

Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

September 2016 Fifth Series 144

Letter from the Minister

Over the next weeks we will be looking at the mission of the Church in the Book of Acts. Acts begins with the resurrected Jesus, sending the Holy Spirit, and declaring to his disciples “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Those words strike fear into the heart of most Christians: “How will we do that? What would we say? They’ll just laugh at us!” We immediately focus on our ignorance and lack of ability. However, this is to misunderstand what it means to be a witness.

If you observe an accident, and the police call you to be a witness, they would be uninterested in your speaking ability, they would only care about what you have seen. So too with the disciples. They had witnessed the ministry of Jesus, his power, his death and his resurrection. It wasn’t that they were to go out and try to be witnesses, it was because of what they had experienced that they were already witnesses of Jesus. The power of the Gospel does not lie in our ability to spread it; it rests in what God has done in Christ. It is because we have witnessed the love and power of God that we have something to share with the world.

Reading the books of Acts also shows us that the Church isn’t called to have a mission plan. It is simply called to grasp God’s heart to seek and save the lost, seen in the ministry of Jesus, and

to follow where God is leading. The book of Acts is less the “Acts of the Apostles” and more the “Acts of the Holy Spirit and how the apostles tried to keep up”. I hope as we work through Acts we learn the importance of God’s mission and be excited to be part of it.

In September we will also be asking you to consider the future of our Development Worker. If this post is to continue then we will need to find substantial additional funding. I hope we do see developing our outreach as a priority. So, can I urge you to read the enclosed leaflet and give this matter your prayerful consideration?

With every blessing,

Alistair

Contents

Church Diary.....	2
Church News.....	3,4
National Mission News.....	5
Sundries.....	6
Activities.....	7
Managers Report.....	8
Jun-Aug Accounts.....	9
Contact Information.....	10

Church Diary

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

Thursday 1st September

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

Thursday 15th September

10:30 am Release International
@Meeting Place

Sunday 4th September

10:30 am Holy Communion
Acts on Mission
5:30 pm Sausage and Song

Sunday 18th September

10:30 am Morning Service
Acts on Mission
6:30 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 7th September

2:00 pm Half-hour service launches

Thursday 22th September

10:30 am "There are no ordinary people"

Thursday 8th September

10:30 am "There are no ordinary people"

Sunday 25th September

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

Sunday 11th September

10:30 am Morning Service
Acts on Mission
6:30 pm Evening Service

Sunday 2nd October

10:30 am Holy Communion
6:00 pm Alternative Evening Service
(with child-friendly Communion)

Sausage and Song

After our successful joint summer evening services with Burnside, we relaunch our own evening worship with a barbeque. This is for everyone, and will finish well before 7pm for those with children at school the next day. (Our first of the month evening services will continue to be child-friendly).

Thursday Nights

In addition to our Sunday services, we set aside Thursday evenings for growing, learning and sharing together. On the first Thursday of each month (starting 1st September), there will be house-groups, and on the other Thursdays we will be gathering for discussion and fellowship in the Meeting Place.

From September 8th on Thursdays at Stonelaw we will be looking at the story of Barnabas (whose name means "the son of encouragement") and learning how we can be encouragers to each other. This will be four sessions based on Jeff Lucas's book "There are No Ordinary People". It will also tie in with our Sunday morning studies from the Book of Acts.

Release International – Thursday 15th September

Release is an organisation which focuses on supporting persecuted Christians. On Thursday 15th Sep from 7.30pm till 9.30pm they are to have a supporters' evening in our Meeting Place to hear from a pastor from Bhutan who has experienced persecution first hand and has spent some time in prison for his faith. We are all invited to attend, so please come if you possibly can.

Church News

Starting September: The Meeting Place Service

Because not everyone can make a Sunday, a morning, or manage the length of our current services, from September we are going to offer an alternative time for worship. It will be on Wednesdays, at 2pm, and will last about 30min (followed by tea and coffee until 3pm). All will be welcome to join us for this monthly service – but we're particularly aiming at those who don't or can't come on Sunday. It might be those who visit the Meeting Place Cafe, or parents with children at school or playgroup, or our older members who struggle with Sunday. Could you help with catering, offering lifts, welcoming or setting up? Would this be an opportunity for you to invite someone you know into an easier way of worship? Our first service will be September 7th, and then October 5th.

Missed a Sunday Morning?

Recordings can be downloaded from www.stonelawchurch.org.

House Groups

Next Meeting Thursday 1st September

A few changes to note after the summer break. As Jean will now be supporting our Boys Brigade she will no longer be able to host a house group. However, Allan Milloy has kindly offered to host a group from this month. Also as Gary and Ann are now house hunting this group will meet at 11 Highburgh Drive until further notice. Otherwise it is business as usual.

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.

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

Gary and Anne Ross
11 Highburgh Drive (until further notice)
G73 3RR
0141 569 1742

Allan Milloy
McMillan House
33 Buchanan Drive
G73 3PF
Telephone to be confirmed

Thursday Morning Group. 10.30am - 12.00pm

Jennifer Menzies
46 Millburn Avenue
G73 2AR
0141 647 4664

More Church News

You might not see us – but we are there...

There are a number of people involved in ensuring that the sound and vision work properly during Sunday services. Technology sometimes gets in the way and things go wrong; that we have to accept – and we hope you do too – we are doing our best! But it's worth saying that there is one thing that would really help us. If you have pictures or a video that you would like us to show on the screen during the service, please don't present them to us minutes before a Sunday morning service is due to start... We turn up for duty at 10am and we would really appreciate it if you could bring your item to us as soon after that as possible.

Many thanks

Sound and Vision Team

(Alan & Joanne Jenkins, John and Lesley Liggat, Lesley Nisbet, Fiona Benson, Alan Mairs, David McTaggart, Janis Neil)

Church Register

Mr John Walden, Wardlaw Avenue, Rutherglen, died on 06 June 16.

Mr Alex Cordiner, Rodger Park, Rutherglen, died on 07 June 16.

Mrs Molly Laird, Underwood Road, Burnside, died on 14 June 16.

Mr John Baird, Upper Bourtrees Drive, Burnside, died on 05 July 16.

Mrs Jean Steele, Underwood Road, Burnside, died on 07 July 16.

Please can you help?

We are extremely grateful to Jean Miller for the work she carries out on the local churches' Christian Aid Committee on our behalf. She has graciously offered to continue to represent Stonelaw but would welcome another volunteer to join her. Please consider this prayerfully and speak to Jean or Alistair for further information. Thank you.

Morag Taylor

News from the National Mission Team

Sponsored Walk for the Lodging House Mission

It didn't take much effort – in fact it was quite enjoyable. But the result? Well it was amazing! What are we talking about? Well, it was the small matter of walking round Stewartfield Loch on a fairly dull morning. Of course it wasn't just one circuit – but eight. But those eight laps gave us the chance to hand out LHM leaflets to the other (very) few hardy souls who were joining us on that rather dreich June morning. Amazingly, one group that we met one two occasions (yes, they were going round the loch in the opposite direction) gave us one donation on the first lap but then more on the second, when they read the leaflet and found out which organisation we were supporting.

And you, the congregation of Stonelaw Church rewarded us for walking some 10 kilometres (6.24 miles). You rewarded us to the tune of £635 (including Gift Aid). We've had a thank you letter from Gus McKay, Chaplain of the Lodging House Mission. Your generosity is appreciated so much – your money can do so much good – huge thanks to all who contributed.

Janis Neil Convenor, National Mission Team

Save The Date 16th - 18th June 2017

Stonelaw Church Weekend at Lendrick Muir Outdoor Centre

In June 2013, 52 adults and children from Stonelaw spent an enjoyable weekend at Lendrick Muir, the Scripture Union Centre near Kinross. We have booked the centre again for next year. Many of the popular features of the last weekend will be back and we also hope to have a few improvements to make this weekend even better.

Here are some comments from folk who were there last time :-

"We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and would recommend it to anyone in the church. It was a great opportunity to get to know people especially since we are quite new to the church. There was a real sense of family and community and it was wonderful to be involved and included in the weekend."

"It was great having the opportunity to get to know new people and lovely to share meals and worship with each other. It was good to see everyone working together and people having a good time as a result."

There will be more information following soon. In the meantime, if you want to know more, speak to Yvonne Barr, Elaine Devlin or Jennifer Menzies.

Sundries

Ephesus – then and now

As some of you will know, visiting Ephesus was a summer highlight for me. Before mum and I went on holiday, we knew that there would be the opportunity to visit Ephesus but we didn't know if we would be able to go, mainly because of the heat. We decided to go on the panoramic tour which involved little walking and sitting in an air-conditioned bus which we thought was something with which we could cope!

We sailed into Kusadasi on the west coast of Turkey. I know that some of you have visited this part of the world. Kusadasi is a charming little town which is the souvenir mecca of that area. It is also the gateway to perhaps the most spectacular ancient city in the entire country. Ten miles away lies the once mighty metropolis of Ephesus.

In the early days of Christianity, St Paul spent three years in Ephesus founding the first Christian community there. From Ephesus, the gospel spread abroad almost throughout all of Asia. St John also came to Ephesus and is said to have written his gospel there. According to local belief (?), Ephesus was the last home of the Virgin Mary. So, there were plenty of sights to see! It was amazing to view places where St Paul had once walked and, indeed, preached. So many times I have read Paul's letter to the Ephesians but I would never have thought that one day I would visit Ephesus. It was something mum and I will never forget.

Something else I will never forget is the beautiful blue sky, glorious sunshine and the heat! When we were returning to the cruise ship by bus, I saw people standing under a tree shading them from the sun. What a good idea, I thought, until closer up, I realised that they were soldiers with machine guns! The following week, the president of Turkey declared a state of emergency for three months following the failed army coup on 15th July. Yes, reminders that all is not well in the world in 2016. So, we had indeed seen Ephesus – then and now!

It would be appropriate to end with some words from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

'Let us give thanks to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him' (Ephesians 1: 3-4, Good News version).

Margaret A. Borland

Activities

6th Rutherglen Girls' Brigade

We are starting back for the new session on 5th September at 6.15 in the Main Hall with spaces at all stages for girls of school age. Please contact me if you are interested or want more information.

This year the team of myself, Anne Ross and Lesley Kelly is being joined by Leza Lafferty. A big thank you to the volunteers on the rota last year who made it possible to run the Girls' Brigade. The commitment of the girls and their parents in turning up every week shows us that what we are doing is appreciated.

This year the Explorers (Primary 1-3) will be looking at "All Things Pink and Beautiful" and although the topic headings sound quite girly, the actual content isn't all pink and fluffy. The Juniors will be starting on the new programme which was launched in May and we are looking forward to getting in to it. Like the Brigader programme, its content is online so it can easily be updated and it has been developed to fit with the Curriculum for Excellence that the schools follow. Parachute Games are topics in both the Junior and Brigader programmes so we will do that with all the girls; they have all loved it in the past when we have played with the parachute.

Elaine May (Captain)

Acoustic Nights @ The Meeting Place

On Friday September 30th 2016 come and hear the Mairs Family Band - bluegrass music with strong three-part harmony singing with Cameron Oliphant on five string banjo.

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

For further info contact Louise or Alan Mairs purewhite167@gmail.com

Tea Duty Rota

Sept	4 th	Alison McCarten	Anne Ross
	11 th	Sandra Coia	Morag Moore
	18 th	Alan Mairs	Bill Stewart
	25 th	Kay Kellock	Cath Gray
Oct	2 nd	Carolyn Kennedy	Helen Paulsen

Manager's Report

Building Work

Over the summer period there have been various projects underway throughout the church. Unfortunately, much of the work has been in the 'need to have done' category rather than the 'nice to have done' one but it is this type of maintenance that keeps the building sound. The biggest job was the removal of the dry rot in the Meeting Place toilet and the repair work related to it. Unfortunately, this turned out to be a bigger job than first anticipated, as so often happens once works starts. It transpires that the dry rot had spread to the 'Quiet room' below, but the work is now completed and the toilet and the quiet room are back in working order. Although we are still waiting on a new floor covering and to paint the Quiet room. Some further work is required externally to prevent further water ingress.

Parking on Dryburgh Avenue

We have had some comments from residents in Dryburgh Avenue regarding cars blocking access to driveways or double parking and making it difficult for other car users and residents. Please be considerate when parking near the church, even when just picking someone up/ dropping off as stopping at a convenient place for you may in turn be causing a great inconvenience for others.

Health and Safety

The annual risk assessment on Health and Safety has been carried out and while generally everything was up to standard, it was noticed that there is a great deal of 'stuff' lying about in various corners of the church. This ranges from bags in the pews of the transept in the Sanctuary, to boxes on top of cupboards that are covered in dust, to items in the mezzanine floor that haven't moved in years – and the rest. It is intended that a clean-up day will be held, but in the meantime could all organisations and individuals get ahead of the game and have a look at their own 'stuff' and decide if it is really necessary – if not let's get rid of it!

Door Duty

Date	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle	Floater
04/09/16	M. Shaw	G. Morrison	M. Morrison	
11/09/16	M. Ewing	A. Stewart	D. McTaggart	C. Baillie
18/09/16	E. McDonald	B. Stark	T. Finlayson	B. Stewart
25/09/16	M. Baird	J. Baird	G. Senior	I. Wilson
02/10/16	C. Kennedy	M. Inglis	G. McKechnie	L. Bell

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Summary May ~ July 2016

	Period		Year to Date		Surplus / (Shortfall) against budget	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget			
	£	£	£		£	
Income						
Free will offering	25,105	58,791	67,445		(8,654)	-13%
Tax recovery	3,831	12,332	14,940		(2,608)	
Donations and other income	2,526	7,041	5,200		1,841	
Total Income	31,462	78,164	87,585		(9,421)	-11%
Expenditure						
Ministry, mission & wider work	26,777	53,553	53,553		0	
Local staffing costs	5,770	13,475	13,854		379	
<i>Building costs</i>						
Rates, water, insurances	3,573	6,194	6,245		51	
Power	1,963	4,284	5,664		1,380	
Repair costs	898	1,288	3,370		2,082	
<i>Other local costs</i>						
Reachout Trust	0	0	0		0	
Printing and stationery	337	771	1,030		259	
Organ & piano	0	0	175		175	
Other	576	2,892	2,976		84	
Total Expenditure	39,893	82,457	86,867		4,410	5%
Income less Expenditure						
Surplus / (shortfall)	(8,431)	(4,293)	718		(5,011)	

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

Development Worker Fund Summary May ~ July 2016

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
Income		
Donations	2,519	6,527
Tax recovery	354	1,236
Other Income	0	0
Grants	0	4,000
Total Income	2,872	11,763
Expenditure		
Salary, PAYE, NI	8,720	15,883
Expenses	270	515
Total Expenditure	8,990	16,398
Income less Expenditure		
Surplus / (shortfall)	(6,117)	(4,635)
Balance Remaining	1,542	

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 **October 2016** issue of the Church Magazine to be delivered to the editorial team no later than: **Sunday 18th September.**