

Link Magazine Spring 2016



St Ninian's Stonehouse (LEP)

(The LEP stands for local ecumenical partnership)

Let the
heavens
sing and
the earth
rejoice!



HE IS RISEN!

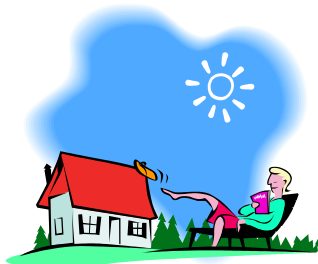


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Email: info@hjdance.co.uk

Website: www.hjdance.co.uk



kirkdec.co.uk

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Peter Kirkland

07709 354 039

Just to say... something new for the magazine a competition for you to enter. As editor I hope someone has a go. Please let me if you do and we can include your news in the next issue of Link. Read on to find out what the competition entails, the closing date is 27th March'16 so not long...

Margaret McM

Dates for your diary:

Tabs Shows: Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March.

Church Annual Business Meeting: Thursday 10th March at 7pm in the church hall,

The Maundy Thursday Service 24th March at the Paterson UF church at 7pm and will be led by Rev Alan Paterson Interim Moderator for St Ninian's.

Good Friday Service: is at St Ninian's Church on the 25th March at 7pm and will be led by Martin Paterson from Paterson UF church.

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

Alan's message

It has been a fascinating learning curve

discovering the varied and contrasting procedures of the two denominations regarding vacancy. It has not been easy, but it has been enlightening. Although officials and administrators are not always the most popular people on the planet, they are the people who try to give order where there could so easily be chaos. The Ecumenical Officers, Sheilagh Kesting and Mitchell Bunting, have both been extremely supportive and Gordon MacCracken the Presbytery Clerk similarly. John Humphreys, the URC Synod Moderator and our ecumenical vacancy advisory group have likewise made time to help us through procedures which have their own order, timescales and idiosyncracies.

One of the most sensitive things we have had to do is for the Session to go through the very detailed procedures of the Church of Scotland Law regarding applications from ministers in civil partnerships. The Session was clear that it wanted the church to be able to consider all applicants on their merits. The session considered the matter thoroughly and sensitively. In various other settings I have heard such debates degenerate into points scoring and even angry exchanges. I was impressed by the way the elders share opinions and listened to each other thoughtfully and with respect over three different meetings. All denominations have struggled with the subject of human sexuality and agonised over how they might hold together opposing opinions. The complex processes of the Church of Scotland's Law are echoed across Christendom.

I want to express my appreciation of those officials who are supporting us and always available to us. I want to say, as your Interim Moderator, that your session has done you proud. They have responsibly exercised leadership in a difficult area of church life, while bearing in mind the peace and unity of the church. All we, the church membership, have to do is continue to be Christ's faithful people, the congregation that Paul was proud to serve, that I am proud to serve, and that has the respect and love of the wider community.

Alan Paterson [Interim Moderator]

From Margaret Macgregor

Well folks here we are nearing spring again, how time flies in our busy lives.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland made a decision last May to stay with COS tradition not to call a minister in a civil partnership but left it to each congregation to decide if they wished to depart from tradition when it came to calling a minister.

Our session therefore has had a lot of important decisions to make over the last few months and have not moved forward without much debating and listening to one another's opinions and comments in an understanding and compassionate manner.

A secret ballot was taken on two occasions and each time the session voted to depart from tradition by six votes. This means that St Ninian's has opened its heart to allow someone in a civil partnership to be treated with equal rights and be able to apply and be interviewed the same as all other candidates.

Our next step as I write this letter is to confirm that our congregational register is up to date, it then has to be presented to Presbytery for attestation before we can begin to form our nomination committee.

I hope by the time you read this letter we will have jumped through all the hoops and actually be in a position to advertise and interview. The wheels move slowly.

Thankfully we have Eric Hislop leading us in worship each Sunday and he has won the hearts of folks in the congregation and the Sunday School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Eric and Rev Alan Paterson who is our Interim Moderator for all their help over the past few months, their advice has been valuable to myself and session.

We are still a busy and thriving church with lots going on; our Sunday School helpers are a great team of enthusiastic folks who are trying to encourage more children to join them on a Sunday morning, so if you are reading this and know a child between the ages of five and fifteen please invite them along.

The Hope Café does sterling work both in the church and beyond helping folks with mental health issues and St Ninian's is proud to assist in any way we can.

Our Pastoral Care Team are still visiting each of the Nursing homes and sheltered housing in turn, led by Rev Alan Paterson and please if you are housebound and would like a visit just let me know.

Tab's Youth Group meet in the church every Sunday afternoon and their show will take place in the church hall on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March. Tickets are available from Tab's.

Our Girls and Boys Brigade still meet every week and appear to be thriving when other companies are struggling, thanks to the leaders for their hard work.

Sunday lunches are served each Sunday after the service and are well supported by the congregation raising much needed funds for the church but also allowing a time for fellowship. Thanks to all who set up, prepare and serve the lunches.

The Prayer and Reflection which takes place each morning from Monday to Friday has been very successful and there is a prayer box available in the vestibule of the church for prayer requests. We also pray for a street in the village each week and the list is attached to allow you to include them in your prayers.

Can I encourage you to come along of a morning and join the group we meet at 9.15am in the prayer room you don't have to come every morning just when you feel able.

Since my last letter Betty Mason who was well known in the village sadly passed away. Betty was a stalwart in the URC and fitted in well with the folks at St Ninian's after the union, she will be sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and close friends.

Dates for your diary – Our Annual Business meeting is on Thursday 10th March at 7pm in the church hall, all are welcome so please come along and support the office bearers and the work of the church.

The Maundy Thursday service this year is on 24th March at the Paterson UF church at 7pm and will be led by Rev Alan Paterson Interim Moderator for St Ninian's.

Good Friday service is at St Ninian's Church on the 25th March again at 7pm and will be led by Martin Paterson from Paterson UF church.

I have tried to keep you up to date with where we are with the vacancy and I very much appreciate your patience and assistance, we have a good session who work together and encourage one another and I am certain that the right person is out there just waiting to come and lead us as our minister. Please hold us in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless, Margaret

There is a quiet light that shines in every heart, though it always secretly there, it draws no attention to itself.

It is what illuminates our minds to see beauty, our desire to seek possibility and

This shy inner light is what enables us to recognize and receive our very presence here as blessing.

We at St Ninian's are richly blessed, in companionship, in love and in our caring for one another.



Monday – Friday at 9.15am

in the Prayer room.



Streets to pray for –

Week beginning – 06/03/16

Townhead St

“	13/03/16	Strathaven Road
“	20/03/16	Sidehead Road
“	27/03/16	Caledonian Ave
“	03/04/16	Bramble Bank
“	10/14/16	Weavers Court
“	17/04/16	St Ninian’s Place
“	24/04/16	Newfield Road
“	01/05/16	The Holdings
“	08/05/16	Patrickholme Ave
“	15/05/16	Paterson Place
“	22/05/16	The Nuek
“	29/05/16	Lowther Cres
“	05/06/16	St Lawrence Pl
“	12/06/16	Wilson Place
“	19/06/16	Violet Cres

The Guild BE BOLD BE STRONG.

We had a lovely Christmas Dinner in December and in January we had a very interesting talk from Aileen Neilson.

In February, Janice McInnes gave us a demonstration on flower arranging and the ladies made pancakes.

On the 14th March, Irene Dick will be our speaker for the evening. We hope you can make it along.

The 18th April, is our annual Daffodil Tea with entertainment. Another night for you all to look forward to.

The annual outing in September is still to be arranged.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Guild during the spring months.

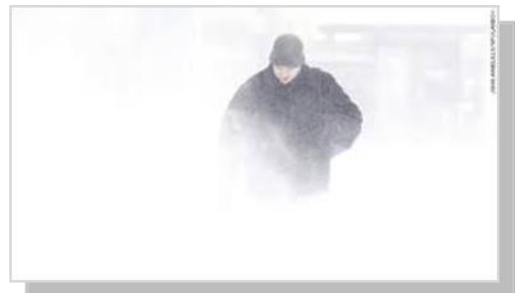
Wilma Johnston. Secretary.



The Coffee Morning

Weather wise the Coffee Morning got off to a bad start, as we had to cancel our first morning thanks to a visit from 'Henry'. Hopefully it will be second time lucky as our team is prepared and raring to go.

We have had a very busy year and we continue to be amazed at our friends each week – they will come disregarding the weather – Well done.



This year we made £4,679.40. this is a wonderful amount and it is all thanks to the hard work of our team and for your continual support.

So come along each Tuesday for a morning of friendship.

Peggy Anderson

THOUGHTS ONEASTER

Easter is one of the most important dates in our Church calendar. At this time of year we celebrate the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. It's an emotional celebration as we remember Jesus washing the disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday, the Crucifixion on Good Friday and the wonderful Resurrection story of Easter Sunday. We sing Easter hymns with great gusto...Jesus Christ is risen today, Hallelujah!

The dictionary definition of resurrection is a returning or bringing back to practice, notice or use – a revival.

I wonder, at this time of year, what each of us could 'revive' that would make a difference in our own lives or the lives of others. Perhaps we've lost the knack of doing that extra good deed, making that phone call or making the effort to pay that visit which has lapsed.



I'm sure there are many other things we could think of so that's the challenge this Easter time - resurrect a worthwhile practice.

Ann Woods.

Download CrossReach News now!

The first CrossReach News of 2016 is now available. This edition spotlights our Adult Care Services. You can read about how best to welcome people with learning disabilities in your church, learn about why safeguarding is important for everyone and take a look back at CrossReach Week 2015 in words and pictures. 'Me and My Job' features Allan Marshall from Morven Day Services in Kilmarnock. You can download CrossReach News in either English or Gaelic at: **www.crossreach.org.uk**.

And if you would like to be added to our free mailing list to receive future editions, please e-mail: bdd@crossreach.org.uk

Competition

Design a CrossReach Christmas card for 2016

Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if under age 16) 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 to use it for the purpose of their Christmas cards and any promotional material connected to that.

Closing date: Sunday 27th March 2016

Send your entry to:

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

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2016 catalogue and website. as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

- The card must be an original design, not copied from an existing copyrighted card or clip art
- 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 so are best avoided
- Feel free to include a Greeting and/or Bible verse in your design
- If you wish your design returned, please make this clear to us and enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope for its return

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

The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design
Textures, 3D effects or metallic colours can be difficult to reproduce in print.

Sunday School

We are continuing to use the Church of Scotland material, Spill the Beanz, and the leaders work on a rota, meaning that we all have the opportunity to join the congregation for worship.

The children have been on visits to Canderavon House in November, December and February. The children make something to take for the residents on each visit. The residents in turn have something for the children to take away. This is a very worthwhile exercise since it's enjoyed by both the residents and the children.

We plan to have an events Sunday and a fun day - ideas are still being formulated.

A family film night has been organised for February - date and details will be intimated from the pulpit.

We are meeting with Stuart Cutler, who is involved in youth work, to discuss ideas for the older group of children.

We are having another Bags2school collection on 28th April. Further information will be intimated.

The Sunday School Team.

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



WEBB IVORY & CHURCH DIARIES

Well Christmas has come and gone again (I know that because Easter Eggs can be seen in most of the shops!!).

A massive thanks to everyone who helped me to raise £400 for Church funds, during the months before Christmas.

Did you see the big grin on Treasurer Gavin Ferguson's face; but it's really a drop in the ocean in the grand scheme of balancing the church books. Gavin is doing a great job in very trying times for St Ninians but we are very grateful for his expertise keeping the books and us in good order.

Thanks again Anne Law

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and good wishes after my accident. It was very much appreciated.

Ruth Templeton



Thought for Easter

**“Sooner or later all the people of the world
will have to discover a way to live together in peace,
and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy
into a creative psalm of brotherhood.”**

Martin Luther King

Treasurer's Report

With the end of the year behind us, I am now putting together the full Church Accounts for 2015. It was a very challenging year for Church life and also for the Church finances. Storm damage, theft of roof lead, rain water ingress to the kitchen roof and the breakdown of the central heating system were all very costly, unexpected items. I am pleased to report that I secured payment from the Church Insurance company to cover two of the roof repairs, considerably reducing our costs.

There are so many individuals who work hard to raise money to boost our finances as well as those who attend Church and contribute to the offering via, Standing Orders, Envelopes and by the Open Plate. Thank you to all.

Thank you also to those who organise and support the many activities which take place within St Ninians. These include the Tuesday Coffee Mornings, the Guild, the Link Magazine, the Flower Committee, the Sunday Lunches, especially the Girls Brigade who provided "Soup Sundays", Coin in the Box, Christmas Socks, Smartie Tubes and many other activities, all of which contributed to raising significant funds for the benefit of our Church throughout 2015.

Looking forward, a lot of work and expense lies ahead in the next few months as we prepare the Manse for our next Minister and deal with a replacement heating system and front windows for the Church.

I pray that you may be able to continue to support our Church throughout this year so that we may provide a warm welcoming and safe environment for all who worship and enjoy the facilities at St Ninians.

Gavin Ferguson, Treasurer,

on behalf of the Finance Team.

Link Committee

When Peggy Anderson retired as a distributor she handed me the original copy of the 'Guidelines for Distributors', which she was given by Miss Leishman when the Link Magazine began in autumn 1982.

Many of the routines are still in existence. However it was customary in those days for distributors to take their Link Money to Miss Leishman's house in Lockhart Street. Distributors were made very welcome and frequently would be invited in for afternoon tea with sandwiches, homemade pancakes and cake. Due to time restrictions in today's modern age this tradition sadly has been lost.

The new way that suits Margaret Murray and myself is for us to stand in the vestibule on the Sunday two weeks after the Link magazine has been ready for uplift. However this spring due to other commitments Margaret cannot manage so it will be myself on duty on Sunday 20th March in the vestibule to collect any donations.

I hope the weather is kind to you when you deliver your magazines and it is an enjoyable experience taking the magazine to the folks in your districts.

I have typed out parts of the original guidelines for you to read as some of it is news to me too despite being on the magazine committee for a quite a long time now.

I always believed that the magazine was simply a donation. It would have been really difficult to deliver magazines if people weren't in to try to get their 5pences. Perhaps someone would like to recall what it was like to be a distributor when there was a charge. Maybe this decision didn't last long and it became a donation instead fairly quickly. As our church is currently in the process of change it is good

to discover where we have been and how we come to be as we are now.

May Easter be a special time for you all to come together with family and friends to celebrate life's blessings.

Guidelines for Distributors

First issue of Link Autumn 1982

- 1. Please keep attached District List and envelope for subsequent issues.**
2. Magazines should be delivered as early as possible.
3. If, on occasions, you are unable to deliver magazines, please ask someone to deputise for you or inform the Magazine Treasurer.
4. First issue is FREE. Subsequent issues are 5pence per copy. You are responsible for collecting the money which can be paid per issue or other arrangement. Proceeds should be delivered to Magazine treasurer as promptly as possible. All transactions will be recorded and money should be accompanied by your name or District number.
5. Additional copies if required will be available at Church vestibule and can be paid for as up lifted.
6. You will be advised of any changes in your District as and when these take place. *(Nowadays we need you to let us know of changes in your districts)*



Hope Café Stonehouse **St Ninians Church Hall**

Vicars Road Stonehouse ML9 3EB

****Hope Café, promoting positive mental health & well-being in Lanarkshire****

**** At Hope Café, we focus on what's strong, not what's wrong ****

Stonehouse Café dates March – May 2016

Thursday 3rd March

Thursday 24th March

Thursday 7th April

Thursday 28th April

Thursday 12th May

Thursday 26th May

For further details please contact Lisa Cameron:

07851823683

lisa@hopecafelanarkshire.org.uk

www.hopecafelanarkshire.org.uk

Hope Café wishes to extend their sincere thanks once again to everyone in St Ninians Stonehouse for the support you continue to give the charity.

Hope Café Stonehouse continues to go from strength to strength here in St Ninians and we are now operating 2 Thursdays a month promoting positive mental health and well-being.

Our dedicated group of volunteers continue to provide a safe, welcoming environment where we have built up a steady flow of regular customers while continuing to welcome new faces each time we open.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas 2015 celebrations at both our Lanark and Stonehouse cafes where everyone enjoyed a free buffet lunch and entertainment provided by the Stonehouse Male Voice Choir at our Lanark celebrations and the Strathaven Community Jazz Band at Stonehouse.



Within the community café in Stonehouse you will find several activities going on, all which promote a positive sense of mental well-being. We have a regular walking group, relaxation sessions and there are always craft materials and adult and child 'colouring in' books available. We have recently introduced an expressive reading and writing group called 'The Wee Read' led by the lovely See Me Champion Christine Cather. This group is proving extremely popular but the most positive thing going on within Hope Café Stonehouse is a lovely sense of community. Just folk coming together to connect. I believe as human beings we thrive within a community setting and this is evident within our community café. You don't have to be mentally ill to engage with Hope Café. Hope Café is for everyone because everyone has mental health and at Hope Café we are passionate about sharing the importance of looking after your mental health and well-being.

Please pop in and join us for some delicious food and lovely company where there is something for everyone at Hope Café.

Sadly the community of Stonehouse was devastated by the loss of two young lives to suicide at the end of last year.

At the funeral service of John Dunn there was a monetary collection which raised £970. John Dunn's family have donated all the proceeds towards the work we do at The Hope Café. The Hope Café will use this money by continuing to raise vital mental health awareness and also deliver more formal pieces of mental health training like safeTALK Suicide Awareness and Scottish Mental Health First Aid.

We don't have a magic formula at the Hope Café to cure mental illness but we do have people who are willing to share their experiences of being mentally unwell and most importantly these people share their experiences of what keeps them well to inspire hope in others that you can live well in the presence of a mental illness because at Hope Café we focus on what's strong, not what's wrong.

Lisa Cameron

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.**

Betty Mason,

Mr Alexander Hamilton Rogerhill Farm Blackwood



Church Flowers



Spring Church Flower Rota

March 6th	Sheena McLean, Isobel Hamilton Mary McKay	All In Memoriam
14th	Marian and Jack Clark	Wedding Anniversary
20th	Norma Johnstone	In Memoriam
27th	Anne Cowan Sheila Lindsay	Celebration In Memoriam
3 rd April	Mrs Margaret Murray	In Memoriam
10 th April	The Flower Committee	
17th	The Flower Committee	
24th	Christine Milne	In Memoriam
1 st May	Laura Wilson	In Memoriam
8th	Liz Ingram, Margaret Lambie	Both In Memoriam

	Fiona Letham,	
15th	Anne MacLeod	In Memoriam
22nd	Myra Pate, The Summers Family (Strathaven) Anne Law	Both In Memoriam An Anniversary and In Memoriam
29 th May	The Smith Family	In Memoriam
7th June	Anne MacLeod, June Russell,	Both In Memoriam

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

In February: K Plenderleith, Mrs Richmond, Mrs Margaret Mair, Jean Roberston (All in Memoriam).

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		

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.

Ann

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