Link Magazine



Life in all its Fullness

That's what Jesus is all about.

Abundance

Plenty

Enough for everyone

With space for all.

Not limited or closed off or meagre or mean.

But life in all is fullness is not a promise of an easy life either. There is no immunity from the ups and downs that we all encounter as we journey.

So what is this full life all about then?

I think it's about a life full of love. A life filled with relationship. People who look out for each other, who care fore their neighbours (there's a story about that!) and who live generously.

In the last Link Magazine, I wrote about community and how, for me, building and maintaining good, healthy communities is at the centre of what church is all about. For the next year at St Ninian's we're going to explore more of what it means to 'Live Well Together'.

To get us started with our thinking Jack Dyce, emeritus professor of Nordic Theology with the Scottish United Reformed Congregational College joined us on Saturday 18th August for our Congregational Conference. He introduced us to some ways of thinking about life from Scandinavia; a group of countries that consistently come out highest if the list of places where people are happiest.

But why? Why should they be happier than other countries? We looked at some ideas that are important to people there to see what we could learn.

From Denmark we explored 'Hygee', creating cosy, friendly spaces. The Swedes gave us 'Lagon' meaning balance in all things... not too much or too little, just enough and from Finland we explored 'Sisu' meaning resilience.

The question for us was how might these things inform the way we live together as a church.

It seems important to create spaces that people feel comfortable and relaxed in, like Night Church, the Guild's Afternoon Tea or our Tuesday Coffee Mornings.

Are we balanced in what we do? Do we have too much of some things and not enough of others? How good are we at being generous enough to have things that might not be our favourite things but are hugely important to others.

How do we make space for the young and old and those in between? Does that mean creating different spaces for different people?

And just how resilient are we? All over Scotland congregations are closing their doors because 5 years ago they were where we are now. The majority of people who come on a Sunday are over 65 with only a handful of people under 40. We need to give some serious thought to how we continue to welcome older people but at the same time engage with younger adults.

The good news is that we still have loads of young people involved in Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Sunday School and Holiday Club. As always it would be great to see some new people volunteering to help and there is no upper age limit on having fun so anyone can join in as a leader!

I'm excited about the year ahead. I think St Ninian's has lots of life and our job is to make sure as many people as possible can enjoy that fullness of life that Jesus promises as we strive to live together.

With every blessing, Stewart

Hi Folks!

Well, I hope you have enjoyed the recent lovely weather and had a good rest over the summer period.

Stewart and I have been busy visiting the housebound and offering home communion to folks who are unable to attend services. If this is something you would like, please let me know and we will arrange a visit.

We have also been visiting some of our folks who have been in hospital and are still in as I write. We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope you are all home soon.

Since the last magazine, we have welcomed some new members; Mr and Mrs Kinniburgh, it's a pleasure to have you with us. Stewart, our minister, has also transferred his lines and is now officially a member of St Ninian's.

Sadly, some of our faithful members and friends in the village have passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Agnes Millar, Ethel Neilson, Neil Bryson, Margaret Dunsmore and Mary Smith.

The Holiday Club took place in the Church hall on the week beginning 6th August with over forty children attending and all had great fun during the week. On behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who organised and took part in helping at this event. I hope some of the children who attended will come back to Sunday School too. Mums and Dads are very welcome to come and join us as well.

Bob Millar has stepped down as Property Convener but is still happy to help out when he can. He will be missed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

Congratulations to Norma McLean who has received her certificate for thirty years service as an Elder. I became an Elder on the same day and received mine as well but I can hardly congratulate myself! I don't know where the years have gone but is has been, and still is, a privilege to serve here at St Ninian's.

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 a Monday and Thursday morning at 9.15am in the prayer room, you can still pray with us. A list of streets and dates are below.

9th September St Lawrence Place 16th September Wilson Place 23rd September Violet Crescent 30th September Hareshaw Place 7th October **Beechwood Drive** 14th October Naismith Court 21st October Davidson Gardens 28th October Lintaugh Gardens 4th November Cairnsmore Drive 11th November **Dunside Way** 18th November Todlaw Way Hawkwood Way 25th November Glenburn Avenue 2nd December 9th December Muirhead 16th December **Brankston Avenue**

As we look forward to another busy session ,I hope you will keep Stewart in your prayers and all work together in Faith and Love for the betterment of Christ's Kingdom in our Church and village.

God Bless Margaret (Session Clerk)

Time for Autumn

I can hardly believe it's been a year since I took on the job as editor of Link Magazine. You'll be relieved that this isn't an article entitled, 'A Year in the Life of a Church Magazine Editor' but it's definitely something I've been reflecting on. Who knew I'd like it so much!

In the weeks leading up to the magazine going to print, I have come to look forward to the arrival of articles and news whether through the letterbox, by email, by phone or through someone else. It doesn't matter how the contributions arrive, it's a blessing that they do. So thank you to everyone who has helped me put this together. The magazine wouldn't happen without you.

Nor would it happen without the commitment and generosity of others. To the wider Link Team thank you for all the work you do in the background; the bundling, the funds, the advertising. Not only that but thank you for your guidance and keeping me right when Margaret McMeekin left for pastures new. To Link Distributors, thank you for giving of your time to distribute to districts and to others in the community and to all of you who have kindly donated to the Link Magazine over the year thank you.

Apologies for the times I may have got people's names or dates or phone numbers wrong or the actual time I missed out an article. What can I say? In the words of singer/songwriter, Rag'n'Bone Man, 'I'm only human after all'. Seriously, thanks for your patience, encouragement and support. Kindness goes a long way.

In the last twelve months I have been aware, more than ever, of the rhythm to the year as one season inevitably blends into another. Sometimes it meanders slowly, taking its time, sneaking up. Often it announces itself with a bang. Time passes. It reminded me of something I read in Paul Tillich's book, 'The Shaking of the Foundations'. In it he discusses the mystery of time and refers to St Augustine who points to the depth of this mystery when he says, 'If nobody asks me about it, I know. If I want to explain it to somebody who asks me about it, I do not know'. Time is indeed mysterious. There are times we want to hold on to it, longing for it to stand still – just another moment – but other times we wish more than anything for it to be gone into the next second, minute, hour, day, week, month, season, year.

Time is inexhaustible. There is no stopping it. We can't hold it back and there is no point in wishing it away. So mindfully we are present with it allowing it to do what it does best; passing through and urging us to accompany it.

In time we know that our favourite season is just around the corner and we look forward to welcoming it.

My favourite season is autumn. It that time of the year when the leaves undergo their most beautiful transformation turning to gold, red, rust, orange, yellow, and even brown looks good and it's the perfect time for a restorative trip to glorious Skye. It's a time of cooler air and rosy cheeks as people bustle about their business. As the nights draw in, it's a time for favourite jumpers and big cosy jackets, going to and from work in the dark, candles and blankets, cinnamon smells and thoughts of Christmas as it hurtles towards us and rushing memories of coal fires, stovies, and Gran's best ever apple pie. It's a time for hot chocolate and marshmallows and late night shopping with friends and we know it's autumn when, against our better judgement, Saturday nights are assigned to Strictly Come Dancing which is then followed by the inevitable critical reviews by an panel of 'experts' at work during Monday's lunchbreak! Autumn is also time for the beauty and quiet of Night Church and taking time out with God. For me, autumn is a time for smiles and thanksgiving. It's the time when I remember my parents and brother the most. The Danes would call it Hygee*.

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."

(George Eliot)

Avril

*Hygge (*hue-guh*) is a Danish word for a mood of cosiness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment.

Sunday Lunches

Over the summer the numbers having Sunday lunch have dropped so it has been left to individual groups to decide what they are providing. Grace and The Girls Brigade have continued with their soup, some have done wraps and sandwiches with scones, pancakes and biscuits. We haven't had any complaints so far but I would really like do know your views or opinions. Do we just carry on allowing groups to choose or go back to before with a rota of pies, sausage, sausage/bacon rolls, baked potatoes and tea/coffee and biscuits?

Our volunteer numbers have dropped and some weeks I struggle to get helpers. A BIG thank you to everyone who give their time once every two months. PLEASE could you do that 45 minutes before the service and an hour afterwards (approximate times and flexible) six times a year. I would really appreciate it. Thanks in advance.

Thank you to everyone who supports and enjoyed the chat and friendship, an I hope lunches, after the service. All the money raised goes to our Church funds to help Bill balance the books.

Anne Law

Thank you!

I would like to say a very special 'THANK YOU' for visits, cards and gifts, I received while convalescing from my 'accident'. The Church flowers were also very much appreciated.

Thank you again ~ Margaret Symington



ST NINIAN'S STONEHOUSE

coffee mornings

resume on
Tuesday 4th
September 2018

10.00am to 11.30am in the Church Hall

The weeks seem to have flown so quickly since May and we have had so many glorious days of sunshine. We do hope most of you have enjoyed this time with family and friends. Unfortunately, we have heard some of you spent time in hospital during that period but hope you are recovering and feeling much more like yourselves. We send our kindest regards and hop you are all restored to better health soon.

The team have enjoyed our days at Paterson Church and the hospitality there over the summer.

Hopefully, the work on the church front windows will be started this month as preparations for same are in progress.

Due to your generosity in supporting our coffee morning, we have been able to provide £7,000 to help towards this repair and a new water heater in the kitchen in October 2017. So, well done Ladies and Gentlemen! We trust this meets with your approval.

Looking forward to getting the 'pinnys on' and welcoming you all on 5th September ~ new friends too!

Elizabeth

Uganda: Land of Freedom. Pearl of Africa.

It's hard to believe that we have been here for a month already. We have done so much but, with this, comes all the other things we would like to do with out time here.

Sarah-Jane has taken on most of the responsibility for homeschooling the children and we are trying to integrate their lessons with those kids at the centre who are able to work at a similar level. Sarah-Jane is also helping out with teaching a primary 4 class at school in a neighbouring village that is struggling for teachers. We will also be starting English and functional literacy classes for adults in Kitega village in the next week or so.

Sarah-Jane has given a presentation for a gathering of the local community groups and hopes to explore the thresholds for child care and protection with the teachers within the centre.

Peter has hit the ground running with his IT classes and is already doing 2 classes a week for the local Sunlight Primary School as well as a class for the VICOBA (village community banking) youth group and a coding class for our own children. There are plans for further computer classes for the teachers in the primary school as well as the teachers within the centre. Peter has also been helping out at a carpentry workshop linked with the centre and is learening how to make furniture using traditional hand tools. This will be great for his frame-making in the future.

We have been learning Ugandan sign language as well as improving our limited Lugandan and this has really helped us to deepen our relationships with the children who attend the centre. These children have a variety of disabilities and we hope to become more involved with assessments and inputs to help the teachers and the centre staff caring for the children

Despite the challenges that these children face, they remain happy and enthusiastic in greeting us every morning and it is truly a blessing to live and work with them on a daily basis. Despite out intention to come out and help from our position of privilege, we are constantly being taught about joy and unconditional love by the very children we have come to help.

In spite of the inconveniences of inconsistent electricity, water and WiFi, we feel very blessed to be here and will strive to make the most of every opportunity afforded to us while we are here.

Thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement while we are here.

The Ramsays



Church Flowers

Flower Arrangers and Helpers for Summer

SeptemberMary Hamilton, Margaret PatrickOctoberFiona Letham, Jean StewartNovemberMargaret Meikle, Ann Masterman

December



For more information, please contact Ann Anderson on 01698 792124

Ann Anderson, Margaret Hannay

Thank you to everyone who will be gifting flowers to the Church in the coming months

Se	ept	2nd	Liz Ingram	Celebration
		9th	Anderson & Macgregor families	In Memoriam
		23rd	E Dow	Wedding Anniversary
		30th	Elizabeh Hughes & Lorna Mitchell Sandra Law & Jean Wilson	All in Memoriam
Oct	ct	7th	Catherine McPherson, Jan Allan, Jean Stewart, Mr & Mrs Mulholland	All in Memoriam
		21st	Bill & Jillian Storrie, Jan Allan	All in Memoriam
		28th	James Anderson	In Memoriam
No	ΟV	4th	Jean Robertson, Plenderleith Family	All in Memoriam
		11th	Grace Allan Nicola Hampton	Gifted In Memoriam
		18th	Shona McMillan, Nicola Hampton, Rosemary & Dave Middleton	All in Memoriam
De	ес	2nd	Helen Spence, Margaret Macgreror, Mary Mackay	All in Memoriam
		9th	C Kennedy, May Boslem, Kate Stewart	All in Memoriam
		16th	George Burns	Anniversary
		23rd	M Pate	In Memoriam
		30th	Twaddle Family	Gifted

The Guild is Back!

We have all had a good summer break and are now looking forward to starting our new session.

Firstly, we are going to St. Andrews in September for our summer outing. It is always a great day out and the bus is as full as usual.

On Monday 8th October, Rev Paul Grant will be coming along to give us a talk on his work as a Hospital Chaplain.

Then on Monday 22nd October, back by popular demand, is Taylor Fashions with Brian. There will also be some entertainment and home baking will be served. Keep an eye out for the tickets going on sale soon!

Monday 12th November is our Guest Night and the Easter Egg Group will be singing. Again home baking will be on the menu.

In the lead up to Christmas, on Monday 10th December is our Christmas Dinner. This is always a very popular event and if you would like to join us please speak to either Joyce Millar or myself and we will put your name down.

There is always good fun at The Guild. If anyone would like to join us please come along to one of the meetings and see if you will like it first. You will be made very welcome. All the meetings start at 7.30pm. You do not have to be a member of the Church to come along and if you need a lift someone will pick you up and take you home again.

See you all soon!

Wilma Johnston



Book Group

Reading is something a lot of us feel we don't have time for anymore but, in my opinion, a good book is one of the greatest pleasures in life. For that reason I always carry a paperback around with me on the off-chance that I might find a few minutes in the day to read. Perhaps even more delightful, though, is the simple act of sharing a good book with others. It's not something I've done for many years, not since university days, and I hadn't realised how much I've missed having an in-depth discussion with other people about a book we've all read.

At the beginning of the year St Ninian's Book Group was formed. About ten of us met for the first time in February to discuss *The Anchoress* by Robyn Cadwallader, a novel that centres around seventeen year old Sarah who commits to a life of prayer, locked in a tiny church cell, in the 13th century. It was interesting to analyse the characters, compare different perspectives and share our favourite moments within then narrative. I think, for the most part, everyone enjoyed the book and the conversation went on for the full hour and a half.

Over the last six months we've met to discuss a variety of different books. In March, we read Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, a post-apocalyptic novel about the survival of a father and son in a world there very little life remains. *Love Wins*, Rob Bell's 'controversial' take on heaven and heal was the focus of April's meeting. In may we read *Still Alice*, Lisa Genova's bestselling novel written from the perspective of a women with early onset Alzheimer's. In June we chose to read *The Shack*, William P Young's Christian allegorical novel about a bereaved father who returns to the cabin where his daughter was murdered, and there meets God. July's meeting, featured Alice Walker's powerful novel, The Color Purple, about Celie, an oppressed black woman trying to find her place in the world. Most recently, the group has read The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, an epistolary novel about the German occupation on Guernsey during the Second World War.

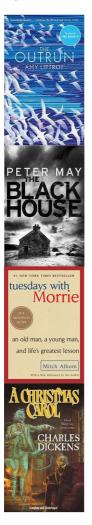
There is no guarantee that everyone will like every book but the discussion is often enlivened by the variety of opinions shared and the meeting seems to be enjoyed by those present. If you like to read, or wish to read more, please consider coming along. The group meets every third Sunday in the month from 7.30-9pm. Tea, coffee, and snacks are provided.

If you'd like to find out more, please speak to Stewart or Avril.

Any book recommendations or suggestions for future meetings are always welcome.

Come and join us!

Kathryn Epps



the outrun

by Amy Liptrot Sunday 16th September 7:30-9:00pm

the blackhouse

by Peter May Sunday 21st October 7:30-9:00pm

tuesdays with Morrie

by Mitch Ablom Sunday 18th November 7:30-9:00pm

a christmas carol

by Charles Dickens Sunday 9th December 7:30-9:00pm

in St Ninian's Church Hall





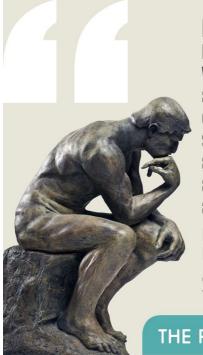




The Cafe is dependent on the goodwill of our volunteers & customers. Would you like to volunteer with us?

Please contact: Bob Millar The Hope Cafe is a friendly, welcoming and supportive environment for everyone. Come along and rest for a while, chat, and enjoy some of the homemade soup and baking. There is also free access to self-help resources, reiki, aromatherapy, massage, hypnotherapy, the reading group, relaxation sessions, informal peer support, all known to be good for your well-being.

A non-religious charity, the cafe is open every second Thursday from 10am to 2pm in St Ninian's Church Hall



Is love a supernatural or chemical reaction; what could we achieve if we were not afraid and are we alone in the universe? Just some of the thoughts and discussions shared over a coffee. Come along and join us as we open our minds and air our views on lifes wonders and challenges.

FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH 7PM

c/o Auld Stanehoose Cafe, The Cross, Stonehouse

THE PHILOSOPHERS CAFÉ STONEHOUSE

'Why Don't You Just Switch Off Your Television Set and Go Out and Do Something Less Boring Instead?'...and come along to the Philosophers Café. Open the first Wednesday in the month in the premises of the 'Auld Stanehouse Café' at the Cross, the venue offers people of all ages the opportunity to explore, debate and consider the events of yesterday, today and tomorrow with a coffee to expand the mind.

There is no requirement to participate, only to have an open mind to other views and thoughts on the everyday issues that affect you and the world around you. Each month people meet to discuss what makes the world go round....if indeed you believe the world is not in fact flat! ...and there is not a tablet, iPhone, television or laptop in sight... just people talking and drinking coffee with no cost, no agenda and no committee.

Started in early 2018, the Philosophers Café in Stonehouse is open to all in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere for public debate and amusement of life's great mysteries. How do we save the world, how do we save our communities, how do we save ourselves?...Questions, thoughts and ideas on the meaning of life and our contribution to the evolution of mankind....or womankind....come along and share your thoughts, experiences and ideas on how we influence, change and consider our part in the journey we make together.....or just have a coffee.

The Philosophers café evening in Stonehouse will be open from 7pm on to 9pm, on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise advertised), c/o Auld Stanehoose Cafe.

Night Church

Night Church is an idea born in Copenhagen. It's church for people who don't really do church. It's a space for reflection, prayer, meditation, or whatever you want to call sitting quietly in candlelight thinking about things. It's a cosy oasis in the middle of our busy lives. Some people come for 15 minutes. Some people stay for the whole hour and a half. It's up to you. Stay for as long or as short a time as you like. There's tea and coffee in the hall if people want a chat, or just a different space to sit in for a while.

There is often music playing quietly, usually something you might not hear in other places like a choir, classical or chant. Sometimes it's playlist of pop songs on a theme or even some live cello. Occasionally there are prayer stations or words and images projected on the screens to provoke your thinking and to appeal to those who think best when their hands are busy. We end with a 15 minute spoken word service which people are welcome to join in, or not. Night Church runs from October to April.





GIRLS BRIGADE

EVERY TUESDAY
ST NINIAN'S CHURCH HALL
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

Community Connections

Did you know that a Folk Club has been meeting in St.Ninian's Church for around 7 years? Prior to this the Club met in the Thistle Inn before moving to the Crosskeys. Alas with changes in



legislation the Club was on the brink of folding after children were prevented from attending and performing after 8pm. Under Rev. Paul Grant's ministry, he kindly offered the group a new home in the small hall of the church to continue providing entertainment in the community and a venue for musicians to perform open to all ages.

The Club has since built up a reputation as a family friendly and welcoming Club, encouraging children and new talent to entertain audiences who enjoy contemporary acoustic and traditional music. As well as the successful local talents of David Gibb, Robin Laing, Tom Clelland, Rudeigin, Clova and Haggerdash, the Club has welcomed the likes of Calisaig, The John Wright Band, Alistair Macdonald, Colm Sands, The JSD Band, North Sea Gas and Gaberlunzie to entertain. From eight to eighty years the Club grew in numbers and stature within the traditional music world. This success has seen some of its member musicians progress themselves, playing semi-professionally and entertaining local charities and organisations at social events and community fundraisers.

Now in their 21st year, the folk club continues to thrive in Stonehouse but for that to continue we need the support of the community and our regular visitors to ensure the Clubs survival. Traditional music is an essential ingredient of our cultural heritage in Scotland and has never been as popular and prevalent as it is today. Stonehouse has played its part in the evolution of musical entertainment both locally and nationally with our Pipe Band recognised as the first non-military band to win the world championships in 1909 and our own Silverband, prominent in the 1920s, who were Scottish Champions. Not bad for a village the size of Stonehouse. Let us also not forget the village celebrated one of the oldest Burns Clubs in Scotland dating to at least 1859 and the present Male Voice Choir who were one of the largest in Scotland.

In continuing that tradition the folk club encourages people to support singer songwriters and bands who regularly come along to perform in the village. As well as our regular entertainment, the Club also holds monthly open sessions for musicians and singers of all ages and experience to share a night in music and fellowship in the auspices of the small hall, very much in keeping with the old time parties folks used to enjoy at family gatherings prior to the evolution of digital entertainment. Such nights are still enjoyed in the company of the folk club and with the support of St.Ninian's church we ensure that tradition continues.

The venue opens from 8pm. Entry is £5 and children under 16 are FREE. 'Acoustic Session Nights' are £2 for everyone except children who are FREE. Support artists at start of the night will get FREE entry too. Please contact Billy Stewart to arrange support spot. The venue allows visitors to bring their own beverage or soft drinks and snacks. The audience also has the opportunity to win half a cauliflower in it's infamous raffle!

For further information on the Clubs activities, charity work and future attractions, follow us on Facebook (stonehousefolkclub), the local press, posters distributed throughout the community or via email on stonehousefolkclub@gmail.com.



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STONEHOUSE JUBILEE CLUB

A social afternoon of music, activities, laughter and friendship for people living with dementia, and their carers.

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For more information contact Chris on: 01698 884537



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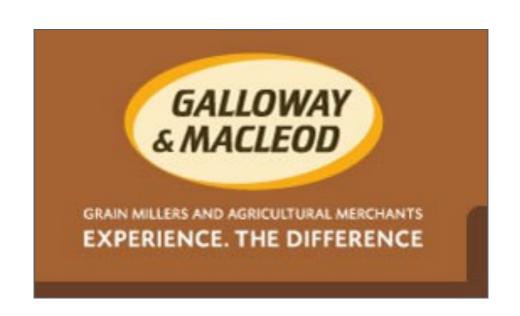
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StonehouseOnline.org.uk

The Community website of Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire



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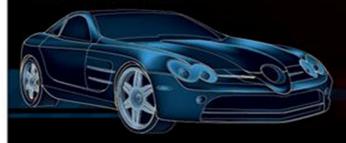
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