

St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine April 2013



Dear Friends,

I don't know if you have ever found something surprising on your doorstep?

The day before Palm Sunday I opened the front door to find a box of 92 'Huggies' which as you probably know are baby's nappies. There was no note to explain who had left them there or why so as you can imagine there was some anxious thought in the Manse as we tried to work it all out.

It was on the Monday of Holy Week that all was revealed. A gentleman from another congregation approached me before the service and confessed that he was the leaver of the nappies. He knew about my connection with the Preshal Trust and thought I might be able to find someone who could put them to good use.

If only he had left a note in the first place! But in a sense it was appropriate to have an experience like that at Easter. That was a time when explanations were needed for strange events. The friends of Jesus had seen him tortured to death. They went to His tomb the third day after this to find the stone at the entrance rolled away and the body gone. They were completely baffled but soon there was an explanation. An messenger from God was on hand to explain that Jesus had risen from the dead and very soon they would see him.

This was the best news they could ever have at the time but it is the best news that has ever been received in the history of humankind. Reflecting on the Resurrection years later the Apostle Paul described it as 'the guarantee that all those who sleep in death will also be raised.' The Resurrection of Jesus happened in time and in space and is God's assurance that death is not the end but a way into a new existence where everything that has ever made us cry is abolished.

On Palm Sunday I read a letter which many people found profoundly moving. It was written by a young Iranian pastor named Farshid Fathi imprisoned in Iran for his faith. He is in the middle a six year sentence but after that the future would still appear to be unclear. When he heard of the massacre of children in the Sandy Hook Elementary School he wrote a letter to the stricken parents in which he said:

'I am sure these high walls cannot stop my prayers for you. Before this tragedy happened, I was thinking about my suffering that I'm going through because of

my Lord Jesus Christ, especially being far from my lovely kids. But when I imagine how hard your pain is I forget my sufferings. Because I know by God's grace I will see my kids at the latest in 2017 when I come out from prison. But unfortunately you have to wait a bit longer. So I would like to express my deepest sorrow for your loss.

I believe we will have enough time in heaven with our lovely children forever. There is no gun there, there is no prison, and there is no pain.'

There were strange events on Easter morning but the explanation is the greatest truth we will ever come to know.

Yours in Christ

Fergus Buchanan



Preshal Trust Presents
Ian White In Concert

St. Paul's Parish Church
Friday 19th April 2013
7.30pm



**No₂ tickets but an opportunity will be given to
donate to the work of Preshal**



Christian Aid Week 2013 is from 12th to 18th May and as usual we are looking for collectors and a sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church.

Owing to various commitments by members of the committee it is important this year that we have the names of collectors as soon as possible.

If you have never collected before and would like to do so please speak to any member of the committee (Gordon Campbell, Betty Watson, Margaret Bonis, Alex McEwan, Marylyn Taggart) and they will tell you what is involved.

Counters will also be required in the main hall on 15th, 16th and 17th May.



Book Club

"Phantom" by Jo Nesbo is the 9th book in the Harry Hole series. Jo Nesbo has sold over 14 million copies of his Harry Hole books and is set to have even more success with the film adaptation of "The Snowman" with Martin Scorsese.

That said, the group did not particularly like this book. Some of us had read other books in the series and were disappointed with this one, which was not up to the usual standard. There were parts of the book which were badly written, and, we felt, badly edited and it was only in the second half of the book that the story picked up. We also thought the editing sometimes was clumsy and this could have been a much better read.

Perhaps this is one book too many featuring Harry Hole. We certainly felt the author struggled to find a plot and a story line until about halfway through the book.

Next time we are reading *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce and the date of our meeting is Tuesday 30 April 2013.

Joyce Clark

Silver Jubilee Meal

Lists for those who would like to help prepare the dessert for Fergus' Silver Jubilee Meal are now available at the back of the church, the two choices decided upon are Fruit pie this can be Apple, Rhubarb or any other fruit you choose and Upside-down pudding.

Some people have asked what Upside down pudding is and there are recipes at the back of the church for this easy desert but feel free to use your own recipe. The deserts should be handed in to the church hall on Sunday 5th as early as possible.

We also need quite a few electric rice cookers and there is also a list for these. Please bring a note of quantity of

rice and water required and time of cooking. Rice cooker should be brought to church hall on Saturday 4th before 12-00 noon.

If you are not a baker and would like to contribute towards other expenses please see Ann MacLeod or Jean Scott. We have already received coffee and no more of this is required.



We are all looking forward to this great celebration and it is lovely that so many people want to be involved.

Ann MacLeod

St Paul's Church Society Summer Outing - Saturday 18th May

This year the Society will visit Bridge of Allan's Holy Trinity Church of Scotland which has an interesting Charles Rennie Macintosh history, and beautifully CRM designed chancel furnishings.

The town also has historical links with Robert Louis Stevenson. There will be time to explore the town, shop and enjoy a coffee at one of the many tea rooms.

We will have a 2-course meal at the Riverside Restaurant in Stirling before returning home.

The Coach will leave Milngavie Station Car Park at 12.20pm, and the cost will be £26.

A sheet for names will be at the rear of the Church from Sunday 7th April. The Outing is not restricted to Society Members only, and you will be made most welcome to what promises to be another interesting and happy day.

For further information contact Iris T. Torbet, Treasurer & Secretary.

Editor's note

If you have any comments, criticisms or queries regarding the content of Life magazine, we respectfully request that you address them in the first instance to the editor, Rona Dawson, as she is responsible for all articles featured. Contact details on the back page.

The Guild



On Monday 25th February we were delighted to welcome one of our Elders, Ramsay Vallance, who told us of his work with Prison Fellowship leading the prisoners in Bible Study and Prayer.

On Tuesday 5th March a number of our Guild visited St. Luke's Guild when we heard the Rev. Barbara O'Donnell speaking on "Following in Livingston's Footsteps." Barbara had recently been on holiday in Malawi and told us of her experiences there.

The following week we saw a DVD on the work of the Street Pastors in Aberdeen. Our speaker Sharmaine is the Prayer Co-ordinator for Glasgow and she told us of the work that is carried out in Glasgow on Friday and Saturday evenings hand in hand with the Police. The Police would like them also to work on Thursdays and Sunday evenings but, unfortunately, they do not have enough volunteers to carry out this very worthwhile work in our city.

Our AGM and Home Night was held on the 18th March when a number of our Committee were due to retire. Our President, Evelyn Williams was also retiring and she was thanked for her dedication, commitment and friendliness to all our members and in return Evelyn thanked everyone on the Committee for working as a team and for their support and fellowship to the Guild week by week.

We welcome our new President, Morag Thomson and we know that Morag will carry out her duties with the support of all our members and we look forward to our new session in October.

Jean Scott

Flower donations—March

Mrs. M. Hamilton, Mrs. M. Hossack, Mrs. H. Lindsay, Mrs. C. MacKay, Miss M. McLean, Mrs. I. More, Mrs. M. Rae



Please make cheques payable to St. Paul's flowers and put donations in Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave, Milngavie G62 6LJ Phone 956 2630

Letter received from Chanan Trust

I am writing to thank everyone at St. Paul's for your extremely generous Lent offering. The work continues to go well.

Recently we have had some women coming along to the Christianity Explored which is rare. Pray they will continue to come and that they might encourage other ladies to join us.

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless
Euan (and everyone at Chanan)

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

We have now left behind the snow of Sapporo and are beginning to get settled in our new home in Tokyo. Actually we live in the Greater Tokyo area in a prefecture called Chiba and a city called Ichikawa. It is right on the border of the main Tokyo city though. On our first evening we had a mini-earthquake to remind us where we were! It only lasted a few seconds – these kind of smaller shakes are a reasonably regular occurrence here.

Unfortunately the cherry blossoms had come out here the week before we arrived and had virtually gone by the time we got to Tokyo. It is great though to be able to cycle around on the snow-less roads and enjoy some warmth in the air. Our apartment is much smaller than the house we had in Sapporo so we have had to downsize quite a bit. Everything you buy here has to maximise space as far as possible and so much furniture and other storage products are designed with lack of space in mind.

Calum and Alistair will start new schools later this month. For Calum it will be the local Junior High School, which is a first for us as the older two boys went to Hebron in India. Calum will also start this month at the Youth Academy of the local professional team which he was able to join. There will be a lot of new experiences for all of us. Meanwhile Alistair will start in the 4th grade of the local primary school. Matthew finishes his half-term at Hebron and will return here for the spring break rather than one of us go out to India as normal which would have been hard-going just after moving house. He will stay here for around a month or so for study leave before returning to Hebron for his A Level exams.

We had a number of farewells from Sapporo and also enjoyed Calum's graduation from primary school – an occasion which was done so well with due ceremony and a good sense of closure. Now we look forward to all that lies ahead here. Thank you all for your continued support for us here.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Rev. Fergus Buchanan 25th anniversary celebrations

**Musical Evening with the pupils of Douglas Academy on
Friday 3 May 2013 at 7.30pm within St. Paul's Parish Church**

Tickets priced £2 can be purchased at the back of the Church after Sunday morning worship and during the week from the Church Secretary in the Church Office between 9am and 1pm. The proceeds from the event will be donated to a charity of Mr Buchanan's choice.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

Brigade Blethers

No prizes for guessing what this month's blether is all about!

We just came home yesterday afternoon after another great week-end up at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. We had quite a number of P4 girls away with us for the first time and I half expected phone calls from Mums worrying about the weather. Not a chance- the girls were as keen as mustard to have a big sleep-over with a party on the Saturday, loads of new outdoor activities, Barbara's famous bolognese pasta for dinner etc so who cared about a howling gale and the odd blizzard ?



The Centre staff are brilliant and they soon substituted indoor activities for the outdoor ones which they considered too dangerous in the wind. I must mention the fencing. Two groups of P4 to P6 girls, all wearing protective clothing and masks, giving their instructor a run for his money. (I think he was Errol Flynn in another life.)

One of the leaders came up with a great game for the party. The idea was to see how many pennies you could pick up out of a container. Sounds easy? Not if you are blindfolded and the pennies have been submerged in jellies, baked beans, wet macaroni or other squidgy things.

It is a wonder you didn't hear the screams in Milngavie. What trusting parents we have !

You know something has been a success when the girls come up and ask if we can do it again next year. Just watch this space.

Anne Goodlet

Special Guild Dinner

On 20th March, twelve of our members attended a special dinner in Dumbarton Burgh Hall to celebrate 125 years of the Guild.

The hall had been decorated with banners from various guilds, and during the evening a large banner comprising panels worked by different guilds (including our own) was unveiled.

The evening which was ably chaired by our own Jean Scott, presently convenor of Dumbarton Presbyterial Council, began with an excellent meal, followed by an informal hymn singalong. The hymns had been those entered by guilds in response to a competition held last year.

Instead of after dinner speeches, the company was entertained by the Rev. Fergus Buchanan and the Rev. Ian Miller, formerly of Bonhill Parish Church. There was much laughter as they recounted memories of their years in ministry.

There was also a contribution by the Four Sharps - an amusing quartet from the committee.

Altogether 210 women and four men from 24 guilds attended this memorable occasion, enjoying a meal and fellowship with others from across the county.

Morag Thomson



Scottish Bible Society Sunday

The amount collected by St Paul's Church for the above amounted to £953.20. Thanks to all who supported the appeal.

Shirley Dunlop
rep - Bearsden and Milngavie Action Group

World Mission Stamp Appeal – Update for 2012



At the time of writing, a total of over £3000 has been raised in the last year to benefit the work of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon.

This is wholly due to your continued support. By donating your used stamped you have helped this very worthy cause go forward.

Thank you all for your contributions this year. The project for 2013 has yet to be announced. When it is, I'll be sure to keep you "posted!"

KIMO PERU COFFEE MORNING

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in March; the magnificent total of £1,304 was realised. This goes toward the running of the home at Kimo.

We have just received news from the Vine Trust office giving us the information that these costs have risen enormously because of the extra staff who have to be employed by law. As a result the earlier costs of about £65 per month have rocketed to about £200! It is good that the government has tightened up regulations because some homes (not run by Scripture Union Peru and Vine Trust) have experienced problems of abuse. It does mean, however, that S.U. cannot increase the numbers in the home because of the costs, so at present there are 22 boys when there is space for 40.

Please continue to remember the boys and the staff in your prayers; they are all very grateful to the members of St.Paul's. You might be interested in looking at a leaflet giving information about sending regular support to the boys; this is called "KidSpace" and copies are available at the back of the church.

You might be interested to look at the Kimo noticeboard in the Large Hall where we have put pictures and information about the building of the home - it is heart-warming to look back at the development of the project and to be reminded of the various stages along the way. There are also some lovely photos of the boys and the houseparents, Henry and Eva.

World Mission

Scotland can make a difference in Malawi according to Clydesdale MP David Mundell

Clydesdale MP David Mundell, visited Malawi earlier in the month to mark the 200 anniversary of David Livingstone's birth. Mr Mundell stressed the strong connections between Scotland and Malawi, where Dr Livingstone is still very much remembered. The MP visited a number of organisations which have received support from Scotland; the Thawale Primary School has received donations from school children in Scotland through the Mary's Meals charity.

In Blantyre he met with business leaders and learned about Church of Scotland-funded work on combating AIDS/HIV. Throughout his visit he stressed that people in Scotland can make a real difference to people in Malawi by the twinning of schools and the fundraising activities.

Mr Mundell met President Banda and extended her an invitation to visit Scotland.

A service of thanksgiving took place on 19th March at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the life and work of David Livingstone. The Moderator, The Rt Rev Albert Bogle took part in the ceremony which was also attended by others from the Church of Scotland.

The Moderator and members of the World Mission Council were in Zambia and South Africa at the beginning of April and you can follow their travels at the WMC blog

<http://cofswmc.wordpress.com/>

Finance



Throughout 2012 the Congregational Board have been kept informed of our financial situation via the monthly reports of income and expenditure from the Treasurer. Last year the General Fund managed to maintain a healthy balance and although we ended the year with a surplus, for most of the year we had to use our reserves to meet our regular commitments.

	General Fund	
Income	2012	2011
Offerings	177,538	176,880
Tax Recovered	35,444	37,057
Other income	7,617	8,802
	<hr/> 220,599	<hr/> 222,739
Expenditure		
Ministry & Mission	119,116	117,085
Local Staffing	43,225	51,909
Buildings	31,642	31,072
Other Costs	13,773	16,600
	<hr/> 207,756	<hr/> 216,666
Income Less Expenditure	12,843	6,073

Income from Offerings shows a very small increase of £658 (about 0.4%). Other income sources show a drop in total of almost £2,800 over last year. Taking these figures into account and the fact that our expenditure shows a considerable decrease of £8,910 (about 4.1%) we nevertheless ended the year with a healthy surplus of £12,843 which is the equivalent of about two thirds of our monthly expenditure.

The Stewardship and Finance department of the Church of Scotland has asked me to pass on to the members how the money which we, as a congregation, send to the Church of Scotland is distributed to the specific areas of the church's work. In the first instance for every £1 that we send, 86p is used for the Parish Ministries Fund, and this fund goes to pay our own minister's stipend as well as parish workers and assists with other ministers, providing additional ministerial support to some of the most marginalised areas in the country. It also goes to

provide for spiritual leadership and pastoral care in schools, hospitals, care facilities and homes.

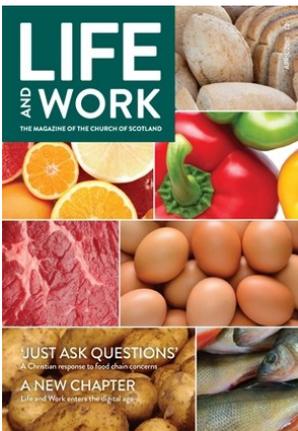
The remaining 14p goes towards planning the General Assembly, providing training for elders, safeguarding the vulnerable, stewardship and mission. It also goes toward the provision of social care services in Christ's name to people in need, and providing for the day to day administration of the church.

Last year, as a congregation, we were challenged to take action with regard to stewardship and each member of the Church received a copy of the leaflet and letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly before the January Communion. The leaflet listed reasons why we give, focusing on the vision of the Church of Scotland and considered, with reference to the Bible, how we should give.

The Church of Scotland instigated a 3 year programme of Stewardship called "Challenge to the Church" and I would ask you to please give prayerful consideration to your own stewardship programme and while this short article only deals with the money side of things, how you can use your Time, Talents and Money wisely.

After presenting the Trustees Report and Accounts for last year to the Stated Annual Meeting there are some copies available at the back of the church to anyone who would like one.

Chris Scott - Treasurer



Life and Work April 2013

Just Ask Questions

Thomas Baldwin offers a Christian response to the horsemeat scandal.

A New Chapter

Lynne McNeil highlights a landmark moment in the development of Life and Work.

Out of Africa

The story of a Nigerian refugee who is now part of the Church of Scotland congregation in Malta.

Learning Anew

Jackie Macadam learns more about a new course bringing together science and religion.

Realising a Dream

Anthea Bircham describes how a wild notion to create Perthshire's answer to the Kon Tiki succeeded against the odds.

Songs of History

Jackie Macadam reports on an unusual historic find with strong Scottish connections.

CHURCH REGISTER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr & Mrs J Tulloch,	84 Falloch Road now 40 Southgate	63 18
Mrs E McMinn,	3 Achray Place now 36 Drumcarn Drive	63 28
Mrs Katy Paterson nee McFarlane,	26 Carnock Gardens now Flat 2/2 79 Oban Drive, Glasgow	64 70

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

18.1.13 Mrs Marion Greenhill, Almond View, Drumchapel	49
28.2.13 Mrs Marjory Butler, 26 Park Ave., Milngavie	
02.3.13 Mrs Mary Campbell, Woodland Care Home, Livingston	
03.3.13 Mrs Betty Kydd, 14 Lynn Drive	11
13.3.13 Mrs Margaret Bright, 134 Strathblane Road	5
19.3.13 Dr Nancy Conn, Buchanan House Care Home	27
20.3.13 Mrs May Wands, 256 Elm Court, 97 Main Street	40

Please note copy date (the last date for submissions) for May Life is Sunday 21st if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 24th if emailing. This makes it a very short month—please beware!

Email to rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
14 April	M Conway M Macpherson	Chapman Sillars	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 7 Scott Adair
21 April	A Galloway J Townson	McCreadie Wilson	No stall	Team 1 Jim McIlree (Comm)
28 April	M McIntyre M Spencer	Stark Goodlet	B Watson M Conway	Team 8 Leslie Johnston
5 May	ℒ Dudgeon S Lindsay	Richell Bates	M Ure J Mill	Team 9 John Macpherson