

# Link Magazine Spring 2015



## St Ninian's Stonehouse (LEP)

*(The LEP stands for local ecumenical partnership)*



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*Just to say....* Well our new printer is a real treat. We managed to print the magazine in half the time. We are not quite sure what happened to Gavin's photo in 'My Favourite Hymn'; but luckily he has a good sense of humour and he took his red face in his stride. Thank you Gavin! A special thanks to Bob for organising the new machine for us ladies as he calls us! We really appreciate your support in helping to make life easier for us.

As is becoming the norm, we have another new advert in our adverts' section. This one is Johnstone Motor Services in Sidehead Road. Sidehead Road used to be full of little enterprises when I first moved to Stonehouse over thirty five years ago, let's hope this is another era of prosperity for local businesses in Stonehouse once again.

Readers please take time to read the advert, so that you can become aware of the services that Ian Johnstone is offering and spread the word to friends and family.

May we all feel the warmth of the spring sunshine soon!  
Margaret McM (Editor)



*Thank you very much for the lovely flowers, Get Well Cards and help from all my friends at St. Ninian's on my recent operation. They were all appreciated and have helped me on the road to recovery.*

*Wilma Johnston*

John Semple and family give their sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers, letter and cards at their sad time of Nan's passing.



## *Paul's message*

In finding a way forward as a congregation we have held 3 open meetings from November through to February where we listened for God's voice. The place where we sought to hear God's voice was in the bible: through Scripture. We split into 3 or 4 separate groups and each group looked at three categories: **what did Jesus say, where did Jesus go, what did Jesus do.** We then looked for repetitions of what came to mind in each group and allowed that to be God's speaking to us about what to take note of: (the figures in brackets below indicate how many groups chose the same biblical text. We then consider that to be what God wants us to hear at this time.)

The lists are made up of which places, things Jesus said, things Jesus did, were chosen by groups. **It is this** means what is written below are the places and things God wants us to note at this time in our congregational life. The list on the right hand side is what these things in the bible point towards in how we live together as a church and who we shall become.

### Places Jesus went – it is this:

The cross	(3)	Good news of salvation
The wilderness	(3)	Prayer & contemplation
Galilee	(2)	Going out into village
Jerusalem & the temple	(2)	Worship & justice
Gethsemane	(2)	Being with those who suffer and are in need

### Things Jesus did – it is this:

Fed the 5000	(4)	Hospitality
Healed the sick	(3)	Healing/Caring
Turned water into wine	(3)	Transformation
Walked on water	(2)	Trust/Faith/Risk
Raised the dead	(2)	New life in Christ

### Things Jesus said – it is this:

Love one another	(3)	Tenderness and Forgiveness
Suffer the little children	(3)	Working with young people
I am the way, truth, life	(3)	Learning (discipleship)
I tell you rise up and walk	(2)	Healing

## Translating our listening into being and doing

Who are we going to be and what are we going to do?

Having gone through this exercise what I hope is becoming clear is that being church is nothing less than a continuation of Jesus' life, death and resurrection here and now. Church doesn't do something separate from what Jesus did, instead we keep faith with it and live it out in this time and place among the people of this village.

So after this listening process who are we to be?

### **Those who live out the good news of God's salvation in Jesus:**

- \* In the power of prayer and contemplation
- \* Partnering God's mission and bringing the good news to the village
- \* By our worship and seeking Justice for those harmed or overlooked
- \* Alongside those who suffer
- \* Through the hospitality we generously offer
- \* Helping to mend the wounded
- \* Helping transformation happen
- \* Bringing trust that God is working in and with us and we have permission to take risks in that
- \* Living out a new life in Christ
- \* Doing ordinary things with tenderness; giving and receiving forgiveness
- \* Valuing and nurturing our children
- \* Learning together to be followers of the way
- \* Being a community that brings the healing of God

This is who we are.

Starting point:

We are beginning to recover a pattern of ministry that allows for the full inclusion of the congregation. The worship, ministry and mission of St Ninian's is returning to the principle that in partnership with God, church is about the work of the people for the sake of the common good. This presumes that people are called by God to partner God in a specific time, at a specific place among a specific group of people. This also presumes that God is at work

in and through who we are equipping us with the gifts needed to take our part in that partnership.

The question is then:

How do we begin to give practical shape to who we are i.e. how do we turn who we are (list above) into what we do? The conclusion we came to was that we seek out the gifts God has placed in the human beings who make up St Ninian's. What do you like to do? What gives you life, what are you good at – these are questions we are asking to guide our participation in being the church for this time, place and people.

Blessings Paul.

## *Poetry Corner*

### **Gather**

**James F Merifield**

gather the seas into Your arms

for I cannot seem to hold them

gather the stars into Your eyes

for mine clearly are too blinded

gather our hearts into Your mouth

for I do not have the stomach

gather my life into Your plans

for mine have all been scattered

# A journey home

**Iva Beranek**

Come with the waves

They will not break you

The shore is waiting

For you to

Emerge out of depth

Come

Embrace new lights

These days are pregnant

With promises and

As the clouds pass by

Silence of the ocean echoes

The secret of new awakenings

In your heart

Near the shore its wisdom

Appeared

Even the new trees grow

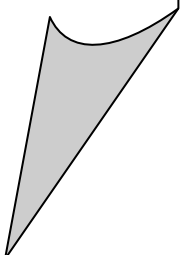
In places you never

Walked before

And Spring blossoms

With those who

Made their deepest dreams



A life-style

No rain will be too heavy

As you thread

Your steps

In the hope of embracing

Tomorrow

Before the dusk

Shows up on the horizon

No sorrow will be too bitter

Or wind too fierce

As your eyes rest their burdens

On the beauty of the skies

When you awake her

Sleeping beauty

Will not be sleeping any more

In your reveries

You and the beauty of the sky

Will be one

Come with the waves

Let the clouds take your tears

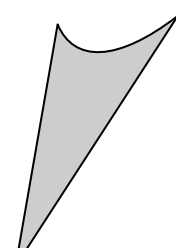
Be true to your path

This journey

12

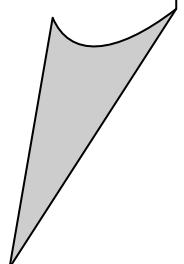
Walked before

And Spring blossoms





With those who  
Made their deepest dreams  
A life-style  
No rain will be too heavy  
As you thread  
Your steps  
In the hope of embracing  
Tomorrow  
Before the dusk  
Shows up on the horizon  
No sorrow will be too bitter  
Or wind too fierce  
As your eyes rest their burdens  
On the beauty of the skies  
When you awake her  
Sleeping beauty  
Will not be sleeping any more  
In your reveries  
You and the beauty of the sky  
Will be one  
Come with the waves  
Let the clouds take your tears  
Be true to your path  
This journey is calling you  
Home



## *From Margaret Macgregor*

Well folks, here we are in the depths of snow, writing an article for this Spring Issue, it's hard to think of spring when we are ploughing through snow and ice but we know it's just around the corner, that's Faith for you.

All the Christmas activities are behind us and Easter is beckoning, can I encourage folks to come along to our joint Easter services.

**Maundy Thursday 2nd April 7pm in St Ninian's Church Stonehouse lep**

**Good Friday 3rd April 7pm in Paterson UF Church**

The Session and some members of the congregation have been meeting to discuss the way forward for our Church; these talks have been going very well and through prayer and reflection guiding us on the way ahead. This will take commitment from our elders and Congregation and I hope you will all give encouragement and assistance where required.

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised “(Hebrews 10:36)

If you know of anyone who is ill or in need of assistance or celebrating a happy occasion please let us know. Don't take it for granted we have been told because sometimes we haven't.

The Church will be open to anyone who requires a quiet space or needs someone to talk to, on the third Thursday of each month from 11am - 12 noon then 1pm -2pm.

The Hope Café Group will also be in the church hall serving teas and coffees and offering help and a space to talk. This group works hard to make folks more aware of Mental Health issues and they would very much appreciate your attendance at their coffee day, they will be open from 10am – 2pm.

Remember we are also an emergency contact for the Food bank and can issue vouchers to anyone in need. Please contact Paul or myself on 792552.

God bless Margaret Macgregor

Session Clerk

Like the ripples in a pool, which gradually increase,  
So the seeds of kindness spread once they find release.  
A caring heart, a cheery smile, a ready listening ear,  
Little acts and deeds of love and words that are sincere-  
All help to oil the wheels of life as we go on our way,  
So act upon that loving thought and make somebody's day.

Kathleen Gillum

## *The Guild*



We had a lovely Christmas Dinner in December and the Church Choir entertained us in January; February was an interesting talk on Crossreach and we all enjoyed some yummy pancakes.

**9th March we are having our AGM  
and Caroline Fox is coming to coach us in  
Decorating Cakes.**

**13th April will be the usual Daffodil Tea and a  
Silent Auction.**

The annual summer outing is still to be arranged.

If you have never been to any of our meetings please come along. Bring a friend if you want, and I am sure you will enjoy yourself as it is a very relaxed evening.

See you all in March

Wilma Johnston



## Hope Café is coming to Stonehouse on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month

Come join us in St Ninians Church Hall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Of  
February between 10am and 2pm

**Supported by Caring for Carers**

We will have information leaflets and self help resources to help promote positive mental health & well-being. We also have free 30 minutes complementary therapy sessions for un-paid carers available on the day including Reiki, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage.

We also want to hear from you about what activities you would like to see happening in Stonehouse .Previous activities have included Mindfulness, Simple Stress Relief Techniques, Health Walks. Come and tell us what you would want.

**Tea/Coffee and Homebaking will be available for a donation**

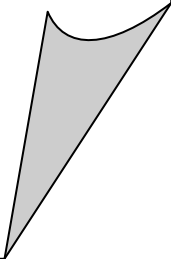
**and a smiling face and a non-judgemental listening ear is always available. We  
look forward to seeing you**

*Let`s focus on what`s strong, not what`s wrong*

**The church will be open for a quiet space should anyone wish to use it**

## The Map of Hope

She was lost  
Her life-map gone  
Stolen in the night  
By the thief that is mental illness  
She blundered helplessly, shamefully through life  
From one bad decision to another  
One disaster to another  
Ashamed, confused overwhelmed  
Consumed by guilt  
Un-diagnosed, Un-well  
Desperately seeking guidance  
Seeking knowledge seeking care  
Longing for love, understanding, forgiveness  
Craving clarity and acceptance  
Grasping, seeking, yearning.  
Pretending, falsely faking it (life)  
Grasping at quick fixes  
Money, people things  
Seeking answers to all the questions  
Longing to meet others who were the same  
Someone, anyone who would say, Me too!  
She had been looking in all the wrong places  
She began to look within



She recovered her map of Hope there  
Her map directed her to a special place within  
Where seeds of Hope had been planted  
Long, long ago  
Long forgotten  
But now remembered  
Her map directed her to a special place  
Where Hope is found in people  
Where Hope is encouraged and shared  
A place where she is accepted and understood  
A place where she is respected and celebrated  
A place where she can just simply....Be  
Lisa

## **Recycle your old Inkjet Cartridges and Mobile Phones**

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

# *Treasurer's Report*

Dear Friends,

As I write this at the end of January, a few bulbs and snowdrops are peeking through the snow in my garden, heralding a new Spring and new beginnings.

We start a new year in Church life too and I am pleased to report that we are in a healthier position financially than we were at this time last year. This is in no small measure due to the generosity of our Congregation. However we cannot, and must not, become complacent. We must make savings as and where we can.

Again, we have been fortunate to be able to reclaim substantial amounts of tax from HMRC through Gift Aid and I would urge anyone not currently giving through Gift Aid, to consider doing so.

I hope you did not have much damage during the gales. Sadly I cannot say the same about our Church which suffered damage to the roof and for which we have just had an estimate of £7500 for repairs.

We also have begun a programme for repairs, replacements and decoration of the Manse – work which is long overdue – to bring this up to the required standard.

So, as always, there is a huge demand on the resources we have and the Finance Team hope that, with your continued support, we will be able to meet our obligations during the year.

Gavin Ferguson

Treasurer

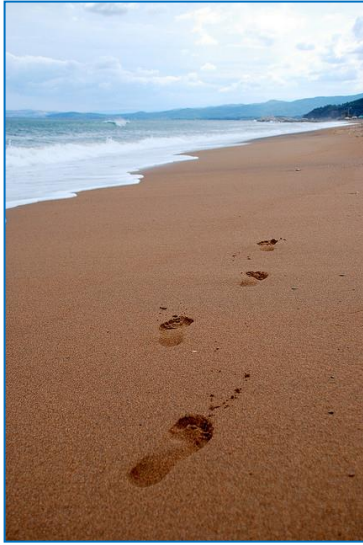
## WEBB IVORY & CHURCH DIARIES

Thanks to everyone who bought from the Christmas card & Gift catalogue during the months of September, October & November. It was very encouraging how well you all responded to my appeal for sales, and I hope you were happy with your purchases. Church Funds will benefit by £300, so a tremendous thank you to one and all.

Our little concise Church Diaries have sold really well again this year (and I still have a few) and raised £150.

Anne Law

# *Thoughts on -----Feet*



Feet are strange things – they come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes – with or without bunions, corns and much more! Someone bemoaning his short stature and big feet complained that if there wasn't so much of him turned round at the bottom as feet he'd be taller!

There are many instances of feet and footsteps mentioned in the Bible and some of them 'paint lovely pictures'. These are some of my favourites.

In Genesis we read of God walking in the garden seeking out Adam and Eve after they had eaten the forbidden fruit.

In the book of Ruth we read where Ruth, on Naomi's advice, uncovers Boaz's feet and lies beside them. She would go on to be an ancestor of King David.

In the book of Daniel we read where Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream where the King saw a figure with feet of clay.

In the New Testament we read of Mary pouring precious ointment over Jesus feet and wiping them with her hair.

We read of Jesus wrapping a towel round his waist and washing His disciples' feet.

After the Resurrection we read that Jesus walked with the two men on the road to Emmaus comforting them even though they didn't recognise Him at first.

These last examples are particularly appropriate as we approach the Easter season.

As we look around us perhaps we can see someone who needs an act of kindness or who needs someone to 'walk beside them' when they are sad or hurting.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to You All.

Ann Woods      Prayer Secretary



# *Sunday School*



We continue to meet each Sunday at 11am and the team would extend their thanks to all who bring the children along week by week. It's encouraging for us to teach the children as we enjoy stories, crafts and games together.

In this session we have been looking at people who have made a real change in the world. These have included David Livingstone, Mary Slessor and Rev Gardner who was a minister in St. Ninians, Stonehouse. We've also been encouraging the children to think of ways that they can make a difference to not only the world but in our own village too.

We will continue to use the Church of Scotland programme for children – 'Spill the Beans'.

**Our next fund raising venture will be another collection of clothing etc for the Bags2School. This will take place on Thursday 23rd April.**

Bags will be distributed in advance and can be returned in the two weeks before the collection. Further intimation on this will be made in church.

The team would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Easter.

The Team Leaders

## ***Save those Stamps!***



Don't forget to save stamps from your post and pop them in the box in the vestibule.



## Spring Church Flower Rota



March 1st	Jean Stewart, Mary McKay	Both In Memoriam
8th	Sheena McLean Isobel Hamilton	In Memoriam Wedding Anniversary
15th	Marian Clark Kay Baxter, Norma Johnstone Elizabeth Bridges	Wedding Anniversary In Memoriam
22nd	Fiona Letham	In Memoriam
29 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Allan, Sheila Lindsay	Both In Memoriam
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Mrs Margaret Murray	In Memoriam
12th	Sheena McLean	In Memoriam
19th	Christine Milne	In Memoriam
26 <sup>th</sup>	Myra Pate	In Memoriam
May 3rd	Laura Wilson	In Memoriam
10th	Janette Brownlie, Margaret Lambie, Betty Mason	All In Memoriam
17 <sup>th</sup>	J Davidson, Anne MacLeod	Both In Memoriam
24th	Anne Law	An Anniversary and In Memoriam
31 <sup>st</sup>	The Summers Family (Strathaven) The Smith Family	In Memoriam In Memoriam
7th June	Anne MacLeod, June Russell, Betty Campbell	All In Memoriam

In January our church was adorned by flowers donated by: Ann Golder, Eleanor Brown, The Cowper Family, The Summers and Anderson Family, Mrs W Hare. (All in Memoriam)

In February: K Plenderleith, Mrs Richmond, Eileen Stewart, Mrs Margaret Mair, (All in Memoriam) and Anne Cowan (a celebration).

#### **Our Flower Arrangers and Helpers for the spring**

Mar	Jillian Storrie	791414	Rosalind Blake	207676
April	Greta Struthers	791507	Christine Blackwood	793405
May	Susan Whitelaw	01357 521224		
June	Joyce & Bob Millar	792736	Eileen Stewart	793985

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### *Flower Committee*

It seems such a long time since Christmas, which was as usual very busy.

I would like to thank all the people who came to help to decorate the church. I think everyone enjoys getting involved. We thank Roddy for supplying the Christmon tree again, which is used for the cross at Easter.

We must thank the people who donate flowers and money each week, this enables us to send flowers to anyone in need and also for happy occasions.

This is such an important ministry and wouldn't be possible without our faithful band of ladies and a few gentlemen. I can't thank them enough.

We have lost one of our ladies Jean Robertson; a big thanks to Jean for her many faithful years of service.

Ann

## Link Committee

It is during times of great loss

that we realise how limiting words can be and how special our friends truly are. We were very saddened to hear of Mrs Matheson's passing just as the last issue of Link was about to be distributed. Mrs Matheson had been a faithful distributor for District 3 for a good many years, being on the 'books' from the early days when Miss Leishmann was in charge. Our heartfelt thoughts are sent to her family and her friends; may warm hugs and the sharing of memories help to see you through the days that lie ahead.

And how special are friends that rally round in times of need. May we thank Mrs Rosemary Middleton, Liz McTavish and Willie Cowie for all coming forward to help with distributing the Link Magazine.

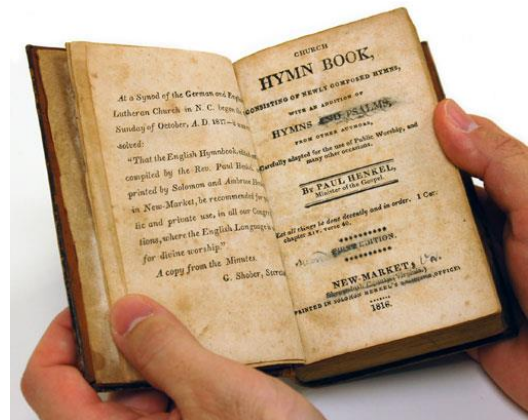
Rosemary Middleton will be delivering to Mrs Matheson's District, Liz has begun to deliver to Green Street and Kirk Street, (Janette Stevenson's former district) and Willie Cowie, we welcome on board as a distributor for the magazine.

Thank you to all the distributors, who have handed over to Anne or Margaret an up to date list of the numbers of magazines they deliver. This allows us to be more efficient with printing amounts per quarter.

Finally I would just like to apologise for there not being 'My Favourite Hymn' in this issue of Link. I really like this feature and look forward to asking a member of the congregation for their thoughts on a piece of praise. However when at church, I kept missing the person I had in mind to ask them. So in the next issue, you will discover who this special person is and their favourite hymn

Margaret Murray or I will be in the vestibule on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Take care, Margaret McM

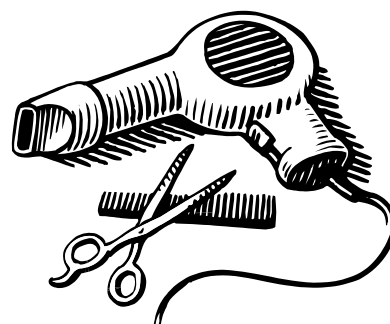


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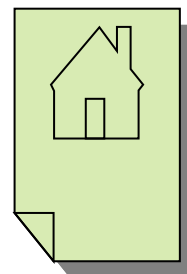
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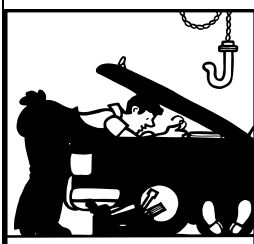
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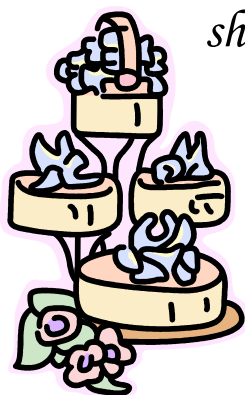
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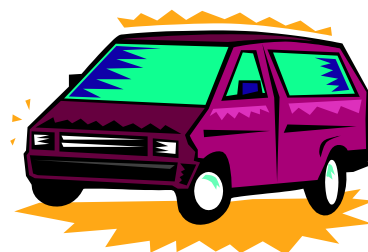
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