

Stamperland Parish Church Magazine



Focus



April 2017

Available for distribution on the last Sunday of the preceding month

<http://www.stamperlandchurch.btck.co.uk/home>

Registered Charity No SC003155

The Church of Scotland Stamperland Parish Church; Clarkston

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Dear Friends,

There are many programmes on television which focus on antiques and auctions. It is possibly the element of surprise when some old rusty piece of junk makes a phenomenal amount of money at an auction that draws us to watch such programmes.

“Bargain Hunt” is one programme which I often watch at lunchtime. After the two teams have searched for bargains and the auction has taken place, the reviewers are reminded that there are no “losers” on Bargain Hunt, just winners and runners-up.

The word “loser” is an unfortunate description of someone who has not been as successful as other people. Perhaps it’s not surprising that such a word as “loser” is used frequently in this competitive age. At the end of a football match the team that has scored more goals is described as the winning team, and the other side is described as the losing team. For every winner on the national Lottery there are thousands of losers. One person succeeds in business. Another fails. However we must never try to put down the person who is not so successful by using the word “loser”.

In the eyes of the world we have winners and losers, but in God’s eyes no one is a loser. Some of us have more gifts than others. There is nothing we can do about that. The distribution of gifts lies in God’s hands. However, we all have something to offer. If we develop and use the few gifts that we have, we may sometimes seem to be a loser judged by worldly standards, but God declares us a winner.

The events leading up to Easter gives us the opportunity to think about the last events of Jesus’ life on earth—the suffering, the humiliation, the spiritual and physical agony he had to endure, the loneliness of Gethsemane, the extreme torture of the crucifixion. On Good Friday the ancient world would describe Jesus as a deluded and hopeless loser.

Yet on Easter Sunday, two days later, God raised up Jesus as a winner, who gained a resounding victory over death itself.

Services in the Church during Holy Week give us the opportunity to ponder these final events in Jesus life. As usual the arrangements are outlined in the in the leaflet published by Clarkston Churches Together. Please support these services.

The story of Easter reminds us that we are called to follow the way of Jesus, to be prepared to put up with ridicule and unpopularity, to follow a lifestyle that

may appear to lead to failure—all for the sake of the Gospel. And if we are faithful, come what may, God declares us to be a winner.

Enjoy a happy and blessed Easter,

Yours in Christ's service,

Jack Drummond

Musical Minds

The Musical Minds Singing Group performs on the first Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 12.00 noon in Clarkston House, 57 Stamperland Hill.

Anyone living with early stage dementia, and their family members, will be made welcome to join the singing group and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a scone, priced £2.

This Edition of Focus

Due to a computer malfunction (it's broke!) it has been packed off to another world, that known as PC World where those with magic minds can unravel the mystery illness that has befallen it, no doubt like the rest of us it will be declared it has a virus. At the time of writing, in the middle of compiling the magazine, there is little likelihood of its return to the fold.

Alternative arrangements have been made using older equipment and techniques I will not go into, production recommenced and here is your Focus which perhaps lacks detailed pictures or cartoon figures which may have been expected against articles.

However the good news is that all contributors articles were, as always, kept in the emails and of course the paper copies as well, but more importantly the little smiley faces are still around so humour still prevails,

Our Little Friend Johnny

The teacher asks Johnny:



Teacher: "Johnny, why aren't you writing?" Johnny: "I don't has a pencil." Teacher: "Johnny, that's not a correct sentence. The correct way is: I don't have a pencil; he doesn't have a pencil; we don't have a pencil."

Johnny: "Who stole all the pencils then?"

Flower Calendar
April/May 2016
 Contact May Paterson 0141 571 8652



April

30th

The Ferries Family

May

7th

Mrs M Boyce

14th

Mr G Robertson

21st

Mrs M Mathieson

28th

Mrs M Malloch

Life & Work Subscriptions

Life and Work subscriptions were due by the end of March. Please contact Jane Curror with your subs (£27.36) as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. If you wish to subscribe by post, cheques payable to Stammerland Church can be mailed to :



Jane Curror
4 Leebank Drive
G44 3UE

Distribution of Focus

The Editor



| Issue | All Copy Input on or before | Collection Date for Distribution |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April | 12th March | 26th March |
| May | 16th April | 30th April |
| June | 14th May | 28th May |
| September | 20th August | 3rd September |

Pastoral Care

Your Pastoral Care Team are here for you. If you need ;

- **Transport to Church**
- **Doctors Appointment**
- **Could do with a chat**
- **Hospital**
- **Shopping**
- **Have a prayer request**

Please contact Grace Scott, 0141 637 2226

A few months ago we introduced a Library service to you, and this month would like to commend this to you again. Kay is able and willing to exchange your library book, assist you with future choices of your favourite authors, or like authors. Additionally she can provide listening books and large print books. If you are not already a member of the library Kay will happily see to this for you. With winter coming in, why not make use of this great service? We hope you will.

Remember that we are only a phone call away to help you with shopping, getting to Church, hospital and doctor's appointments and any other assistance that we can help

Open Door



You will be aware that Stamperland Church sanctuary is open on a Wednesday morning from 10.00 o'clock until 12.00 o'clock for quiet contemplation and personal prayer. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available in the vestibule where fellowship can be enjoyed. It would be encouraging if more of our members were able to come along.

As you will know we are trying to work more closely with Netherlee Church. They also have an Open Door on a Wednesday morning. They have a short Service at 10.00am for approximately 30 minutes. They also have tea, coffee and fellowship after the Service. If any one from Stamperland Church would like to attend they would be made welcome. This may be of interest to you if you feel you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship at Stamperland. If you require transport to Netherlee their minibus can collect you. Please contact either, Evelyn Graham or Nancy Fisher Tel. 638 3844.

Parish & Beyond Committee

When my boss asked me who is the stupid one, me or him? I told him everyone knows he doesn't hire stupid people.

I find it ironic that the colours red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.



Guild



We have come to the end of the Guild winter programme with the only Guild meeting being our AGM on Tuesday 4th April. We would like to thank all those who have supported us by coming along to any of our meetings that were of interest to them.

On Tuesday the 11th April the Guild members will be attending the Holy Week Evening Service.

The Friendship Club starts on Tuesday 25th April and meets on the last Tuesday of the month from April to August. Further details regarding speakers can be found in a separate article in Focus.

We wish everyone a restful and hopefully sunny summer break.

Evelyn Graham, Stamperland Guild Secretary



Girlguiding



Girlguiding

The Brownies continue to be busy on Monday nights doing crafts, badges and most recently putting on a talent show for the Leaders. We had singers, dancers, gymnasts and actresses, to name but a few, and we were extremely impressed with the standard of talent in Stamperland. We only have a few weeks left until Easter, however we have some nice Easter activities planned to keep the girls busy.

After Easter the girls will be working on creating "something" which will then be on sale at the Spring Fair. We can't tell you what this will be - you will need to come along and find out - and buy one!

By the time you are reading this we will have had a few of our new girls who will have made their promise. We are delighted to welcome these girls into the pack. We hope they stick to their extra promise of tidying their rooms and helping around the house???

Kirsty Stewart & Alison Gill 07983505334

When my boss asked me who is the stupid one, me or him? I told him everyone knows he doesn't hire stupid people



Communion Roll Changes

Last year all members were sent a Data Protection letter asking them to sign and return if they wished to remain on the Roll. The following members did not reply and therefore have been removed from the Roll, by order of the Kirk Session.



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mrs. Alison Allan | 14 Bennan Place, East Kilbride |
| Mrs. Donna Marie Baker | 141 Glanviller Rd. Middlesex |
| Mr. John Barnes | 3 Stamperland Crescent. |
| Mrs. Shirley Barnes | 3 Stamperland Crescent. |
| Mr. John Best | 61 Stamperland Gardens |
| Mr. George Carmichael | 40 Nethervale Avenue |
| Mrs. Patricia Considine | 47 Stamperland Gardens |
| Mr. Stephen Corrie | 62 The Oval |
| Mrs. Anne Corrie | 62 The Oval |
| Mrs. Heather Dempster | 7 Guthrie Terrace, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock. |
| Mrs. Joyce Denovan | Park House Manor Care Home. |
| Mrs. Elaine Foster | 12 Calderside Grove, East Kilbride |
| Mrs. Lyn Gordon | 3 Stewart Avenue, Newton Mearns |
| Mr. James Harrison | 21 Drumby Crescent. |
| Mrs. Linda Harrison | 21 Drumby Crescent. |
| Mr. Ian Johnston | Formerly 588 Clarkston Road. |
| Mrs. Deborah Johnstone | 23 Gloucester Avenue. |
| Mr. Colin Johnstone | 23 Gloucester Avenue |
| Mr. Richard Law | 81 Monteith Drive |
| Mrs. Patricia Law | 81 Monteith Drive |
| Mrs. Lorainne Lawrie | Moscow, Ayrshire. |
| Mrs. Fiona Leathem | 142 Stamperland Gardens |
| Mrs. Patricia Madden | 16 Hillcrest Avenue, Newton Mearns. |
| Mr. Kenneth McCarlie | 22 Cromarty Gardens. |
| Mrs. Vivienne McCarlie | 22 Cromarty Gardens. |
| Mrs. Moyra McDonald | 1 Birch Avenue, Busby. |
| Mrs. Christine McDougall | 6 Arthurlie Drive, Giffnock. |
| Mrs. Elaine McLean | Clyde Valley. |
| Mr. Graeme McLean | 14 Ormond Avenue. |
| Mrs. Jane Nimmo | 77 Busby Road. |
| Mrs. Debbie O'Shea | 153 The Oval. |
| Mrs. Jean Paterson | Ardrossan. |
| Mrs. Dawn Stokes | 35 Linn Drive. Muirend. |
| Miss Jennifer Templeton | 44 Semphill Gardens. East Kilbride. |
| Mrs. Diane Todd | 3 Stamperland Gardens. |
| Mrs. Valerie Turner | Hill Crescent. Clarkston. |
| Mr. Leslie Wilson | 418 Clarkston Road. Muirend. |

TREASURER'S REPORT



The Stated Annual Meeting of Stamperland Parish Church took place on Sunday 12th March 2017 during the morning service. This was a departure from the usual format of holding the meeting on a Monday evening. The idea was to encourage members other than trustees to attend and to take more of an interest in the financial affairs of the church. A brief summary of our finances was presented. Full details are given in the Annual Report, copies of which are available in the Church vestibule. The following is a brief summary of our financial position.

In 2016 the Church's income totalled £89,154. Of this amount, £58,070 was in the form of offerings with £3,454 resulting from fund raising activities, much the same as last year's figure. £13,208 came from the use of our premises by non-church organisations. This was £4,000 more than the previous year, some of the increase being due to several groups who normally use accommodation at Netherlee Church coming to us whilst the Netherlee halls were refurbished.

Those of our organisations which kindly contributed to our running costs were as follows: The Guild £350, The Guides £ 142 and The Scout Group £325.

Tax claimed on offerings donated through Gift Aid amounted to £10,416. It is thanks to those who "Gift Aid" their donations that we were able to claim this substantial amount from the Government.

Over the year our total expenditure was £ 81,293. £43,155 of this sum was our contribution to the National Ministry and Mission Fund. This includes our contribution to our minister's stipend and to the wider work of the Church. We also paid £2249 to Glasgow Presbytery. We have no control over these items of expenditure which represent over half of our income.

In 2016 expenditure associated with fabric amounted to £14,518. The major item of expenditure was the cost of the digital organ of £13,000. £1,007 was spent on the repair and maintenance of the gas central heating boilers. Our heating and lighting costs were £ 5815 which again came in under budget.

We are fortunate to have a healthy amount of funds in the bank - a total of £121,353 together with investments valued at £4,023. In addition, the General Trustees hold funds of £11,164 on our behalf; these represent the accumulated rental income from the manse which has been let since October 2014. In advance of the arrival of our new minister we will have to spend quite a bit of money refurbishing the manse and we are hopeful that these

£7861. Thanks are due to everyone for their efforts in supporting our Church throughout the year in their donations of regular offerings and to those who assist and support fund raising activities. Many thanks also to Anne MacKenzie and to Norman Walker for their work in relation to Freewill Offering and Tax Recovery through Gift Aid.

Kay Bolton, Treasurer

The Friendship Club

Our Friendship Club recommences on Tuesday 25th April, meeting at 7.30pm in the Session Room, to which everyone will be made most welcome.

If there is anything of interest to you during the five months, please come along .

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tue 25th April | Alister Gordon Maclintosh | My Personal Life |
| Tue 30th May | Rev G Kirkland | Favourite Hymns |
| Tue 27th Jun | Fun Night | |
| Tue 25th Jul | Flower Arranging | with Adele |
| Tue 29th Aug | Bill Wallace | on Accordion |

Ray McNiven

Clever kids:

A police officer found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists.



One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem.

A 10 years old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "Radar Trap Ahead."

A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice: another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "TIPS" and a bucket at his feet full of change.



Rainbows

The Rainbow unit has been really busy since our last article! We have been joined by three new rainbows who are working hard to get to know their new friends and also getting ready to make their promises!

We have learnt about Chinese New year including making and, more importantly, eating our own spring rolls! We have also made Valentines love bugs, Welsh love spoons, Mothers day cards and our own painted pictures. We have been learning some new songs about being good friends and helping each other. The girls have taught us some new games and in particular have been enjoying playing “sleeping tigers”.

On Saturday 18th March the girls went to a special private Guiding screening of Beauty and the Beast and we were treated to fizzy juice, sweets and popcorn! The leaders were just as excited as the girls!

As a unit we have decided to do a sponsored silence for the charity “Children with Cancer” as part of their Mr Men and Little Miss Marathon Challenge. The girls have beautifully coloured in their sponsor forms and will be raising money from family and friends. Once the girls have completed their challenge they will receive a special medal from the charity. The unit is also able to split the money raised to further support unit funds. If any one wishes to donate then please contact me.

We are also pleased to say that we have been joined by a new leader! Samantha has been with us for a few weeks now and the girls have been teaching her our rainbow song and our favourite games. Welcome Samantha and thank you for offering your assistance.

As usual, if anyone feels they have any particular skills or knowledge that they feel the girls would enjoy or benefit from then please get in touch. We are always looking for new and interesting ideas!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter when it comes,

Lynsey McKee, 07739 473 827 (after 5pm only please)

Team work is important; it helps to put the blame on someone else.

Take my advice — I'm not using it.

I can totally keep secrets. It's the people I tell them to that can't.



Looking back – Looking forward

Professional historians only comment on events and their significance after the passage of many years. So don't expect me to give a full and well-reasoned analysis of last year's events.

Those interested in sport will remember 2016 as the year of the Rio Olympics with Team GB coming second in the medal table. Many will remember it was the year Andy Murray finished Number One in the tennis world. Some will recall it as the year Glasgow Rangers made it back to the Premier League.

Many will recall that 2016 was an important year for votes and voting. In June the UK voted for Brexit; no one knows how this decision will turn out. In November the citizens of the USA voted for Trump; no one knows how this decision will turn out. In June Stamperland congregation voted to accept the Presbytery Proposal of a deferred linkage with Netherlee. Later, in October, the congregation voted to elect a nominating committee. In truth, no one knows how these decisions will turn out.

I'm confident, however, that we made our decisions only after much careful thought and consideration. The church in Scotland is facing a challenging time with over 50 vacant charges representing more than 200 churches without a minister. There isn't a room somewhere filled with ministers waiting to be called to a vacant church. One church gaining a minister means another church or churches losing theirs. Churches coming together, working in partnership and sharing scarce ministerial resources is the only way ahead.

Potentially, we have a bright future. Our finances are in good shape; our buildings are in reasonable condition. Our accommodation is well-used. Uniformed organisations continue to attract over 180 young people very week; some organisations have a waiting list. Hall lets were at their highest ever in 2016. The church is a focal point in the community.

Yet church membership, particularly active membership, continues to decline. Whilst we can celebrate that we gained four new members during the year we also lost four to death. Probably more significantly, the Kirk Session removed 16 names from the roll as a consequence of people not informing us that they wished to have their names recorded on the Communion Roll. It should also be noted that, in February 2017, the Kirk Session resolved to remove a further 37 names from the Roll. As a consequence, in the early days of 2017, our membership has fallen to under 290.

Passing years have seen changes in our community. For many families Sundays are busy days with no time available for church. Shopping, housework and gardening need to be done; children have to be taken to activities such as football, dancing or swimming. Grandparents need to be visited. For many, attending church just takes up too much time.

As a church we need to react to these societal changes. We have to consider alternatives to “Sunday morning church” and to “Sunday morning Sunday school”. We have to develop different types of worship and arrange for worship to take place at different times.

Examples of different forms of gathering are Messy Church and Pie, Pint and Prayer. Messy Church seeks to attract young families to activity-based worship and we are starting to work with Netherlee on this. We are endeavouring to develop the idea of “A Pie, a Pint and a Prayer” – the broad idea is of having something much less formal than Sunday morning service; an event which could possibly attract parents who are actually in our building dropping off children at youth organisations early in the evening.

This year, 2017, will, we trust, be the year in which we welcome our new minister. The vacancy is now listed on the appropriate Church of Scotland web-page. An advertisement will appear in the April edition of Life & Work. The nominating committee are active.

Often in times of vacancy a church can drift somewhat aimlessly not certain what direction to take or what initiatives to pursue. During these last three years we have been fortunate in having Jack Drummond as our Locum Minister. Jack has led us in worship, has been diligent in visiting members at home, in hospital and at times of need and has been very supportive of the ongoing activities and life of our church.

Over these three years various processes and procedures of Glasgow Presbytery have felt arduous and time-consuming. But, wearing a historian’s hat and trying to look backwards reflectively, some of the efforts required in writing reviews, meeting requirements and justifying positions have probably been beneficial by forcing us to look to the future and trying to identify new strategies and fresh ways of working. Thanks to Jack, to Gray Fletcher and the efforts of trustees and ordinary members 2016 is likely to be seen as a year in which we made a decisive move forward to assure our long-term future.

Norrie Bolton, Session Clerk



If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

79th Glasgow (Stamperland) Scout Group



Sorry for no update from the Scout Group last month due to school holidays, work and family commitments, but that doesn't mean we have not been busy.

AGM:

On Thursday 3rd March we held our AGM. Apart from the formal business meeting we had a few presentations to make. First up was the Home Safety Badge to the majority of the Cub Pack who have been working towards this over the past month (learning about safety inside and outside of the home and what to do in an emergency). We then had the Chefs badge gained by Ethan who, amongst other things, had cooked a Burns Supper for his family.

The AGM also saw 8 Cubs making their way up to Scouts. While all have been with Cubs for 3 years they have been busy in that time gaining lots of badges including their Silver Chief Scouts Challenge (the highest badge in Cubs). Cubs will miss them, but we are sure they will enjoy the new challenges that Scouts will offer. Congratulations go to Reece, Ross, Samuel, Eryn, Joshua, Daniel, Iain and Alfie.

We also had a representative along from our local Scouting District. Rhona presented 3 long service certificates to leaders in the group: 5 years to Elaine and 30 years to both Gregor and Joe (but probably actually a few years more than that!). Rhona then took the opportunity to present Elaine with her wood beads. This represents the completion of the formal training required to be a section leader and we are all delighted to see her hard work and enthusiasm being rewarded in this manner.

The evening then rounded off with tea/coffee and juice for all with a chance to talk to some of the leaders and see photos of events the various sections have been involved in during the past year.

A huge thanks to all the leaders that helped organise the evening and especially to Christine and Alison who came along to help with the teas and coffees.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

The Scout Group are collecting these vouchers and looking to cash them in for some new games equipment over the next few months. We realise that the church is collecting for Netherlee School, but if you have any spare vouchers you would like to hand into the Scout Group, please pass these to any section leader.



Help us collect as many Active Kids vouchers as possible when you shop at Sainsbury's

Beaver Colony

Just a short note of what the Beavers are up to. Their favourite activity at the moment is painting gnomes, with most of the paint going on themselves! This is going towards their Creative badge.

We also have some of the boys working on the Cyclist badge and some on the Sports Badge.

Happy Easter to everyone in advance.

Alison Macfarlane – Asst. Beaver Leader, Tel: 0141 644 2712

Cub Pack

Music: Along with the Home Safety badge noted above, the Cubs have been having fun with some musical taster sessions. Megan held sessions for the Cubs with a variety of percussion instruments which were very enjoyable and also goes part of the way towards Stage 1 of the Musicians badge.

Code of Conduct: The Cubs are also creating their own Code of Conduct for the pack so that we all agree on what we should be doing at Cubs and what sorts of things can be disruptive to those wanting to have fun and earn badges.

Fire Safety: Following on from the Home Safety Badge the Cubs will be working towards their Fire Safety badge. The main part of this will be completed in March with a visit to Clarkston Fire Station and then followed up by some activities over the next few weeks. Let's hope they don't get called out while we are there!

Further ahead: After the Easter break we will be completing the Fire Safety Badge and then looking to start the Scientist Badge with a visit to Whitelees

Wind Farm. We are also looking forward to a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind for who we will be carrying out some fund raising. Keep an eye out for details.

Philip Moseley – Cub Scout Leader, Tel: 0141 620 3146

Scout Troop & Explorers

Thursday 16th February – Over the past session the boys had been asking if we could have a Troop Bake Off, so it was arranged that the boys would be given the recipe to make and prepare a double sponge and they could decorate it in any way that they wished.

On the night we had 6 entrants who had baked the cake of their choice and decorated it with fancy icing and creative designs. These were then judged by our own external judge to taste and selected the winning cake. Congratulations to Johnny who won first prize for having the winning cake which was shared out to all the boys, along with the other 5 cakes. Well done to all that took part.

Thursday 23rd February – Twenty Scouts and Leaders spent a two hour session Tubing at Bellahouston Park dry ski slope where the boys took on the various individual tasks and team challenges on the dry slopes. This event was well attended on such a cold night and fun was had by all.

2nd March Annual General Meeting – As previously mentioned in the AGM report, I would like to congratulate leaders Gregor Macfarlane and Joe Mailley in receiving their Thirty years long service award and Elaine Murray for completing her formal training and obtaining her Wood Beads and Five years' service award signed by Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, for their long and dedicated service to Scouting.

Programming - Over the year various badges have been completed by boys on a Troop night and individually. I would like to congratulate Calum Murray for participating and completing the: My Faith Activity Badge and World Faith Activity Badge

Auchengillan Jamboree – Plans are well in place for this event which will run from the 29th July to 5th August with Scouts and Guides from all around the world. As in the past we have made up a joint unit from the 79th Scout Group and the 1st Stamperland Guides. A joint training weekend has been organised in April for the two groups to take part in a camp and participate in team building and camp craft in preparation for the Jamboree.

Joe Mailley – Scouter-in-Charge Tel: 0141 571 0887



Control

Sheila was losing control, fast! Why didn't she heed her neighbour's warning about the man who just moved into the neighbourhood two weeks ago? Miranda mentioned in a conversation with her that she thought the new man on the block was acting "odd" at night. He would come out of his house and circle it for several times and then walk back in. Living across the street from him, Miranda had watched his "comings and goings" often, for she liked to keep tabs on new people.

"I'd look out for 'that one.'" Miranda said to Sheila as she nibbled on a diet bar, one bright autumn day. "Don't trust him for anything," as she finished the bar.

"Why, what's wrong with him? Sheila asked with a hesitant voice. What has he done to make you suspect him?"

"I can't put my finger on it but he just seems so controlled, so obsessive. Got an uncle like that and he can't leave anything alone! Why he even checks his car at night—takes him over an hour—making sure it's alright—that everything is in place. Gives me the "willies!"

Sheila laughed it off that day and thought her old friend was just being hyper. But now she thought, maybe she should have heeded the warning. Now, he was outside, she saw him--doing God knows what and she was all alone! It was getting dark outside and hard to see what was going on. All she could see out of her living room window was her neighbour, circling her home and scanning all parts of her home while he was doing it... Round in circles he went, never stopping.

Finally he stopped right in front of her door! He waited and listened and was very quiet. Sheila waited behind the front curtains until she could stand the silence no more...

She hollered out loud—"Who are you and what do you want?"

No sound, just heavy breathing...

And then, just eight words, "I'm so lonely, can I talk to you?"

Stunned, she held her breath and then replied, "Sure you can, if you would just stop your pacing and introduce yourself!"

And so it began... a beautiful and loving friendship that would later turn into marriage and all it took was courage and faith in someone different and a bit strange... But, aren't we all different and strange sometimes?

Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares everyone in the car I'm driving

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive. try missing a couple of payments.





It's been a quick time since Christmas!

On our return we started with a party. We celebrated Jesus birthday and we even had cake - yummy!

Our topic is still our church and we looked at how we can help in our church. We decorated cakes for everyone to enjoy, some help out welcoming people and giving out the Order of Service. Chloe even helped to carry in the bible.

We have been learning the Lord's Prayer. We had a treasure hunt of the words, which we had to find and put in the correct order.

Now we have started the Easter story. We are taking turns reading the children's bible to each other all about Easter.

Our art work is a bit unusual! We are entering the Crossreach Christmas Card Competition, which is due in by the end of March.

We have lots of fun and do lots of good activities in stepping stones. All children are welcome to come along join us!

From everyone at Stepping Stones

Elephant:

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with an "E". One boy says, "Elephant."



Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a "T". The same boy says, "Two elephants."

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behaviour. After that she asks for an animal beginning with "M".

The boy shouts from the other side of the wall: "Maybe an elephant!"

I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.



I Need More Space!

Living in Oklahoma, with so many wide, open spaces, you'd think that more space would be the last thing most women would want but not for Ann Kline. Ann often thought about all the years she lived in Oklahoma—she reckoned around 20. Still, the need for space was often on her mind.

Widowed at 55 and working as a writer, she kept busy most days writing articles for fictional magazines. Her small home provided little opportunity to grow and develop and most likely that's why she longed for space.

Thank goodness for Lady, her beautiful collie. Why, without Lady, loneliness and depression would swallow her up...

It was on a beautiful fall day that Ann went searching for a bigger place to live. She decided to travel down a lonely side road, just five miles away. She remembered seeing a lovely "cottage" type home for sale several weeks ago. She remembered it because in Oklahoma, that kind of house was rare.

Just nine o'clock in the morning and she thought to herself as she drove along, that she'd never seen fall leaves as pretty as they were that day...

"Ah, she thought. There it is! Just as pretty as I remembered..." The house was blue in colour, with white paint framing the doors and window panes... So peaceful looking and with more than enough space for her and Lady.

She pulled into the driveway and seconds later someone came out and walked toward her. It was an older man and he looked and walked as if he were happy to see her.

As she got out of the car he yelled, "Well, hi there, little lady. Can I help you with something?"

"Yes, I'm interested in your home. Looks like it's still for sale. Can I see it?"

"Why sure. Come on in."

As soon as she walked in, she knew it was for her. The beige paint on the walls, the way the living room edged into the dining room. Why, it was perfect!

It wasn't long before a deal was made and the closing of the house, completed..

About a month later she and lady moved in. For several weeks, everything was perfect and then something strange happened that changed everything...

Close to Thanksgiving, a moving van pulled into a home about 200 feet down the street. With only 10 homes on that lonely country rode, here was someone moving in, and so close to Thanksgiving!

For weeks she didn't see "hide nor hare" of anyone and then five days before Christmas, a stranger came to her door.

She opened the door and knew that her lonely days were over; for right before her was an older, good-looking man and standing right beside him wagging his tail happily, was a beautiful male collie!



Stamperland Congregation's own Page for Messages



This is the page for your Good Wishes, Get Well, Happy Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, A Thank You, or any other message you wish to make.

*Anne and I would like to thank all our friends and members of the congregation for the beautiful flowers and their good wishes. Very much appreciated
Alister Gill*

*I would like to thank the Church for the flowers I recently received and also thanks to Rev Jack Drummond for taking the time to pay a visit,
Sheila MacIntosh*

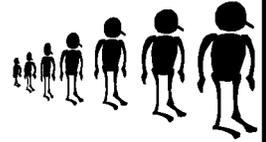
My sons and I would like to thank Stamperland Church for the beautiful flowers and kind expression of consolation and sympathy they sent to us on the passing of my late husband, Brian Lawson.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to your minister, Rev Jack Drummond, for his touching service and words of comfort during and after his funeral. This brought great comfort to us at this sad time.

We would also thank everyone at the funeral who very generously donated to Mary's Meals, the total being £280. Thank you again and God bless you all.

Mary, Raymond, and Brian Junior Lawson

Evelyn Graham would like to thank everyone who helped in any way towards the sum of £751.00 raised at the Coffee Afternoon for the Tribute Fund in name of Margaret Taylor with the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. All help and donations are very much appreciated.



Duty Teams for the coming Months

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apr 2nd TEAM 3 | Apr 9th TEAM 4 | Apr 16th TEAM 5 |
| Mrs A MacFarlane (C) | Mrs N Fisher (C) | Mr R Allan (C) |
| Mr A Henderson | Miss J Barr | Mrs J Herriott |
| Mrs S Skelton | Mrs J Cranston | Mrs J Curror |
| Mrs R McNiven | Mr G Finlayson | Mr J Curror |
| Miss J Stewart | Mrs K Bolton | Mr S Russell |
| Apr 23rd TEAM 6 | Apr 30th TEAM 1 | May 7th TEAM 2 |
| Mr A Graham (C) | Mr W Paterson (C) | Mr G Fairweather (C) |
| Mrs E Graham | Mrs M Young | Mr R Russell |
| Mr N Walker | Miss L Robb | Mrs J Silcock |
| Mrs M Neilson | Miss G Scott | Mr S Owens |
| Mrs K Baird | Mr D McKee | Mr R Kirkwood |
| May 14th TEAM 3 | May 21st TEAM 4 | May 28th TEAM 5 |
| Mrs A MacFarlane (C) | Mrs N Fisher (C) | Mr R Allan (C) |
| Mr A Henderson | Miss J Barr | Mrs J Herriott |
| Mrs S Skelton | Mrs J Cranston | Mrs J Curror |
| Mrs R McNiven | Mr G Finlayson | Mr J Curror |
| Miss J Stewart | Mrs K Bolton | Mr S Russell |
| June 4th COMMUN-ION | June 11th TEAM 6 | June 18th TEAM 1 |
| Mr R Allan (C) | Mrs A Graham (C) | Mr W Paterson (C) |
| Miss L Robb | Mrs E Graham | Mrs M Young |
| Mrs J Cranston | Mr N Walker | Miss L Robb |
| Mr G Fairweather | Mrs M Neilson | Miss G Scott |
| Mr A Henderson | Mrs K Baird | Mr D McKee |
| C = Convener | | |

Any Duty Member who cannot attend on any date allocated should arrange a substitute for that date and inform the Duty



When we received the thank you from the Foodbank for the food uplifted in February, which amounted to 45kg, they advised us that this would feed 4 single people for 3 days. Previously they had more requests from large families but now it is often single people, although overall, the demand is increasing. In the past, they had roughly 20 – 24 clients per week, now they have 30 plus. As low income is the main problem, the situation for some people is not going to change any time soon.

The food chosen for the month of April is as follows :

Fruit Juice (carton)
Tinned Fruit (ordinary or small)
Tinned meat or fish (ordinary or small)
Tinned Vegetables (ordinary or small)
Jam/Spreads
Breakfast Cereals.

UHT Milk and Creamed Rice or Custard (Tinned) are acceptable at any time. If you would prefer to donate any of the other items from the East Renfrewshire List, please refer to the list as shown. If you are unable to carry heavy items please do not be deterred from donating, there are always lighter options available on the list.

Thank you again for your continued support which is very much appreciated. Again, we would ask that items donated are within the “**best before**” date. The Foodbank will not distribute food which is out of date.

SHOPPING LIST

Thank you for your support!

- 
- * Milk (UHT or powdered)
 - * Sugar (500g)
 - * Fruit Juice (carton)
 - * Pasta Sauces
 - * Tomatoes (Tinned)
 - * Tinned Veg
 - * Cereals
 - * Dried/ Boil in bag Rice
 - * Tinned Meat/Fish
 - * Instant Mash Potato
 - * Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
 - * Rice Pudding or Custard (Tinned)
 - * Tea Bags/inst coffee
 - * Tinned Fruit
 - * Jam/Spreads
 - * Biscuits or snack bars

ALSO COLLECTING

- * Toiletries men and women
- * Nappies & Baby Food
- * Treats

East Renfrewshire Foodbank is a project of churches and community working together under charity no: SC029653

Break

It was Christmas 2007 and everything in Janice's life was a mess. She and her husband of 10 years had just separated, her family lived 100 miles away, her job as dental assistant was going nowhere and even her golden retriever, "Ollie" seemed indifferent to cuddling and walks in the park. And, to top it off, she was getting nowhere with her diet—eating three grapefruits a day before meals! Who was the brain surgeon that thought that plan would work! How many diets did she stop and start, only to find out that they were nothing but a scam...

What was a woman like Janice to do with such a spiralling downside of a life and why was all of this happening to her? Janice sat at her dining room table, with hands on her face and elbows planted firmly on the table and moaned, "If only someone would help me, show me the way—how to make my life better! There has just got to be a way out of this!"

She sat there, hunched over and depressed for a good 10 minutes and then something unusual happened..

There was a knocking on her back kitchen door. Actually, it sounded like a gentle tapping. Her curiosity stirred, she opened the door. For a few seconds it was hard for her to comprehend who/what was there. It was a little boy of about three or four and he moaned softly, "I'm so cold, can't find mommy, can you help me?"

"Of course, come in." The little tyke walked in, shivering and scarred. He had on a jumpsuit outfit, with only a light sweater to keep him warm.

"Who are you and how did you get here? Can you remember what happened, or who you were with?"

He replied, "Oh, I'm Henry and I was with mommy but she left me and went into a big store. What should I do? Can you help me find my mommy?"

The conversation went on for, what seemed a long time and then...

Suddenly, she blinked her eyes, shook her head, straightened up in her chair and found that it was all just a dream, a strange but wonderful dream. She went over to the kitchen door, looked out the window and saw nothing...except for a few small footprints in the snow, leading up to her back door....Days later, more strange but wonderful things began to happen. Her job, for reasons she couldn't understand, became more enjoyable—her employer-- more helpful, her dog began wagging his tail wildly when she walked into a room, her husband came back two days later--they resolved their differences and months later she became pregnant with her first child.

You guessed it, nine months later to the day, she had a baby boy and she called him Henry –Henry number 2!

**A Walk Down the Memory Lane of Focus Magazines
May 1978**





231st Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade JUNIOR SECTION & SPARKS



Mobile: 07917801622 E-mail: scottrussell87@hotmail.co.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/231stBB

Since the last time of writing, our Section activities have continued as normal. Each week we have our boys attend Friday Section nights, Wednesday football training and Saturday morning games. We hope that the boys continue to enjoy our varied weekly programme

The month of March is a busy month for the Junior Section Boys as we have our Figure Marching Competition and a Bible Knowledge Quiz. These competitions are run by Glasgow Battalion and we have a good record in both.

We hope to give a good account of ourselves and the Boys have been working hard to learn about the story of Noah's Ark and we are getting better each week with our figure marching routine.

On the Friday nearest Shrove Tuesday we made pancakes with the boys teaching them about the story of Lent and the meaning of 'Pancake Tuesday'. Thankfully Mr Little was on hand to help us create our pancakes, he had used Mrs Little's recipe and we all thoroughly enjoyed the pancakes which we made and added Jam and Chocolate spread to.

This month we will also be having out Superstars Competition where the boys will compete in their groups in several different kinds of potted sports. The points that the boys earn will go towards the Best Group prize at the end of year Display which is planned for **Friday the 19th of May**.

Finally, to continue to raise funds for our Section we will be holding a Race Night on Saturday 22nd April at Clarkston Scout Hall, Aiden's Brae. This will be a joint fundraiser with the Company Section and we hope that as many people as possible support the event. Last year we raised around £1,000 for each Section and we hope to raise in the region of this sum again this year. If you would like to attend, then please speak to Peter Dale or myself to purchase tickets.

Scott Russell

Swimming Pool

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.



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Bar*

Please contact Peter Dale or Scott Russell to purchase tickets.

You can also support us by sponsoring a horse for £2

Ticket £5 **St Aidan's Scout Hall**
Saturday 22nd
April 7:00pm