

Link Magazine Summer 2015



St Ninian's Stonehouse (LEP)

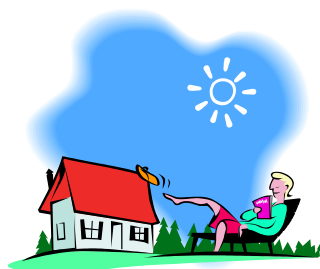
(The LEP stands for local ecumenical partnership)



Join us on facebook

stniniansstonehouse

Visit our web site www.st-ninians-stonehouse.org.uk



RICKWOOD HOTEL

PORTPATRICK

Enjoy a relaxing break in this comfortable family run Guest house, overlooking the picturesque village of Portpatrick, with stunning views overlooking the Irish Sea. Large mature gardens, Golf Course adjacent. Bowling Green nearby. Home Cooked local produce.

Special Off-Season rates apply. Mention 'Link' when calling.

Heugh Road, Portpatrick, Stranraer, DG9 8TD. Tel: 01776810270



CBT COUNSELLOR

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Audrey Murray Pg Dip Tel: 07903047610

<https://sites.google.com/a/rosemount-therapy.com/www/home>



CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES

Ballet and Modern Dance
Saturdays from 9.20 a.m.

AGE 2½ +

The Scout and Guide Hall, Lawrie Street, Stonehouse.

Tel: 0772 9112811

Email: info@hjcddance.co.uk

Website: www.hjcddance.co.uk



kirkdec.co.uk

Painting and Decorating

Office 01698 791678

Peter Kirkland

07709 354 039

Just to say....

This is a packed summer magazine full of lovely photos and articles reflecting just how busy our church is. To help monitor printing costs of the magazine, we are experimenting with the use of colour. Some pages are in black and white only and others in full colour. Whatever way the printed page is presented, we hope you find it a beautiful, uplifting magazine to read.

Dates for your diary:

Communion services take place on the second Sunday in May and the first Sunday in November every year; please mark this in your diary as there are no communion cards given out now. We also have communion served every two months on different dates.

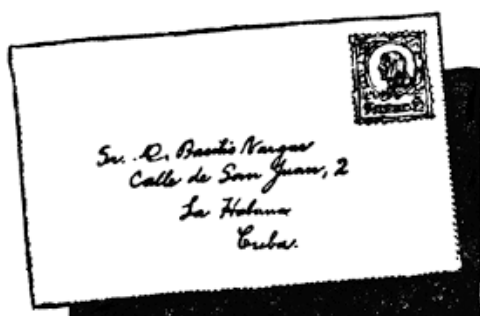


Welcome news from the Link Committee:

There came a time in the history of the Link magazine when we removed the recording of baptisms, and deaths and some marriages. There were a number of justified reasons at the time for doing this. However, we know that this is one page that many readers have missed. Time has moved on and we are now in a position to be able to re instate this page, commencing in the autumn issue. Records will be kept from June 2015, and notices of baptisms and deaths of *members of the congregation* will be acknowledged.

We would like to congratulate Ann Frew and Morag Cook on their recent invitation to the palace in London, to accept awards for their devoted service through the work they do for the WRVS. It's a great honour for the two ladies. Well done!

Margaret Murray or I will be in the vestibule to accept any donations on Sunday 21st June '15. Thank you for keeping us up to date with changes in your districts.



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

Morning Prayer at St Ninian's

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



Paul's message



Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... Hebrews (11.1)

What do you trust, trust in a way that it keeps the future an open horizon to walk toward. This is what I trust, firstly, that who we are is frail and strong, wonderful and woeful, broken and beautiful, kind and angered, growing and dying. In other words to be human is a paradox: a living contradiction. We are our own best friend and worst enemy. But it's just as this mixture we are loved. Loved in a way the way Greg Boyle writes: *God is just too busy loving us to have any time left for disappointment.*

I have learned to trust that the living contradiction of every human life is infinitely precious to God. That's your life and mine. So you get things wrong. Get angry. Struggle to give up a grudge. Are sometimes afraid. It's this you God loves. And sometimes you let yourself off the leash and forget about yourself enough to laugh, listen, feel for another's hurts more than your own. It's this you God loves. Sometimes you hear a piece of music and it makes you want to cry, or hear a blackbird sing the morning in and you feel glad to be alive, or stop for a few moments to watch the sun kiss the day goodbye, overhear children playing make belief and it makes you wonder and smile. It's this You God loves.

I am confident in this hope, and certain about it. Jesus comes to us as we are, to show us God delighted in us all along, and to repent and believe the good news is nothing more than allowing myself to believe that – to believe it in a way that widens my heart until I can say with the poet Mary Oliver: my work is loving the world.

Our lives are riddled with questions and contradictions that when lived in the company of Jesus, who draws us into the company of one another, we make our life the answer, a meaningful answer of love – and not even death can touch that

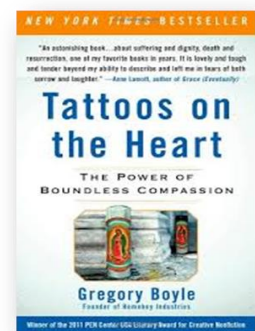
May you discover the truth for yourself in all your lovely mess that when the bible says: God is love and those who dwell in love are dwelling in God and God is dwelling in them – it means what it says.

Awrabest Paul

Book group

For all who have signed up (there's still time) for our book group the first meeting shall be on Thursday the 24th of June at 7:00 at the manse. Our first book is Greg Boyle's *Tattoos on the heart*, the power of boundless compassion. As the writer Anne Lamott write,

“ it is an astonishing book...about suffering and dignity, death and resurrection...its lovely and tough and tender”. Look forward to seeing you there 😊



A church without walls



At the last Kirk session meeting the weather was so nice we decided to take the desks outside. On the grounds of the church we gathered to pray and sing and read scripture in the open air, in touch with the beauty of God's creation. What would it mean for St Ninian's to take the gospel, the good news of God's love out into the village? That is something we are wrestling with together as we meet on Saturday the 30th of May.

We hope to re-engage with sharing the gifts that are there in St Ninian's. Everyone who belongs has something to bring that will help us be more compassionate, caring, loving and playful. What gifts has God given you to help us be a church for the 21st Century. Perhaps a place to begin would be to ask:

- What do I like to do?
- What am I good at?
- What am I already doing?

Perhaps ask yourself this question – what gives you life – and the answer to that question could hold hands with a need in the church so that what you enjoy becomes God's will for you in what you do at St Ninian's.

From Margaret Macgregor

Hi Folks, how time flies, we are supposed to be in Summer time but it certainly doesn't feel like it at the moment, how strange is our weather. It was like winter when I wrote the spring letter and it still appears to be winter as I write the summer letter.

We are moving forward with our Pastoral Care visits and I hope those of you who are house bound are receiving a visit from your appointed elder, if you do not have a visitor and would like one please let me know on 792552 and I will organise it. We are trying to visit the folks who are in need of company; but are very much aware that information needs to be passed to us if this system is going to work, so please let myself or Ann Anderson know of anyone ill, house bound or in need of a listening ear.

The Pastoral Care teams and anyone interested in joining them have been visiting Avonhaugh Nursing Home, Canderavon Home, Mclean Gardens and Lintaugh Gardens, along with Paul to conduct a short communion service. These have been well accepted and will continue on a rota each month.

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

Most of you will be aware that the lead was stolen from the Church roof and we also had storm damage to the tower, therefore our gift day money will require going towards paying for this damage, Gavin will no doubt give you an up to date report on our finances in his letter.

Paul continues to carry out his many duties in a kind and caring way and our thanks go to him for his work in the church and the community,

I hope if you are going on holiday you have a lovely time and for those who are staying at home, may the weather be kind to you, God bless, Margaret Macgregor

May God go with you on your way
To keep you safe and well,
And may you find new strength and hope,
And every doubt dispel.

May God be always close to you
Whatever you may find
And give you courage, faith and joy
And healing peace of mind.

May every path that you must take
Be smoother than before,
and lead you on to sunlit times
til you come home once more.

Iris Hesselden

If something's not perfect, then throw it away!
That's always the message I'm hearing today.
Don't spend any effort on putting it right –
Just go get a new one that's shiny and bright.
But, oh, I say no to such notion bizarre,
I like all my things just the way that they are:
The shabby old armchair, the battered old books,
so what if they're scruffy? Who cares for their looks?
And even the friends whom I love to call by –
They're not new and perfect, and neither am I.
So scoff if you will, for there's one thing I'll say:
I've things in my life I just won't throw away.

Margaret Ingall

Caring in our community



As part of our new commitment to let Pastoral care be about care we have been making room to visit each of the centres in our village where people are cared for residentially, or have additional help with their living. This means once a month we are at either Canderavon, Mclean Gardens Avonhaugh, or Linthaugh Gardens.

We spend time singing, praying, listening to scripture and having a cup of tea sharing our company with the residents. Would you like to come along with us? If so just let either Anne Anderson or Margaret Macgregor know, and you will be made very welcome.



Hope Café will be in St Ninians Church Hall on the following Thursdays:

28th May, 25th June, 30th July & 27th August

10am – 2pm £3.00 entrance fee

Tea/Coffee Home-baking, Home Made Soup, Bacon & Sausage rolls will all be available

Supported by Caring for Carers

We also have free 30 minutes complementary therapy sessions for un-paid carers available on the day including Reiki, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage.

Come along and take part in our customer walking & shared reading groups or enjoy the relaxation sessions on offer.

A smiling face and a non-judgemental listening ear are always available. We look forward to seeing you. At Hope Café we focus on what's strong, not what's wrong. St Ninian's Church will also be open creating a quiet space for anyone wishing to use it.

On Saturday the 9th May at 4am, a group of supporters from the Hope Café Lanarkshire & The SuperMandy Fund joined with many groups and individuals in Glasgow to walk the 5km `Darkness into Light` walk together in memory of individuals touched by suicide and to continue to promote positive mental health & well-being.

Thank you to everyone at St Ninians and the community of Stonehouse who continue to generously support these two charities.

From Darkness Into Light

From Darkness Into Light, we walked A group of Hurting people From Darkness Into Light we walked A group of Hopeful people

From Darkness Into Light we shared The pains of being Human From Darkness Into Light we shared The journey of being Human

From Darkness Into Light we remembered The loss of Precious People From Darkness Into Light we acknowledged Our lives as precious people

From Darkness Into Light I walked Re-Living Painful Times From Darkness Into Light I walked Grateful for peace of mind

From Darkness Into Light I walked Aware of all my Blessings From Darkness Into Light we walked The journeys just beginning

Keep journeying

Lisa

www.hopecafelanarkshire.org.uk

www.justgiving.com/supermandy



A fond farewell to Flora

At the May Communion we said goodbye to Flora. During the service we reminded ourselves of why she is such a lovely lady and we thanked God for her and for the way she had shown God's love to us all. We sang to Flora the Aaronic blessing, The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee, for her journey down to Manchester where Flora will stay with her daughter Elizabeth. It was lovely too that both Elizabeth and Janet were able to come and help us celebrate Flora's life at St Ninian's and be at the wee lunch we held in her honour.

THOUGHTS ON.....CHANGE

Nothing stands stilleverything is constantly changing. Some things we can control others we can't. The seasons change, we change as we get older, and our appearance changes with the development of more 'laughter lines'.

We can change the décor in our homes. We can change our holiday destination.

Our church has changed with the union of our congregations. The format of our service has changed over the years with different ministers.

As we look back over the years our services have become more relaxed and less formal. Some people are happy with the changes – others are less so.

I read something recently which made me think. The verse was from Mark Ch2, Verse 22. No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does the wine will burst the skins and the wineskins will be ruined.

Howard A. Snyder writes – “Every age knows the temptations to forget that the Gospel is ever new. We try to contain the new wine of the gospel in old wineskins – outmoded traditions, obsolete philosophies, creaking traditions, old habits, but with time the old wineskins begin to bind the gospel, then they must burst and the power of the gospel pour forth once more.

Human nature wants to conserve, but the Divine nature is to renew. It seems almost a law that things initially created to aid the Gospel eventually become obstacles.

Then God has to destroy or abandon them so that the Gospel wine can renew man's world once again.

The Gospel is new in our day. It is still 'the Power of God'. It is still bursting old wineskins and flowing forth into the world.”

This certainly gave me food for thought and I have no doubt there will be many who agree/disagree with Mr Snyder and who knows ... I might even start to enjoy Paul's Visual Liturgies. (Smile)

Ann Woods Prayer Secretary

I would like to thank everyone
for the fellowship and care given
to me when Gerald died.
Eleanor (Brown)



Treasurer's Report

It seems surprising just how quickly time passes and with daunting regularity those Bills keep coming in! The expected and planned for and, annoyingly, the ones we don't expect but hope to be able to pay just the same.

So far this year the Finance Team is pleased to report that giving has been steady with more of you paying by Standing Order and through Gift Aid. We have been able to pay the bills and instigate some more work at the Manse. As always our largest expense is heating which we must try to save on as much as we can.

The Gift Day has so far generated more than £2000 which will go toward the repair required as a result of theft of lead from the roof. The product we have used has no resale value so we must pray that this will deter vandals and thieves in future.

There are always little jobs to be carried out around the Church, Halls and grounds and any help you can give with this will be very much appreciated as this does save us a considerable amount of money in tradesmen's charges. If you can help in any way please speak to Bob Millar (Property Convenor) or to me.

Gavin Ferguson (Treasurer)

The Guild

We had a lovely Daffodil Tea in April and had a great response from our Silent Auction which raised over £500.00 for Church funds. Everyone enjoyed the night, had lots of laughs and the home baking was delicious. We are all looking forward to going to Dunfermline for our annual day out in September.

Our new session starts back in September. Have a good summer and see you all soon.
Wilma Johnston

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

Sunday School During the past year we have been using the Church of Scotland material – Spill the Beanz – this gives us guidelines for the story, craft and games and follows the Lectionary readings.

We have made two visits to Canderavon House during the past year, taking flowers which the children arrange themselves. The residents enjoy seeing the children, they love the flowers and enjoy hearing the children sing and often join in the singing.

We also have had two fund raising collections for Bags2school. This has raised totals of £424 in October and £293.60 in April making a total of £717.60. The team would like to thank everyone who donated goods, George and the Boys Brigade for moving the bags out to the corridor and our willing helpers who came and helped load the van.

The collection at the Christmas service has been divided between the Kitiga Centre and the Place of Restoration, both organisations work with children.

Our last session before the summer break will take the form of a party on 7th June and a family service on the 14th June. We re-commence on 16th August.

We would encourage you to continue bringing the children along during the summer holidays – there are helpers available to look after the children during the service.

The team wish everyone a Happy Summer Break and hope the sun shines for you.

The Sunday School Team

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The village held the World Day of Prayer Service this year, here in St. Ninians on Friday 6th March. Although the turnout was quite poor in numbers, the service, which was written by the women of the Bahamas, was exceptionally well received. Everyone was able to take something from the service. The service spoke of the troubles and turmoils, which the women of the Bahamas have endured similar to the struggles that we have here in Stonehouse. We were very fortunate to have our own Lisa Cameron give the address at the service on her work at the Hope Cafe both in Stonehouse and in Lanark which deals with mental health issues. In the afternoon we took the service to Linthaugh Gardens in Stonehouse where it was very well received by the residents. It was very rewarding taking part in the service with our friends from the Paterson Church, especially when the service was written by women from the other side of the world, reflecting on how we are all the same in God's eyes, no matter what our struggles are. Jesus is there for us, in faith and understanding, and if we share our faith with one another it is truly rewarding.

Yours in fellowship, Norma Johnstone

United Reformed Church - Meeting of Synod of Scotland 2015

In March we attended the URC Synod of Scotland residential meeting which was held at Tulliallan Police College from Friday evening till Sunday lunchtime. It was hoped every church would be represented by two members and their minister if they had one. Also in attendance were the Moderator, Synod Officers and guests from other denominations. We were there for the whole weekend, but not everyone is able to do so and some attended for particular sessions only.

It is of course a business meeting with reports and resolutions to be voted on, from the various committees of Synod – Finance and Property, Pastoral, Policy Planning and Strategy, The Women's Union, the College, etc. and papers are normally circulated beforehand so that they can be discussed by church or elders' meetings. There are opportunities in workshops and group discussions to air views, question ideas, discuss ways forward for the churches and talk about the concerns and worries of church members. This year each church was asked to bring a flipchart sized display of the ways they are trying to connect and involve themselves in the local community and it was interesting to read what other churches are up to. One of the most interesting presentations this year was an address by Val Brown, Church and Community Manager of Christian Aid Scotland. We learned, for example, that Christian Aid was founded to help bring aid to a Germany ravaged by the Second World War. One other thing we had not realised was that they are lobbying big businesses to be more responsible in paying taxes and dealing with local communities in poorer countries where they operate.

A lot of the time was spent discussing how the churches in each grouping, or link, could better cope with the fact that they cannot afford to have a Minister of Word and Sacrament in each church. We of course are not involved in this sharing out of ministers as we are an LEP and would not be involved, but our opinion is always looked for.

The weekend is a great chance to meet old friends and make new ones. The food and accommodation are good and once you have collected your cafeteria style meal you take your place at one of the many tables available and with no seating plan you mostly sit with different folks so there are many opportunities to tell others how your church is fairing and we were asked frequently how our LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership) was evolving. It was good to be able to respond very positively.

In tandem with the Synod meeting, there is also a Youth Forum who have their own programme but joined with us on a number of occasions over the weekend. It was enlightening to hear their views! Their enthusiasm is heart-warming. Their Forum is organised by Stewart Cutler our Children and Youth Development Officer, who we believe is known to many of you.

On Friday evening after business at 9.45 there was a Reception, of each other and especially the Ecumenical guests, when nibbles and glasses of wine were served. On Saturday again at the end of work we had a Social evening with a quiz this year (our team came third!) and you could B.Y.O.B. and snacks.

There is also a one day meeting in September which moves round the four Link groups in Synod. It's at Aberdeen this year. It would be a change for other people to perhaps attend some of these meetings as a small number of us have been involved for a few years. It is not always the URC member from united churches that attend so it is open to everyone in our congregation to be a representative and if you would like more information, please speak to us.

Anne and Jim Cowan

The Coffee Morning will finish on Tuesday 26th May

and resume on Tuesday 8th September'15.

During the summer months the ladies of the Paterson Church take over coffee morning duties each week.

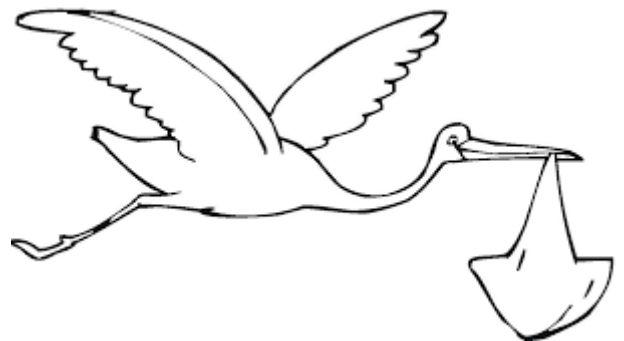
We have had a very busy and successful four months. We seem to be gathering more friends each week and that's good.

We feel very fortunate in the coffee group that our small team of ten helpers get on so well together. Each Tuesday morning, we all appear early in the church hall to set out the tables and chairs and prepare for all the activity later in the day. We are so lucky that we all know each other so well that it makes for a very happy time each week.

We wish all our friends a very good and restful summer and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Peggy Anderson.

Roger and Ann Masterman would like to thank everyone for the flowers and cards presented to them as they celebrated the birth of their new born grandson Gregor Iain Couper.



I would like to thank the Rev Paul Grant, the Flower Committee and the Congregation for the nice cards and flowers I received during my recent illness. It was very much appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,

George Gray

My Favourite Hymn

By Linda Wilson

To God Be The Glory Hymn

**To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.**

Refrain

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

Refrain

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain

It was so difficult to think of my favourite hymn as I have so many. It really depends on the mood I am in, but one thing is for sure that my favourite ones must be ones that keep you going! Quite often hymns stay in my head and I sing in the house as I do my housework and George will say what's that you're singing? - Oh just the hymn we sang in church on Sunday!



From Ally and Amy Kirkwood

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful donation of £400 from the Christmas Eve services to the Kitega Community Centre.

I was overwhelmed to receive the fabulous cheque on their behalf- It will make such a big difference to them.

The Kitega Centre is a Christian organisation that was initiated by Rev. Canon Silas Musoke. It is interdenominational and serves all people without prejudice.

They aim to make the world a better place by creating a healthy environment where everyone is happy. For a long time, the centre has focused on children with learning difficulties who have been rejected by their parents. The parents believed that the children's disabilities were linked to curses and evil spirits, and thus many parents overlooked the children's needs, well-being, and basic human rights.

Kitega Community Centre intervened to show that with the proper educational and social-emotional support, children with disabilities can learn the skills to be self-sustaining and to make positive contributions to their families and communities. Not only do they support disabled children but also do a tremendous amount of work within the community supporting orphans, visiting in prisons, establishing computer courses and tailoring courses for the villagers and have been responsible for establishing more than eighty VICOBA groups within the area (micro finance groups which help the villagers to set up or expand their businesses - helping them to help themselves).

We had an amazing time with the people of Kitega, a truly humbling but very rewarding experience and look forward to going back again in the future but meantime we will continue our fundraising on their behalf

Many thanks again for your very generous donation. David Clemy is coming over from the centre later on this year and we will bring him to St Ninians to meet you all

More information can be found on the Kitega webpage www.kitegacc.org or facebook page www.facebook.com/kitegacc.

And you can keep up with our details on facebook www.facebook.com/amyandallykitega

from Ally and Amy Kirkwood



Papa Pastor and his Son- please read this is so powerful

(Submitted by Ally Kirkwood)

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at the church, the Pastor and his eleven year old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts. This particular Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside, as well as pouring rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said, 'OK, dad, I'm ready.' His Pastor dad asked, 'Ready for what?'

'Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out.' Dad responds, 'Son, it's very cold outside and it's pouring rain.'

The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking, 'But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?'

Dad answers, 'Son, I am not going out in this weather.'

Despondently, the boy asks, 'Dad, can I go? Please?' His father hesitated for a moment then said, 'Son, you can go. Here are the tracts, be careful son.' 'Thanks Dad!'

And with that, he was off and out into the rain. This eleven year old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel Tract.

After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking, bone-chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted.

Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited but still no answer. Finally, this eleven year old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him.

Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch! He rang again and this time the door slowly opened.

Standing in the doorway was a very sad-looking elderly lady. She softly asked, 'What can I do for you, son?' With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, 'Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that * JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU * and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE.'

With that, he handed her his last tract and turned to leave. She called to him as he departed. 'Thank you, son! And God Bless You!'

Well, the following Sunday morning in church Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, 'Does anybody have testimony or want to say anything?' Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet.

As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face, 'No one in this church knows me. I've never been here before. You see, before last Sunday I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart that I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live.

So I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof, then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and broken-hearted I was about to leap off, when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, 'I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away.'

I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent, and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly...

I thought to myself again, 'Who on earth could this be? Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me.' I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder.

When I opened the door and looked I could hardly believe my eyes, for there on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, oh, I could never describe it to you!

The words that came from his mouth caused my heart that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, 'Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU ' Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand.

As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract. Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them anymore.

You see-- -I am now a Happy Child of the KING. Since the address of your church was on the back of this Gospel Tract, I have come here to personally say THANK YOU to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and by so doing, spared my soul from an eternity in hell.'

There was not a dry eye in the church. And as shouts of praise and honour to THE KING resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated....

He took his son in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.

Probably no church has had a more glorious moment, and probably this universe has never seen a Papa that was more filled with love & honour for his son... Except for One.

Matthew 10:32 says:

'Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven'

Mr & Mrs Horn would like to thank everyone at St Ninians for the beautiful flowers given to them as an expression of sympathy.



Eileen Stewart would like to thank everyone at St Ninians for all their prayers and support over recent months.

As the Link magazine goes to print, we hear of Eileen's passing. It is during times of great loss, we realise how limiting words can be and how special our friends truly are. We hope Eileen's family accept our decision to keep her name on the Flower Arrangers and Distributors list and also her own message above, that she sent earlier in the month to be submitted in the magazine. Eileen was a truly wonderful person who meant so much to so many. We will miss her so much.

FLOWER ROTA

Flower Arrangers and Distributors

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| June | Joyce & Bob Millar 792736 | Eileen Stewart | 793985 |
| July | Ann Mair 793633 | Margaret Meikle | 7912217 |
| August | Ann & Douglas Thompson | 792002 | |

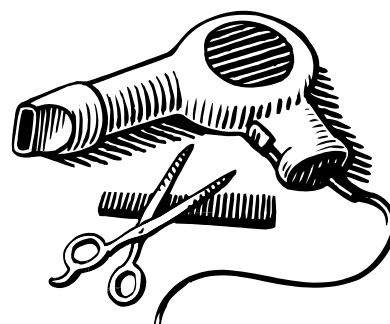
| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| June | | |
| 7 th | Anne Macleod, June Russell, Betty Campbell, Sheena Frame | In Memoriam |
| 14 th | Elizabeth Bridges, Sheena Frame Helen Leggate, May Twaddle (family) | All In Memoriam |
| 21 st | Betty Biggar, Laura Wilson Shona McMillan, | Both in Memoriam Birthday |
| 28 th | Agnes Barr, Greta Struthers | In Memoriam |
| 5 th July | Ruth Templeton | In Memoriam |
| 12 th | May Boslem, Margaret Mair, Mary Lochhead | In Memoriam for Lucy Both in Memoriam |
| 19 th | Mary Hamilton, Norma Johnston | In Memoriam |
| 26 th | The Tully Family, M Macgregor, Etta McGill | In Memoriam |
| August 2 nd | Barbara Brown | In Memoriam |
| 9 th | Christine Blackwood | In Memoriam |
| 16 th | Sheila Hamilton | Birthday/Anniversary |
| 23 rd August | Mrs Richmond | In Memoriam |
| 30 th August | Margaret Cranston, | Gifted |
| 30 th August | Kay Baxter | In Memoriam |
| September 6 th | Summers Family | In Memoriam |

SPLIT ENZ

By Margaret Monaghan

6, King Street Stonehouse
Hair, Beauty and Tanning

Tel: 01698 791 644



for all your framing requirements.
Dial A Frame - we come to you!
Contact Peter on 07753 689637.

Mention LINK and receive a £5 discount.

info@thepictureframerml.co.uk

www.thepictureframerml.co.uk

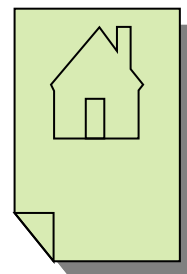
Iona Construction Limited NHBC

Tel: 01698 792456 07836 569140

E-mail: ionaconstruction@aol.com

Couplaw Farm, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire ML9 3PD

- New Build Specialist from planning to completion
- NHBC Registered House Builder
- Civil Engineering Work and Groundworks Contractor – covering Lanarkshire and Central Scotland.



Stonehouse Saddlery

Everything for Horse & Rider

Tel: 01698 791670/ 36-38 New Street, Stonehouse ML9 3LT

Proprietor: Ruth Copeland. Opening Hours: Mon- Fri : 10am -5pm

Sat Hours: 9.30am – 2.30pm Closed Wednesday



HENRY DORRICOTT FUNERAL SERVICE

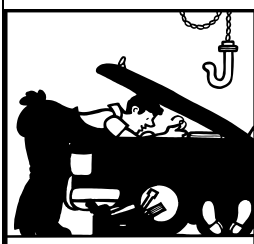
10-12 LONDON STREET LARKHALL ML9 1AG

TEL: 01698 882170 FAX: 01698 882120



FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL CONSULTANTS

Dignity Funerals LTD. A company registered in England No. 41598. VAT Reg No. 4866081
14. Part of Dignity plc. A British Company. 4 King Edwards Court, King Edwards Square,
Sutton Coldfield B73 6AP. Tel: 0121 354 1557 Fax: 0121 355 8081.
www.dignityfunerals.co.uk Member of the National Association of Funeral Directors.



Strutherhill Autos

Middleton Avenue, Strutherhill
Ind. Est. Larkhall ML9 2PJ

Tel: **01698 88 66 00**

Web: strutherhillautos.co.uk

Vehicle
Testing
Station
Class 4 & 7



- ❑ MOT
- ❑ SERVICES
- ❑ BRAKES
- ❑ TYRES
- ❑ EXHAUSTS
- ❑ CLUTCHES

Angie's gift Shop and Post office

42, King Street, Stonehouse ML9 3EF

Tel: 07512 317 595 (Gift Shop) Tel: 01698 793 298 (Post Office)

Toys, cards, gift wrap, car and garden accessories, electrical, paints, cleaning,
stationary, personal and cosmetics, gifts, jewellery, purses and much much more!!

If I haven't got it!!!!

I will get it!!!!



STONEHOUSE NEWSAGENTS

Newspapers and Magazines, Toys,
Cards, Fancy Goods, Hardware

18, Violet Crescent

Stonehouse

Tel: 01698 791 018

For Happier Feet

Mobile Podiatrist/Chiropodist

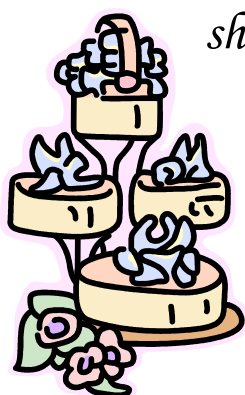
Pauline Cree

BSc, SRCh, MChs

For Appointment Telephone:

01698 792 842

3, Blinkbonny Stonehouse ML9 3QR



*sheryl barr for wedding, christening, birthday and
celebration cup cakes. Cakes for all occasions*

Contact me on: 07938044254 or 01698 791 192

barr72@btinternet.com

The cake barr

DAVID BAXTER & SONS LTD

15 Argyle St Stonehouse

Plumbing and Heating Engineer

Gas Safe Installers

Prompt Service Given

TEL: 01698 793 444

High Class

Groceries & Provisions

20, Violet Crescent, Stonehouse

FIONA WILLIAMSON

Personal Supervision

Tel: 01698 793010

REFLEXOLOGIST

Pauline Brownlee

G.S.S.R.

TEL: 01698 791 255

PIANO LESSONS

All Ages Welcome

1st Lesson Free!

Call Alyson: 07743430749

SMILE DENTAL

5 - 7 Kirk Street Stonehouse ML9 3LR

Tel: 01698 793 636 / Fax: 01698 794 958

www.smiledental.uk.com

Cosmetic Dentistry • Implantology

You may advertise here

Contact: Margaret by phone

Tel: 01698 793 489

Or by e-mail

margaretmcmeeke@hotmail.co.uk



Strathaven Taxis
(Tony's)
01357 522 522
0800 633 55 33

Six and Eight Seaters Available
Airport Specialist
Advance Bookings; City Centre Nights Out
Friendly Reliable Service

FOR BEST QUALITY BEEF

K. & F. BUTCHERS

24 KING STREET,

STONEHOUSE

TELEPHONE: 01698 793 637

WHITELAW
COACHES



Tel: 01698 793506 or 792800

Coach Hire for all Occasions

Lochpark Industrial Estate Stonehouse ML9 3LR

Fax: 01698 793309 E-mail: enquiries@whitelaws.co.uk

Web: www.whitelaws.co.uk

Ceramic & Natural Stone

SOUTHSIDE TILING



Free Quotations

07794 894 078

Sandy Reid

Experience the Difference

GALLOWAY & MACLEOD

grain millers and agricultural merchants

King St, Stonehouse South Lanarkshire ML9 3EH. Tel:
01698 791919, Sales fax: 01698793079.

E-Mail:- info@galloway-macleod.co.uk Web:-
www.galloway-macleod.co.uk

KENNETH GREENER

SOLICITORS

1, New Street, The Cross, Stonehouse ML9 3LT



Tel: 01698 793 366

For all your legal requirements

ROBERT & IAN DEMPSTER

All Joinery and Building work carried out to a high standard

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

We're happy to help out, if you need work carried out or would like us to give you a quote.

Robert 0788 1943 223

Ian 0777 2738 162



Professional Singer

Contemporary, traditional, sacred and classical

Jane McLaren, BA Applied Music

Wedding ceremonies, events, tutoring and studio

6, Camnethan Street, Stonehouse ML9 3NQ

Tel: 01698793900 / 07826852561 E. Mail: j.m.mclaren@hotmail.com



Ian Brown

Family Funeral Directors



Monumental Services Mercedes Limousine Wedding Cars for Hire

Pre paid Funeral Plans in Association with Golden Charter.

83-101, Lanark Road, Carstairs Tel: 01555 870287

Tel/Fax: 01555 870987 www.ianbrownfuneraldirector.co.uk

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



Kerry Bethell

Driving Instructor

Kerry.bethell@hotmail.com

Smart Start Motoring Mobile: 0759083597

WESTMAINS BOARDING KENNELS

'HOLIDAYS FOR DOGS'

- Licensed by South Lanarkshire Council
- Day Boarding Available
- All kennels heated in winter
- Dogs walked three times daily
- Privately owned

Tel: Linda 01698 792 849

Westmains Farm, Manse Road Stonehouse ML9 3NX



Mobility Matters

- Mobile Stair climbers for internal and external use.
- Sale and Maintenance of Ride On Scooters.
- Riser/recliner chairs.
- Wheelchairs.
- Free home Demonstration.
- Full Delivery Service.

For more information call Allan or Jim on: 01698 793933 Mobile: 07831 576480

2, Argyle Street, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire ML9 3LL / Fax: 01698 793933



THE WATERPOINT

www.thewaterpoint.com

The In Line Water Cooler Specialists

2, Argyle Street, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire ML9 3LL / Fax: 01698 793933

Office or home coolers * Plumbed to any location * Cheaper and easier than bottled cooler * Freestanding, desktop and NEW domestic model available * Total removal of cryptosporidium, e.coli & typhoid * Absolutely pure, great tasting, chilled and hot water

Call Allan or Jim on: 01698 793933 info@thewaterpoint.com



Is your computer up to 5 years old? Are you thinking of replacing it? We can use some parts to keep the church pc's running. Call Brian Gwyn - Davies

Tel: 01698 791 006

Avonhaugh Nursing Home

24 Hour Professional Nursing Home

Within a relaxed environment. Affordable to all

For further information contact the Matron

Tel: 01698 792 430 97, Lawrie Street, Stonehouse



INNOV8 HOME IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL..

- ✓ Double Glazing, sunrooms and conservatories
- ✓ PVCU Roofline Installations
- ✓ Misted Sealed, Double Glazed units
- ✓ Decking, kitchens, internal doors



All Joinery work undertaken

CONTACT: JIM CROSS TEL: 01698 881 583 /07531674160

E MAIL jamescross22@btinternet.com



Scott Garden Services Established 2009

Helping hand service for OAP/disabled clients

45, Bracken Brae Lesmahagow ML11 OAZ

Tel: 01698793062/Mobile 07835 603661 Email:

S.MCPHEE828@BTINTERNET.COM

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

Every Thursday

Stonehouse Lifestyle Centre

1.30 – 3.30

Udston Mill Road, Stonehouse

For more information:

Please contact Chris on 01698 884537



Photography, Photo Enlargements :: Photo Repairs :: Fine Canvas Prints

Adam Deans Sales Consultant

1 Camnethan Street, Stonehouse : Tel: 07935989926

adamdeans1@hotmail.co.uk

'An up-to-date resource for the people of Stonehouse and visitors to the village'.



StonehouseOnline.org.uk

The Community Web Site of Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire

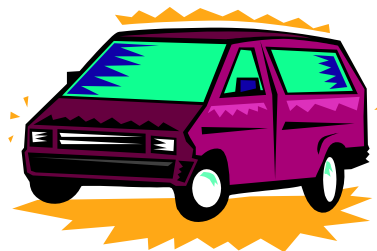
Millar Taxis 07857213804

Eight Seater For Private Hire

City Centre, Nights Out, Airport Transfers

Advance Bookings

Personal Friendly Service



Ian Johnstone Motor Services

07944296554

Recovery, Sales, Storage, Classic Car Specialists

8, Sidehead Holdings, Stonehouse, ML9 3EU



psjohnstone@btinternet.com

Distance No Object