

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2015



Dear Friends,

Apparently our European neighbours are often amused at our obsession with the weather. Well we do have rather a lot of it, sometimes everything in the one day, and it can be so unpredictable. Who would have thought we would have enjoyed the glorious Autumn that has just passed? Compensation for the cold and wet Summer we endured? Someone said (and it may have been me) we lost a Summer and gained an Autumn.

We have a tendency to think of our lives in terms of the seasons. People speak of 'the Autumn of their years' as a time when the best may be behind them, when they slow down, when expectations are more realistic. There is not much encouragement for this in the Bible. Abraham and Moses could be said to have lost a Summer and gained an Autumn. Their role in God's great plan became clear when they were well on in years. The Psalmist prayed: 'Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation.' (Psalm 71: 18). He continually aspired to be a faithful witness through all his years.

What will the Winter bring? The predictions are not good weather-wise. The gloomy are convinced we will pay for the Autumn. But to paraphrase the hymn, Summer and Winter and Spring-time and harvest we have our Heavenly Father's 'dear presence to cheer and to guide'. Whatever the weather and our own personal circumstances, we can look forward to a season of witness:

'We have a gospel to proclaim
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing His glory tell His worth.

'Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.'

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be 'Leigh'.

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas Services:

Our Traditional Advent Services will begin on Saturday 28th November at 9.30am in the West Transept. Details will follow in our weekly intimation sheet.



The annual Milngavie Churches Joint Carol Service led by the Salvation Army, will be held in St Paul's at 7pm on Sunday 6th December. This is a popular service to which all are warmly invited.

Christmas Outreach to our Parish

The stewardship committee are again organising an outreach to every household in our Parish, this Christmas. This year the outreach will take the form of a Christmas Card greeting, to come and join us at our Christmas services.

There are circa 1700 households in our Parish and we require 20 volunteers to deliver the cards in early December.

If you are able to assist in this important task, please add your name and contact details to the list at the back of the Church. Alternatively you can contact Gordon Fairbrother the Stewardship Convener, by telephone on 0141 563 8698 or by E mail to fairbrothers2@ntlworld.com.

Your assistance would be very much appreciated.

Men's Association



Having enjoyed two very interesting talks in October, our programme of meetings continues in November with a presentation on 3rd. November by David Lawson entitled "Bird Migration Worldwide".

On 17th. of the month our minister, Fergus, will be giving a talk to the Association. The title of his talk will be given at a later date.

We look forward to welcoming members, friends and members of the congregation to both meetings. I was asked recently if women were allowed to attend our meetings and my answer was a very emphatic "YES!". We would be delighted if more ladies joined us at our meetings. Keep a close eye on intimations / notices of our forthcoming meetings and, if a topic subject interests you, do come along and join us.

Ken MacIver

Guild Week : 15TH – 22ND November, 2015

To promote our Guild in Guild Week we would like to invite members of the congregation to a sandwich lunch after the morning service on Sunday 15th November when we will have information about the Guild Project we will be supporting this year.

Our Project is "Let's Stick Together", and is run by Care for the Family and is a national charity which aims to promote strong family relationships and to help those who face family difficulties. The work is motivated by Christian compassion, with resources and support available to everyone, of any faith or none. The cost of family breakdown is estimated at £42bn per year and mainly occurs during the early years of parenthood, with over 50% of parents who separate doing so within three years of having a baby.

Our Guild Project Partner has leaflets explaining about the Project which will be on the tables at the lunch.

We are fortunate to have a strong Guild in St. Paul's (but we still have space for new members!) and we have supported many Guild Projects over the years and everything we do is to express our faith through worship, prayer and action.

Please put the 15th November in your diary, the ladies in the Guild would love to have your company for lunch.

Brigade Blethers

Things are settling down here in the Company and we are pleased to say that we have some new members.

We have just been off for the "October week" and we are now looking forward to our fancy Dress Party. We WILL get around to some badgework but let's keep it enjoyable.



Then we have our enrolment service in St Paul's on Sunday 1st November and we will also attend the Remembrance Parade the following week.

Our Brigaders are ready to act as stewards etc. for our annual Charity Quiz which this year takes place on Thursday 19th November. This year we would like to support a Foundation which helps children with Pfeiffer Syndrome. This is one of the smaller charities which does wonderful work so we hope that lots of teams will come along to our quiz and help us to raise lots of money. Letters will be going out to the various St Paul's organisations and the other local Churches but it would be nice if the Company could sport a team of parents. It is always a good evening with plenty of banter but it can be quite competitive in a friendly kind of way so start swotting now!

We will announce the winners in our next blether.

Anne Goodlet

Fairtrade

As usual, the Traidcraft catalogue is available each Sunday after the morning service.



In the run up to Christmas, we are very happy to receive orders from the extensive stock. We have already the "Real Advent Calendar" on the stall. This has not only Fairtrade chocolates in each window, but also a little booklet telling the Christmas story.

Many of the ingredients for your baking, sugar, sultanas, mixed fruit, cocoa, drinking chocolate, are available or you can order the ready made Christmas cake, biscuits, & many other seasonal delights.

Either browse through the catalogue or & order through the church stall or go on the website at traidcraftshop.co.uk.

Any orders can be phoned to me:
Rosemary Fraser - 956 3222 or rmfraser@hotmail.co.uk

The Guild



The Guild began its 2015-2016 season on Monday 5th. October. This year we have three members who will share the Presidency- Jean Scott, Marion Shearlaw and Margaret White.

Before the usual opening devotions, Jean Scott welcomed new and former members. Then she introduced 'Fine Fettle' a lively group of six talented ladies. They entertained us in fine style, singing beautifully, playing accordions and ukuleles. What a fine start to our new session!

Sunday 11th. October saw an excellent turn out of members for the Guild's Dedication which was held at the morning service.

One of the Guild's aims is to raise funds for various projects selected by headquarters. Our Guild has chosen to support 'Let's Stick Together' a Care for the Family initiative which aims to support young families.

Our programme continued on 12th. October, with a visit from local minister Andrew Lees He gave an amusing account of his early life, and his eventual move to the ministry

On 19th. October, we enjoyed a talk by William Black about Old Maryhill, amply illustrated by photographs of well known worthies of the past, and scenes of buildings long ago demolished.

Our programme for November is as follows :

- 2nd Nov. No Meeting (we visit St. Luke's Guild on Tuesday 3rd Nov)
- 9th Bible Study - Rev. Fergus Buchanan
- 16th The Shows - Yvonne Waring
- 23rd Help for Heroes
- 30th Finance Night/St. Andrew's Evening with Ryan Corbett

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

Just now we are experiencing what life is like for a final year student in Japanese Junior High School as Calum works hard for important exams in January which will determine which High School he can get into for his next three years of schooling. It is a complex system of which we have no experience!

Many school students Calum's age spend most evenings at cram school after their regular classes and work can continue through the weekend too. Calum does spend some time there both for classes with a teacher and for personal study but certainly nowhere near as long as what most are doing. He has his football too so that he keeps him more than occupied, with lots of travel into the bargain. There are really many differences growing up as a teenager here in Japan.

OMF in Japan works in a number of different settings. One place is Aomori Prefecture in the north of Honshu island where there are few churches and Christians. Some of our people have worked there for years but often see little fruit for their labours. Recently we have had one family go there to be based at a place called the Aomori Christian Centre located in an open area and often used for camps. The buildings are now very old and need a lot of work. There is a vision to see more camps held – there are very few Christian camps for children and young people held in Japan. And they would also like to develop the centre so it can be used for a number of different purposes. It can be lonely work in a remote place and the missionaries there need much prayer and encouragement.

Thank you as always for all your support for us.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Flower Donations - November

Mrs A. Murray, Mrs M. Taylor,
Miss A. Ritchie, Miss S. Sheret,
Mrs. I. Torbet, Sunday School Club



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

November Edition - Life & Work



Letters from the Front

In the month of Remembrance we look back at the letters sent by Church of Scotland chaplains to Life and Work during the First World War.

Ministers of the Future

An introduction to three people studying for the ministry, whose progress we will be following in the coming year.

A Global Challenge

Adrian Shaw, the Church of Scotland's climate change officer, looks ahead to the Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Bold and Strong

Lynne McNeil reports from the Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

'I Pray That They Find Peace'

The Rev Aaron Stevens, minister of St Columba's Church of Scotland in Budapest, gives a powerful account of this summer's refugee crisis in the Hungarian capital and his church's efforts to help.

Comfort and Trouble

The Rev Dr Martin Fair considers the uncomfortable messages of James about hoarding wealth.

A Recovery of Joy

The Moderator highlights why the challenges facing today's Church present a new opportunity for mission.

A Thin Place

The roots of a 25-year pilgrimage to Assisi, led by a Church of Scotland Minister

A Starting Point for Mission

A memorial garden created by an Edinburgh church on the banks of the Union Canal.

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

Online visit us at www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Stamp Appeal

This year the Stamp Appeal will support the work of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme which supports partners both in Scotland and overseas to support those infected and affected by HIV.



HIV and AIDS does not often make the headlines these days. Many people think that the problems caused by the global epidemic are things of the past. Unfortunately, it is still an issue, particularly for our partner churches in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

There is still no vaccine against HIV, and while retroviral treatment is available for those lucky enough to access it, there is still no cure. Each year over 1.5 million people die of HIV- and AIDS- related illnesses, and over 2 million new infections are recorded. There are still a huge number of children who have lost one or both parents to HIV, and who are reliant on the extended family or community to care for them.

For over 12 years, thanks to the generosity of church members and their fundraising, the Church of Scotland HIV Programme has been able to offer support to partner churches overseas as they engage with the reality of HIV and AIDS in their communities; nearer to home, we also support local organisations in Scotland who are reaching out to families infected and affected by HIV.

The projects we support at home and overseas run education awareness programmes, support orphans and vulnerable children, train volunteers to provide home-based care, facilitate support groups for people living with HIV so that they can live positively in every sense of the word. They also challenge the stigma and discrimination which so often accompanies an HIV+ diagnosis.

**Please remember this appeal as the Christmas card season draws near
Collection Box in Strathblane Road Entrance**

I. Strang/ N. Caldwell

St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship 11th-14th August, 2016

McCabe Travel is organising a long weekend to Oberammergau as a build-up to the 2020 Oberammergau Passion Play.

The programme will include a performance of Verdi's Nabucco in the Passion Play Theatre, a visit to the church of St Peter and St Paul and the Pilatus House to see the woodcarvers at work, all in Oberammergau.

Excursions include a visit to Linderhof, one of King Ludwig's palaces, the monastery at Ettal and the famous rococo church at Wies.

An evening gala dinner will take place where a member of the Passion Play team will introduce plans for the Oberammergau 2020 season. A visit behind the scenes is also planned.

Free time is included in the programme with an alternative of a guided hike in the area.

BROCHURES will be available at the back of the church or contact Anne Ritchie on 956 5027 or 07811 973 375

World Mission

Moderator hears of work of Waldensian Church

The Moderator was recently in Italy to hear first-hand how our partners, the Waldensian Church are responding to the needs of refugees in their communities.

He has been to a variety of projects run by the Waldensian Church. He visited a project at the Waldensian Church in Servizio Cristiana in Riesi that is helping provide education for the community.

He was also able to visit a project at the Casa delle Culture in Sicily where support is provided to unaccompanied young people arriving in Sicily as refugees.

He has also been able to spend time with members of St Andrews Church in Rome, gaining a greater understanding of the work they are currently involved in.



Christian Aid 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, 10 November, 7.30pm, St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh. The preacher will be Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid.

Book Club



We have been reading *The Kashmir Shawl* by Rosie Thomas. This many layered narrative begins with the discovery of an exquisite and expensive hand-woven shawl and a lock of hair.

What is assumed at first to be a simple romantic novel is in fact a well-researched and well-written story of two women from different generations of the same family linked by a beautiful Indian shawl. This is a powerful story of friendships, loves and secrets all set against the vibrant culture of India in 1940 and today. Mair makes the discovery of the shawl when she is sorting through her grandmother's possessions and so begins the story of Mair and her grandmother, Nerys.

Although slow to start you are soon drawn into the narrative. The group thoroughly enjoyed the story telling although there were a few doubts expressed about the behaviour of the Welsh missionary's wife which they found difficult to believe. To sum up, the group thought this was the best book for a while with an excellent story line. On a personal note, I just wanted to see the shawl for myself!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 November when we will be discussing *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

Joyce Clark

Loding House Mission - Thanks

Please pass on our grateful thanks once again to the folk at St. Paul's Parish Church for donating their harvest gift to help us provide a nourishing, wholesome meal for the many socially excluded and homeless men and women who need the Lodging House Mission's help and support. All the Harvest gifts that we receive from many churches and schools mean that we can continue to provide free and heavily subsidised meals for our service users.



We are only able to provide the level of support and help that we do because of your generosity and support.

Please continue to support us in whatever way you can, especially through your prayers, so that as we engage with our service users we will begin to see their lives changed for the better.

Yours sincerely,

Gus McKay



Robert Bone's family sincerely thank those who attended his funeral and those who spent time visiting and spending time with him in hospitals, at his home and finally at St Margaret's Hospice, Clydebank.

My dad thoroughly enjoyed your visits but most of all the fellowship, friendships and camaraderie he had over the sixty years he attended St Pauls. He always found comfort even in his most trying times.

Our thanks to Rev F. Buchanan for all his support and friendship over many years to both my dad and family, especially the frequent visits and time spent in the past 6 months.

Also thanks for the cards, messages and prayers. We all have taken great comfort from them.

Yours in fellowship,
Stewart Bone

I am grateful to the Minister and the congregation of St Paul's Church for the support, visits, prayers, cards and thoughts during my recent surgery.

I am now in the process of recovery and doing well.

Norman Barlow

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Copy date for the December issue is Sunday 15th November if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 18th November if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Note : This is a week earlier than usual to allow the magazine to be available for distribution on Sunday 29th November.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
1st Nov	G. Chisholm A. Shiels	McKinnon	M. Ure J. Mill	Team 9 A. MacLean
8th Nov	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Sillars	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 M. Fraser (EC)
15th Nov	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Tracey	J. MacIntyre M. Fewell	Team 3 R. Fraser
22nd Nov	M. Abbott K. Hagart	McKinnon	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 I. MacCalman
29th Nov		Berry	C. MacKay R. Fraser	Team 5 B. Ponton