

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

May 2018



Dear Friends,

I can't believe that almost 8 months have passed by already since starting my probation period with you at St. Paul's and Baldernock. Many of you will be aware that this is the final leg of my training process since graduating last July from Highland Theological College and completing all my previous church placements with varying congregations across Dumbarton and Glasgow presbytery. The probationary period is 15 months long and is a time for gaining more experience, training and reflection on the tasks involved in becoming a Full-time Minister of Word & Sacrament within the Church of Scotland. I feel extremely blessed to end my training with you all and the welcome, encouragement and support I have received since starting in September 2017 has been so wonderful. I did not come alone to St Paul's and Baldernock but with 3 sons: Samuel (9), Ciaran (7) and Malachi (20 months) and my husband Stephen (40 years ;)). It is a testimony to the Church and the wider community that we already feel part of the Church family and Milngavie community.

The most important thing I have learned about ministry so far is that I love it! It makes me feel fully alive and there is nothing else I want to do. Throughout my calling to ministry I have had a sense of being called to something bigger than I can handle (does God really call people like me?) but my journey so far has shown me that God fully equips you. Being a minister on my own strength would not work but with God I can go where he calls ("With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" Mathew 19:26). I believe there is a message in there for all of us; Jesus brings us into a relationship with God our Father, the creator and sustainer of the Universe. With God all things are possible! God has a plan for each and every one of us and this excites me as I share the Gospel message with others. No matter what life challenges and disappointments we are facing God wants to walk the journey with us, equipping us to move forward in love, grace and promise.

A passion or vision of mine is to see the Church back at the centre of a community building positive relationships that can witness something of the transforming love of Jesus. Today's society can think that the Church is no longer relevant for postmodern Britain but this is not the case. For example, we can see that today's families struggle with the challenges of work, differing shift patterns and time pressures, which can all negatively impact on home life and raising children. From what I have witnessed, St Paul's in Milngavie has a growing ministry to the local children and their families (through Sunday club, Noah's Ark, Ark Animals, Sunkids, Galaxy Kids, Messy Church and The Ark) within which they seek to clearly and simply say: Jesus cares for you so we care for you too.

Continued from front...

The church is relevant today because put simply it cares! Being a part of a church is central for me, as it provides not only a place to worship God and to hear God's word (and God speaks to us today - the word is as relevant today as it was in the past [Hebrews 4:12]) but is a place where there are people and community. Church is not about the building but about the people. As that popular children's hymn goes: 'I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church together' we are the Church and as a church we are called to live out our faith in unity with others, supporting and building each other up in love so we can reach out-with the walls of the building to serve and love other people. We know the gospel message is full of hope, love, acceptance and promise and this needs to be brought alive to all people no matter who they are.

It's been wonderful getting to know both congregations and the wider Milngavie community. If you have shared your home, time, resources and stories with me then from the bottom of my heart I am so very thankful.

And one last thought! 'The Joy of the Lord is your Strength, '(Nehemiah 8:10) so shine, share and show others you care for God's glory.

Love,
Lynsey x

The Rev. Fergus C Buchanan

Fergus was inducted to St. Paul's on 20th April 1988 and has served the congregation and the local community for the past 30 years.

It is difficult to remember St Paul's without Fergus who has become a leader and friend to many. His preaching of the Word has if anything, become stronger over the years and many students have benefited from his experience while training, as he is only too willing to help and encourage the next generation of church leaders. Considering he will have preached over 3,000 sermons in his time we are truly blessed as a congregation.

Actively involved in Dumbarton Presbytery and in working with other local Churches, Fergus is highly regarded by his colleagues. The way the linkage with Baldernock Church has been implemented, clearly shows his leadership skills.

Family life has been very important to Fergus and he has always been keenly involved in the upbringing and welfare of his sons Mark, Stephen and Paul. The addition of a daughter-in-law, Mary, to the Manse family and the arrival of a grandson, Busby, has obviously brought great joy to both Fergus and Gabrielle. The unstinting support of Gabrielle to Fergus over the years is greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Fergus, we thank you.

Book Group

The Book Group met on Tuesday 17th April and, with much more clement weather this time, nine attended to talk about 'a good book I have read recently'. Here are the books that were presented:

Charlotte Grey by Sebastian Fox

The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng

Midwinter Break by Bernard Maclaverty

Preferred Lies by Andrew Greig

An Echo in the Darkness by Francine Rivers

C J Sansom's Tudor crime series featuring lawyer/detective Matthew Shardlake

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

Eleanor Oliphant is Absolutely Fine by Gail Honeyman

If Only They Didn't Speak English (Notes from Trump's America) by Jon Sopel

Our next meeting is on May 29th when we will discuss James Naughtie's first novel, 'The Madness of July'.

Ann Begg

Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May 2018

As you are probably aware, Christian Aid week is fast approaching and this year is from the 13th to the 19th May. I have said in previous intimations that St. Paul's makes an impressive impact on Christian Aid locally and this is accomplished by having the Christian Aid Soup and Roll Lunch and through the delivering and collecting of envelopes.



This year, more than ever, we need your help to volunteer and we do need more and more volunteers to deliver and collect the envelopes. Please, please give this a lot of thought and if you are interested, either give me a phone or put your name on the sign up sheets at the back of the church.

The lunch this year raised a mighty One Thousand Pounds and even with the snow affecting our plans for the lunch, we were overwhelmed at the donations from the congregation.

So one more plea - please help us with the delivery and the pick up of the envelopes and see the sign up sheets at the back of the church.

Alex McEwan

Grace Rogerson

Dr Grace Rogerson has been nominated as Moderator of Dumbarton Presbytery for the coming year and will be installed as Moderator at a meeting of Presbytery in St. Paul's on Tuesday 19th June.

The Presbytery of Dumbarton, which includes St. Paul's, covers 33 local congregations in West Central Scotland, stretching westwards from the outskirts of the city of Glasgow along the northern shores of the River Clyde and its associated sea lochs to the foothills of the Highlands in Argyll, beside and beyond Loch Lomond.

The Presbytery comprises ordained ministers and representative elders from each of the congregations, together with a number of other ministers and elders. It meets several times a year to consider and decide a range of matters and issues and is chaired by a member called the Moderator.

Grace, for many years a Doctor in General Practice, was ordained as an Elder in St Paul's in 1995, has been a member of Dumbarton Presbytery for 16 years and for the last 11 years has been the Representative Elder for St Paul's. Much of the work of Presbytery is conducted through committees and Grace has been actively involved in several over the years including the challenging Planning Committee and the busy Business Committee. Grace has been a Commissioner at three General Assemblies of The Church of Scotland and will be attending the 2018 meeting in Edinburgh later this month.

Communion will be celebrated at the service on 19th June which starts at 7.30pm and it is hoped that as many of St Paul's Congregation as possible, will be able to attend to support Grace. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

Lodging House Mission

Following the success of the 2016 project to commence Saturday opening, the LHM decided to open on Sundays for the duration of the Winter Night Shelter (1st Dec, 2017 until 31st, March, 2018). The Board has now decided to open permanently on a Sunday.



LHM opening hours are now: 8am - 3pm every day (closed NY day)

Ann Begg



Dear Friends,

Recently I went for a walk in a park in a nearby city whilst Alistair's team was warming up for their football match. The park is a traditional Japanese one with beautiful flowers, trees and an impressive pagoda, an oasis in the middle of a busy city.

At the edge of this park is a large shinto shrine. As you wander through you notice people buying little strips of paper, called "omikuji" (sacred lot). If the piece of paper you get is lucky you may keep it in your purse. But if it is not good fortune then you tie it to special structures in the shrine grounds.

In another part, people are buying small wooden wishing plaques. One side usually has a colourful design and on the other side you write your wish or prayer before hanging it up. When I visited this park it was exam season for Japanese students looking to enter high school or University. So it was no surprise that many of the plaques contained prayers to do well in those exams, or to get into a specific school or University.

Last month I mentioned the year of "examination hell" which Calum and Alistair have now entered. Most of their friends are now attending cram schools, until late in the evening, for special entrance exam preparation. From the summer all extra-curricular school activities will stop so that the children can focus exclusively on their study. It is a tough time for them and for their parents who often worry whether their child will get into the "right" school or University to set them up for a good job in the future.

The Bible tells us not to "worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). It can be easy to get caught up in other parents' worry about the future. But as Christians we trust that God will lead each of us. Even if we don't get into the place of our choosing, we trust that His plans are even better. Please pray for more Japanese people to know about God who loves them and has a plan and purpose for each of their lives.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Flower Festival 2018 - Volunteer Request

The following has been received from Angela Rigg of St. Andrew's Church:

Dear All,

We are planning to put on the Flower Festival in aid of WaterAid on Friday, 8th and Saturday, 9th June. You and your churches have been kind enough to get involved in the past. I'm writing to check whether you are prepared to be involved once again and I'd be grateful if you would let me know over the next couple of weeks so that I can sort out the arrangements.

If anyone in St. Paul's would be able to create a flower arrangement at St. Andrew's Church, please contact Angela Rigg (arigg18582@aol.com) or Marjorie Thoms

Thank You

My warmest thanks to everyone at St. Paul's for all the cards, flowers, visits and most of all, the prayers received during my recent illness. These in no small way contributed greatly to my recovery and were very much appreciated.

I hope to be back in Pew 77 very soon.

Again, my thanks and prayers are for you all.

Sincerely,

Morag Thornhill

A big thank you to everyone who in so many different ways have shown their concern for me during my stay in hospital and since I have come home. I was also grateful to know I was in so many prayers. I hope that it won't be long before I am back with you at St. Paul's.

Margaret Hamilton

Flower Donations - May

The Church flowers are entirely funded by private donations, and are then delivered to members of the congregation going through difficult times.



Also anyone wishing to record their name in Life in memory of a loved one should send the donation a month prior to publication of the magazine. A personal acknowledgement will be sent out where name and address is supplied.

Donation for May: Mrs M E Robertson

Please send donations to Mrs M Thoms, 66 Braeside Avenue, Milngavie G62 6NN, or put them in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be written to St Paul's Flowers.

Lodging House Mission

The AGM took place on Wednesday 4th April. After the formal proceedings a volunteer and a mission user gave us very interesting accounts of their experiences at the LHM and what it meant to them. Gus Smeaton, Project Leader followed this with a report on the current situation at the mission, and the hopes and plans for the future.



Serving food to the homeless is the principal role of the mission and approximately 30,000 meals are served each year. With the success of Saturday openings and the help of volunteers it has recently been decided to open 364 days (closing on Jan 1st). At weekends church teams of four volunteers help the professional staff. The work is from 10am to 3pm and likely to be no more than 4 days per year. I am hoping a team can be organised in St Paul's. Please contact me if you would be interested.

In an endeavour to restore dignity and self worth to the mission users there are many different activities and training with considerable input from the chaplaincy, counsellors, teachers and health care professionals. If you can offer any skills they would be grateful to see you. One request at the moment is for someone to teach baking. If you would be interested in volunteering at all you can contact them directly or I would be happy to take you along for a visit.

We were finally treated to a delightful performance by the Mission Singers.

Ann Begg

World Mission Stamp Appeal



I would like to thank everyone who kindly donated used stamps and collections over the past year.

I have received an update on money raised and the 2018 appeal.

Irene Strang

Dear Friend,

I am writing to thank you for the used stamps which you have kindly sent to raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. Please thank everybody involved in collecting these stamps for their continued support and hard work. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide. In 2017 we raised an amazing £2,194.00 that will be used to support Giffen Institute of Theology (GIT) in South Sudan run by our partner Church the Prebyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS)

The Appeal which starts in April 2018, is raising money for The Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run a number of day care centres which provide educational, emotional, and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to live life in all its fullness, and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

These centres provide a wonderful opportunity for young people to be a part of a community where their needs are met, where they are able to be themselves, and their families are supported. Unfortunately, the Ukrainian government is unable to provide support for people with disabilities due to economic constraints. The church is therefore relied upon to provide these valuable services for young people. We are pleased to be able to support their important work with money raised from this year's stamp appeal.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Carol Finlay

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2020
WITH McCABE PILGRIMAGES
DATES : 16th-23rd JULY, 2020

Anne Ritchie has come out of "retirement" to organise another church holiday. Unlike 2010 she has chosen East Austrian Tyrol based in PERTISAU on the shores of the Achensee, the largest lake in the Tyrol, surrounded by alpine pasture and framed by the picturesque Karwendel and majestic Rofan mountain ranges. Oberammergau is less than a two hour drive from there and we shall spend one night in Oberammergau, see the Passion Play on the Sunday in the middle of our holiday and return to our hotel in Pertisau to complete our stay.

Our Pertisau accommodation will be the Karlwirt Hotel that has been welcoming guests since 1794. Rooms are double or twin-bedded with bath or shower, w.c., television and balcony with mountain views. The lake, chair-lift and golf course are within a 10 minutes walk. Guests enjoy the lovely swimming pool area which opens on to the garden, the restaurant, coffee shop and traditional bar. A very small number of single rooms is available at a supplement.

We shall be flying direct from Edinburgh to Munich with a coach taking us from Milngavie station there and back.

The holiday includes excursions to Innsbruck and Stams Abbey and a scenic tour of the Zillertal valley. A guided walk and an Austrian themed evening will be arranged. A free day and afternoon allow for a sail on the lake, a trip on the mountain steam train and ascent by cable car.

YOU WILL FIND A BROCHURE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE RETURN THE FORM AND THE DEPOSIT TO ANNE RITCHIE, 12 NORWOOD PARK, BEARSDEN G61 2RF ASAP so that she can gauge numbers.

SINCE THE TRIP IS WELL IN THE FUTURE, THIS DEPOSIT WHICH IS SENT TO OBERAMMERGAU NOW, TO ENSURE BOOKINGS, IS RETURNABLE TO YOU IF YOU CANCEL BEFORE THE SECOND DEPOSIT IS DUE.

CHILDREN:

Any child under the age of 16 is offered a 15% reduction in the cost of the holiday. If the parents decide that they do not wish their child to see the play, a baby-sitter may be provided and McCabe will attempt to sell the play ticket.

Bible Sunday

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bible Sunday appeal in February. The total sum donated was £1,475. When Gift Aid has been reclaimed this will add another £311 to the total.



Frances Ireland

World Mission

Pakistani Christian woman dies after acid attack

Asma Yaqoob, a 25-year-old Christian woman, has died after being doused in acid and set alight for refusing a Muslim man's marriage proposal.

Nasir Saeed, Director of CLAAS-UK, one of the Church of Scotland's partners, has expressed his anger and grief over Asma's tragic death, stating that this is a real picture of how Christians are being treated in Pakistan. "Christian women are looked upon as inferior and as a commodity, and have no respect in society."



He added: "They are often harassed and intimidated at their workplace. They are often asked to convert to Islam and to marry Muslim colleagues. If they refuse they face dire consequences – sometimes they are kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam, and sometimes they are attacked with acid. Such cases are becoming everyday matters and the police hardly make any advances, especially if the victim is Christian.

Let Us Build A House - Visitors share news of fantastic earthquake reconstruction work

Three years ago today, Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake, in which over 8000 people were killed, and over 6 million families made homeless.

A group of 18 Church of Scotland members have just returned from a 10-day visit to the Dhading region of Nepal to see first-hand the reconstruction work being undertaken by United Mission to Nepal and other partners. Some of them spent four days trekking in the mountains in the north to see community restoration work, the others toured projects within villages in the southern part of the region.

You can read the first of 5 posts about the trip on the World Mission blog. Two of the travellers were interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland. You can hear the interview and see some photos from the trip on Facebook.

W. M. Continued

Mediterranean Hope - new arrivals welcomed in Italy

Mediterranean Hope is the refugee and migrants programme that is run by the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, of which our partner, the Waldensian Church, is a member.



Their 'Humanitarian Corridors' programme which provides legal humanitarian channels for refugees from Syria and Lebanon to settle in Italy, has just entered its second phase. In the last week, 84 refugees have arrived in Italy, welcomed by the ecumenical Mediterranean Hope team.

The government provides humanitarian visas to enter the country and to ensure access to the right of applying for asylum. Faith-based agencies furnish airline tickets to Italy as well as accommodation, assistance with asylum procedures, educational opportunities and Italian language courses.

Mediterranean Hope has also begun a programme to support and cooperate with search-and-rescue actions in the Mediterranean Sea.

Our Mission Partner Fiona Kendall is currently working as Mediterranean Hope's European & Legal Affairs Advisor. You can read her experiences of the programme in her entries on the World Mission Blog

New Guild project from the World Mission Council



The World Mission Council and the United Church of Zambia are pleased to announce that 'Journeying Together, Empowering Teenage mothers in Zambia' is being supported by the Church of Scotland Guild for the next three years. The project will be delivered by the Community Development and Social Justice Department (CDSJS) of the UCZ which is run by Deaconess Mable Sichali.

'Journeying Together' aims to educate, economically empower and build the self-esteem of teenage mothers to enable them to make better choices for themselves and their child and to give them a chance of a better future.

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The copy date for the June issue is Wednesday 23rd May for e-mails and Sunday 20th May if using the church pigeon hole.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
6th May	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars Wallce S.	Team 10 B. Shearlaw
13th May	C. McKinnon S. Stenhouse	Berry Tracey	Team 3 R. Raeburn (EC)
20th May	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Richell McKinnon	Team 4 E. Bragg
27th May	S. Anderson L. Cowie	Wilson Wallis J.	Team 5 R. Vallance