

# Link Magazine

## Autumn 2015



## St Ninian's Stonehouse (LEP)

*(The LEP stands for local ecumenical partnership)*

### *Morning Prayer at St Ninian's*

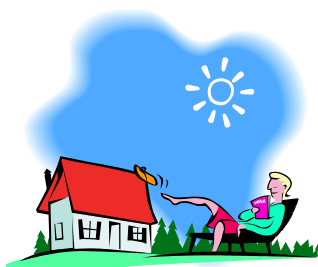
How would you like to join with me to pray? Each weekday morning from Monday to Friday the Church sanctuary will be open for morning prayers. It will be a very simple service and I will lead the prayers so there is no need to feel threatened as though you might be asked to do something you have never done before. . For some time now I have had the lovely privilege of praying in the sanctuary and I want to make this available to others to come and join me as we pray for the world, the village, the church and ourselves. The service will last half an hour from 9:15 -9:45 and on a Wednesday there will be communion. See you there, Paul



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## *Just to say....*

As I gather these few words together as way of an introduction for this magazine the thoughts that are lingering at the back of my mind are: '*never leave things to the last minute*'. However I am afraid to say that is exactly what I've done.

For the very first time in the history of the Link magazine we have advertisers requesting full page colour adverts. This is great news for the magazine as their fees will help towards printing costs. However what I have not done is check if the full colour will work with the paper we have in stock at the moment or will it seep through to the other side?

So if your copy of the magazine has black and white adverts or a supplement with adverts or even no full page adverts at all then you will know that we experienced printing problems which I should have checked out earlier!

So my apologies until we sort it out. (Fingers crossed it all works out fine). Whatever happens may I encourage you to read and use our advertiser section to 'Keep it Stonehouse.' Lisa's Cameron's brother in law is SRS joinery so he comes highly recommended. Some of the adverts have Glasgow phone numbers however the folks who manage them live locally in Stonehouse. Balloons and banners is a handy number to hold onto for those special occasions. The garage services are local and friendly and they too all have good reputations. So please read the adverts and remember their services offered for the future or recommend them to a friend or neighbour.

As for the articles I hope you find words that will comfort you in a special way.

Take care

Margaret McMeekin

## *Dates for your diary:*

Communion services take place on the second Sunday in May and the first Sunday in November every year; please mark this in your diary as there are no communion cards given out now. We also have communion served every two months on different dates. **The next communion service is on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November'15**

*The Coffee Morning* will resume on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

September'15.

## *Paul's message*

Settled down. Favourite chair. Telly on. The cheese puffs from the cooperative ready to be scoffed. A wee beverage poured out. Favourite programme about to begin when...the phone rings, or someone comes to the door or a long lost relative arrives and that comfortable space is interrupted, overrun by unexpected change. Nobody welcomes change when it moves us out from where we are comfortable. But change is inevitable. It happens constantly, it's just the pace can be slow enough sometimes to fool us into thinking everything stays the same.



Imagine you had set up a camera at Stonehouse cross. You put it on a time lapse setting so that it captures every passing person for a few hours each day capturing passersby from 1900 to the present day. What changes would you see, that seemed so imperceptible to folks living through them. When you played back the footage there it would be rushing before your eyes people passing as infants, growing to adults and then gone; changing styles with old men in bunnets and women with miniskirts; horse and carts and Ford Cortina's and people carriers- Perhaps the only thing that would stay the same would be the traditional summer weather – mostly rain.

In the hymn 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven', it reads: *Frail as summer's flowers we flourish, blows the wind, and it is gone.* To be human is to be a shadow, a breath of smoke, a few yellow petals on a stalk – nothing more. But the astonishing thing is God became a shadow, God became and whisp of smoke, a few petals when the chromosomes of Mary danced with the Holy Spirit and Jesus was born -born to show us how the shadow and smoke and petals of humanity mean everything to God.

How does that hymn end? *But while mortals rise and perish; God endured unchanging on.* In what way does God not change? In the way we are held and cherished and beloved by a love that doesn't lessen or grow cold. A love that doesn't want to change who we are but change how we see ourselves, how see the our neighbour, how we see the world. A love that wants us to know how on the cross the shadow and smoke and petals of Jesus dealt with the way Evil has overrun our hearts – so that his salvation reclaims the fullness of God's image in us – the image that is good. In Jesus We are good and beloved and God has no time to disapprove of who we are because all God's time is spent in loving us through every change until we are able to hold in our shadow and breath and petals eternity and glory - that's the unending change that God's live wants to lead us on and that won't change. How might you trust today that you are exactly what God had in mind when he made you? If you were to trust that – how might that change the way you see the world, your neighbour and the smoke and shadow that is yourself? Here is something that won't change: God loves you.

With love Paul



## VJ Day Commemoration

The ecumenical service held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the St Brigid's Centre, Newmains, to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War drew a large attendance of visitors from all over Scotland. From Orkney in the North to Penrith in the South,[or north of England to be precise!] they gathered to remember the service and sacrifice of loved ones who have often been regarded as the

'Forgotten Army'. On that Sunday it was very much the reverse.

Sister Maria Goretti, Parastoral Assistant at St Brigid's RC Church, opened the service with a very appropriate prayer of remembrance and she was followed by the Rev Paul Grant of St Ninian's Parish Church, Stonehouse, who gave the main address. Paul is well known in Far East Prisoner of War circles for his sensitive and caring approach to the men and their families and his involvement in the service brought great comfort to all those present. As we have come to expect, his special words told in that special way of his own, had, as usual, a profound effect on the large gathering.

He was followed by Agnes Dougan, whose father, John McEwan, a member of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry from Wishaw, had been held as a POW in the notorious Kinkaseki Copper Mine on Taiwan. She read a very moving extract from *To End All Wars*, a book by fellow FEPOW, Ernest Gordon, an officer in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which told the poignant and moving story of the death of a young Scot's soldier while a POW on the Death railway. Following the harrowing account which left nearly all the audience in tears, those present were invited to light individual candles in memory of loved ones during which Catherine Friel, the granddaughter of Lanarkshire Yeomanry gunner, William Burns, sang the classical pieces *Pie Jesu* and *Ave Maria*



A further prayer, composed by three members of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry while held as POWs in Changi, Singapore, in April 1942, was read by Campbell Thomson of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Group. The three young soldiers had been part of a group who met in trying circumstances to practice their Christian faith.

The service ended with a minute's silence followed by the Kohima Address given by Ian Forsyth of the Royal British Legion Scotland. The haunting lament, *Flowers of the Forest*, was played by piper Ian Stark.

Later in the afternoon, Paul conducted a short memorial service at the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial in the Market Place, Carluke, where wreaths and personal tributes were laid. Provost Eileen Logan laid a wreath on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council and Bill Brown from Carluke laid the Lanarkshire Yeomanry wreath. Bill's 'big' brother, George, died of malnutrition and dysentery in the Kinkaski POW camp, Taiwan, in 1943 at the age of 23 years.

NB : On his return to Scotland, Ernest Gordon became a Minister in the Church of Scotland. The film, *To End All Wars*, drawn from his book, is widely available.



Paul; Piper David Stark of the Cameronians; Campbell Thomson of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Group and Ian Forsyth MBE. Royal British Legion Scotland, with the standard bearers of the Royal British Legion, the Royal Engineers Association, the Royal Air Force Association and the Air Training Corps

# Armistice

Will I return here when I am old  
and weep at my losses?  
Or will I gather the years to me  
in a soft and gentle embrace?

Will I offer oblations of gratitude  
or tighten my fist in regret?  
Will I come down low into  
a settled peace within myself  
an armistice of hard won contentment,  
  
or still seeking  
a bitterly conceded settlement?

Will I be plotting my victory?  
Or resting the triumph of my defeat?

Matt Rees

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## Recycle your old Inkjet Cartridges



St. Ninian's in association with The Recycling Factory are recycling your old Inkjet Cartridges with all the proceeds going to church funds. We receive up to £4.50 for every Inkjet Cartridge recycled. (Please note no longer accepting mobile phones).

Special drop off points are available at The Post Office and The Back Road Pub, where recycling boxes and envelopes available. Recycling boxes and envelopes are also available within the church.

Cameron Weir

P.S. the church is still looking for a 19" Flat screen monitor. If you have one you could donate to the church; please contact Brian Tel: 01698 791 006

# *From Margaret Macgregor*

Hi Folks

Well here we are looking forward to a new session of various activities in our church and halls, it's a busy place and thanks go to all who come every week and work hard to keep things ticking over.

A special thanks to Alec Logan, Alec Pate and George Mathieson who cover church officer duties and funeral services. Also to Bob Millar and the Property Team who beaver away every week keeping our church building, halls and grounds up to standard. Also the folks who prepare and serve the Sunday lunches, allowing us a time of fellowship and also contribute to church funds

The coffee mornings will resume here at St Ninian's on the first Tuesday of September and the ladies will be ready with the aprons on to give you a friendly welcome a lovely cup of coffee and a bit of home baking, so come along between 10am and 11.30am every Tuesday.

This has been a hard few months for us all with the passing of three of our faithful members Eileen Stewart, Sheena Frame and Jessie Davidson. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time, they are sadly missed.

It's been a sore few months both in our church community and the village and can I ask you to keep Paul in your prayers as he carries out his duties.

The morning reflection and prayer meeting has been going well and those who attend leave comforted and inspired to carry on with whatever the day brings.

If you know of anyone in need of prayer, please pass their name to myself or Paul.

We have started praying for the folks in our village by praying for a street each week and as I type this (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August) we have started with:

Cannethan Street and will move on to Candermill Road, Watson Ave,  
Cander Ave, Lockhart Street, Lockhart Place, Thomson Court, Inglis Court, New  
Street, Murray Drive, Boghall Street, Reid Grove, Watson Farm, Leith Ave, Angle  
Street, Union Street, The Cross, Woodlands View, Kirk Street, Green Street,  
Lawrie Street, McLean Gdns.

This takes us to December if you would like to pray for the village but can't attend the morning prayers please feel free to pray at home.

*If we make a quiet space where we can draw apart,  
To seek Gods hidden strength which lies deep down within the heart,  
To sense his calming presence which seeps into the soul,  
Refreshing and renewing and seeking to make whole –  
We'll find respite from worldly cares a great release it brings,  
When we take time to meditate upon eternal things*

Kathleen Gillum

We are moving forward with our Pastoral Care visits and I hope those of you who are house



bound are receiving a visit from your appointed elder, if you do not have a visitor and would like one please let me know on 792552 and I will organise it.

We are trying to visit the folks who are in need of company but are very much aware that information needs to be passed to us if this system is going to work, so please let myself, Ann Anderson or Anne Cowan know of anyone ill, house bound or in need of a listening ear.

The Pastoral Care Teams and anyone interested in joining them have been visiting Avonhaugh Nursing home, Canderavon Home, Mclean Gardens and Lintaugh Gardens along with Paul to conduct a short communion service; these have been well accepted and will continue on a rota each month. If you wish information and dates please contact me on 792552.

I have been asked to remind folks that our Communion services take place on the **second Sunday in May** and the **first Sunday in November** every year, please mark this in your diary as there are no communion cards given out now.

We also have communion served every two months on different dates.

We are now a contact for the Food bank and someone will be available on a Tuesday morning from 10am – 11.30am, contact can also be made with the Larkhall shop on a Tuesday and Friday. Those requiring to use the Food Bank need to have a voucher which can be supplied by social work or contacting Paul Grant.

God bless Margaret

*Oh Christ Jesus, when all is darkness  
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
Give us the sense of your presence, your love and your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting love and strengthening power,  
So that nothing may frighten or worry us,  
For, living close to you, we shall see your hand, your purpose,  
Your will through all things  
St Ignatius of Loyola*

Friendship is the most precious privilege that this earthly experience can offer



Hope Café will be in St Ninians Church Hall on:

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September'15**

**10am – 2pm £3.00 entrance fee**

Tea/Coffee Home-baking, Home Made Soup, Bacon & Sausage rolls will all be available. Supported by Caring for Carers

# *Treasurer's Report*

Dear Friends,

I am writing this as the children prepare to return to school or embark on their first foray into education. I am sure you join me in wishing them well for their future journey through the system.

We as a finance team, are also embarking on a journey where we will have to work hard and be educated through a system, presently unknown to us, as we try to manoeuvre through the bureaucracy of the planning department and Historic Scotland as we seek to gain the necessary permissions to proceed with our intention to replace the windows at the front of the Church. With God's help we will come through unscathed, as will the children, at the other end fully prepared for what lies ahead.

We have enjoyed a steady level of income over the summer period thanks to more offerings being paid by Standing Order and the growing number of Gift Aid declarations.

The Church's outgoings have remained much as expected over the last few months although we still hope that the outstanding repair to the Church roof will be covered by insurance.

The work on the bathroom at the Manse will be carried out at the beginning of September. It is also anticipated that the cladding of the Manse will be carried out in the near future thus continuing our efforts to maintain the house to an acceptable standard.

Gavin Ferguson Treasurer.

*I should like to thank all the people who helped when I had a fall recently and I appreciate very much the beautiful flowers and pot plants received from St Ninian's Paterson Church and friends.*

*Catherine McPherson*



# *The Guild* **BE BOLD BE STRONG.**

We are all looking forward to going on the 12th September to Dunfermline for our annual day out this year and keeping our fingers crossed the sun will come out and see us. There is 70 ladies going this year which is the most we have ever had. I think we will have a few sing songs on the way back. I hope Dunfermline will be ready for us all.

The Craft nights have started back so if you like to knit, sew, make cards or want to come along for a chat you will be made very welcome.

The first Guild night is on Monday 14th September at 7.30pm and Taylor Fashions will be displaying their clothing, handbags etc. and Brian usually gives us some laughs along the way. There will also be some home baking with lashings of coffee or tea. Tickets are £2.50 from any Guild member.

Monday 12th October will be Jean Gibson speaking on her travels away.  
Monday 9th November is our Guest Night with Trilogy singing.  
Monday 14th December is the popular Christmas Dinner with a few surprises on the way.

If you haven't managed it to any of the meetings before make this the year to start coming, it's a very relaxed evening and I am sure you will know quite a few of the ladies that attend.

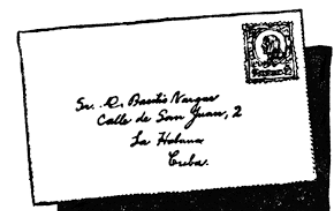
See you all soon. Wilma Johnston Secretary.

## **Woman's Guild help**

When we were doing some cleaning out of our Guild cupboards we noticed that we seem to be missing some small plastic table covers and some pink cotton table centres. If anyone has taken them home to wash or borrowed them can you let Margaret Macgregor know or anyone in the Guild.

Thank you.

*Save these stamps and remember to pop them in the box in the vestibule. Thank you to everyone who supports this quiet, fund raising campaign.*



# *Sunday School*

Another session has started and that means Summer – such as it was, has gone.

It's good to see the children's happy smiling faces as we start a new session. We will continue with the Church of Scotland material, 'Spill the Beans' which we have been using for some time now.

The dates for you to watch for are –Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, which is the date of our next fund raising clothes collection. Further intimation will be made on this nearer the date.

The Pantomime, which is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the East Kilbride Arts Theatre. This year's production is 'Dick Whittington'.

The Leaders wish to express their thanks to all who took over during the summer holiday, enabling us to re-charge our batteries.

If anyone would be interested in joining our team to help on Sundays please speak to Shona McLaren.

The Sunday School Team

## **THOUGHTS ON ..... PUZZLES**

I don't know about you, but I enjoy doing cryptic crossword puzzles, Sudoku and other things that make me think and keep my brain active! I recently read this and thought I'd ask you if you can work out the answer.

*What is greater than God.*

*What is more evil than the devil.*

*The poor have it.*

*The rich need it.*

*If you eat it you will die.*

When you read the answer, hopefully it will give you food for thought and ideas for prayer.

Ann Woods      Prayer Secretary.      (The Answer is under World Mission article )

# Thank you

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*I thought you would all like to read the letter I have just received from the Leprosy Mission thanking us for our recent donation. Thank you again for helping to keep this connection going. Anne Cowan.*

Dear Ms Cowan,

***Because of you, Eduardo knows the love of Jesus***

Let me introduce you to Eduardo, who lives in the village of Elepi, Angola. For years, he worked as a traditional healer. Not knowing he was affected by leprosy, he did not realise when he was 'treating' patients, he was passing on leprosy. Never leaving his village, Eduardo was never diagnosed for leprosy.

Years later, a Leprosy Mission nurse made the long journey to Eduardo's village. While there, the nurse had the difficult conversation with Eduardo, telling him 'you have leprosy'.

The nurse told Eduardo the Bible story of Naaman in 2 Kings, encouraging him to follow Naaman's example and be cured of leprosy. Eduardo did not know Naaman's story, so we found an Umbundu Bible (in Eduardo's language), so Eduardo could read the story himself.

Thank you for the gift of £250.00. Because of St Ninian's Church Stonehouse LEP's kindness, we travelled to Eduardo's village, bringing leprosy medication and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Today, Eduardo spreads the news that leprosy can be cured, he is no longer a traditional healer, and every week reads aloud the Bible to his village.

An expression of Christian love in action, your kindness means we can share the love of Jesus to people like Eduardo.

Thank you. Mhairi Dawson, Support Services Administrator, the Leprosy Mission Scotland.

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## Church Register

**Eternal rest grant unto them , O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them .  
May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

*Eileen Stewart, Sheena Frame and Jessie  
Davidson.*



# *My Favourite Hymn*

*By Joyce Millar*

*When Margaret McMeekin asked me if I would like to tell what my favourite hymn is; she was very lucky because I have quite a few I like and would say they are all my favourite hymns, but she asked me just after the service one Sunday. On that Sunday the hymn that was played 'Because He lives I can face tomorrow'. This hymn reminds me of Bob's*

*and my time at Jackson Church in Airdrie. It also helped me through different events in my life, especially when I have been ill.*

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!



# World Mission Churches all over the world are being encouraged to pray this prayer during World Week of Peace for Palestine and Israel 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> September 2015

We pray for comfort, for the strength to not lose heart. We pray that the wall and all similar walls will fall. We believe that the Wall is a 'momentary affliction . . . for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal' (2 Cor. 4: 16–18). We pray for reconciliation and for peace, as we commit to working for justice for all persons who live in this Holy Land.

As we observe this week with our sisters and brothers around the world, we ask for the strong comfort of the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice in this land. Inspire us to not be content with mere words, but to engage in acts of costly solidarity. Inspire us to be instruments of your peace, the workers of your will.

'For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.' (Ephesians 2.14)

Amen

*Words from the Jerusalem prayer, written by our brothers and sisters in Palestine.*

Thoughts on Puzzles Answer is: Nothing
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**Link Committee** We have to announce that Peggy Anderson is now retiring as a Link distributor for the Larkhall District. Peggy has been fulfilling this duty since Link began. She has such a lovely personality and sense of humour we will miss her happy smile as she handed over her donations at the door of the church. We have been truly blessed to have had her faithful service for such a long time. God Bless you Peggy in your retirement from Link.

We are also grateful to Agnes Barr for volunteering to take on the Camnethan Street district and we hope that Agnes enjoys chatting to the folks in her new district as she delivers her magazines.

## When God sends you help don't ask questions

She hurried to the pharmacy to get medicine, got back to her car and found she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, 'I don't know how to use this'. She bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP.

Within five minutes a beaten up old motor cycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, 'Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car and I must get home. Please can you use this hanger to unlock my car?'

He said, 'Sure'. He walked over to the car and in a minute the car was open. She hugged the man through tears and said, 'Thank you God for sending me such a very nice man'. The man heard her little prayer and replied, 'Lady I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft'.

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, 'oh thank you God! You even sent me a professional!'

Is GOD great or what? \_\_\_\_\_ (Submitted by Rita Crawford)



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## FLOWER ROTA

September 6th	The Summers Family	Both In Memoriam
13th	Mrs Ingram	In Memoriam
20th	Marilyn & Hamish Dow	Wedding Anniversary
27th	Ellen Hughes, (Golder); Lorna Mitchell (Golder), Sandra Law, Jean Wilson	All In Memoriam
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Mrs Mary Pollock, Mrs Hare, Mrs J Allan, Anne Thompson	All In Memoriam
11th	Janette Brownlie,	In Memoriam
18th	Kay Baxter, The Davidson Family, Mary Gemmell, Catherine McPherson	All In Memoriam
25th	James Anderson	In Memoriam
1st November	Nicola Hampton,	In Memoriam
8th	Nicola Hampton, K Plenderleith	Both In Memoriam
15th	M Burns	In Memoriam
22nd	Shona McMillan, David Middleton,	Both In Memoriam
29 <sup>th</sup>	John Semple	In Memoriam
December 6th	Helen Scully, Helen Spence, Katie Stewart, Mary McKay, Elaine Kennedy, Rosemary Middleton	All In Memoriam

### Flower Arrangers and Distributors

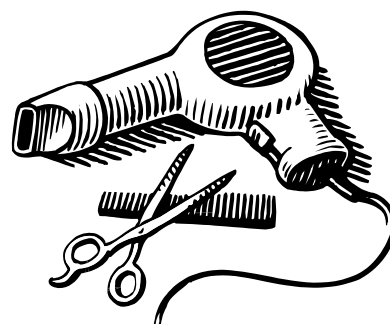
<b>September</b>	Margaret Patrick	792248	Mary Hamilton	791089
<b>October</b>	Fiona Letham	792122	Jean Stewart	792577
<b>November</b>	Margaret Meikle	791217	Ann Masterman	793422
<b>December</b>	Ann Anderson	792124	Margaret Hannay	791163

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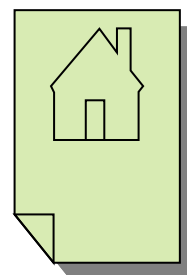
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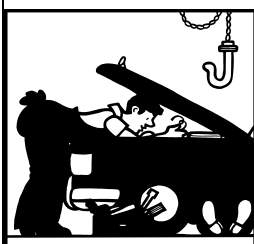
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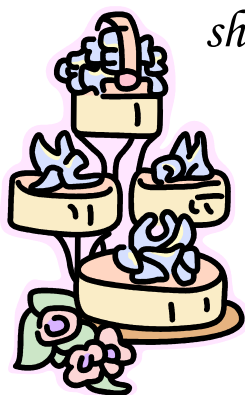
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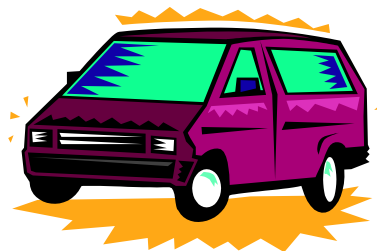
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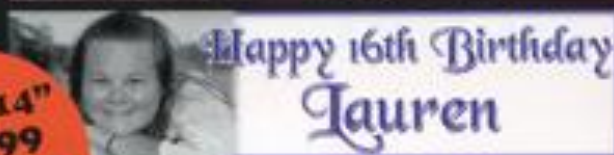
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