

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2015



Dear Friends,

There are times when it is just one thing after another. Before Christmas our minds were full of a tragedy in the centre of Glasgow and now we are living with the echoes of the terrorist attacks in Paris. We all know what it is like to be going about our business in a city centre without a thought for our personal safety so events like these touch us at a personal level.

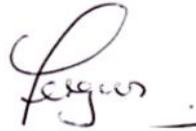
Ignatius Kaigama offers us some perspective, however. He is a Roman Catholic Archbishop in Nigeria where Boko Haram have killed thousands of people and rendered many homeless. He has commended the spirit of Paris with thousands turning out in support of the victims and to affirm their commitment to freedom of speech. Nevertheless he has challenged the West, not least its leaders, to show that same kind of spirit when attacks happen in Nigeria, in Niger or in Cameroun.

Perhaps, looking at the West, the Archbishop would agree with the poet's observation that we cannot bear too much reality. The scale of the carnage in places like Nigeria is just too much for our minds to process. But it is there and people who share our faith are being called to persevere in the midst of it all. And that is a wake-up call for people like me. From time to time I have felt that orthodox Christians are being sidelined in Western society and sometimes even pressurised to conform to mainstream thought on a number of issues. But what is this in comparison to the suffering inflicted on Christians of all traditions in parts of Africa and the Middle East?

The Anglican Archbishop of York, John Sentamu was interviewed recently and it was put to him that some Christians in the UK are currently feeling persecuted because their views have been marginalised by mainstream society. He replied:

'Well I lived in Uganda during the time of Idi Amin . . . and our Archbishop was murdered by Idi Amin. I had to get out of Uganda because I had opposed Amin on a number of things which I didn't think were ethically right . . . I know what persecution looks like. What is happening at the moment in (the UK), it ain't persecution.

The coming season of Lent reminds us that Christian discipleship is challenging but we still have freedom to express our views in various ways, to engage in works of service and also to share our faith. None of this should ever be taken for granted but approached prayerfully and used responsibly and respectfully.



## Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme

Protecting  
Vulnerable Groups  
Scheme

CHECK TO PROTECT

The process for Church volunteers and paid staff joining the PVG Scheme is now well-established. The aim is to ensure that all volunteers working with children and protected adults, within the Church of Scotland, join the PVG Scheme by October 2015.

From October 2015 only those who have joined the PVG Scheme will be allowed to work with children or vulnerable adults. If you are presently working with children within our congregation and have not joined the PVG Scheme then please contact Malcolm Boyd or Mrs Elizabeth McEwan, Safeguarding Co-ordinators, for an application pack, as soon as possible.



## World Day Of Prayer 2015

The World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee and the Christian Women of the Bahamas invite you to share in prayer and worship with people from all around the world on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in St. Joseph's Church, Milngavie at 10.30.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

The speaker this year will be Rev. Ramsay Shields, minister at St. Luke's Church, Milngavie.

## Church Visitors and W.F.O. Envelopes - Advance Notice

The new W.F.O. envelopes for the coming year will be available at the back of the Church on Sunday 1st March 2015, and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.

## Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 21st December, with a special thank you to the musicians whose playing helped to create the festive atmosphere. Thanks also to our willing band of helpers, both in the kitchen and in the hall. The sum of £556.62 was raised for Revive MS Support.

## Frances Ireland and Liz Traill

The following letter of thanks has been received:

Dear Frances,



Thank you for your recent donation of £552.62 to Revive MS Support. I am delighted that you have chosen to support us again this year.

The money you have raised for Revive will be used to improve the quality of life for MS patients and their families and will help fund the following initiatives: Information, Care and Support; Physiotherapy; Aromatherapy; Reflexology; Counselling; Oxygen Therapy; Podiatry Speech and Language Therapy; Transport and our vital Outreach Services.

Revive MS Support is a charity here to help everyone affected by MS at every stage from diagnosis onwards. Our aim is to enable people to maintain and improve their quality of life and live life to the full.

Thank you once again for your much needed support;..

Yours sincerely,



Cara Doran  
Fundraising and Communications Manager

## **Dementia Support Group**

A new support group will be starting up in St Paul's in the next few months to help support people with dementia and their families. The aim is to provide a friendly, stimulating and supportive group for a small group of people with dementia, giving a few hours respite for the main carer at home.

Alzheimer Scotland will be working alongside us to offer training and guidance. If you want to learn more and discover the different ways you can be involved there will be an opportunity at an information morning in the large hall on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 10.15- 11.45am. Refreshments provided.

We value your prayers in this new venture as preparation is underway.

For more information please speak to Peggy Barlow or Gabrielle Buchanan.

## **Arkanimals**

Arkanimals, a monthly event for 3-5 year olds has now met 3 times. There have been 10 children each afternoon, bringing their carers, mums or dads for coffee and cake. We start with free play, cars or trains, playdough and colouring, followed by a game and songs. The hour is always based around telling a well-known Bible story, and of course eating cake! We finish with a craft to remind them of the story – most of them are very enthusiastic!

Next Arkanimals is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1.30-2.30, Jubilee Hall. Anyone is welcome to bring along 3-5 year olds, 50p per session. For more details, phone Alison (0792 538 0990) or Carol (0777 287 3257)

## **Lunch Club**

A New Year has begun and the Lunch Club has started these last few weeks. We should first of all say thank you to the many folk who help each week in different ways to give you a lovely lunch and enable us to give to various charities.



This year we were able to make donations to St Paul's and to Yorkhill Neo Natal unit which helped young Harris, Gordon & Edith Blackadder's grandson. We also gave to Erskine Hospital and Help the Heroes. This was only possible with your support and the generous gift of delicious home baking by so many. Unfortunately we are short of bakers and if you are able to help a few times a year please see Ann MacLeod 942 8339 or Gordon Campbell 563 0377. Or most importantly come along and have lunch.

## Cherry Blossom Fair

The Cherry Blossom Fair will be held on 21st February 2015 from 10:00 - 12:00.



The main event will be a coffee morning but with added stalls and opportunities to buy home baking, books, pre-loved toys among other things. We are pleased to advise that The Fergusons will be with us in person this year and won't have to converse over Skype.

The Sunday Club and Bible Class look forward to seeing you there.

## Thank You From Prison Fellowship Scotland

Dear Ramsay,



Please thank the congregation of St Paul's for their very generous gift of £1500. Their fellowship with us in the Gospel is a real inspiration and encouragement.

Our Angel Tree project will be a practical demonstration of the Good News and will make a big difference to a whole lot of children - and their mums and dads - and will soften and open hearts to God's Good News.

It will be of interest to the congregation to know that:

- This has been a very busy year - we are now working in 13 of Scotland's 15 prisons.
- We have Prison Fellowship groups in these prisons each week, often more than once
- Another 48 children enjoyed an SU camp in the summer.
- Over 200 men and women in prison have completed the Sycamore Tree, restorative justice / victim awareness course, this year
- We will deliver over 800 gifts to prisons, for parents to give a gift to their children this Christmas.

Thank you again to St Paul's for their interest, prayers and investment in our work. We wish you all the joy and blessings of Jesus' coming.

Yours sincerely,

**Billy Paul**

Executive Director

## World Mission



### Mary Slessor Centenary 2015

Celebrations will take place in Scotland and Nigeria to mark the 100 year anniversary of the death of Scottish missionary Mary Slessor. Famous for putting an end to the ritual killing of twins, Mary fought tirelessly to improve the lives of people in Nigeria. Her dedication to the Nigerian people, learning their language and living alongside them earned her the title 'mother of all peoples'.

### Urgent Action Required after Recent Incidents at Sea

The arrival of a cargo ship carrying 450 migrants in Italy last month, as well as reports of nearly 800 migrants being rescued from another ship abandoned earlier in the week has prompted Senior UN officials to call for urgent action to protect migrants at sea. They claim that these recent events are part of an ongoing and worrying situation that European Governments can no longer ignore.



The Church of Scotland congregation in Malta, St Andrews Church, continues to support refugees through the Out of Africa into Malta project, which is supported by the Guild.

Our partner the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) continues to advocate for the safe and legal passage of migrants to Europe to put an end to the loss of life in the Mediterranean.

### Sri Lankan elections bring hope



Our partner the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) have responded positively to the recent elections. They have said that the outcome and the peaceful transition of power has relieved the anxiety and fear that engulfed the country.

They see this as an opportunity to stabilise the democratic policy and carve out the space for authentic peace and reconciliation with justice and dignity.

The NCCSL recognises that it is now time to accelerate their interfaith work and to embark on reconciliatory approach for peace with justice

## **World Mission Prayer Request**

World Mission have received a request for prayer from our partner the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi after recent floods have killed 48 people and displaced thousands. Areas like Mulanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre have been badly hit by the floods and many are fleeing to churches and schools. Our partner the Evangelical Church of Christ in Mozambique (IECM) has also been affected by the floods, which have destroyed homes and crops. The World Mission Council has been able to send a grant to be used immediately for food support.

## **Brigade Blethers**

We had a full bus for our recent pantomime visit and everyone enjoyed the show which was Peter Pan this year. Another bonus was the free ice cream provided by the Kings Theatre.

The next thing on our agenda is our annual Jumble Sale/Coffee Morning which by the time you read this will be done and dusted. Then we have our Company weekend to Auchengillan coming up in March with all the new activities on offer.

So here we are with a new year, a new start and lots of new things to look forward to. One of these is the Mary Slessor Competition organised by the World Mission Council. We have just been learning about Mary Slessor as part of our "All Scottish" badgework so the girls will have a go at letting folk know how they would try to change our world for the better. It saddened me to realise that none of the girls had ever heard of Mary or the way she had carried the Gospel to Nigeria. David Livingston's name brought a lot of blank looks as well.

Tearfund sent us a lovely letter thanking us for our donation to their work and reading about the suffering which they are trying to ease, we realise again that we are so blessed in this country. We can meet in safety in a nice clean warm hall and we can depend on support and prayers from our Church.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful new year

God Bless,

**Anne Goodlet**



## Japan Jottings



### Dear Friends

As I write this we are gradually getting used to being back in Scotland again. This time we are based at Lorna's parents' home near Kinross with wonderful views over Loch Leven. When weather permits, it is great to get out for walks in the local area.

By the time you read this, we will hopefully have seen many of you at St Paul's as we will be there on the first Sunday in February. We will be back again for the Cherry Blossom Fair on 21st February. We really appreciate the time and effort which many have put in over the years to hold this annual event for our support.

There are a number of purposes for this time back in Scotland. One is to reconnect with family, friends and churches. Another is to reconnect with our 'home' culture. That can bring its share of surprises and stresses as we adjust to things that have changed since we were last here. For Alistair it means having the chance to be at a Scottish primary school again. That seems to be going well so far. And we also need to take time for rest and refreshment after almost six years away so we are ready to return to Japan and the challenges that await us there.

We are thankful for colleagues in Japan who are covering our roles while we are here. OMF Japan is in a state of transition as we put in place a new structure to support our work there and the many new workers that the Lord

continues to send. Of course that means that we have many of our co-workers in the initial stages of language learning and culture adaptation. It seems a long time since we were in these early days ourselves though it continues to be a challenge to live, work and share the gospel with the people in Japan.

We give thanks for your partnership in the gospel and look forward to being able to catch up with you personally during our times in Milngavie.

*With our love*

*David, Lorna, Daniel,  
Matthew, Calum and  
Alistair*

### Flower Donations - February

Mrs. E. Farmer,  
Mrs. J. Ferguson,  
Mrs. H. Kelly,  
Mrs. P. Knaggs,  
Mrs. J. Pirie



Please put donations in the Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to:

Mrs Wilma Douglas,  
34 Braeside Ave.,  
Milngavie  
G62 6LJ

## February Edition - Life & Work



### **The Challenge of our Age: Dementia and the Church**

The number of people with dementia in Scotland is set to rise by 75% in the next 25 years. Jackie Macadam discovers some of the Church of Scotland projects trying to help.

### **Reforming the Kirk**

The Rev Dr Doug Gay considers the challenges of church growth and says lessons can be learned from the Church of England.

### **'He Went About, Doing Good'**

W Ross Napier describes the short life of Donald Mitchell, the first Church of Scotland missionary in India.

### **Faith Rewarded**

Jackie Macadam meets the author of a new book about St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem.

### **A Rainbow of Hope**

The Moderator calls for the Church to create transformative change.

### **The Spirit of Generosity**

The Rev Alan W Gibson emphasises the importance of the offering during worship and explains how the money given is spent.

### **Atheism and the Church**

The Rev Russel Moffat considers the impact of a decade of 'new atheism'.

### **Closing the Digital Divide**

Alan Rodden describes how a partnership project involving the Church of Scotland is opening the online world to all.

### **Our One Foundation**

The Rev Professor David Fergusson emphasises that we can only know God through the Jesus of the gospels.

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## Lodging House Mission Update



Dear Friends,

A big thank you to everyone who sent in donations of food, sweets, clothing and money over the Christmas period to help us sustain a service for the men and women who come through our doors.

Our picture shows one of our service users cosily wrapped in a hat, scarf and gloves provided by one of our generously supportive churches.

This winter, the LHM is again involved in a partnership with the Glasgow Winter Initiative Night Shelter. This service provides a secure and safe environment for Glasgow's vulnerable rough sleepers during the coldest time of the year. Tea, coffee and snacks are also provided. The LHM has supplied free meal vouchers for those attending and to date over 500 have been distributed. Since the beginning of December the average number attending has been around 20 per night. This is well above last year's attendance.

Not only has practical support been offered at the LHM; but I the LHM Chaplain, have been a volunteer twice at the night shelter covering the whole shift from 9.30 p.m. till 08.00 a.m. the next day. I plan another couple of night shifts before the shelter closes at the end of February as does Angela, our support worker. Doing these shifts helps the LHM establish vital contacts with service users and with other organisations involved in the shelter.

Give thanks for this vital Night Shelter service and pray for all those involved in running it and for the safety of all who use it.

Blessings ,  
**Gus McKay**  
Chaplain

## S.U. Holiday



SU Scotland have organised a weekend away in their activity centre at Lendrickmuir, 24th-26th April for any children from Milngavie, Bearsden and Torrance in P5-S6.

Lots of fun and activities indoors and outdoors whilst learning more about God. Leaflets in the Baldernock Porch or phone Carol Gibson for more information - 942 9542.

## The Guild



**5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** The Kessington Music Group entertained us on our first Meeting of the New Year. Led by Moira Forrester, Fiona & Victor, they sang a selection of well remembered songs, reminding us of our 'younger days'. Very nostalgic! John played the fiddle, including one of his own compositions to a delighted toe tapping audience. All were accompanied at the piano by Liz.

**12<sup>th</sup> Jan:** At our second afternoon meeting, Eleanor Easton brought us up to date with the work at **Kimo**, the school for boys rescued from the streets of Lima and other towns in Peru. In an interesting & well illustrated talk, enhanced by her enthusiasm, she outlined the very beginnings of the project and its plans for the future.

**19<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Ecumenical Service in St. Andrew's Episcopalian Church. Rev.Kirstin Freeman welcomed all visitors from the Association of Churches and led the service for a week of prayer for Christian Unity. Members of the different churches took part in the service which was based on 'The Well is Deep'. Hospitality was provided after the service, with the opportunity for further fellowship.

## Diary Dates

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Barbara Parfitt - Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

“ 9<sup>th</sup> Rev. Fergus Buchanan - Bible Study

“ 16<sup>th</sup> Morag Thomson - Have Camera Will Travel

“ 23<sup>rd</sup> Matt Ramsay - Salvation Army

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> **No Meeting**

“ 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesday** Visit to St. Luke's Guild

## Margaret Stirling

# *Intentionally Left Blank*

Copy date for the March issue is Sunday 15th February if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 18th February if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flower Deliveries</b>	<b>Crèche Rota</b>	<b>Traidcraft Rota</b>	<b>Vestibule Rota</b>
<b>1st Feb</b>	P. Barlow S. Robertson	McCreadie Wallis	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 M. McDowell
<b>8th Feb</b>	S. Anderson M. Adams	Richell Bates	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 S. Dunlop (EC)
<b>15th Feb</b>	M. Conway K. Edwards	Wilson Tracey	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 R. McGowan
<b>22nd Feb</b>	A. Galloway J. Townson	Stark Sillars	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 D. Rogerson