

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

June 2015



Dear Friends,

This year's General Assembly was dominated by the decision to allow congregations to call a minister in a same-sex relationship. It is not quite as straightforward as has been presented in the media so I thought it might be helpful if I used this opportunity for some explanation and comment.

The Act, which was approved by the General Assembly by a majority vote, affirms 'the historic and current practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality and their application to the ministers and deacons of the Church.' As widely understood, 'the historic and current position' is that same-sex relationships stand outside the will of God for humankind. The Act, however, gives Kirk Sessions liberty to depart from this position.

The decision would be taken in a time of vacancy but only after the Kirk Session has gone through a prescribed procedure. This will involve an initial meeting, notice of which will be given to the congregation on two previous Sundays. If there is a majority in favour of departing from 'the historic and current practice' a second meeting will be intimated, again with two Sundays notice, at which a final decision will be made. If a Kirk Session decides to depart intimation will be sent to the Presbytery Clerk within seven days.

The Act goes on to cover certain eventualities that may arise but I have tried to set out the core of it.

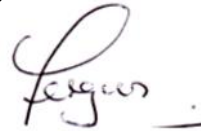
This is the conclusion of a series of discussions and consultations that have engaged the Church since 2009. The Church has been revealed as divided on the issue with passionate views being expressed on both sides of the argument. As I have made clear in the past I stand with 'the historic and current practice of the Church which in its Biblical base is clear and consistent. That moved me at the General Assembly to vote against the proposed Act and to record my dissent at the eventual outcome.

This of course would appear to be going against the cultural drift at this present time and I have to accept the consequences of that. I confess, however, to becoming tired of being called, along with others, 'homophobic', intolerant, judgmental. The Christian writer Rick Warren offers some comfort:

'Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense.

'You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.'

I realise there are differing views within our own congregation but I move forward praying that relationships will be open and warm, that we will continue to seek God's will in all our work, and that disagreement will not hold back the purpose of the Church which is to exist for 'the praise of His glory.'



### Minister's Holiday

Mr Buchanan will be on holiday from Wednesday June 24th until Thursday July 16th.

Guest preachers during this time will be as follows:

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
28th June	Rev Peter White	Mr Douglas Muirhead
5th July	Rev Mark MacLeod	Rev Mark MacLeod
12th July	Rev John Campbell	Mr Stuart Love

### Flower Donations - June

Mrs. K. Canlin, Mrs. W. Douglas,  
Mrs. E. Easton, Miss F. Ireland,  
Mrs. J. McColgan, Miss A. Martin,  
Mrs. M. Phillips, Mrs. M. Reid,  
Mrs. I. Torbet, Miss L. Traill



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

Tel 956 2630

## Brigade Blethers



Our annual Display and Award Presentation took place on Thursday 7 May and it seemed to go well. Thanks to all those folks who came along to support the Company especially Sandra Kay who presented the awards. As usual this Blether is to spotlight the girls who received special awards - so here goes.

Our Explorers are all real stars who attend regularly, always finish their badge-work and can be depended on to work hard to learn display items. Our "Wee Chookie Hens" were Laura Berry, Kaitlin Macleod, Ava McKay, Kara Gibb, Rebecca Barnett, Cara Turner and Sophie Stark.

Fifteen Juniors received their service awards and Squad No 1 came out best squad. That's Lauren Mackenzie, Kirsty McCusker, Finty Smith and Nicola Gibb. The Chaplain's Cup for best Sunday attendance was shared between Heather Macleod, Eilidh Shaw and Jolie Wallis.

Nicola Berry and Chloe Edgar produced the best collage for the Anne Faith Memorial Cup and Kirsty McCusker won the cup for the Junior who had shown most improvement over the year. The cup for Best Junior Overall, which is awarded for good attendance, extra effort and a helpful attitude went to Sarah Mackenzie.

We only have six good Brigaders at the moment, namely Sarah Dougall, Sophie Wallis, Eden Wilson, Alison Kerr, Jennifer Cockburn and Isla Robinson. We felt that they all made up a winning squad. Isla received her Brigader Brooch with twelve years' service. The Jennifer Macintyre Memorial Cup was won by Sophie Wallis and the Cup for Best Brigader overall went to Jennifer Cockburn.

I reckon that the spotlight should also shine on the leaders who turn up week by week to help teach the girls to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ. They are involved in a lot of preparation but always manage to keep a sense of fun in the work. So thanks to Vivienne, Alison B., Alanna, Alison C., Janet, Katy, Sheila, and of course our Chaplain Mr Buchanan. See you all in September.

God Bless,

**Anne Goodlet**

## World Mission

### South Sudan: 'Even the churches are not safe.'

Rev John Yor Nyiker Deng (centre), General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, was interviewed at the General Assembly by Life and Work.



He spoke about the dangers faced by Christians living in South Sudan saying:

'In the beginning the soldiers respected the church buildings and people could come to us for sanctuary from the fighting. Sadly, now soldiers will enter churches and kill people sheltering there without a moment's thought.'

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### Fear in Lahore following another Blasphemy Case



Our partner organisation CLAAS has informed us that the Christian community in Lahore is once again suffering attacks on their church and houses following the accusation that a member of the locality with mental health difficulties desecrated the Koran. The accused, Humayon, is reported to not understand the sensitivities of the situation due to his illness.

Please continue to pray for the Christians in Pakistan as they continue to face these difficulties.

#### Note From the Editor

The magazine will take a break for July and August. The editor would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the past few months. As always, if you have any comments or would like to write an article for the magazine, please use the email address: [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com) or leave an article in the Life Magazine pigeon hole.

**Carla MacAllister**

## World Mission (Cont.)

### Anti-human trafficking project for summer 2015

Are you interested in learning more about human trafficking?

Do you want to help raise awareness and make a difference?

The Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group, which includes a representative from the World Mission Council, has launched a new project in partnership with Edinburgh Presbytery and Stop the Traffik. During the Edinburgh Fringe Festival two UN Gift boxes will be in Edinburgh to raise awareness about human trafficking and there will be performances of a powerful street drama.

If you are interested in learning more and getting involved please come along to one of the information sessions:

**18 June, 2.30-4pm**, Edinburgh Gorgie, The Salvation Army, 431 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh

For more information telephone Miriam Weibye, ACTS: 01259 216 980



### World Mission Events :

- **Make Poverty History Activism Exhibition and Jubilee Scotland AGM, 9 June, 6pm, St Augustines, Edinburgh.**

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Make Poverty History followed by the Jubilee Scotland AGM.

- **Solas Festival, 19-21 June, The Bield, Perthshire.**

Join the Church of Scotland at this arts and spirituality festival for all the family with an international flavour.

- **Prayers for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories:**

**24 August 7-9pm:** Glenrothes St Columbas, Glenrothes.

**24 September:** St Kentigern's Church, Kilmarnock.

**24 October 10.30am-12.30pm:** Selkirk United Reformed Church, Selkirk.

## Children and Youth Activities in St Paul's

We have had an excellent year in all of our children and youth activities.

Noah's Ark is going so well with over 60 babies and young children registered with around 40 coming along on each occasion. It has all gone so well that an afternoon session is now on the go. Lovely to see all these new young families in the church. Arkanimals is going from strength to strength, with around 10 young children coming along with their mums to hear bible stories on a Tuesday afternoon.

The Sunday Club has lots of children coming along with many exciting and fun activities for the children as they learn about Jesus and being a Christian. There are around 45 children from preschool to P7 and every Sunday is a new adventure for all. The collection that the children bring each week is put towards charity at the end of the year. This year we have been able to make the following donations:

Church Flower Fund	£40	Mary's Meals	£100
SU Scotland	£100	Teen Ranch	£100
Vine Trust (Kimo)	£100	Preshal	£80

The Bible Class is sad to see 4 of our number moving on to further education this year. We wish them every success as they meet this new chapter of their lives head on. You will be sadly missed and remember if you're not going too far we are always on the lookout for new leaders, teachers and helpers.

Sunkids has been a huge success over the past year with the number of children coming from within and outwith the church, very encouraging. Sunkids is for P1 – P7 and is run on the first Saturday of each month. You will hear more about this from the Sunkids team as the new session starts up after the summer.

The ARK youth group is so much fun. There is an excellent spread of ages from S1 – S6. It is on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the large hall 19:30 – 22:00. We have games, crisps and drinks and sometimes step it up to pizza and hotdogs. Mostly it's just a very chilled environment for young people to hang out with their friends.

None of the above would be possible without the dedication of all the volunteers, thank you. We are always looking for more help and fresh ideas for all that is done for the young people of the church and the wider community. If you think this could be you. Please don't hesitate in contacting me.

**Janice Maclean**

Children and Youth Co-ordinator.

## June Edition - Life & Work



### **Challenge and Change**

Iain Douglas, Chair of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, highlights some of the key issues facing the Church over buildings and ministry.

### **Transforming Communities**

Jackie Macadam looks at the role of volunteers both inside and outside the Church.

### **From Selma to Montgomery**

The Rev Dr Iain Whyte walks again in the footsteps of Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

### **The Poet Laureate Elder**

Jackie Macadam speaks to Glasgow's Poet Laureate – Church Elder Jim Carruth.

### **The Napoleonic Legacy**

Jackie Macadam charts the 200-year-old relationship between the Church of Scotland and the Royal Caledonian Educational Trust.

### **The Shoeshank Redemption**

A new anti-sectarianism resource from a Church of Scotland minister and a Roman Catholic priest, produced behind bars in Greenock.

### **An Undiscovered Heritage**

Kirkpatrick and Rachel Dobie reflect on the ten-year audit of silverware in the Church of Scotland.

### **'The Spirit of God'**

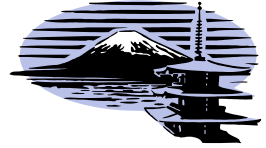
The Very Rev John Chalmers describes an emotive personal visit to the Royal Marine Training Centre.

### **The First Step**

Professor Matthew MacIver reflects on a change in Church attitudes to Gaelic.

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



### Dear Friends

It is good to be back in Japan. We are not quite all together as a family of six yet but in a few weeks' time we will be! Daniel returns from Australia early July and we will all be in the one place for two or three weeks until the older two boys head off on their travels again.

Calum and Alistair both had their final sports days at their respective schools last month. It was a pity that they ended up on the same day but we enjoyed being part of both events, always big occasions in the school calendar here. Matthew continues with his job here during his gap year but will travel to Scotland at the end of July to have a few weeks' holiday before starting at Glasgow University in September. Daniel will also be back for his final year.

Meanwhile in Japan, this month sees various events to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OMF. It all started with the vision of Hudson Taylor and the founding of the China Inland Mission in 1865. The work in Japan started in 1951 after all the missionaries had to leave China after the revolution. OMF also has a base in Japan for sending Japanese missionaries and they mark their own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. During June, in six cities throughout Japan there will be special meetings to celebrate this anniversary but also to challenge the Japanese church and we hope some younger people to take up the task of reaching the peoples of Asia with the gospel. David is the main speaker at two of these gatherings.

We very much appreciate your support and prayer for us here. Although the task seems almost impossible, as we work together in partnership we look to God to draw Japanese people to himself and for the church to be built up in this land.

*With our love*

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



## Moderator's Munro Challenge

The Moderators' Munro Challenge has raised more than £11,400 so far through online donations to Christian Aid's Nepal Earthquake Appeal. Additional donations collected in churches and communities, which haven't yet reached Christian Aid, are expected to swell that total.



Rt Rev John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly and Rachel Hutcheson, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, led the fundraising effort by climbing Ben Lomond on 2 May, 2015. "I'm glad I've finished my climb," Rt Rev John Chalmers said as he recovered from his feat. "But I'm even more pleased that the donations are continuing to go up because the people of Nepal need as much help as we can send them."

You can still contribute to the online effort at Christian Aid's fundraising page: [www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/70munros](http://www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/70munros). With wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph at the snowy top of Ben Lomond, the Munro Challenge was tough enough that some participants didn't make it to the summit. "There were actually times on the hill when I'm not sure if I would have made it myself if I hadn't had the support from Rachel Hutcheson and from my son, who walked with me at my pace," the Moderator said. "I can tell you my knees and legs are stiff. I have been feeling the pain."

The original intention behind the Munro Challenge was to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Christian Aid's foundation. But after the Nepal earthquake left the country devastated, the Moderator asked for all the funds raised to go to Christian Aid's work in that country, one of the poorest in the world.

"Now we hear a further earthquake has hit the region so we need to keep going. Now is the time when our compassion and generosity can really make a difference," the Moderator said.

The Church of Scotland's partner organisation in the region, the United Mission to Nepal, has distributed food to 144 households in six of the hardest to reach villages where they work. They are trying to source and deliver tarpaulins to build shelters and will make food deliveries to several other badly hit villages this week.

## Scottish Cathedral's Weekly broadcast reach global audience

Glasgow's magnificent 13th century Cathedral is on the itinerary of every visitor to the city, *writes Andrew Ralston*. Events such as last year's broadcast of the service to mark the start of World War I receive worldwide attention and during 2014 the Cathedral website attracted well over three million visits.



Yet the Cathedral is not only a venue for civic events. It is a worshipping community which is part of the Church of Scotland and the congregation is using its online presence as a method of outreach by streaming a weekly service of Choral Evensong.

This represents a novel way of employing the latest technology to allow the timeless beauty of the words and music of Choral Evensong to be experienced by anyone who has access to a computer.

This most musical of all services is sung by the Cathedral choir which now consists of 14 choral scholars and choristers under the dynamic leadership of a new Director of Music, 22-year-old Andrew Forbes. A notable feature of the service is that almost all of the words are drawn directly from Scripture.

Each Sunday at 4pm Choral Evensong goes out live and remains accessible throughout the following week – a venture which been made possible thanks to expertise from within the congregation, as Elders Jane and Glen Collie of Collie Productions offer their services and equipment free of charge.

Glen sees the broadcasting of Choral Evensong as a means of carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28 to “go ... and make disciples of all nations”.

“Now in its second year of operation, the broadcast has reached 17,000 hits,” he says. “As many people will be watching along with others, this could represent something like 25,000 people who effectively make up a worldwide online congregation.”

Analysis reveals that the service is reaching countries as far afield as China, India, Denmark, South Africa, Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

Join with this worldwide online congregation by visiting [www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk](http://www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk)

## The Boys' Brigade in Milngavie

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Milngavie have had a very happy and successful year and the Company is in good heart. Attendance in all three Sections has been very consistent and it has been a really busy year for all the Boys and the Staff.



Too many activities to list but here are the highlights ~  
*for the Anchor Boys* ~ the visit to the Pantomime at Mugdock, the Fun Day when they raised £640 for the World Mission Fund and their Adventure Day at Mugdock where they built shelters, had lots of hands-on experience of Nature and tried hard to exhaust their leaders with their energy and enthusiasm.

*The Junior Section* has been playing fun football at the Allander Sports Centre, practising and taking part in P.E. and model making at Battalion level. They also enjoyed a grand adventure day at Mugdock which the Officers survived.

*The Company Section Boys* work busily every Friday with activities focussed on Badge Work. Everyone is proud of Gordon Maclean who has gained his Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Brigade.

There are five Boys working towards their Queen's Badge including Iain Shields who has achieved his President's Badge.

18 Boys and 3 Officers are off to Whithaugh for a very full, exciting activity weekend. Look at MilngavieBB@hotmail.co.uk Search for Andy Mathie to see proof of their bravery!

*The Parents' Nights* gave a taste of the weekly activities and the Boys were very smart and deserving of the many trophies, cups and badges awarded. A big "thank you" to the parents who turn them out so well and encourage them, week after week.

A tremendous *thank you* to Captain Alistair Fettes and his five Lieutenants and several loyal helpers. They are stretched by covering all three groups. Would you like to help or do you know someone who might? Do you have a skill or interest that would appeal to the Boys? Another Officer or two would be ideal.

And, of course, please tell any lad you know from P2 upwards that the adventure starts here in Boys' Brigade and there will be a place waiting specially for him at 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Milngavie on Mondays and Fridays come September.

**Margaret Russell**

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Copy date for the September issue is Sunday 23rd August if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 26th August if emailing. Please send to: [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
<b>7th June</b>	E. Izatt F. Ireland	Bates	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 J. Clark
<b>14th June</b>	A. Gibson A. McLeod	Sillars	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 H. Murrison
<b>21th June</b>	M. Abbott K. Hagart	McKinnon		Team 2 M. Stewart (C)
<b>28th June</b>	M. McLean R. Cameron	Goodlet	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 G. Rogerson