

LINK

the magazine of St Ninian's Church

Spring 2020



Link Letter

I like the idea of preparing. Waiting for something. Taking time out to think and reflect.

These are things we don't do nearly enough of in our busy lives. So often we just go from one thing to the next without even pausing for breath.

It feels a bit like that in church this year as we are already moving into Lent with Christmas just a few weeks ago!

Lent, like Advent, is one of my favourite seasons in the church year. I like it because Lent gives us an opportunity to stop, even if it's just for a moment, to wonder about what is going to happen and what it all means.

Looking forward to something, considering where we are and what Easter will mean to us this year, is a rich and rewarding thing to do because Easter is never the same twice.

As we change, so Easter changes for us.

That's made even more apparent as Easter is a 'moveable feast'. The date is not set. It moves around with the cycles of the moon so that it is always at the same time as the ancient Jewish celebration of Passover, remembering when the Hebrew slaves escaped from Egypt the night the angel of death passed over those who had painted the blood of a lamb on their doorposts.

Easter can be a time of great celebration, with the hosannas of Palm Sunday and the joyful alleluias of Easter Day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Holy week, the days between these two Sundays, offers us a very different experience as we journey with Jesus through the week of Passover where he will speak of what is to come, break bread for the last time with his friends and show and tell them how he wants them to live. It can be a difficult road to travel, but one that can be incredibly rewarding.

I hope that however you journey through Lent that when Easter Day dawns you will feel the blessing of God.

Blessings,

Stewart



**PATERSON & ST NINIAN'S
CHURCHES
INVITE YOU TO
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

elevensies

6th March 2020

11:00am

St Ninian's Church Hall

tickets £2

Hi Folks!

As I write (last minute as usual!) storm Ciara is making herself felt but, as I look out of the window, I am happy to see the snowdrops and crocuses are popping their heads through the ground. So fragile looking but able to survive the worst of our weather. It's another of God's miracles.

After a busy Christmas season when services and community events, were well attended and much appreciated by folks in the community and church, I must thank all who were involved in the organising of these events.

The fundraising committee will be organising more events to raise money for the church. Unfortunately these events are needed to keep our heads above water and ensure Bill, our treasurer, has enough money each month to pay our bills. Thanks to those who donated baking and raffles at these events, also those who beaver away organising and serving, always with a smile. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Since our last magazine some of our members and friends in the community have passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Pauline Birmingham, Ann Dunsmore, Jack Clark, Jimmy Jamieson and Agnes Lewis.

Each year I send a statistical return to Hamilton Presbytery and the information for 2019 is recorded as follows:

- **Communion Roll as of 31st December 2018 - 381**
- **Added during 2019 by profession - 2**
- **Removed during 2019 by death - 23 and by certificate - 4**
- **Communion Roll as of 31st December 2019 - 362**
- **Baptisms during 2019 - 5**
- **Stewart conducted 40 funerals and 3 weddings**
- **Congratulations to Ian Kinniburgh who was presented with his 50 year service as an Elder at our February communion.**

As most of you know, we pray for a street in the village each week and although some of you can't join us at prayers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9.15am in the church you can still pray with us. A list of streets and relevant dates are on page 5. Thank you.

praying for others

1.3.20	Glasgow hospitals
8.3.20	Cancer hospitals and hospices
15.3.20	Stoney's Kids
22.3.20	Youth organisations
29.3.20	Hope Cafe and Hope Cafe Too
5.4.20	Camnethan Street
12.4.20	Candermill Road
19.4.20	Watson Avenue
26.4.20	Cander Avenue
3.5.20	Lockart Street
10.5.20	Lockhart Place
17.5.20	Thomson Court
24.5.20	Inglis Court
31.5.20	New Street
7.5.20	Murray Drive

If you are new to the village and have received a copy of our magazine, please feel free to come and join us on a Sunday morning at 11am. We also have lots of activities going on in our halls and would love to welcome you among us.

**God Bless,
Margaret (Session Clerk)**




ST NINIAN'S PRESENTS



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

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7PM
ADULTS £4
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facebook.com/stninianschurchstonehouse

SIGNS

**a lent bible study
thursday 12, 19, 28 March & 2 april
7:30pm
st ninian's church, stonehouse**

HOLY WEEK

services each evening at 7pm

mon 6 - fri 10 april



Spring Clean

As we move into spring, I'm sure I am not alone in turning my thoughts to the mammoth job of spring cleaning ahead. After several months of hibernating, the milder weather is motivation in itself to get back to work and have a good clear out. But perhaps our homes are not the only thing that could do with a tidy up.

There is an episode that particularly stands out for me in *Little Men* by Louisa M. Alcott, in which a young boy, Demi, shares his approach to tackling sin with an older, wilder boy called Dan. Demi describes his mind as being the room his soul inhabits. The room is filled with drawers where he keeps his goodness and badness. Demi recognises that on a regular basis he needs to put the room in order, filling the drawers with lovely things, and locking away the naughty things. He knows just how hard this is, and looks to his grandfather for help and guidance. Dan seems quietly in awe of the younger boy's earnestness, responding wistfully, *"I don't think there is a lock strong enough to keep my badness shut up. Anyway, my room is in such a clutter I don't know how to clear it up."*

How I can identify with this image! It is very hard to break free from the clutter that accumulates, both physically and metaphorically in our lives. No room stays tidy on its own, but if we take the time to have a good clear out and get rid of the rubbish every so often, then we can keep it in relatively good order. The same applies to our lives. In *Little Men*, Dan has a particular problem with swearing. It is the habit of many, and has almost become socially acceptable in this day and age. With bad language used so casually on the television and in the public, we hear it on a day to day basis, making it a very difficult habit to break free from. There are many other bad habits that are just as difficult to give up. In the Bible, the book of James tells us to *"get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you"* (1.21). That is why we need to have a good spring clean routinely

Kathryn



morning prayer

tuesday & thursday

9:15am

a short service with space for prayer & conversation at st ninian's stonehouse

HOPE CAFE TOO

**Last Thursday of each month
7pm to 9pm**

**St Ninian's Church Hall
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Stonehouse ML9 3EB**

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peace**



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Night Church

1st Sunday of the Month (Oct - Apr)

7:30 - 9:00pm

drop in for as long as you want

St Ninian's Stonehouse

Coffee Mornings

On behalf of the coffee morning ladies, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past and those who continue to come along to all of our coffee mornings whatever the weather! There is always a warm welcome to new visitors in spending time and fellowship with us over tea, coffee and homemade baking of scones, pancakes and fruit loaf. We are blessed to have such wonderful bakers!

Please note for your diary that the **last coffee morning** for this session will be on **Tuesday 28th April**.

Elizabeth



rest for a while
Hope Cafe

every second Thursday
10am to 2pm
St Ninian's Church Hall
Vicars Road
Stonehouse

a non-religious charity offering homemade soup and baking, access to self-help materials, reiki, aromatherapy, hypnotherapy, reading group, relaxation sessions, informal peer support, friendship

thank you

On behalf of the Flower Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our flower ministry over the years whether in gifting flowers to decorate the church on Sundays or special occasions, being part of the flower rota, or in helping decorate the church at Christmastime. If you have been involved in any way, however small, a massive thank you from us all.

Anne Thompson and Margaret Patrick will now be the main contacts for the committee. Anne's telephone number is on

With every blessing,
Anne Anderson



Church Flowers

As always, thank you to everyone who has gifted flowers to the church throughout the year

1st Mar	Mary Mackay	In Memoriam
8th Mar	Sheena McLean	In Memoriam
15th Mar	Norma Johnstone	In Memoriam
22nd Mar	Elizabeth Bridges	Wedding Anniversary In Memoriam
29th Mar	Sheila Lindsay, Rita Whitefield	In Memoriam
29th Dec	Twaddle Family	In Memoriam
5th Apr	Laura Wilson, Margaret Murray	In Memoriam
19th Apr	Christine Milne	In Memoriam
26th Apr	Eleanor Brown	In Memoriam
10th May	Hamish Matthews	
17th May	Anne Macleod	In Memoriam
24th May	Myra Pate	In Memoriam
	Anne Law	Anniversary
31st May	Smith Family	In Memoriam

For more information on how you can gift flowers to the church
or arrange for flowers to be sent at a time of celebration
or in memoriam

**please contact
Anne Thompson on 01698 792002**

COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas Card for 2020

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2020 catalogue and website. The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

- › The card must be an original design
- › Submit your card design on a sheet of paper/card no larger than A3 size
- › Computer generated designs must be original and printed out as a hard copy
- › Avoid textures, 3D effects or metallic colours, which can be difficult to reproduce in print
- › You can suggest a Greeting and/or Bible verse for your design
- › Please enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope if you wish your design(s) returned to you

The competition is open to all supporters of CrossReach of any age.

Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if age 16 or under) and a contact person's name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry.

While copyright of all entries remains with the entrants, by submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to grant an irrevocable, perpetual and worldwide licence to CrossReach Trading Ltd and CrossReach (as the parent company) to use it for the purpose of their Christmas cards and any promotional material.

Closing date: Tuesday 31st March 2020

Send your entry to:

**Christmas Card Competition
CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East,
Edinburgh, EH15 2SR**



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353

16/03/20



GIRLS BRIGADE

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STONEHOUSE

Explorers (P1-P3): 3pm to 4.30pm

Juniors (P4-P7): 5.30pm to 7pm

Brigaders (S1-S6): 7.30pm to 9pm

Boys Brigade

WEDNESDAYS, CHURCH HALL, ST NINIAN'S, STONEHOUSE



Anchor Boys (5-8 yrs): 6pm to 7pm

Junior Section (8-11yrs): 6.45pm to 8.15pm

Company Section (11-18yrs): 7.45pm to 9.15pm

2020 diaries

My apologies to all the folks who had to wait until almost Christmas for our church diary. It was completely beyond my control and my telephone line to the printers was red hot! More colourful than last year I hope you felt it was worth the wait and they have assured me that they will be more organised next year, so for the moment we will give them the benefit of our forgiveness.

Anyway thanks to your generosity. I was still able to donate over £100 to our church funds so thank-you again for your patience.

Anne Law

Sunday School

This coming term in Sunday School, we have lots of exciting things coming up. Sunday 29th March will be our Easter party, with games, prizes and hopefully a visit from the Easter Bunny. We are organising another visit from the Lego lady, and holiday club preparations are under way for the summertime. We continue to follow Spill the Beans, the lectionary based resource, bringing passages from the bible to the children through story, craft and play.

May Fairley

Due to the severe weather conditions we had to cancel our February's evening which was a Beetle Drive.

Monday 9th March it will be our AGM and look forward to hearing Sarah Jane Ramsay who will be giving us a talk on the family's trip to Kitega last year.

Monday 20th April, will be Taylor Fashions sale with home made cakes and coffee and tea will be served. Tickets will be on sale soon.

We look forward to seeing you all at 7.30pm. As always, new members welcome!

God Bless,
Wilma Johnstone



Used Stamps

A big thank you to everyone who has dropped in their used stamps in the box at the vestibule in the church. The response has been excellent so please keep collecting. The best I have collected so far! I know we don't get as much mail at this time of the year but all amounts are really welcome. We also had a shoe box of used stamps handed in from Sally's Cafe as they didn't have anywhere to donate them to. This was a large amount so a big Thank You to some of the Ladies of the craft group who have helped to size and separate the stamps for me. At present I'm not sure what the Used Stamp Appeal is for 2020 but will keep you up to date when I hear

Thanks again,
Norma Johnstone

Our Saturday St



Annual Burns Night y 25th January 2020 Ninian's Church Hall





CRAFT FAYRE

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Leprosy Mission Update

I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last few months for the Leprosy Mission. At the beginning of the week Jim took a very heavy bag containing lots and lots of coins (too heavy for me to carry) and banknotes to the bank and put it in the church account. Our treasurer Bill Storrie will forward it electronically to the Leprosy Mission Offices in Stirling. The amount we had collected was £261 and thanks again to everyone who helped. Some people use their collection boxes and others give a donation when it's mentioned in the church intimations. I have asked the Stirling Office to send me another six boxes, so if you would like to take part just ask me for one of them.

I would like to share with you some of the information given at the front of the ASK 2020 Prayer Diary which I received from the Leprosy Mission.

"Every twenty minutes a child somewhere in the world is diagnosed with leprosy. It is heart breaking to see children affected by this ancient disease, and a tragedy that this is still happening today. It is also why the Leprosy Mission is prioritising stopping leprosy transmission by 2035 so that we don't see child cases of leprosy in the future.

Last year, The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship adopted a new Global Strategy for 2019-23. Part of this new strategy talks about us being a Christ-centred organisation, following Jesus Christ to bring about transformation, by breaking the chains of this ancient disease, and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness."

There are usually copies of any leaflets and newsletters I receive from the Leprosy Mission on the table in the vestibule, so please help yourself to one when you are passing. Thanks again to everyone.

Anne Cowan



It's been a year since Trust Jack Foundation opened its doors to the community of Stonehouse and what a year it has been. We started off with three groups: an art therapy group, a men only support group and a mixed male and female support group which were all aimed at people with mental health illnesses. We also have been providing 1 to 1 therapy to children and young adults.

Now we have 24 passionate volunteers to help and support others and also fundraise to keep our doors open and our services running. Without our volunteers we could never do what we do. Along the way we have had a great deal of fun and enjoyment out of seeing people break down barriers to help them move forward with their lives. We have also enjoyed becoming a part of the community and providing activities to young people and bringing families together.

Our services have grown over the year as and we have tried to include people of all ages. We now have a youth club called 'The Hub Club'. This is our P1 to P7 group and will be adding an S1+ in August 2020 for P7s that want to continue coming to our group. Last year we provided a Summer Programme for the children during the school holidays which included trips and activities around Stonehouse. At Christmas time we were able to take the children to a panto and have a Christmas party, Santa paid us a visit and all the children were given a gift. We were only able to do this due to a donation given to us by Stonehouse Masonic Lodge.

We have our Knit n Natter group, a knitting and crochet group which is open to anyone from beginner to expert. The group has provided neonatal hats for 3 hospitals and currently knitting outfits for new-borns in Malawi that have no clothes when they are born and are simply wrapped up in newspaper. They have also provided items for the community including the lovely hearts for the World Prevention of Suicide Day last September and Christmas tree decoration that were put out over Stonehouse just before Christmas last year.

We also go out to schools, nurseries, and youth groups including Girls Brigade and football teams to raise awareness of mental health and mental health ill-health discussing what they feel like, what to do when they feel this way and who to talk. We deliver the first step suicide prevention training, SafeTALK, free of charge for people over the age of 15 years.



We created two counselling rooms in Jack's Hub to provide Talking Therapy. They are also used as a safe space for people to go if they are struggling with anxiety or if their mind is racing and just need space away from other people. Our new group is called 'Doon Memory Lane' which is on the first Wednesday of the month from 12.30 to 2.30pm and each time there is a different theme.

As you can see we have been very busy over our first year finding our place within our community. Even though we support and help people from all over Lanarkshire, Stonehouse is our home and we love making a contribution. We are not only here to support people with mental health issues, our aim is to bring our community together, talk to each other, meet new people, prevent loneliness, and create a place that's safe to talk about issues.

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have been given not only by the Stonehouse community but by organisations within the village and this is something we can't thank you all enough for.

Current Weekly Groups

Art Therapy	Mondays	6pm to 8pm
Women Only Support Group	Tuesdays	6pm to 8pm
Hub Club (P1-P7)	Wednesdays	4.30pm to 6pm
Knit n Natter	Thursdays	12.30pm to 3.30pm

Thank you
Helen Mitchell and the Trust Jack Foundation Team

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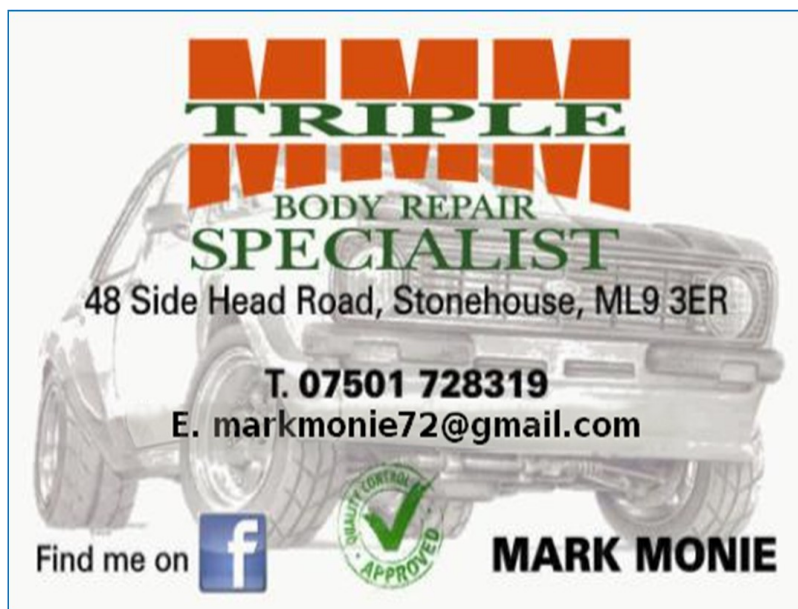
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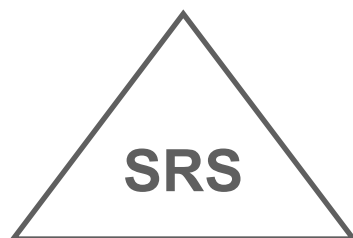
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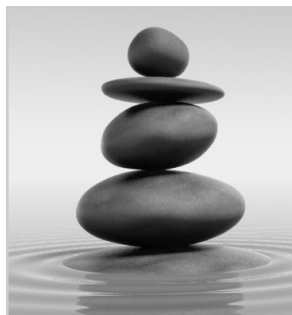
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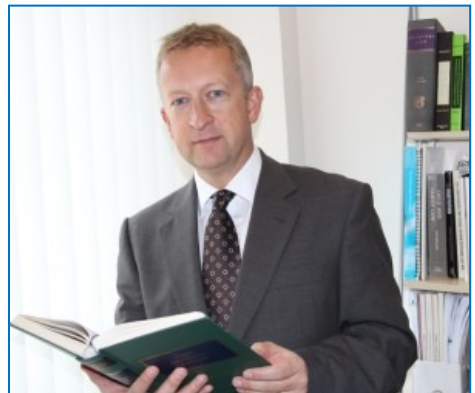
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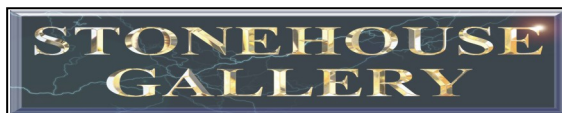
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After Ecclesiastes

For everything
there is a time and a season

A time to breathe deeply
and a time to exhale quietly

A time to embrace words
and a time to hug silence

A time to open ones eyes
and a time to blink in wonder

A time to stride out
and a time to walk gently

A time to reach out
and a time to withdraw

The constant call
to be mindful of our time

aware of the seasons of the soul
to respond to the stirrings of the spirit
to live life in all its fullness

(c) Rachel Poolman, St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Isle