



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine November 2011

Dear Friends,

The news that Rev Albert Bogle is the Moderator Designate for 2012-13 will bring a great deal of pleasure to many people in St Paul's. It was largely due to Albert's drive and vision that the Vine Trust was established and consequently we were given the opportunity to contribute to the work in Peru which has led to the establishment of Casa Girasoles in Kimo.

The Kirk Session will be welcoming Albert at our Conference on November 12 when he will tell us of some of the work being done through the Vine Trust but also the nature of his ministry in St Andrew's Parish Church in Bo'ness. By any standards it has been a notable, perhaps unique, ministry and we are looking forward to hearing him.

Albert and I go back a long way. We were friends at College and I have many happy memories of him at that time, not least our misbehaviour in the Honours Church History class. He was always an eager communicator of the Gospel and a great encourager of others. I am certain he will bring all of that to bear on his year as Moderator and that it will be memorable.

There has never been a time when there has been so much doubt as to the future of the Church of Scotland. We are told that theological differences have never been so entrenched. We are told that the financial position of the Church is becoming less secure with every passing year. We are told that the resources to provide the 'ordinances of religion' to every parish in Scotland are becoming more and more strained. We are all in need of a morale boost and I believe Albert can contribute to that in a significant way.

Please remember him and the whole Church at this time.

Yours in Christ,

Fergus C Buchanan

Book Club



This time we have been reading **And the Land Lay Still** by James Robertson. Our initial reaction was one of disappointment as we had all read and enjoyed *The Testament of Gideon Mack*.

The main focus of the book is the political situation in Scotland from 1950 onwards told through the story of the central character, Michael Pendreigh, Peter Bond, a Westminster spook, David Ecklestane, entrepreneur and Tory party member and a few others. As the book was dealing with events we remembered ourselves, we had short discussion on our personal experiences during this period. The characters in the book are very obviously used as a vehicle for developing the social and political changes in Scotland.

Although the book took 4 years' research, there was no mention of the Church and even stranger no mention of the HIV Aids question, despite the main character being homosexual. Parts of the book were beautifully written, especially the introduction to each section which was printed in italics, but on the whole we felt his narrative did not flow as you would have expected. Perhaps there were too many characters in the book as there was no individual who stood out and provided a strong link from beginning to end.

Our next book is **The Hare with the Amber Eyes** by Edmund De Waal. We are meeting on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at the usual time of 7.45pm.

Joyce Clark

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE. FEBRUARY 2012: The 2011 General Assembly urged all members of the Church of Scotland to invest in peace for Palestine and Israel. The World Mission Council and the Guild are together supporting the Interfaith Interaction initiative which has Christian, Muslim and Jewish elements. The Christian Community in Israel and Palestine, which traces its origins to that first day of Pentecost, wants to meet you face to face. We will visit the Guild-supported initiatives and see the commitment of local people to an interdependent future, make visits to the work of the Church of Scotland and its partners as well as see some of the historic sites of Jesus' ministry. For further information, contact either Clarence Musgrave: e:clarencejoan@talktalk.net t: 0131 332 6337 or Dorothy McMonagle, e:dmcmonagle@cofscotland.org.uk t:0131 225 5722

Editor's note

If you have any comments, criticisms or queries regarding the content of Life magazine, we respectfully request that you address them in the first instance to the editor, Rona Dawson, as she is responsible for all articles featured. Contact details on the back page.

Recipe Book—a preview

We have been asked many times for the recipes that we and our many bakers use for lunches at the Lunch Club. As a result we have made up a recipe book containing all these delicious favourites. It will be available in the next few weeks at a cost of £2.50 and all profits will go to our missionaries, the Fergusons serving with OMF in Japan. As well as being an excellent source of delicious treats and tasty soups it would make an excellent little extra gift at Christmas.

Look out for this book where many of our congregation have given the recipes they use and if you wish to taste any of these then come to the Lunch Club and see for yourself what treats are in store.

Ann MacLeod

Sweetcorn & Pepper Soup

a light summery soup

1kg (2.2lb) frozen sweet corn
2 small red peppers
1 large onion
1 litre (1¾ pints) chicken or vegetable stock
A little oil
Seasoning

1. Roughly chop one red pepper and onion and sauté in a little oil for 5 minutes
2. Add sweet corn and stock and simmer for 10 minutes then blend until smooth (for a very smooth soup you can then pass the soup through a sieve.)
3. Meanwhile dice the other red pepper and fry in a little oil until just beginning to brown. Add to blended soup season and serve



Cumbernauld HOPE Women's Conference

Venue: Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Cornerstone House, 1 Esk Walk, Cumbernauld G67 1EW

Date and time: 12 November 2011, 9am start (all day)

Description: You are invited to Cornerstone Christian Fellowship's first ever women's conference. The theme for HOPE 2011 is 'Worriers or Warriors'.

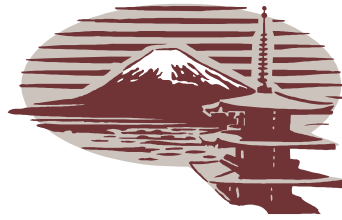
Speakers: Jean Black (Director of Pray for Scotland), Shely Ganguly (a storyteller with a difference!) and Vivianne Crispin (involved in women's ministry in the local church).

Cost for the day is £25 which includes a packed lunch and hot buffet dinner.

Website: www.hopeconference.org.uk

Email contact: hope@cornerstone-house.org.uk or phone 01236 739220

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

October is always a busy month as it is the time of year for one of us to visit India for half-term at Hebron. This time it was David's turn. The first week of the month was busy with OMF meetings in Tokyo followed by a three-day retreat but after that David headed to India and enjoyed spending time with Daniel and Matthew. In October there is always a Drama Week and both boys were on the stage this time. Matthew actually picked up an award as one of the Best Actors – his year group had a very challenging play as they performed TS Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral.

As usual we were able to have the second week as holiday but now the boys are back into study mode with important A Level and GSCE exams this year. Daniel graduates next year and is hoping to follow in Dad and Mum's footsteps by studying Law.

Meanwhile in Hiragishi we continue with different ways of reaching out to people we have got to know. Lorna and Nora have planned two cooking classes for this month, a chance to invite ladies to learn how to make a foreign dish and then have a simple Bible message and time of chatting together. Often these kind of low-key events are helpful for people as they are non-threatening and good ways to be able to share with people and listen to their stories. Of course Christmas is not far away and we are now beginning to plan for that busy time, not least our Family Christmas outreach. We have found these to be great ways to invite many children and parents who live in the local community.

We are also preparing for a baptism. Hiroko believed in Jesus earlier in the year and it has been great to see the change in her life since then. She will be baptised on 4th December. She is a member of a gospel choir in Sapporo (some are Christians but many are not) so we are hoping some will come along to her baptism – and maybe even sing too!

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Evacuation of the Church in an Emergency

For safety reasons it is important for everybody to know the quickest way to leave church if there were to be an emergency during a service. If we all head for the main doors there will inevitably be queues in the aisles and it will take longer to evacuate the church. Therefore, in an emergency, please leave by the exits indicated below.

Main Doors to Baldernock Road

Use this exit if you sit towards the back of the church on the **east side** (the side where the halls, toilets etc. are), from the back pew as far forward as row 78 (centre aisle) – 45 (east aisle). Row 78 – 45 is opposite the widest pillar on the east side of the church. Once outside please assemble on the Baldernock Road pavement and roadway.

Main Doors to Strathblane Road

Use this exist if you sit towards the back the church on the **west side** (where the choir and organist are), from the back pew as far forward as row 103 (centre aisle) – 136 (west aisle). Row 103 – 136 is opposite the widest pillar. Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

Fire Exit at Front of Church - East Transept (through the old waiting room)

Use this exit if you sit in the **East Transept** or towards the front on the **east side**, from row 79 (centre aisle) – 44 (east aisle) to the front pew. Row 79 – 44 is opposite the widest pillar. Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

This is the narrowest exit and there are steps up. Should this cause a queue to form, please use the other fire exit at the front beside the organ.

Fire Exit at Front of Church Beside Organ

Use this exit if you sit in the **West Transept** or towards the front on the **west side**, from row 102 (centre aisle) – 137(west aisle) to the front pew. Row 102 – 137 is opposite the widest pillar. Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

The above scheme is based on the assumption that all the exits will be available. Should an exit be blocked (e.g. by fire or smoke) the nearest alternative should be used. Elders will be on hand to offer assistance.

P.S. It is recommended that you take a few minutes one Sunday after the service to familiarise yourself with the less-used routes out of the church.



tearfund

"We are Christians passionate about the local church bringing justice and transforming lives, overcoming global poverty" (Tearfund)

The tearfund Christmas gift catalogue is now available at the back of the Church and on the traidcraft stall, for ordering Created crafts and Christmas cards. Further information at www.createdgifts.org

Order forms can be forwarded to Marjorie Thoms, or left in envelope provided at the back of the Church. Payment to "CREATED" on delivery.

Marjorie Thoms

Milngavie Churches Ceilidh Saturday 12th November in Milngavie Town Hall.

Always a good night. Bring
friends and family.

Indian buffet
Tickets £10

Flower donations—November

Mrs M Daniel, Mrs E Gray, Mrs M Hos-
sack, Mrs M Hutchison, Mrs
M MacKay, Miss A Ritchie,
St Paul's Guild.



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

World Mission Diary for November

This month we will remember Chris-
tians in minority situations

A conference is being held in St Leo-
nard's in the Field Church in Perth on
Sat. 12th November. It is being organ-
ised by the World Mission Council

Let us remember in our prayers

- Andrew McLellan who will lead the worship
- Rev Fiona Garden who will chair the conference
- Khataza Gondive who will speak about issues in Sudan and Nigeria
- Aftab Gohar who will focus on issues relating to living as a Christian in Pakistan
- Mayo Sabilla who will focus on living as a woman in Palestine today
- All Christians living in the above countries at this time.

Representatives of other agencies including CSW and Open Doors will be present and there will be opportunity to engage with them also. Conference cost including lunch is £6. To register please contact Audrey Grahame at agrahame@cofscotland.org.uk

The Guild session began on Monday 3rd October with a wonderful Harvest Supper. Before supper, our Minister, Rev. Fergus Buchanan dedicated a beautiful lectern in memory of one of our members, the late Morag MacKenzie. Morag's family, who were with us on this evening, had given the Guild a gift of money to purchase something to remember her by. After discussion a lectern was decided upon which we knew would be very fitting for Morag as she was Guild Secretary twice and stood in front of a lectern many times reading Guild business and also telling us some funny stories. The lectern was made by Mr Bill Law who said making this gave him a lot of pleasure with many thoughts of his late wife, Evelyn who was a very dedicated member of our Guild. Both Bill and his daughter Maureen were with us too.

A delightful supper was then served and sincere thanks go to our two Tea Convenors, Jean Ferguson and Mairi Spencer for the amount of work they put into this. Afterwards, we were entertained by many of the ladies in the Guild through song, reading and characters in the form of scarecrows! Our President, Mrs. Evelyn Williams made a presentation on behalf of the Guild to the Rev. Ken MacDonald on his retirement. The ladies of the Guild had been asked to bring along harvest gifts for Chanan Trust and we were overwhelmed by the amount received. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this very worthwhile cause.

The following week we heard from Mr. David Wilson, a retired stonemason, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He was also ap-

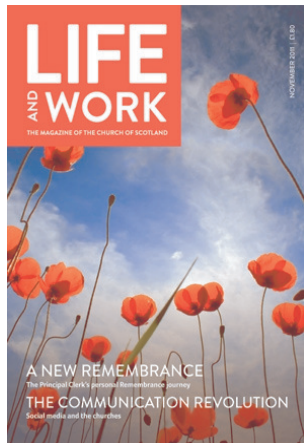
pointed Clerk of Works when the Art Gallery & Museum was being stone-cleaned and the slides he showed of the architecture were wonderful. The next time you visit the Galleries look up at the outside and see the interesting carvings carried out many years ago by stonemasons. We then heard from Mr. John Phillips who told us about The Happiest Days of his Life. He was a retired teacher who took us back to our school days and told us of the work he did bringing Scripture Union into his school. The first of our Bible Studies was on the 24th, led by our own Minister. Fergus gave us a very challenging talk on our Theme "Called to Walk Humbly with God" saying that if we connect with His word then we can walk in His footsteps, and to remember how awesome our God is when you think about creation and that He has given each one of us the gift of life.

During November we look forward on the 7th to hearing our own Miss Mary Wood telling us about her work in Tenement House. On the 14th we welcome Maxie Richards who will be speaking about the Maxie Richards Foundation. The 21st our guests will be Union 3+1 a musical group from Lenzie Parish Church and we end November with our Allocation of Funds and hear about Christmas Customs. We only have one meeting in December and that will be our Christmas Dinner and Party.



As always, if you wish to join us on any of these evenings please do so you will be made most welcome.

Jean Scott



L&W November issue—Contents

A New Remembrance

The Principal Clerk, the Rev John Chalmers, offers a personal reflection on his family's six-month journey since his son was seriously injured in Afghanistan.

The Communication Revolution

Examining the opportunities of social networking for churches.

Not Just a Women's Issue

Jackie Macadam explores the work undertaken by the church to change attitudes to domestic violence.

A Good Mix

Report from the National Youth Assembly.

The Growing Church

How one simple initiative has breathed new life into a Lanarkshire church.

View from the Pew

Felicity Teasdale believes effective communication of the Gospel hold the key to

Church Wrecker Jailed

A FRENZIED church visitor, who caused £12,000 worth of damage after smashing stained glass windows and chairs at an historic cathedral, was jailed last month for three and a half years.

Lee Peattie was sentenced to 42 months behind bars after he was found guilty of trashing St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

It is understood Peattie had not received his unemployment benefit on the day of the attack on the church and

that he took his anger out on the first building he could find.

Kevin Hall, who works part time as a sales assistant at the cathedral, was the first on the scene of the incident. He said Peattie was shouting and screaming as he smashed the chairs against the ground.

But Mr Hall said the attacker was "as meek as a mouse" when police challenged him, and he lay down on the ground and was arrested.

From www.scottishchristian.com

The Washington Post published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words.

- Frisbeetarianism, (n.) The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
- Flabbergasted, (adj.) Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
- Negligent, (adj.) Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a night-gown
- Gargoyle, (n.) Olive- flavored mouthwash.
- Flatulence, (n.) Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller

Dear Ed,

Ken's Lunch

I would like to thank all who helped at the lunch—it was excellent. One elder was heard to say, “why don't we have Ken back, then he can retire again and we can have another delicious lunch!”

Looking around a crowded hall, folk were chatting, laughing all the while feeling sad that Ken was retiring. We met other folk in the church and ah! the joy of speaking to people we had lost touch with and bringing ourselves up to date with their lives!

We will miss your cheery smile, Evelyn, and Ken—it brightened up our day—thank you both.

Enjoy your retirement doing the things you missed out on waiting for some meeting or other—now you can forget the boring ones!

Good health,

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Sheret.

Brigade Blethers

Even with two Thursdays off for the September weekend and October school holiday we seem to have packed quite a lot into the first half of this session.

The girls really enjoyed making the harvest posies and they were pleased to hear how much these were appreciated by the folk who received them. Encouraged by this the Brigaders are now making Christmas gift bags to be filled with presents for Chanan. The Juniors and Explorers always make the Christmas cards to go in the bags. I can't believe I am talking about Christmas in October but we need to keep ahead. We are also planning how we should decorate our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Brigaders are busy producing baking and other goodies as part of their badgework and the leaders are busy

sampling the produce. Well we have to make sure they are doing a good job!

Letters are ready to go out to various other Churches and organisations inviting them to enter a team for our **quiz night**.

It is on Thursday 24 November and anyone can enter - (the more the merrier). The proceeds this year will go to the Canine Partnership. This is a charity which trains dogs to work with disabled people in wheelchairs. It is a very worthy cause so if you feel like a challenge and a bit of fun why not get some of your friends together and come along on the night to support our fundraiser. Entrance fee is £2 per head and we will even give you a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Hope to see you there
Anne Goodlet



“It’s all Rona’s fault” Nan Cattanach announced cheerfully! “She wrote an article in our church magazine which made me decide that this was something I really wanted to be part of.”

Eh??? Someone actually reads Life? And then, even more incredibly decides to act on something they’ve read? Surely not! In four years of editing we’ve never had this happen before...

Nan had come along to a rehearsal for the Glasgow Passion which, when we wrote in June, was just getting into its stride. Casting was completed over the summer and the rehearsal schedule picked up again in August. Mainly based in Renfield St Stephens, we also had Saturday rehearsals in various churches, finally moving over to the Shed in Govan (scene of The Ship and other theatrical productions) in the last fortnight, which was the first time many of us had appreciated the scale and size of the production.

The cast were from all walks of life – Duncan Rennie was one of only four professional actors and has played Jesus on several occasions before when Cutting Edge Theatre have staged more traditional passion plays. Quite a few other members had been in these before too - what a lovely, friendly, inclusive bunch they were from churches all over Glasgow and beyond - and there were several first-timers too. I ended up being in the “volunteers” – the twelve members of Jesus’s election campaign team, and Nan was a “supporter” which was a bit like rent-a-mob, involving heckling the candidates at the two debates and being rather fickle with her allegiances!

We spent a lot of time with these groups, getting to know each other dur-



ing the inevitable periods when action was happening elsewhere; finding out about each other’s lives and why everyone was taking part. It became clear that everyone had something that they were there in spite of (or perhaps because of) and it is no accident that we are drawn to Christ as the source of strength and inspiration for our lives.

It would be great to say that the 6th Oct dawned bright and fair, but in fact there was sleet on the windows when I woke up and almost the minute we stepped on stage at 2.30pm it began bucketing! So it was a bunch of drowned rats who returned to the Scottish Youth Theatre to dry out, get warm, and have something to eat between performances. After some quick notes from Fraser our ever-patient and good natured director, it was time to make our way back to the square for the main show in the evening. Prayers had been answered and the weather had cleared, still cold, but dry, and there was a good crowd gathered – nearly 2500 in all - which was a big relief!

It’s not often that one gets the chance to take part in something truly extraordinary, but the Glasgow Passion was one of those experiences - looking back on it, the more extraordinary it seems. There was the huge logistical effort to get together the various elements to host such a large scale outdoor production: hire of the Square, stages, scaffolding, lighting, cameras, orchestra, sound system and microphones, health & safety precautions,

co-ordination of stage crew, security and over 100 stewards. Not to mention the extraordinary fundraising effort which is still going on – although the target is in sight – and the commitment to months of rehearsals by both cast and orchestra/choir, for some of whom it had meant a 100 mile round trip each night.

It would have been great if more people from St Pauls' had been involved—perhaps next time(?)—but I had a great time taking part and if even one heart was touched by what we did, then it was worth it.

Rona Dawson

Dear Ed,

I very much appreciated your appeal last month encouraging members to contribute to Life magazine and for the reminder that, there is a big part of me rests in leaving it to others so here goes.....

I had the privilege of being part of the cast performing, The Glasgow Passion play on the 6th October in the open air in George square. There were two performances - one in the afternoon, for schools, and one in the evening. Over four thousand people came to watch and hear the message of the gospel.

The actor who played Jesus was Duncan Rennie. Duncan's performance was inspiring, passionate and at times painful to watch as he portrayed the last few days of Jesus' life on earth.

My main reason for participating was that I had attended the, "Passion Play" in Oberammergau in 2010. This was a very special time in my life and great encouragement to add The Glasgow Passion to my "Bucket List."

The play was a modern portrayal of the life of Jesus as if he had lived in Glasgow now. True to good old Scots style the weather was, to say the least dreich, but the patter was great and the spirits high!

The message shared today was the same as it was two thousand years ago. Jesus was sent by God to teach us to pray, believe, to love one another, accept His gift and the delight of being forgiven and in forgiving others. The Lord Jesus Christ died for us, rose again, and we have the assurance of eternal life.

During the many, many hours and days spent in rehearsals (almost got my equity card!) I met many wonderful people who used their talents to the full to spread the gospel. I praise and thank God for this privilege. The Lord Jesus Christ died for us, rose again, left us his Holy Spirit and the assurance of eternal life. How blessed are we !!

Now Ed, forward to my next "Bucket List".....

Nan Cattanach

Come along to Sun Kids

G
A
M
E

COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND

FOOD

Saturday 12th November 2011

4.30 - 6.30 pm

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

ACTIVITIES

CHALLENGES

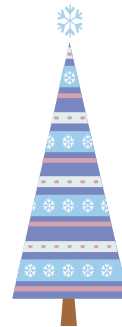
Christmas Tree Festival 1-7th December



Plans are well advanced for this year's Festival under the auspices of the Association of Milngavie Churches; we are looking forward to another great event. This year the money raised will go to St. Margaret's Hospice and to Tearfund's Christmas project in Nepal.

As before we are looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways - baking, helping in the kitchen and stewarding in the church. Lists to sign up will be on display at the back of the church from the beginning of November so please check your diary to see when you are free. There will be the usual programme of musical items but at the time of writing this is not yet finalised. We do know, however, that on Saturday 3rd pupils from **Douglas Academy Music School** will again be performing; on Sunday afternoon the **Jordanhill Handbell Ringers** will be playing and the choir and music group from St. Luke's will also be taking part. Other favourites such as the **New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band** and various school choirs will be back again too so we are most grateful to them all. Full details of the music programme will be published before the Festival starts so you will be able to plan your visits if you want to catch some particular items.

Of course the Festival needs visitors so we hope you will tell your friends and bring them along with you. You will all be most welcome!



A WORD FROM THE MACDONALDS

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Evelyn and I want to extend our warmest thanks for all the kindness you have shown us in recent days - the overwhelming generosity of your monetary gift; your cards and letters; and the superbly organised and attractively presented lunch, which made our final Sunday such a special occasion, and gave to us such a sense of being surrounded by the warmth of your love.

It has been an enormous privilege to have been part of the fellowship and ministry of St. Paul's during these 5 years - to have been allowed to travel part of the road along with you, and to encourage each other on the journey. One of the early words for the Christian faith was the Way, reminding us that our Christian calling is not a static experience, but a progress which has a beginning, a duration and an arrival at the journey's end. The journey begins when we recognise Christ for the Person he really is - God's Son and the world's only Saviour - and yield ourselves to him. The journey progresses as we live in daily obedience to our Lord, and mature in Christian character, in accordance with God's great purpose to create in us the very likeness of Christ himself. The journey ends when God, through Christ, will bring all things to their completion, and a prepared people, inhabiting new resurrected bodies, will be admitted to a prepared place in a new heaven and a new earth.

To know that we are part of a purpose of such immensity will help us to get the experiences, and testings, of our brief earthly life into a truer perspective. Over these few years, we have kept company with quite a number of people in the congregation on what turned out to be for them the last stretch of the road, and we have been inspired and humbled by the cheerfulness and courage they have shown in difficult and challenging times. When these times overtake us, it is surely the greatest comfort to know that we can "be strong in the Lord and the power of his might".

When the Apostle Paul wrote his great passage on the resurrection body in 1 Corinthians 15, he didn't end by saying: "Since you have this great promise that in Christ you will receive a new body just like his own, the ultimate answer to all the frailties and pains of your present life, all you need to do now is sit back and wait for it". What he said (to quote Eugene Peterson's translation) was: "With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort".

May God grant that, by his grace, we all have a joyful meeting at the journey's end.

With our love, Ken and Evelyn.

Scottish Government Consultation on Same Sex Marriage

Members of the congregation may be interested in the Scottish Government's consultation on same sex marriage and religious ceremonies for civil partnerships in Scotland which has been published online at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/justice/samesexmarriage.asp

Responses from individuals are invited and your submission will be confidential if you indicate you wish it to be so.

It should be noted that representatives of the Church of Scotland are meeting with ministers and officials of the Scottish Government as part of the consultation process and that the Church's position and response will be known shortly thereafter.

During the 14 week consultation, Ministers and officials intend to meet key interested groups to discuss the consultation proposals, which include:

- The introduction of same sex marriages
- The introduction of religious ceremonies for civil partnerships
- Ensuring religious organisations and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will.

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Nicola Sturgeon, said:

"There are a variety of views on religious ceremonies for civil partnerships and on same sex marriage. We hope that everyone will use this consultation to express their views and opinions. However, as the debate unfolds, we also hope that everyone will treat those with different or opposing views with courtesy and respect, in accordance with the very highest standards of democratic discourse.

The Scottish Government is choosing to make its initial views clear at the outset of this consultation. We tend towards the view that religious ceremonies for civil partnerships should no longer be prohibited and that same sex marriage should be introduced so that same sex couples have the option of getting married if that is how they wish to demonstrate their commitment to each other. We also believe that no religious body or its celebrants should be required to carry out same sex marriages or civil partnership ceremonies.

Although the Government has set out its initial view, we give an absolute assurance that all views will be listened to. No final views have been reached and no decisions have been taken."

If, as a result of the consultation, the Government decides to legislate, there will be a further consultation on a draft Bill. A finalised Bill could then be introduced into the Scottish Parliament in 2013.

The closing date for responses is December 9, 2011. You can either complete the form online at the above link or download as a word document and email to familylaw@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or post to Sandra Jack, Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG.

Lodging House Mission

On Monday 3rd October Joyce Clark and I attended a dinner at the Lodging House Mission. An excellent meal of Meat pie, fish or baked potato was served from the newly refurbished kitchen.

Neil Watton (Day Centre Manager), Peter Roger (Chairman), Ricky Ross of Deacon Blue (Patron), Trina Gibson (Education and Activities Co-ordinator), and John Hamilton (Project Leader) brought us up to date with the LHM news.

There has been a 20% increase in people using the LHM in the last 12 months and over 130 meals are served each day. The "seat@thetable" appeal raised £20,000 through individual standing orders. Meal vouchers are also very valuable - simply buying one is income even if it is not used.

The LHM provides a safe and secure environment for people with very unset-

tled lives and whilst food is at its core there are many activities to help homeless people build self confidence, develop social skills and deal with mental health and dependence issues. There are now 20 partnerships with outside organisations providing help with education and training.

The LHM is now two thirds through a 3 year lottery funded education project (Pathway to Empowerment) and fresh challenges will be sought for the final year. Arts and crafts were the main feature of the first year, and some talent was certainly revealed, but the aim is to move people away from dependency on the LHM and in this colleges play a crucial role.

There is more information on the table at the back of the church, although at the moment there is really only room for Christmas cards!.....all packs £3.50.

Ann Begg, Congregational rep, LHM

I'm delighted to announce that the total amount given by the congregation to Rev. Ken MacDonald on his retirement was £3,443. This amazing sum of money shows the high regard which we in St. Paul's have for Ken.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Ken's retirement gift.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
13 Nov	M Conway M Macpherson	Sillars Goodlet	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Sheila Harrison (EC)
20 Nov	A Galloway J Townson	Deuchar Bates	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 3 Linda Muirhead
27 Nov	M McIntyre M Spencer	Cockburn McKinnon	C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 David Lawson
4 Dec	P Dudgeon S Lindsay		L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 5 Margaret McDowall

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mrs Mabel Pearston, Flat 11, Homebrae House, 1 Strathblane Road 3a

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr John Wiggins, 10 Craigielea Crescent, Milngavie 34

Mr & Mrs J Hastie, 7 Viewpark, Milngavie 54

Mr & Mrs M Lang and family, 17 Forth Road, Torrance 70

BAPTISMS

'In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8

Nicole Catherine Renfrew 4 St. Andrew's Drive, Bearsden 62

WEDDINGS

Gillian Durie, Flat 5 150 Milngavie Road, Bearsden and Justin Evans

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Gladys McKenzie, 38 Roselea Drive now 7

1 Elm Court, 96 Main Street Milngavie 40

Mr & Mrs K Wright, 143 Clober Road now 20

73 Clober Road 20

Mrs Margaret McMillan, Cruachan, 12 Crossburn Ave., now 30

4 Queens Court Milngavie G62 6QA 49

Mrs Barbara Oswald, 36 Elm Court, 97 Main Street now 40

Castlehead Nursing Home 31 High Calside Paisley

Dr David Lawson, 25 Kirkland Ave., Blanefield now 70

5 Tannoch House, 138 Mugdock Road, Milngavie 15

DEATHS

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

7.9.11 Mr Alec Shirkie, 38 Southgate, Milngavie 18

25.9.11 Mrs Margaret Baxter, 23 Buchanan Street 6

25.9.11 Mrs Nan Finlay, 31 Crawford Road 21

28.9.11 Mr Wm J McEwan, 25 Broomhill Lane

18.10.11 Mr Wm Scott, 21 Park Ave, Milngavie 17

22.10.11 Mr Thomas Watson, Almond View Care Home

Please note copy date (ie the last date for submissions) for December Life is Sunday 27th Nov if using church pigeonhole or Wednesday 30th if emailing. Please send in notification of anything happening in early January as well to ensure it gets a mention. Email to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or ph 944 4198.