan Mairs	Bill Stewart

Monthly House Groups

Next House Group 7th January 2016

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 Morning Group. 10.30am - 12.00pm

Jennifer Menzies

46 Millburn Avenue

G73 2AR

0141 647 4664

Thursday Evening Groups. 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Yvonne Barr

11 Highburgh Drive

G73 3RR

0141 569 1742

David and Dorothy McTaggart

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

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Summary November 2015

	Month	Year to Date		Surplus / (Shortfall)	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	against budget	
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Free will offering	8,923	94,889	105,160	(10,271)	-10%
Tax recovery	1,848	24,202	23,690	512	
Donations and other income	3,369	10,808	8,175	2,633	
Total Income	14,141	129,899	137,025	(7,126)	-5%
Expenditure					
Ministry, mission & wider work	8,375	88,376	88,376	0	
Local staffing costs	1,824	21,307	21,916	609	
<i>Building costs</i>					
Rates, water, insurances	1,191	11,022	11,293	271	
Power	3,038	8,281	9,600	1,319	
Repair costs	0	5,497	6,260	763	
<i>Other local costs</i>					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	68	1,948	2,013	65	
Organ & piano	306	306	350	44	
Other	0	4,828	4,202	(626)	
Total Expenditure	14,801	141,564	144,010	2,446	2%
Income less Expenditure					
Surplus / (shortfall)	(660)	(11,665)	(6,985)	(4,680)	

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

Please note that while expenditure has been a little below projected figures (especially power costs) Freewill Offering remains significantly below the amount needed to meet our General Fund expenditure. The response to the appeal for extra funds to help cover the deficit is included in "Donations and other income" above.

Development Worker Fund Summary November 2015

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
Income		
Donations	1,440	13,365
Tax recovery	189	3,680
Other Income	0	2,000
Grants	0	7,000
Total Income	1,629	26,044
Expenditure		
Salary, PAYE, NI	2,629	24,505
Expenses	204	1,100
Total Expenditure	2,833	25,605
Income less Expenditure		
Surplus / (shortfall)	(1,204)	439
Balance Remaining	6,593	

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

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Magazine Deadline

Items for the **February 2016** issue of the Church Magazine to be delivered to the editorial team no later than: **Sunday 24th January.**