

# Stonelaw Parish Church Magazine



www.stonelawchurch.org

October 2017 Fifth Series 155

## *Letter from the Minister*

I was challenged recently that sometimes Christians focus too much on how we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. Don't get me wrong, the notion of God's grace in Christ given to us in our failure is at the heart of the Gospel's good news. But what of those times, and those people, who are more aware of the wrong done to them than the wrong they have done?

Some have been victims of abuse: parents, employers, authorities, spouses, systems, even churches have treated them in ways that have scarred deeply. Others, or perhaps at times all of us, have felt unappreciated, maltreated, hard done by, overlooked, and neglected. What has the Gospel to say to those who feel more sinned-against than sinning. What has it to say to those let down by the world or the Church?

Perhaps surprisingly the Psalms express the rage and despair of the victim as much as the remorse of the penitential sinner. The Psalmist captures that feeling of "I am right and the world is against me" (see Psalm 22) that often embarrasses the evangelical preacher. And this is surely good news: good news for the poor, good news for the downtrodden, good news for the neglected, abused, side-lined and scorned.

Indeed, we can go further than that. For Jesus himself is a victim among victims: suffering injustice, neglect, abuse, desertion, betrayal. If anyone had a cause to scream "it's not fair", it was Jesus. He died not only for sinners, but as one of the sinned-against.

For the early Christians, suffering injustice to the point of martyrdom, Jesus didn't just die for their sins (although he did that), he died for the injustices they suffered, and that his love might triumph over the hatred and rejection they experienced. He died not just that those who do wrong might be forgiven, but that those who have been wronged might know they have a God who stands with them, and leads them on a journey towards forgiving.

So perhaps, as we think on the cross, we need to bring to it not just our sin, but also our suffering. That, in the grace of God, we might learn to pray "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us" – aware that neither of those requests are easy, or without cost.

May you know God's grace this month

*Alistair*

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# Church Diary

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

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

10:30 am Holy Communion  
(1<sup>st</sup> John)  
6:30 pm Alternative Evening Service  
(with Communion)

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

10:30 am Morning Service  
(1<sup>st</sup> John)  
6:30 pm Evening Service  
(Leviticus)

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

2:00 pm Half-hour service

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

7:30 pm Living Faith

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

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

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

10:30 am Morning Service  
(1<sup>st</sup> John)  
6:30 pm Evening Service  
(Leviticus)

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

10:30 am Harvest Thanksgiving Service  
6:30 pm Evening Service  
(Leviticus)

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

2:00 pm Half-hour service

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

7:30 pm Living Faith

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

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

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

10:30 am Rev Stewart Birse  
6:30 pm Evening Service  
(TBC)

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

10:30 am Holy Communion  
(1<sup>st</sup> John)  
6:30 pm Alternative Evening Service

## Harvest Thanksgiving

In some of the poorest communities in the world, it is the local church that is offering hope. Christians, on the ground, who know what the issues are, are enabling and empowering their communities to tackle hunger and poverty in sustainable ways. As we think of the riches of our harvest, we will be considering how Tearfund works with local Christians to transform lives. We are delighted that Fiona Morrison will be returning to Stonelaw to share in our service and there will be an opportunity to support Tearfund's work in prayer and in giving.

## Evening Services

**Please note** that while the first service of the month will continue to take a variety of alternative forms, all evening services will now be at 6:30 pm.

## Missed a Sunday Morning?

Recordings can be downloaded from [www.stonelawchurch.org](http://www.stonelawchurch.org).

# Church News

## Living Faith: Ever feel you don't know enough?

*Living Faith: exploring the essentials of Christianity* is a course on the Bible, what Christians believe, and what it all means. It's aimed at helping us understand the basic facts – and perhaps dig a little deeper. We've run this before a number of years ago, and it was deeply appreciated.

You can come to as many (or as few) sessions as you are able. At each we'll watch a short DVD followed by discussion (but you won't have to say anything). The DVD features Tom Wright and doesn't assume you know anything.

The sessions will be held at 7.30 on Thursday nights.

Living Faith:

1. **The Old Testament** (12<sup>th</sup> October)
2. **The world, life and mission of Jesus** (26<sup>th</sup> Oct)
3. **The gospel testimonies to Jesus** (9<sup>th</sup> Nov)
4. **Paul and the outward movement** (16<sup>th</sup> Nov)

## Church Register

Mr Joseph Vallance, Campbell Court, Burnside, died on 15 September 2017.

## Life & Work

Life and Work for 2018 will remain at £18. Please let the person who delivers your magazine know if you no longer want Life and Work. If this is not possible, then please phone me on 570 3712. Numbers must be in by 15th November.

If anyone would like to start taking it, please let me know and I will be happy to order it for you.

Many Thanks

*Isabel Wilson*

## Lunch Bunch

The group meets for lunch on the last Sunday of each month.

Anyone who otherwise would be going home to eat alone is welcome to join us. Please let me know if you are coming by the previous Thursday as pre-booking is required.

Tel: 0141 643 1618 or Text 07503976486

*Linda Alison*

# National Mission Team News

## Sponsored Walk for the Lodging House Mission

On 9<sup>th</sup> September members of the NMT, plus some friends from the congregation, had a most enjoyable morning walking eight times round Stewartfield Loch. That's a distance of 10k (6.24 miles) but it didn't seem so far when the sun was shining. Of course we weren't just out for the exercise, we were walking to raise money for the Lodging House Mission. And thanks to the support of family, friends and you, the congregation, we raised £680. Thank you all for your generous contribution.

## Coffee Morning

We hope to see you at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 10:30 – 12:30. Tickets are priced £2.50 and £1.50 for under 16s. There will be a Home Baking Stall and again, we would welcome donations of baking from the congregation.

This is another fundraising event for the Lodging House Mission and you may be wondering why we need to raise so much money for this organisation. The simple answer is that they really need our money. The LHM requires £324k per annum to operate. They get no government assistance, and could not operate without the support they get from churches like Stonelaw. If you are unsure of what the LHM does, here are their twofold aims:

### 1. To offer food, and shelter in a warm safe environment.

- We offer free breakfast of porridge/cereal, tea/coffee and toast 6 days per week.
- We provide free lunch of soup and main course 6 days per week.
- Extras such as filled rolls, desserts, may be purchased at a nominal charge.
- 100 people per day use this service, more in the winter period.
- We are particularly popular with street sleepers because of our safety procedures.
- Showers and free clothing where necessary.

### 2. To restore the dignity of an individual and bring him/her back to mainstream society.

Our acronym is **FACES**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Food       | - As described above.   |
| Activities | - Cooking, choir, fitness, outings, Pool, Table Tennis, arts & crafts and much more.  |
| Chaplaincy | - A full time chaplain available for spiritual needs, comfort, bible study and someone to speak to.   |
| Education  | - Computer room, numeracy & literacy, ESOL, tv documentaries, modern studies, mindfulness class.  |
| Support    | - Full time support officer covering finance, benefits, homeless advice, addiction, form filling, heating allowances, mental health, advocacy and suicide prevention (frequent). Throw in other services such as chiropody, optician, hairdresser, counsellor and now full dental treatment and advice. |

### Other facts. The LHM...

- Is now open on all Public holidays, except New Year.
- Has 7 staff, 1 Chaplain and around 50 volunteers.
- Hosts the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter, an initiative to give accommodation and a host of support services to Glasgow's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.
- Runs 5 Narcotics Anonymous classes each week.
- Fed 110 Service Users at their Christmas Lunch.
- Through church volunteers, we are now open on a Saturday and are the only Glasgow agency offering food on that day.

## National Mission Team News II

### Lodging House Mission Christmas Cards

#### Lodging House Mission Christmas Cards

Yes, I know this is only the October magazine but I also know how many of you like to be organised. So please see Jane Paulsen who has order forms for a lovely range of Christmas Cards. There are a few new designs this year, which we are sure will be really popular so to secure your order please pass your completed form back to Jane as soon as possible. Thanks to Sandy Paulsen, who is volunteering one day a week at the LHM, you will get your cards back very quickly after you have placed your order. Thanks, Jane and Sandy!

*Janis Neil,  
Convenor, National Mission Team*

### Christian Aid News

#### Thinking ahead to Christmas already?

Would a Christian Aid charity gift be perfect for a friend, or someone in your family?

Go to **[www.presentaid.org](http://www.presentaid.org)** or call 0333 555 2025 Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

**To find out more** about Christian Aid's work, you can go to **[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)** or call support worker Juliet in the Glasgow Office on 0141 221 7475.

*Jean Miller and Jean MacKenzie,  
Stonelaw Church representatives on the Rutherglen Christian Aid Committee*

#### Tuesday Chat Table Top Sale

We are holding our annual Table Top Sale with Tearoom on Saturday 11th November from 10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

As usual, we hope to have a wide variety of goods on sale including home baking, jewellery and crafts.

If you have anything to sell and would like to book a table, at a cost of £10.00, please contact Jill Rennie - 07751 896009.

We look forward to seeing you there.

#### Freedom from Fistula Thank You letter

The following letter was received by the Treasurer – Iain Morrison - and he has passed it on the magazine.





Freedom from Fistula  
1 Whitefriars Crescent  
Perth  
PH2 0PA

21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Dear all at Stonelaw Parish Church

Thank you for your generous donations to our Sierra Leone, Aberdeen Women's Centre appeal, plus the donation of £400.00. This is greatly appreciated by us all.

In the week that has followed since the disaster in Freetown, we have been working very closely with our staff on the ground at Aberdeen Women's Centre to ensure that they are provided with the support that they need to move forward from this terrible tragedy.



As the death toll rises to almost 500 people, we feel incredibly grateful that the hospital was not directly in the path of the mudslide.

Sadly, many of our staff and patients have lost their family, friends, homes and possessions.

Thanks to your generous donation, we can provide for them in their time of need, and ensure that they are kept clothed, warm and safe.

Our greatest thanks to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Eilidh Muir

## Sundries

### Would you like to read from the Bible for us on a Sunday morning?

We all appreciate the wide range of Stonelaw people who read for us from the Bible on Sunday mornings; these readings enrich our understanding of God's word and enhance the impact of Alistair's sermon. Having the name of the reader printed in the weekly announcement sheet also helps us to match up a few more names and faces! New readers are always welcome to join our group of volunteers - so would you like to try? All that is required is to feel comfortable about reading aloud, and to be able to read loudly and slowly enough to allow everyone to hear you clearly. You are free to volunteer just as often or as rarely as you wish, as there is no rota; it is just a matter of choosing a date that would suit you. If you are interested, please speak to me in church, give me a ring or send me an e-mail. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

*Jean MacKenzie* Tel: 0141 647 4913 Email: hjmackenzie27@btinternet.com

### Magazine Distribution

We need someone to deliver magazines to 7 flats, all at No 1 Johnstone Drive.

Can anyone help?

Please telephone Isobel Wilson 570 3712

### Musical Entertainment @ The Meeting Place

The Scarlet Quartet will perform a feast of musical favourites in Stonelaw Parish Church, Meeting Place. Andrew McTaggart, Emily Mitchell, Lynda-Jane Nelson, Connor James Smith and accompanist Geoffry Tanti will perform a varied programme of Opera, Scots Song, Music from the Shows and other well-known tunes.

**Date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October Time: 7:30 PM** Tickets are £5 and are available on the door.

### October Tea Duty Rota

<b>Oct</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Shona Forsyth</b>	<b>Geraldine O'Brien</b>
	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Doreen Frew</b>	<b>Anne Ross</b>
	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sandra Coia</b>	<b>Morag Moore</b>
	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Alan Mairs</b>	<b>Bill Stewart</b>
	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Carolyn Kennedy</b>	<b>Helen Paulsen</b>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Yvonne Barr</b>	<b>David Barr</b>

## Door Rota October 2017

Door People,

Here is the October Rota at the moment. I needed to renew it before the Magazine cut-off date and so it is still based on the Summer Trial. There may be changes later. Thank you for your continuing support and if you hear of anyone wishing to join our Welcome Team please let me know.

Regards

*Morag*

Date	Outside North	Outside South	North Aisle	Dryburgh	South Aisle
01/10/17	M. Ewing	A. Mairs	M. Gault	R. Taylor	C. Baillie
08/10/17	E. McDonald	T. Finlayson	L. Gibson	R. Taylor	B. Stewart
15/10/17	G. Senior	A. Smythe	J. Paulsen	I. Wilson	M. Baird
22/10/17	Dorothy McTaggart	T. Nisbet	L. Nisbet	G. McKechnie	C. Kennedy
29/10/17	J. Menzies	G. Ross	J. Gracie	J. Sheppard	L. Alison
05/11/17	A. Mairs	M. Shaw	L. Tait	M. Doig	J. Miller

## Activities

### 6th Rutherglen Girls' Brigade

We had a great start to the session with 6 new girls joining us on our first night back. We finished last session with 18 girls on our books so this was a real boost to our numbers. As we approach the 125th anniversary in 2018 of the founding of the Girls' Brigade, Girls' Brigade Scotland is looking to increase its membership by 5%; our contribution to that 5% would have been just one girl.

The Explorers (P1-3) have started their trip around the world by thinking about journeys and looking at the stories of Moses and Abraham. The Juniors (P4-7) have been learning about bumblebees (given GB Scotland's current campaign, we couldn't have used any other topic this year) and their importance to so many crops. The Brigaders (S1-6) have been learning about Mary's Meals and how such a simple concept makes such a big difference to families and communities in other countries.

A big thank you to everyone from the congregation who has supported the Brigaders in their collection for Mary's Meals back pack appeal. Please keep your donations coming.

*Elaine May*

### WEDNESDAY LADIES' MEETING

To let you know that our meetings resume on 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00 p.m. All ladies in the congregation will be made most welcome. Look forward to seeing you then.

*Myra Howitt*

# Treasurer's Report

## General Fund Summary August 2017

	Month	Year to Date		Surplus / (Shortfall)	Note
	Actual	Actual	Budget	against budget	
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Income</b>					
Free will offering	8,089	65,201	76,624	(11,423)	-15%
Tax recovery	0	11,816	17,640	(5,824)	
Donations and other income	905	7,322	6,680	642	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,994</b>	<b>84,339</b>	<b>100,944</b>	<b>(16,605)</b>	-16%
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Ministry, mission & wider work	8,552	62,927	62,927	0	
Local staffing costs	1,795	15,398	15,440	42	
<i>Building costs</i>					
Rates, water, insurances	1,206	7,506	7,450	(56)	
Power	0	4,666	5,000	334	
Repair costs	59	521	3,690	3,169	
<i>Other local costs</i>					
Reachout Trust	0	0	0	0	
Printing and stationery	167	945	1,120	175	
Organ & piano	0	306	175	(131)	
Other	813	3,787	4,514	727	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,592</b>	<b>96,056</b>	<b>100,316</b>	<b>4,260</b>	4%
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>					
<b>Surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>(3,599)</b>	<b>(11,716)</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>(12,344)</b>	

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

## Development Worker Fund Summary August 2017

	Month	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	1,335	13,016
Tax recovery	0	2,298
Other Income	0	0
Grants	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>15,314</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salary, PAYE, NI	2,024	16,360
Expenses	38	277
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>16,637</b>
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>		
<b>Surplus / (shortfall)</b>	<b>(727)</b>	<b>(1,323)</b>