

St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine February 2011



Dear Friends

A quick glance at the calendar today told me that today the multi-faith church celebrates this day as St Paul's Day. Fitting then, that we find ourselves in St Paul's Parish in Milngavie.

As you may or may not know Paul was born in Tarsus in the south east of Turkey. Jewish by education, it is said that he was a passionate Jew and passionate about the law of Moses. One of the most fascinating stories about Paul is his incredible transformation on the Damascus road. Everything about him changes during his transformation, but his passion does not wane. He seems to become passionate for a different cause. His passion for Christ.

Passion is a very powerful emotion, it holds no half measures and it can be boundless in its enthusiasm. Passion has been known to burn in a person's heart to cause abandonment and even martyrdom in the extreme cases. Paul was passionate about his Christ.

And as we approach His mercy seat how do we fare on our relationship with Christ? Do we burn with passion? Are we transformed and amazed by Jesus the Nazarene? We heard Ken in a sermon only the other day when he spoke of how other people would describe being a Christian, but never mind other people: how do *you* describe *your* relationship with Christ?

We belong to a church that shares the same name as one of the most important early Christians and yes he was passionate about his Church and his Christ. Lets try and tap into that passion of St Paul and be boundless in our enthusiasm for the Son of God.

Yours in Christ,

Alex McEwan,
Elder

We would like to thank Alex McEwan most sincerely for stepping in at very short notice to write the cover address as Fergus was ill and Ken was picking up the double workload. (Or they were at the time of printing.)

At these times we realise how much we depend on one or two people for so much of what happens around the church and give thanks for their dedication and pray for strength and enthusiasm to keep carrying out their duties faithfully. And we also give thanks for the unsung people who work away without making a big song and dance but whose contribution is invaluable. [Ed]

A Message from Eddie Lyle, Open Doors UK

"Persecuted Christians are praying for help. You can be part of God's answer."

Will you join with us at the Jars of Clay Volunteer Summit and discover your place in the Open Doors community?

Jars of Clay promises to be a fantastic day, inspired by the persecuted church and personally significant for you.

- Meet other volunteers, exchange ideas and make new friends
- Hear exclusive news on our plans for 2011 from Eddie Lyle and the team
- Key note speakers from Nigeria and Colombia
- Worship led by Andy Flannagan

VENUE: *The Telford International Centre,
St Quentin Gate, Telford, TF3 4JH*

TIME: *10am - 6pm*

COST: *£12 including lunch and refreshments (early bird price before 1 Feb, normal price £15)*

For more information and to book tickets go to www.opendoorsuk.org/jarsofclay, email info@opendoorsuk.org or phone 01993 885400.

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational

The Washington Post invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the winners:-

.. 1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

2. Intaxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.

3. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

4. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

5. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

6. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out

7. Decafalon (n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

As we go into February, life begins to take on a more normal routine for us, if indeed there ever is such a thing as 'normal'. Daniel and Matthew are back at Hebron and the younger two boys are also back at school after the long winter holiday. This is the shortest term of the school year – just two months and then it will be all change again.

Recently we were thinking about the year ahead with our co-workers and wondering what kind of things we might do through the year to which we can invite people we have got to know. Japanese young people are very in to Valentine's Day so we are hoping to have something fairly low-key one evening with some food, lots of fun and a chance to share simply about the love we can know and experience in Jesus. Even though Valentine's Day is nothing to do with church as such, there are ways we can use these occasions as opportunities to meet with people and gently open doors to share the love of Jesus.

Over the last couple of months David and JP (our German co-worker) have been meeting a young guy called Wataru. He first came to Hiragishi Church last February (interestingly on Valentine's Day!) and has really changed over this past year. In December he said that he would like to study the Bible and we always have fascinating conversations. We look forward to Wataru being the next believer in our young church.

Thank you for all your support for us. We appreciate so much the financial gifts we receive from the church which enable us to carry on our ministry here to reach the people of Sapporo with the gospel.

With our love and thanks,

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

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 6th March 2011 and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.

The Guild

After having to cancel a few of our meetings we were delighted to start again on Monday 10th January when we heard from Mr. Len Murray and Dr. Jo Thorpe about Mary's Meals. It was great to hear how this Organisation originated in Argyll and children worldwide are not only being fed but also educated through Mary's Meals.



of prisoners. It was hoped this would be the start of a few Centres opening.

On Monday 24th we had an absolutely super night when we were entertained by the Bearsden Fiddlers, as well as a lot of foot-tapping there was also a lot of singing and a lovely supper. As Life goes to print we look forward to welcoming Mr. Murray Blair whose topic is "The Washing Green".

The following week Viv Dickinson spoke about our Crossreach Project – On the Other Side. She told us about how they have started up a Visitors' Centre at Perth Prison to help families

Jean Scott

Ecumenical Prayer Group

If you find 8.00am (the Prayer Breakfast) too early or 8.00pm (Prayer and Worship) too late/dark why not join us on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am in St Andrew's Church Hall.

We are a small (10approx.) very friendly group from 5 churches. We have half an hour of prayer followed by half an hour coffee/fellowship chat.

You would be made **very** welcome. There would be no pressure to pray aloud.

Janet Charles

World Mission Diary for January

This month let us remember people who are affected by the dreadful floods which have devastated different countries around the world.



Sri Lankan floods have ruined swathes of farmland

Sri Lankans forced to flee their homes in the east of the country by four weeks of heavy rain are trying to return. They face desolation and a near-destroyed rice crop. At least forty people have died. 50,000 are in welfare camps. We would also pray for John and Patricia Purves who are missionary partners there.

We also remember the people of **Brazil and Queensland ,Australia** as they also come to terms with the loss of life, homes and crops.

Let us give thanks for all the help that has been given to them both materially and spiritually at this time and in the future.

Brigade Blethers

Our first Brigade meeting of 2011 was, as usual, our visit to the Kings Theatre pantomime. We wondered what it would be like without Gerard Kelly who was a firm favourite but it was a great show and the costumes and scenery were out of this world. We might just go back again next year!



We then had three things to look forward to - 1. our Company coffee morning/jumble sale; 2. our Company weekend to Auchengillan in March and 3. a visit from Heather Ambler of Therapets. Heather came along with her dog and spent the evening explaining how they use animals as a therapy for people who are ill. They

visit hospices and retirement homes and encourage folk to enjoy the animal's company. Heather also spoke to the girls in the Company about how to behave with a strange dog and she was able to help some of the girls to build up their confidence with animals.

So now it is the Coffee morning Jumble sale which is on **Saturday 5 February** from 10am to 1pm. This is your chance to come along and enjoy a coffee and a blether with a chance to pick up a bargain at the same time. Hope to see you all there.

Anne Goodlet



Dear Frances,

We were delighted to receive your letter enclosing cheque for £434.50 on behalf of the members of St Paul's Church being the amount raised at this year's coffee and mince pie event. We are most grateful for this donation and can assure you that the money will be put to very good use.

From time to time our ponies need new shoes, rugs (indoor and outdoor), saddles and lots of other bits and pieces. As we all know it has been extremely cold this year and keeping the ponies warm is very important. Because it has been so icy underfoot we've had to let them exercise in the indoor arena. The boys have great fun rushing around and almost dancing, the girls are more subdued and take turns to look at themselves in the mirrors.

Christmas has come and gone and the New Year is upon us. Again thank you to the congregation of St Paul's for their generosity, it is very much appreciated. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2011.

Yours sincerely,
Michelle Fleming, Office manager

Extract from the Accounts for Year 2010

General Fund	
Income	
Offerings	175,897
Tax Recovered	39,104
Other Income	7,731
	<u>222,732</u>
Expenditure	
Ministry & Mission	114,790
Local Staffing	54,537
Other Local Costs	32,360
Building Costs	14,767
	<u>216,454</u>
Income Less Expenditure	<u>6,278</u>

General Fund. Offerings for last year are comparable with the previous years total although the increase in the Standing Order method of giving has been offset by the reduction in members giving by other means. Total income for the year was £222,732. Expenditure over the whole year totalled £216,454.

While we show a modest surplus at this time it will be swallowed up very quickly in most of our large monthly outgoings. e.g. Staffing costs and Ministry and Mission Allocation.

This year we are faced with the reduction in our Tax Recovery on Gift Aid and for example if the Gift Aid Offerings remain at the same level we will lose at least £4,200 this year through this method. We have also been hit with the VAT increase to 20% from 17.5% and had the change been made last year we would have to pay a further £420 on the total outgoings. The rise in National Insurance Contributions of 1% in April will add a further £150 to the wage bill.

If the offerings continue at the present rate we are likely to be faced with a deficit at the end of the year and our reserves will be reduced accordingly.

The Stewardship and Finance committees have met and will be initiating a new Stewardship Campaign to inform the Congregation and promote all aspects of Christian Stewardship.

We would ask you to prayerfully consider what you can do and encourage others to do the same.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Scott (956 5251) or Graham Mill (956 5155).

This is a summary of the Budget which will be presented to the AGM in March for approval by the Congregation.

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET - 2011

	Actual 2010 £	Budget 2011 £
INCOME		
Offerings		
WFO Envelopes(non Gift Aid)	14,044	13,000
Gift Aid Cheques,Envs & S/Os	136,521	139,000
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid Donations	39,104	35,000
Ordinary Offerings(Open Plate)	25,332	24,000
	215,001	211,000
Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Orgs	2,310	1,500
Funerals & Weddings	1,375	500
Interest & Donations	2,526	1,620
Use of Premises	1,520	1,600
	7,731	5,220
Total Ordinary Income	<u>222,732</u>	<u>216,220</u>
EXPENDITURE		
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work		
M & Mission Alloc, Presb Dues	114,790	117,093
	114,790	117,093
Local Staffing Costs		
V A Stipend, Travel , Tel & Pulpit Supply	4,371	4,269
Min Assistant's Salary, Nic & Expenses	14,491	14,500
Other Salaries & Supply + Nic	35,675	35,855
	54,537	54,624
Building Costs		
General Repairs & Maintenance	9,768	7,500
Heating & Lighting	9,373	8,500
Water Charges & Insurance	10,660	10,800
Manses Council Tax	2,559	2,600
	32,360	29,400
Other Local Costs		
Stationery, Tel,Equipment,Publicity etc	10,649	9,850
Donations & Outreach	3,118	2,500
Grants to Organisations	1,000	1,000
	14,767	13,350
Total Ordinary Expenditure	<u>216,454</u>	<u>214,467</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	6,278	1,753

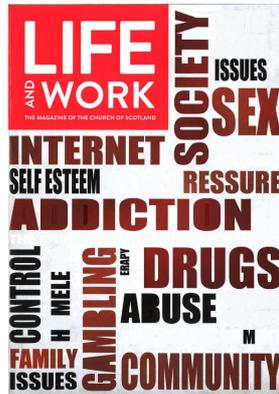
Chris Scott – Congregational Treasurer

Kimo Coffee Morning
SATURDAY MARCH 19th.

A date for your diaries! Please come and support the Kimo Peru Project. The money needed to build the boys' home has been raised but now that some boys are in the home S.U. Peru has day-to-day costs for feeding and clothing them. Some members of the congregation are continuing to send money regularly to the Vine Trust but we felt that others might want to contribute from time to time.

As a result we have decided to hold a Coffee Morning where we can enjoy coffee, home baking and browse at stalls for second-hand books and baking. We hope that you will join us between 10a.m. and 12 noon.

Life and Work



Addictions

Jackie Macadam examines some of the work undertaken by the Church of Scotland to support and understand people with addictions.

Celebrating the Church

The church is hoping to attract 3000 people to Roll Away the Stone, a major new event taking place in Edinburgh during this year's General Assembly. Thomas Baldwin reports on plans so far, and The Rev Alastair Cherry introduces the musical elements of the day.

Does it Really Matter?

The Rev Gordon Jamieson explains the importance of thoughtful Christian giving.

Life and Work Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £17.40 – a reduction of 35 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the end of March, if possible. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.
Frances Ireland

Life and Work Needs You

Please send submissions and suggestions for parish news, Growing Church, View from the Pew and The Big Picture to Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN or magazine@lifeandwork.org

Flower donations—February



February donations: Mrs. E. Farmer, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. P. Knaggs, Mrs. J. Pirie, Mrs. C. Tanner, Mrs A Jones

Please put donations in flower rota pigeon hole at back of church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave, Milngavie G62 6LJ
Phone 956 2630

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday in St Paul's will be on 27th February.

"But how shall men meditate on that which they cannot understand? How shall they understand that which is kept close in an unknown tongue?" Preface to the King James Version of 1611, The Translators to the reader.

2011 marks the 400th Anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible - 400 years of having a Bible in a translation which could be understood by the majority of the people living in the United Kingdom. Nowadays we have several versions in English to choose from but in some parts of the world people are still waiting for even a Gospel in their 'heart' language, and many cannot afford the purchase price when a translation becomes available.

The Scottish Bible Society supports translation projects in various parts of the world and aims to supply Bibles to people in a language they can understand, a format they can use, and at a price they can afford. As we celebrate this Anniversary let us give thanks for the work of those translators all those years ago and also remember the translators of to-day who are working to give as many people as possible the Bible in their own language.

Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts 2011

5 th Feb	St Andrew's
5 th Mar	United Free
2 nd Apr	St Luke's

Victory as Christian health worker restored to work and offered a better job after intervention by the Christian Legal Centre

Victory for Margaret Forrester, a Christian mental health worker who was told today that she would be restored to work and even offered a better job, following her suspension for expressing her private views on abortion to colleagues.

Margaret Forrester was suspended by her NHS employers after she mentioned privately to colleagues her concerns about the information women were given prior to having an abortion. She shared with colleagues, not members of the public, a booklet containing stories of women who have struggled with post-abortion syndrome in order that they might have the full picture when advising women discussing their unexpected pregnancy.

In another piece of good news, a Christian nurse who was prevented from wearing her cross at work has, with the help of the Christian Legal Centre, been allowed to return to work without having to remove her cross.

Source: Anglican Mainstream Blog
www.anglican-mainstream.net

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday, 4th March 2011

Written by Christian women of Chile
How Many Loaves Have You?
Will you join us?

A warm welcome awaits you at the
United Free Church, Milngavie
on
Friday, 4th March 2011 at 10.30am

We continue our reflection on the church, turning this month to consider the trials of Christians worldwide who do not have freedom to worship. We are positive that the following (necessarily brief) sketches will prompt readers to want to find out more, to pray for the lives of people they read about – and on reflection to give thanks for the freedom we have to worship as we choose in Scotland, whatever the failings of our own church.

New Wave of arrests in Iran

Christians in Iran are concerned by a recent wave of arrests targeting their community – and by officials' threats of more to follow.

Religious rights group Middle East Concern (MEC) reports that 25 Christians with a Muslim background – including church leaders and five married couples – were arrested at their homes in several cities. Two couples were separated from very young children.

MEC reports that 14 of the 25 are still in detention. The 11 others were reportedly interrogated and forced to sign statements declaring they would no longer participate in Christian activities before being released.

Christianity is among the religions officially recognised in Iran but officials appear to be targeting the house church movement and believers with a Muslim background. Under Iran's Sharia-based law, apostasy – renouncing Islam – is punishable by death.

(Sources: AFP, IRNA, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Middle East Concern)

Nigeria

Scores of Christians have been killed and injured in a series of bomb blasts and church attacks in Plateau and Borno states in Nigeria.

At least six bombs exploded on Christmas Eve in the Gada Biyu and Unguwar Rukuba districts of the state capital, Jos. In Gada Biyu, the bombs were detonated

near a church and in places thronging with people doing last-minute Christmas shopping.

Meanwhile, in Maiduguri, Borno state, about 30 attackers armed with knives and petrol bombs raided the Victory Baptist Church killing Pastor Bulus Marwa and four others, including two choir members in their 20s. The church was then set alight.

Islamist militant sect Boko Haram has since claimed responsibility, according to Reuters news agency. The sect's avowed aim is to extend Islamic or Sharia law across Nigeria and its name means 'Western education is sinful'.

(Sources: Agence France-Presse, BBC, Bloomberg, Compass Direct, Reuters, Stefanos Foundation)

Somalia: Christian mother of 4 murdered by extremists

Islamist extremists in Somalia murdered a mother-of-four in front of her community after tapping her phone for proof that she had become a Christian.

Al Shabaab militants arrested Asha Mberwa at her home on the outskirts of Mogadishu on January 7 – and cut her throat in front of villagers the following day.

Asha's four children – who are aged between four and 12 – are being cared for but are said to be very distressed. Their father, Abdinazir Mohammed Hassan, who was not at home at the time of his wife's murder, has reportedly fled and gone into hiding.

(Source: Compass Direct)

Open Doors' 2011 World Watch List Published: worst countries for persecution exposed

World Watch List shows Communist North Korea again at the top followed by eight Islamic majority countries.

Iraq moved up from number 17 to number 8 on this year's list. 90 Christians were murdered in 2010 & hundreds more injured. On 31 December, an elderly Christian couple in Baghdad was killed when terrorists placed a bomb outside their home, rang the doorbell and walked away. Other Christian-owned homes and neighbourhoods were also attacked, wounding an estimated 13 people.

Pakistan (11 on the list) saw 29 Christians martyred in 2010 with at least one believer being killed every month. Four Christians were given long prison sentences for blasphemy against Islam, at least 58 Christians were kidnapped and over 100 assaulted. On 4 January 2011, Punjab governor Salman Taseer was shot 27 times by one of his own bodyguards because of his opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

In Egypt (19 on the list), at least 21 people were killed and scores wounded on 1 January 2011 when a bomb planted outside a church in Alexandria exploded as congregants were leaving a New Year's Eve service.

(Open Doors)

Fatima's story

Around the world millions of Muslims are coming to know the transforming power of God's love and putting their faith in Jesus. And for many, their first contact with Christianity is through satellite TV or radio programmes been prepared in their own language. But frequently the price of converting is high and many

face isolation, harassment and threats from both family and friends. One such convert, Fatima, a young woman from the Middle East, told us how she saw a Christian TV programme:

At first I didn't understand anything. So I decided to call the number that appears on the screen. Day by day I learnt more and more about Jesus. Eventually I asked for a Bible and started doing a discipleship course. As I studied, I understood how I needed to surrender my life to Jesus.

But the story took a darker turn: *One night, around 11 pm, I was watching satellite TV and my husband came in. He realised it was a Christian channel and started hitting me without mercy. He called my family and told them I had become an infidel and heretic... I had two choices: to renounce my faith or run away.*

In the middle of the night, Fatima left everything behind - home, family and security - and ran for her life...

Afghanistan: jailed Christian denied access to lawyer.

Release is calling for prayer for a Christian prisoner of faith who faces a possible death sentence for 'apostasy'.

Said Musa, who has worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross, has been detained in Kabul since May and is said to have suffered torture, abuse and death threats in custody. He has not yet been allowed to consult a lawyer.

Release understands that charges have not yet been brought - but his arrest was reportedly connected with his decision eight years ago to leave Islam and become a Christian.

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMEBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mrs Pamela McMahon, 17 Rowan Drive, Bearsden 45

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Elaine Mitchell, 44 Ellangowan Court, Milngavie 14a

DEATHS

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

18.12.10 Mr Duncan Bain, 65 Braesdie Ave., Milngave

1.01.11 Mr Alex Smith, 59 Park Ave., Milngavie 17

1.01.11 Mr Alan Mathieson, 3 Tannoch House, 138 Mugdock Road

17.01.11 Miss Morag Mackenzie, 31 Burnbrae Ave., Bearsden 44

Copy date for March Life— Sunday 19th February for the pigeon hole or up to Wed 23rd if emailing. Please send to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or 123 Garscadden Road, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6 Feb	J Ford C Tanner	Reid Sillars	L Cowie C MCKinnon	Team 5 Ramsay Vallance
13 Feb	J Clark M McDowall	Lawrie Bolton	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 6 Joyce Clark (EC)
20 Feb	P Barlow C Buchanan	Deuchar Bates	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Hamish Murrison
27 Feb	S Anderson R Fraser	Goodlet Cockburn	M Ure	Team 8 Bobby Campbell
6 Mar	M Conway M Macpherson		A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Nan Cattanach