

Link Magazine

Spring 2019



St Ninian's Stonehouse

Love is...

I wonder how you would finish the sentence?

There used to be a cartoon strip posing that very question. The answer was usually something sweet and romantic, and of course love can be that.

But love can also be difficult and demanding. Relationships with our partners, our family, our friends and our community aren't always easy. Perhaps the commitment and determination to try and work through these difficult times is one of the things that love is.

Paul writes about love in his first letter to the church in Corinth. In chapter 13 he writes that famous passage that we read so often at weddings, and at funerals.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.”

As we live together this is a pretty good list to measure ourselves against. It's so easy to slip into wanting our own way, being jealous or even being happy to see others fail. It's so easy to slip back into the habits of darkness.

Patience and kindness, the things that bring light, seem like such simple things but we all know that they can be difficult to practice and easily ignored.

Paul tells us more about love:

“It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

As we approach Easter these words take on greater meaning for me as we are presented with a picture of love in its purest form... the love that God has for us in Jesus. A love that would bear all things, believe all things, hope all things and endure all things, even death on the cross.

Why?

Because God's love for us is never-ending.
God's love for us is complete, total, unbreakable.

Lent, the journey towards Easter, reminds us starkly of our shortcomings. It's a sobering time where we have traditionally practiced simplicity by giving up luxuries to help us focus on what matters most... God's love for us.

So, we travel towards the joy of Easter,
reminded again,
because we all need reminding,
that Love wins.

Good Friday is important.
But we are Easter People.
We live knowing that Jesus not only died for us but also rose again for us.
We live knowing that love wins!!!

So let's live as Easter People. Let's live knowing that we are loved beyond all measure. Let's live knowing that love has changed the world and that love still changes the world every day.

Because Love wins.

Stewart

Hi Folks

I'm so looking forward to Easter and the lighter nights, the snowdrops and daffodils and hopefully some sunshine.

I wrote in my last letter that Fiona Watson was to be ordained as an elder, unfortunately Fiona took ill and was unable to attend on that Sunday but she was ordained on Sunday 24th February. Welcome to the session Fiona and I look forward to working with you.

Three of our elders Yvonne Hamilton, Jillian Storrie and Anne Thompson all applied to take part in A Word and Worship course. This was quite an extensive course at the end of which they had each to lead a full Sunday service. These services were well attended and I think you will all agree that they did very well. On behalf of Session I would like to thank them for all their hard work and the congregation for their support. If you were unable to attend, you can listen to the services on the church website.

Sadly some of our faithful members and friends in the village have passed away and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Marion Young, John Douglas, Nettie Jamieson, Bill Hunter, James Browning, Barry Wright, Jean Steel and Elizabeth Knutt. From January to December 2018, Stewart conducted 36 funeral services and I would like to thank him for his caring and support to all the families.

We are fortunate to welcome Avril Cutler who has now transferred her lines. Avril as you know is the editor of our magazine. I'm sorry to say Sheila and Cameron Weir are moving to pastures new and their lines have been transferred. I wish them both all the very best in their new church.

We had a busy time over the Christmas season and it was great to see so many folks from the community joining us in our celebrations.

A wee word of thanks to Linsey and Jennifer who enthral us each Sunday with their playing during the service. Such talent.

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 Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.15am, you can still pray with us. A list of streets and dates are on the next page.

praying for others

3rd March	McEwan Way
10th March	Rodger Court
17th March	Dick Court
24th March	Croft Hill Court
7th April	Hamilton Way
21st April	Ash Lane
21st April	Pebble Drive
28th April	Toftcombs Avenue
5th May	Toftcombs Crescent
12th May	Sandyvale
19th May	Rock Gardens
26th May	Cots Castle View
2nd June	Cots Castle Grove
16th June	Members in Larkhall
23rd June	Members in Strathaven
30th June	Members in Sandford

I look forward to another year of prayer, reflection and fellowship and hope you will come along and enjoy at least some of the activities and services. Our door is always open. Please 'come and see'.

God bless

Margaret (Session Clerk)

Listen to the silence and feel it calm your mind
Let the noisy world go by as tangled thoughts unwind.
Learn the secrets of the earth, for nature works in peace
And all things grow in silence their wonder to increase.

Take a little time for you and let that peace begin
Close your eyes, relax, be still and find it deep within.
So short a time, a precious time, serenity your goal
Just listen to the silence and let it soothe your soul.

~ by **Iris Hesselden**

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how do you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

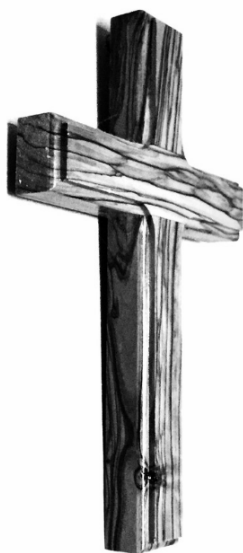
Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council



morning prayer

monday & thursday

9:15am

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

The Naming of Things

The Bible is a book full of names. If you read it cover to cover you'll find chapters, even large proportions of individual books, dedicated to genealogies and lists of people's names. I used to think this made dull reading material. In fact, I admit that I still don't relish the prospect of reading the opening nine chapters of the first book of Chronicles, which quite literally consist of one collection of names after another! However, if there's one thing to make them worthwhile, it's the little historical notes that accompany some of the names, telling us a little more about the individual's character.

Names, it's fair to say, can be a real blessing or burden to us. That's the story of our lives since the very dawn of time. In the first chapter of Genesis God took charge of naming his creations, but once he breathed life into human beings this was a responsibility he handed over to them. And we have been naming things ever since: people, places, pets, even inanimate objects like cars and cuddly toys. As I mentioned before, names have the power to affirm us or undermine us. The naming of people and places was incredibly important in Biblical times, and some of the meanings are quite literal. For example, in Genesis Jacob named his firstborn son Reuben, which means "Behold a son" or "Look it's a boy!" as translated in The Message Remix.

In 1 Chronicles 4 we read briefly about Jabez, whose name means "pain". His mother named him thus because his birth was very painful! There is nothing to suggest that this affected his parents' attitude towards him, but his name must have been a burden to him, a constant reminder of his difficult and painful entry into the world. But Jabez refused to let his name shape the course of his life. Instead, he turned to God and prayed such a heartfelt prayer: "Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain" (v10). The reference to being "free from pain" really shows that he wanted to break free from the association with his name, and God did as Jabez asked.

The lesson we can learn from Jabez is that we don't have to be defined by the names we bear and their meaning, especially if they weigh heavily upon us. We can, instead, pray to God and ask him to shape the course of our existence instead.

Kathryn Epps



COFFEE MORNINGS

St Ninian's Stonehouse
Every Tuesday until
30th April 2019

10.00am to 11.30am
in the Church Hall

The Coffee Ladies team look forward to welcoming friends who usually attend and will be delighted to meet 'new friends' too!

So come along and enjoy the fellowship this group have been privileged to provide in the past.

Elizabeth Bridges

Faith

When you walk to the edge of all the light you have
and take that first step into the darkness of the
unknown, you must believe that one of two things will
happen:

There will be something solid for you to stand upon,
or, you will be taught how to fly

~ by **Patrick Overton**

1st Stonehouse Boys Brigade News!

The Company Section boys will be participating in Hamilton Battalion's PT and Boxwork Competition in February. The boys will also be doing a sponsored climb up Tinto Hill on 6th May. All sponsors will be very welcome with any funds raised going to fund badge work within the BB.

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



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

Church Flowers



Flower Arrangers and Helpers

March	Jillian Storrie & Rosalind Blake
April	Greta Struthers & Christine Blackwood
May	Mary Hamilton & Wilma Johnston
June	Bob & Joyce Millar

Thank you to everyone who has gifted flowers to the church in January and February and throughout the coming months.

January

13th	Ann Golder, Cowper Family, Jean Grant	In memoriam
20th	Eleanor Brown	In memoriam
27th	Anne Thompson	In memoriam

February

3rd	Margaret Cranston	Gifted
10th	Margaret Mair	In memoriam
25th	Sadie & Andy Mulholland	In memoriam

March

3rd	Shuna McLean, Mary McKay	In memoriam
10th	Norma Johnston	In memoriam & anniversary
17th	Mrs I Hamilton	Wedding anniversary
24th	Anne Brown	Celebration
31st March	Whitefield Family, Sheila Lindsay	In memoriam

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to decorate our church for Christmas. It was lovely to see everyone working together; a great time of fellowship. The tea, coffee, shortbread and mince pies were a very welcome break and enjoyed by all!

**For more information, please contact
Ann Anderson on 01698 792124**

Words and Worship Course

As many of you are aware, Jillian (Storrie), Yvonne (Hamilton) and myself have recently undertaken the Word and Worship Course run by the Presbytery of Hamilton on behalf of the Church of Scotland.

The course consisted of three day workshops covering seven modules including fundamentals of leading worship; the word of God - leading and reading; music and hymnody; and sermon and prayer writing.

We completed nine assignments (yes, nine!) and received written feedback. Our final assessment was assessed by two assessors, appointed by the presbytery, as we lead Sunday morning worship.

We each prepared our services based on the lectionary readings for that Sunday. We chose the hymns selected, wrote prayers and researched and prepared an appropriate sermon.

I am pleased to inform you that we all passed the course and will receive certificates at the meeting of the presbytery in May.

We all found the course spiritually enriching and met some really talented and knowledgeable people.

We would like to thank the Kirk Session and Stewart for agreeing to send us on the course and to all the congregation for your overwhelming support and encouragement.

We look forward to leading you in worship again.

Anne T Thompson

Happy New Year & All the very best for 2019!

So, rumour has it that my messages, in the main, are negative with little or no good news coming from the treasurer. Let me firstly assure everyone that as an individual that does not sit well with me. I love to have a positive outlook and equally I would like to think that I have my humorous moments as well!!

Let me start 2019 by addressing a few of the myths that seem to exist. All these relate to positively good news and show that in a lot of monetary areas we have progressed rather than regressed.

Firstly, let me deal with a comment that surfaced after our last issue. I believe it was along the lines of '*if the Church is really toiling for money how come they are printing this magazine in colour*'. Answer? We are actually saving quite a bit of money in comparison to when we printed in-house. We have been offered an extremely competitive rate, which meant the change-over was a bit of a no brainer. This has resulted in a massive saving on our previous printing costs and I cannot wait until next year arriving when we will then be able to move on from the onerous photocopier / printing contract that we are currently operating under.

Our energy costs are also showing a decline, even though the cost of both gas and electricity continues to rise. This is as a direct result of our new heating system behaving as we hoped it would and as a result of reduced heat loss due to the new window installation.

All our project work will be undertaken with a view to again maximising savings as and where we can. As an example, and leading on from the re-wiring, we would hope to introduce LED lighting where possible. Indeed this process will commence with the outside lights being renewed in this manner very soon.

Fund raising efforts between November and now have been very well supported and assisted greatly in helping us to meet our obligations for 2018. A number of these are community driven and it has been so pleasing to see new faces come through our Church doors during this period. A huge thank you to all who have been involved and to those who attended.

There you have it, a whole bundle of good news but wait ... there is always the next issue!!

God Bless
Bill (Treasurer)

COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas Card for 2019

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2019 catalogue and website. The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

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

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

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

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

Closing date: Monday 1st April 2019

Send your entry to:

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



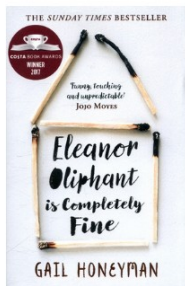
The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Open to all CrossReach friends. Entry by 30th Dec 2018



Sundays 11am - 12noon
Everyone welcome

The Book Group



17th March

*Eleanor Oliphant
is Completely
Fine*

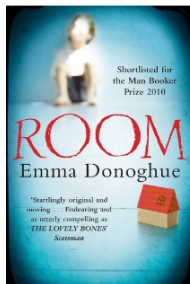
Gail Honeyman



14th April

THE MARTIAN

Andy Weir



19th May

ROOM

Emma Donoghue



16th June

OF MICE & MEN

John Steinbeck

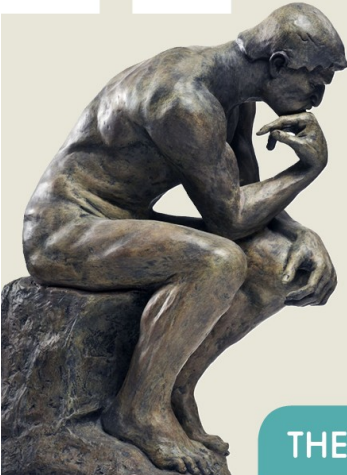
Sunday Lunches

In the last edition of Link I asked for helpers for Sunday Lunch group and I'm pleased to welcome Isobel Bell who kindly volunteered and has now joined Margaret Patrick's group. We do still need some more help as some of our helpers have had to step down due to health problems. If you're interested please speak to me any Sunday at church.

This past year we raised almost £2,400 for church funds so a massive thanks goes to everyone who comes through to the hall after the service each week and, of course, to all of you who help in any way.

Thank you.

Anne Law



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 life's wonders and challenges.

**FIRST WEDNESDAY
EVERY MONTH 7PM**

c/o Auld Stanehoose Cafe,
The Cross, Stonehouse

THE PHILOSOPHERS CAFÉ STONEHOUSE

Thank you!

I would like to say a belated thank you for the lovely flowers delivered to me before Christmas. At the time of writing (2nd February) I am in Wishaw Hospital and have been there since a fall on 22nd December. I'm hoping to get home soon! So thank you to everyone who has visited and sent me good wishes for my recovery and also my birthday in January.

Pearl Foster

Thank you for all your kindness, visits, and flowers during my recent illness.

Shona McMillan

Many thanks for faithfully delivering the Link Magazine. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Mrs M Ferguson

2019 Church Diaries

The sales of this year's diaries has exceeded other years and I'm pleased to let everyone know that I was able to transfer £180 to church account. I hope those of you who have purchased one find them helpful with a few of church officials' details. I still have some available for any latecomers.

My sincere thanks again.

Anne Law

The Guild



We have had a great start to the year with the Boys Brigade Officers giving a talk on what the boys do including competitive activities with other churches.

On 11th February Avril Cutler and Audrey Bremner, from Stigma Free Lanarkshire, gave an interesting and thought provoking talk on mental health, the impact of stigma associated with mental ill-health and the importance of challenging it. We finished off with a three minute mindfulness breathing space before tea and pancakes! Stigma Free Lanarkshire is funded by NHS Lanarkshire and the national anti-stigma programme, See Me.

On Monday 11th March it is the Guild's AGM and we are looking forward to hearing about St. Andrews Hospice and what staff do on a day to day basis in caring for their patients.

Monday 8th April is the ever popular Taylor Fashions! Tickets will be on sale soon or you can just pay at the door. As always, we are sure it will be a good night and I'm sure Brian will be giving us lots of laughs. There will also be homemade cakes with tea and coffee.

You do not have to be a member of the Church to come to any of our meetings and they all start at 7.30pm. You will be made very welcome.

Our annual summer outing will be in September ... but we still have to decide where we are going!

Wilma Johnston

Night Church



1st Sunday of the Month (Oct - Apr)
7:30 - 9:00pm
drop in for as long as you want
St Ninian's Stonehouse

Night Church is a candlelit oasis of calm
in a busy and noisy world.

Sometimes there are interactive stations or pieces of art
to help you to reflect and think
or you can just sit quietly in the beautiful surroundings

stay for a few minutes or for the whole time

towards the end, at 8:45pm,
there will be a short service to close
which you can join in with or not
it's up to you

church for people who don't do church... and for those who do.



Burns

26th Jan

What a fantastic night! Thank you to EVERYONE who gave of their time and talents making this a wonderful celebration of Robert Burns and to people who came along to join in the fun helping us raise £437.



s Night
uary 2019

Hope Cafe ~ Challenging Mental Health Stigma

The Hope Café made a commitment to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination by signing the Stigma Free Lanarkshire (SFL) pledge at their Christmas party and celebration on Thursday 13th December.

By its very nature and presence within the community, the Hope Café could be said to be already tackling mental health stigma. All volunteers either have lived experience of mental health issues themselves or have supported others through recovery. A non-religious charity, the cafe is hosted by St Ninian's Church in Stonehouse.

This year, Hope Café Lanarkshire has been working with SFL to develop a pledge to action which has included access to training and resources: suicide prevention, mental health awareness training, opportunities to discuss the emotional impact of stigma. Part of the committee's plan is to make training available for the wider community in 2019.





Bob Millar, Chair, Hope Café Lanarkshire said:

"The stigma surrounding mental health can have a huge impact on people and can be a significant barrier to people asking for help. It really can and does negatively affect people's quality of life. Here at The Hope Café Lanarkshire our hope is that by our presence here in the community, and our willingness to be open about mental health and mental health issues, we can begin to challenge stigma within this community."

Jenny Hutton, Public Mental Health & Wellbeing Development Manager, NHS Lanarkshire & Chair, Lanarkshire Recovery Network:

"We are delighted to be involved with Hope Café Lanarkshire and in working together to tackle mental health stigma in Lanarkshire. The commitment from the café, through their pledge, is truly inspiring. Volunteers and customers at the café have gone out of their way to support the programme and we look forward to working together in 2019."

This voice of support can change minds, behaviours, and ultimately, lives."



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www.st-ninians-stonehouse.org.uk

Charity Number SCO44497

Stonehouse Folk Club

Jan 11	John Malcolm	Mar 22	Acoustic Session
Jan 25	Acoustic Session	Apr 12	North Sea Gas
Feb 8	John Graham and Jim Jack	Apr 26	Acoustic Session
Feb 22	Acoustic Session	May 17	Clova (TBC)
Mar 8	Haggerdash	May 24	Acoustic Session
		Jun 14	Craigmill Session

Venue: St.Ninian's Church Hall, Vicars Road

Time: Doors Open at 8.00pm for 8.30pm

Bring your own Beer, Wine or Soft Drinks

Information

£5 entry / Under 16 FREE

Raffle Prizes Welcome



The Violet

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STONEHOUSE JUBILEE CLUB

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

Every Thursday, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
Stonehouse Lifestyle Centre, Udston Mill Road, Stonehouse

For more information contact Chris on: 01698 884537

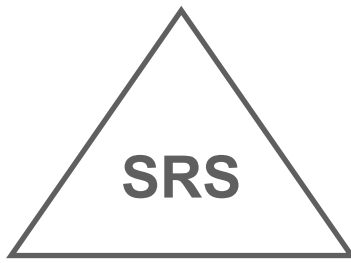


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A promotional graphic for 'Triple Body Repair Specialist'. It features a faded background image of a silver car. Overlaid on the car is the text 'TRIPLE' in large green letters, with 'BODY REPAIR SPECIALIST' below it. Above 'TRIPLE' are three orange rectangular blocks. Below the car, there is a Facebook logo with the text 'Find me on' to its left, a green circular seal with a checkmark and the words 'QUALITY WORKMAN' and 'APPROVED', and the name 'MARK MONIE' in large bold letters.

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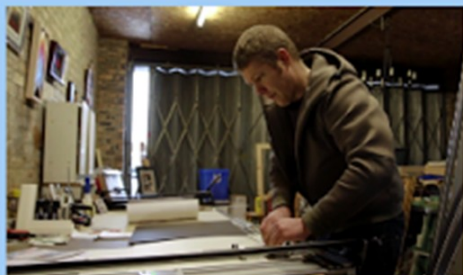
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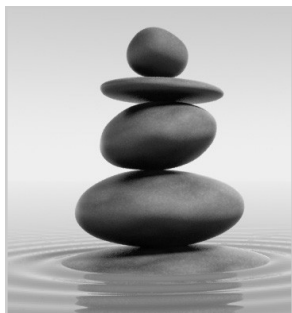
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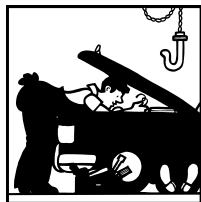
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Holy Week

Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th,	7:00 - 7:20pm
Wednesday 17th of April	service of words and silence
Thursday 18th April	7:00pm
Maundy Thursday	St Ninian's Church
Friday 19th April	7:00pm
Good Friday	Paterson UF Church
Sunday 21st April	11:00am
Easter Day	St Ninian's Church