

# LINK MAGAZINE

Summer 2018



St Ninian's Stonehouse

OUR CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE



# LIVING WELL

BEING COMMUNITY  
TOGETHER

*18th August 2018*

*10:00am - 1:30pm*

*St Ninian's Church Hall*

[facebook.com/stninianschurchstonehouse](https://facebook.com/stninianschurchstonehouse)

Community.

I wonder what you think of when you hear that word... community?

Community can be about geography, where we live on whatever scale, your street, your scheme, your village, your area, Scotland, the UK, Europe, the world. Communities can be about people with shared interests like sports clubs, craft groups they can be the jobs we do or the roles we have like nurses or parents of toddlers. Communities can also be about action. Groups of people trying to get something done or change something.

What kind of community is our St Ninian's? A community where we meet with people who happen to live near us? A community where we share common interests? A community that tries to do something to make the world a better place?

It's all of those things but I hope that first and foremost we see St Ninian's as a group of people trying to do something, to make the world a better place because we are loved by God and God wants us to join in with that project we sometimes call 'building the kingdom of heaven'.

Making things better happens in lots of ways. It happens when we live our lives with more kindness and consideration. It happens when we look out for our neighbours and those in need. It happens when our lives filled with love. Thoughts and prayers aren't only what God calls us to. Our prayers and concerns should lead to action. We are called to 'do', to live out the love that God has for each of us.

Community doesn't happen by accident. It takes effort to build it and sustain it. It takes all of us doing our part. It takes lots of love to make a community, and we have plenty to go around.

At St Ninian's we hope to be a church *for* the community. To be that we need to be church *in* the community. Church doesn't work when it's just a place where we hope people will turn up to on a Sunday and then go off and get on with our lives, unchanged.

So, as we enjoy some summer sunshine (hopefully), have a look around at the people you see. Say hello. Ask people how they are. Maybe make some new friends, or renew some old ones because it is in knowing people that we discover how we can help, and how others can help us, how we can support people and how we can be supported, and how we can grow community for others and how we can find ourselves right in the middle of our own community, surrounded by new friends and neighbours.

Blessings  
Stewart

## *Hi Folks!*

Well here we are looking forward to what I hope will be a lovely summer. It's been a long time coming but we have a lot to be thankful for. By the time you read this, Stewart will have been with us for a year and what a busy year it's been!

During the last twelve months he has introduced a few new services, including Night Church which is a time of quiet and reflection. This will start again during the winter months. The Book Club and Bible Study have been very successful as well so please come along to join us. Don't be shy!

Stewart has been introducing us to new things in worship to help us think more deeply and make worship more meaningful. Most have appreciated this but not everyone will like everything all the time. I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage people to discuss with Stewart anything you aren't happy about or feel you'd like to question. Stewart has already said he is very open to feedback and to hear your suggestions so please don't assume that because one service had something you weren't keen on in it that other services will be the same.

We are still visiting the nursing homes and sheltered housing on a regular basis and also are managing to fit in some home communions.

Morning prayers are on a Monday and Thursday at 9.15am in the Prayer room and all are welcome to come along.

Sadly some of our members and folks in the community have passed away and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Tom Riddoch, Janet Steele, Jean Bunch, Catherine Baird, Maria Grant, William McKnight, Sarah Whitehead, and Martha Gibson.

We have also had the privilege of welcoming some new members, Fiona Watson, Lewes Epps, Kathryn Epps, and John Wilson. It is a pleasure to welcome new folks to our congregation.

On a happy note we have also had two baptisms and a wedding.

Data protection has become a big issue and all charities have now to comply with legal requirements, so at some time in the near future every member will receive a letter from the Trustees explaining how we will keep your data safe.

As you all know each week we pray for a street in the village and the following are listed to allow folks who can't attend every week to pray with us.

3rd June	King Street
10th June	Townhead St
17th June	Strathaven Road
24th June	Sidehead Road
1st July	Caledonian Avenue
8th July	Bramble Bank
15th July	Weavers Court
22nd July	St Ninian's Place
29th July	Newfield Road
5th August	The Holdings
12th August	Patrickholme Avenue
19th August	Paterson Place
26th August	The Neuk
2nd September	Lowther Crescent
9th September	St Lawrence Place
16th September	Wilson Place

When we meet people we don't know what might be going on in their lives so try to be kind. Praying is sometimes the only thing you can do for someone and probably the most important thing.

Well, I think I've brought you up to date with what has been happening within St Ninian's. If we can help you in any way, please speak to us ~ all are welcome.

If you don't attend church but would like to, why don't you 'Come and See'.

God Bless  
Margaret

Hello everyone

As we all head towards summer and the hope of some decent weather, which as we all know brings a smile to everyone's face.

The good news is that the 2017 accounts have been independently verified and all submitted to Presbytery, albeit that it was a bit of a deadline rush. That said we now have a truer picture of where we stand financially and the outcome is a bit of both good news and not so good news.

As I believe that finishing on a positive note is important, let me firstly deal with the bad news. As far as the day to running of the church is concerned (classed as unrestricted or undesignated funds) we are currently running a deficit. For 2017 this amounted to £14,573. The year to date picture is not much better, with expenses exceeding our income by nearly £2,000. In Church and to the Board I have stated that we need to address this as a matter of urgency, we simply cannot carry on running at a loss. Fundraising in the short term will therefore be focused on raising additional funds to address this scenario in an attempt to bring our stated reserve fund objective back to a minimum of £6,500 (this is the amount that we should be holding as a minimum balance within our working account).

On a more positive note we have achieved a great deal within our "Project Fund" (restricted or designated funds). We have paid for a roof repair amounting to £10,200 and at the recent Board meeting we agreed to proceed with the repair of the windows at the front of the Church with an anticipated cost of £14,000 plus VAT. I would like to thank everyone concerned for their generous giving as far as these funds are concerned. As we appreciate from the heating project a great deal is expected from the congregation and the wider community in terms of financing these improvements. This will not change with other improvements that need to be made, however, it is really important that we maintain and improve our Church facility. This is necessary not solely for worship purposes but also to facilitate the various organisations that use the Church as well as the various community events that are hosted within the Church.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to all who have assisted me in my first year as Treasurer. It has been a learning curve but one which I have enjoyed with all your assistance.

Enjoy your summer but equally take care, God bless.

Bill

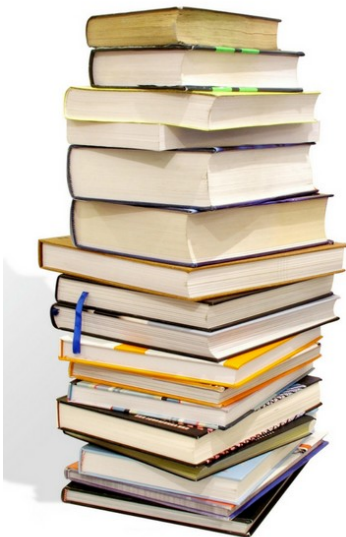
St Ninian's

# BOOK GROUP

3rd Sunday of the Month

7:30pm - 9:00pm

St Ninian's Church Hall



June 20th: The Shack by William Young

July 20th: The Color Purple by Alice Walker

## Leaving Stonehouse

*I would like to say thank you to everyone for their gifts, cards and best wishes as I leave for my new home in Dalkeith. You may still see me about in Stonehouse as I will be keeping in touch with family and friends. I am coming back for the autumn craft fair and I will also be using social media so I won't feel far away. It has been a difficult time with Jim passing so suddenly but with everyone's support I have managed to cope and plod on to reach this goal to live nearer my three grandsons. My faith is my rock and without it I could have crumbled so I have decided to share my faith story as my leaving gift from me to you...*

We fell in love with Tinto View and in 1979 moved from Glasgow to Stonehouse. The heavy traffic trundled past the house but we were told the bypass was coming soon!

There was much sighing and shaking of heads from our parents when our car broke down the day we got the keys. So with no transport we had to get the bus from Buchanan Street where we boarded the number 254 Strathaven bus with our two friends who were eager to see our new house. As the red double decker drew up at our stop in Townhead Street we could hardly find a space to step onto the pavement. Unknown to us it was Gala Day! We used to reminisce that the sound of chatter in the streets, with the bunting and the waving of flags, was nothing to do with the Gala, but simply to welcome us to Stonehouse!

Jim loved his pint and on a Saturday night we would go on a pub crawl, finishing off in the Old Ship for the sing along. This was the beginning of many friendships. My eyes fill with tears as I write. You will know if you were there how jolly it was! Those were good days. I love my memories of the welcome everyone gave us. Very soon everyone knew our names.

In December 1981, Andrea was born and as a young mum I was very anxious when the Falklands war broke out. I wanted the life of my neighbours in Strathaven Road, a safe and secure routine for my new baby. I watched them go to church on Sunday and I wanted that security of traditional life. St Ninian's being the nearest church, it made sense for me to go there. However, how did Rev Vincent always deliver a sermon as though it was written for me? He seemed to know my innermost thoughts? I was drawn and captured by the spiritual experience and church became something I couldn't miss. I received strength each Sunday to cope with the week's challenges as a young mum.

We were truly blessed to bring our children up in Stonehouse. I am so grateful that we lived in days when it was safe to leave your pram outside the shops and if your baby cried there was always a kind person checking and making sure they were ok. It was a natural instinct for folks to stay with a crying baby until you



came out. Shopping was always a sociable part of the day and I am glad the co op queue is still as friendly as it was when it was simply two aisles. Although woe betides you, if you had a big shop and held up the queue! In those days there was no call for assistance. The local banter would keep everyone amused! Thank you to everyone in the community of Stonehouse who made our daily living such a beautiful memory to hold forever.

However, being at church was so different. It was stern in those early days. At church people hardly spoke. That would be considered bad manners. I couldn't get a copy of the Link magazine because I wasn't a member! I didn't think it strange, church was a serious place, and I had never taken any vows. I had no experience of how to become a member and I didn't like to show my ignorance so I never asked. So when it came to Communion Sunday I never came because I didn't have a little card. I felt ashamed that I wasn't a member. I really felt I didn't belong as I just sneaked in on normal Sundays hoping I wouldn't get found out. By the time Dorothy was born, I found coming in the back door was the best way into church. It was far less daunting.

At home, when I was thirty two, a family crisis caused me to cry to God for help, and as I sat in my chair, slowly but amazingly I experienced a warm release of physical calmness flow through my whole body. The house could have blown down around me and I wouldn't have bothered. I felt so calm, nothing worried me any longer. My mind was still. *That must have been the 'peace that passes understanding', as it says in the Bible?* No one at church ever talks about anything like this happening today. It only happened in Biblical times. I was too scared to tell anyone what I had felt.

By now I was actively involved in the preschool world. Nursery education was evolving and with some likeminded friends we sought premises to run a nursery class. This was quite a challenge but I was encouraged by John Young's direction, 'Have you tried the church?' and St Ninian's opened its doors and welcomed the nursery class.

However the truth came out. In order to become a key holder for the halls I had to become a Board member and the Board soon found out that I wasn't even a member of the church! This was quickly rectified and I took my vows and became an office bearer all in one Sunday service. Well that was me a member of the church but I still held my guarded secret of the Peace of Christ. Church was so restricted. I wanted to scream and shout how wonderful this feeling was.

Thankfully not long after, in the nineties, Rev Tom Nelson introduced the Alpha group and for me this was a turning point for St Ninian's to become more relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Finally there was an opportunity to talk to one another about our own personal experiences of God and learn how to use our faith today without fear of being burnt at the stake because you questioned or didn't understand the vocabulary used in the Bible. Now Stewart is using social media as a tool for communicating to others about what goes on in church and hopefully we will learn to talk more openly and confidently about God as we are doing with cancer, mental health and gender equality.

So at this point, the rest of my story is your story as well. The congregation as we are now together have helped shape St Ninian's to the position it is today. We know what we have done, the changes we have made, the love shown and the support given. Once again, I become tearful as I think of you all and our friendships we have. I will miss you; but Jim's and my own life have been good here and I am so glad we went against our parents' advice and told them, *'Stonehouse is not that far away, it's easy to commute; we would just get up early'*. We were young after all!

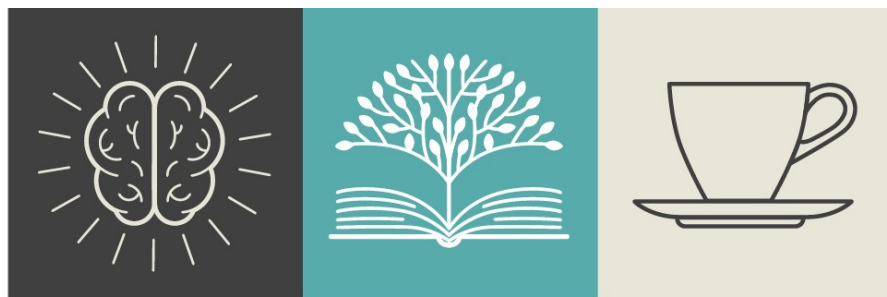
With sincere thanks for all your love,

Margaret McMeekin

# craft night



**7:30 - 9:00pm**  
**2nd & 4th Mondays**  
**St Ninian's Church Hall**



# PHILOSOPHERS CAFÉ

## EVENING DISCUSSION IDEAS AND COFFEE!

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO BRING IS AN OPEN MIND!

**WED 13 JUNE 7PM**

**AULD CROSS CAFE, STONEHOUSE**

# Back to School Sunday

Sunday 12th August 2018 11:00am st ninian's



The Cafe is dependent on the goodwill of our volunteers. Would you like to volunteer with us? Even once in a while would help.

Please contact:  
Bob Millar.

The Hope Cafe is a friendly, welcoming and supportive environment for everyone. Come along and rest for a while, chat, and enjoy some of the homemade soup and baking on the menu. There is also free access to self-help resources, activities, informal peer to peer support, all known to be good for your wellbeing.

Open every second Thursday 10am to 2pm  
at St Ninian's Stonehouse

## Go in Joy!

We are finishing up for the summer now and look forward to our summer outing to St. Andrews in September.

We are going to have an afternoon tea for the senior ladies in the church soon so look out for an invitation coming through your door!



We have had a really good syllabus this year with plenty of interesting evenings with lots of laughter and chat. Brian came in April and gave a good fashion show, the hall was full as usual and then we had home baking with tea/coffee. We hope to have him back when the new session starts again.

Throughout Scotland, The Guild focuses on six projects beginning in 2015 and running throughout 2018. These worthwhile projects include:

Ascension Trust (Scotland) Street Pastors  
Care for the Family  
Christian Aid  
Feed the Minds  
Mission International  
Prospects

We ask that you continue to support these causes through worship, prayer and action.

You can find out more about the work of The Guild by visiting [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the\\_guild/projects](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the_guild/projects).

In the meantime, have a lovely summer and hope to see you in September!

**Wilma Johnston**

# Girls Brigade News

This summer, Girls Brigade Scotland celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and as part of the celebrations, our company has been working very hard to grow within ourselves and the community.

We were delighted to welcome four new officers into the company earlier this year; congratulations to Aime, Katriona, Lindsey and Heather-Louise. A massive congratulations also has to go to Emma Kennedy and Hannah Gillespie, who will be presented with the highest award in Girls Brigade, *The Queen's Award*, this summer. Both girls worked incredibly hard to achieve this.



Our company have been a regular presence in the community this year; our girls had great fun making over 60 pom-poms for Stonehouse Brighter Village to decorate Stonehouse Community Gardens – I think we can all agree it made our village brighter! Special thanks also go to Hannah and Katriona for crèche duties and for helping to serve lunch on the third Sunday of the month - we have now raised over £2000 for church funds.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, we had a wonderful time serving dinner and entertainment to 53 senior friends, and once again we will be serving refreshments from the tea tent at the Gala Day.

We have had a very good session managing the programme work – membership at the end of session is 100 girls. We are delighted that we have been able to work with all these girls and we are always pleased to meet new members.

From all of us, we would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy summer.

Thank you for all your support during this session.

~ The Leaders

# Queen's Badge Awards Congratulations!

The Queen's Badge is the highest award that may be gained by a member of the Boys Brigade. 1<sup>st</sup> Stonehouse BB is delighted to announce that William Poulton and Gary Smith have both completed the requirements set for receiving their Queen's badge.

To gain a Queen's Badge is no mean feat! Gary and William worked hard to complete tasks which included:



*Participating in a skills-based training weekend*

*Volunteering within the BB - Gary with the Junior Section and William with the Anchor Boys Section this session*

*Both participated in fund raising events for the Fire Fighters Charity*

*William took part in fund raising for St Andrew's Hospice*

*Gary helped with the coaching of his school football teams*

*Both boys completed the physical requirement for their badge by*

*playing football with Larkhall Thistle and Strathaven Dynamos*

*William completed the skills requirement by improving his photography skills*

*Gary completed the expedition requirement of the Queen's Badge*

*Both boys completed the weekend residential course on 20th and 21st April and will formally be presented with their Queen's Badges on 5th June 2018 at The New Wellwynd Parish Church in Airdrie*

We would like to congratulate Gary and William on this fantastic achievement following Gary's brother, Ryan, who gained his Queen's Badge last year.



# Church Flowers



## Flower Arrangers and Helpers for Summer

July	Margaret Meikle, Anne Mair
August	Anne & Douglas Thompson
September	Mary Hamilton, Margaret Patrick
October	Fiona Letham, Jean Stewart

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

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

July	1st	Jean Grant, Mary Lochhead	In Memoriam
	8th	Mary Hamilton	In Memoriam
	15th	Norma Johnston, May Boslem, Margaret Mair, Plenderleith Family	In Memoriam
	22nd	MacGregor Family	In Memoriam
	29th	Margaret Patrick, Etta McGill	In Memoriam
Aug	5th	Anne Thompson	Gifted
	12th	Anne Law	In Memoriam
	19th	Christine Blackwood	In Memoriam
	26th	Sheila Hamilton	In Memoriam
Sept	2nd	Liz Ingram	Celebration
	9th	Anderson & Macgregor families	In Memoriam
	23rd	E Dow	Wedding Anniversary
	30th	Elizabeth Hughes & Lorna Mitchell, Sandra Law & Jean Wilson	In Memoriam
Oct	7th	Catherine McPherson, Joan Allan, Jean Stewart	In Memoriam
	21st	Bill & Jillian Storrie, Jan Allan	In Memoriam
	28th	James Anderson	In Memoriam



# Thank you!

**Thank you** to Grace Allan and the girls of the Girls Brigade from all the senior citizens who enjoyed a wonderful lunch followed by entertainment in St Ninian's Church Hall. Grace and the girls are greatly appreciated and they all deserve a big thank you for the hard work and time given to the church.

**Thank you** everyone for the birthday wishes and cards ~ Alec

**Thank you** for the lovely surprise of beautiful flowers on our wedding anniversary ~ Stewart and Avril



Once again a big **Thank You** for dropping off your used stamps. So far we have sent two lots to the World Mission Stamp Appeal in Edinburgh and are in the process of sending a third.

I have received a newsletter which Stewart read out in church - in 2017 the World Mission used stamp appeal raised £2,196 and was used to support the Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan.

This year the World Mission Council's Stamp Appeal will support centres for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in the Ukraine. These centres are supported by our partners the Ukrainian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia and provide valuable support to children and young people with additional physical and educational needs.

If you would like to learn more about the Stamp Appeal visit The Church of Scotland website at [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world\\_mission/get\\_involved/stamp\\_appeal](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/get_involved/stamp_appeal).

Please keep saving your used stamps as our contribution from St Ninians will go towards this new appeal ~ Norma

# Family Quiz Night & Disco

Saturday 23rd June  
7pm - St. Ninian's Hall

## FUNDRAISER

**TICKETS - £5 - (Under 12s free)**

**BYOB | Raffle | Cash prizes**



## Fundraiser for Kitega Community Centre

£5 per ticket for quiz, snacks & disco! It would be great if you could come, support this great cause and have some fun in the process.

## JustGiving™

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ourbigyearout>

Sarah-Jane, Peter, Samuel, Nathanael and Mara



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Charity Number SCO44497

# Stonehouse's Holy Wells

*Article and photographs by John Young*

Scotland has an abundance of holy wells and Stonehouse is no exception.

Four holy wells are found within the old parish boundary and numerous other wells supply the water needs of the village. Stonehouse in some respects appears to be an 'island', surrounded by rivers and burns making it impossible to leave the village without crossing water, thus there is no lack of supply to the wells.

Holy wells are of pagan origin, from a time when there were many superstitions surrounding water. Pilgrims from all over the surrounding country would flock to try their healing properties, or administer Christian baptisms, as was probably the case at St. Ninian's well. This well like the old kirk church and churchyard, was dedicated to Ninian. It has over the centuries been corrupted into 'Ringan Well' and to 'Ring Well' (Ringwell Gardens). Lying between the farm of Eastmains and the old kirk graveyard opposite the Manse cemetery, the well is no longer visible due to a land slide in the area, though an underground passage way is said to exist near this former holy well in days long past.

Situated on the banks of the Avon near Braehead House lies St. Patrick's well, famed for its healing properties in curing tuberculosis and skin diseases. This may just be a coincidence but Stonehouse hospital was originally built in 1896 to provide care and treatment for sufferers of tuberculosis and other related diseases.

This well, like so many others was dedicated to another preacher of Christianity, St. Patrick, who is said to have spread the gospel throughout this area including Dalserf and, like Ninian, his name appears throughout the country. This sulphurous spring can still be seen today trickling through a stratum of rock and cascading down the gorge. Its smell and white colouring are easily identifiable. Ordnance survey maps record this as a physic well but is wrongly identified in its location by Canmore.

St. Anthony's Well was a prominent well in its time, also known as 'Brackenhill Well', situated not a great distance from Spittal House which was formerly a hospital and a convent built in 1723. Spittal or 'spittle', in the Oxford dictionary is described as a hospital for foul diseases.

This well can still be found today surrounded by a small stone wall one and a half feet high and about four feet square. Unfortunately, through boring during the New Town survey the well has long since dried up.

It is thought that Anthony came from a wealthy family and spoke only his native language which was that of the ancient Egyptians. He was known as a carer of the poor, patron and protector of the lower animals. The well which was dedicated to him was notable for being high in iron content and known for curing diseases particularly those affecting horses. These horses were taken to drink at the spring and sometimes water was carried a considerable distance for the same purpose. In the summer of 1994, the Heritage Group carried out a restoration project at the well which over the past century suffered through vandalism and the elements of nature. It is hoped that this will be the first of many projects of this nature, preserving our ever decaying history.



St. Laurence's Well rises from the Watstone burn at Chapel farm where an ancient chapel was formerly built, dedicated to St. Laurence, guardian of the well. Little is known of this well or its medicinal powers. St. Laurence himself was known to be a deacon and martyr of Rome, carer of the destitute, helpless and sick. Today the well is home to various water fowl and can still be viewed.

# Lillypad Boutique

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The advertisement features a faded background image of a silver car. Overlaid on the car is the text 'TRIPLE BODY REPAIR SPECIALIST' in green, with 'TRIPLE' and 'SPECIALIST' in a larger, bold font. Above 'TRIPLE' are five orange rectangles, and below 'SPECIALIST' are five orange rectangles. Below the main text is the address '48 Side Head Road, Stonehouse, ML9 3ER'. Further down is the phone number 'T. 07501 728319' and the email 'E. markmonie72@gmail.com'. At the bottom left, it says 'Find me on' next to a Facebook logo. At the bottom center is a green circular seal with a checkmark and the words 'QUALITY CONTRACT' and 'APPROVED'. At the bottom right is the name 'MARK MONIE' in bold black letters.

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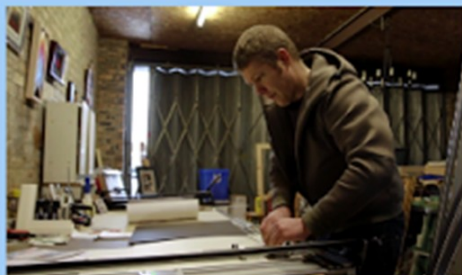
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## **STONEHOUSE JUBILEE CLUB**

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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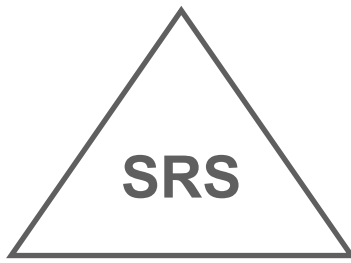


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*Household bargains*



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### Children's Dance Classes

Ballet and Modern Dance ~ from age 2½ yrs

Saturdays from 9.20am :: The Scout & Guide Hall,  
Lawrie Street, Stonehouse

Telephone: 07729 112811  
Email: info@hjcdance.co.uk  
Website: www.hjcdance.co.uk

# WESTMAINS BOARDING KENNELS 'HOLIDAYS FOR DOGS'

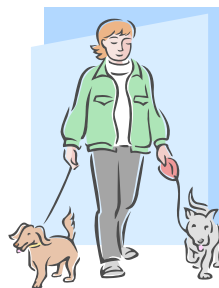
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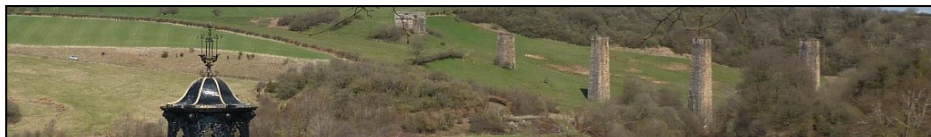
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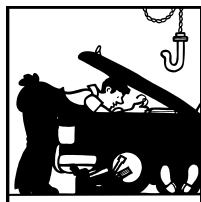
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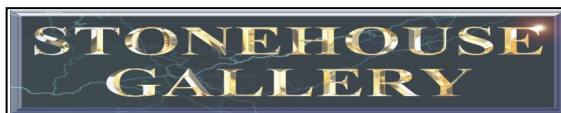
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