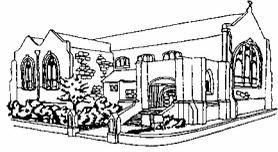


The monthly news from St. Paul's Church Milngavie
www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

Life

April 2006



Dear Friends,

I recently had to visit an old friend who was recuperating from a heart attack in the Victoria Infirmary. I didn't have the car that day and had to take public transport. The train into Glasgow was perfectly straightforward but the bus to Battlefield was another matter entirely.

I used to know that part of the world well and could tell you exactly what bus you should take but the numbers and routes have changed so much that I ended up totally bewildered. In the end, I opted for a bus to Shawlands and the ten minute walk to the hospital.

It struck me that in a place where I once felt so confident and assured I now feel almost like a stranger in a strange land. Apart from the buses so many of the old land-marks have gone or been altered beyond recognition. I passed a church which now seems to be a night-club.

We cannot depend on anything in this life remaining the same for long and to have our roots too deeply imbedded in one place or time is a risky business. The first Christians were clear about this. Persecution meant that their circumstances could change so dramatically and they learned to think of themselves as 'aliens and strangers in the world' (1 Peter 2: 11) whose only sure home was in eternity.

We are very far away from their experience but there is no doubt that the prevailing moral and spiritual atmosphere of our time can make us feel out of step with the world. It is necessary then for us to follow the example of the first Christians in holding fast to what we believe to be true and living our lives consistently according to Jesus' teaching.

Peter had this to say to the 'aliens and strangers' who were his Christian friends:

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2: 12)

Wishing you all the blessings of the Easter Season,



Holy Week Services

The first of this year's Holy Week Services will be in the United Free Church on Palm Sunday, 9th April at 7pm. This means that there will be no Evening Service in St. Paul's. Thereafter the Services will be held in the Allander Evangelical Church from Monday to Friday. These Services will begin at 7.30pm.

The Guest Speaker is Rev. Noel Agnew of the West Kirk, Belfast which is situated in the Shankhill Road area. His theme throughout the week is "We would see Jesus".

Our own Minister will preach on Good Friday and he will also conduct the Saturday morning meditation at 9.30am. in the United Free Church.

The Walk of Witness will once again take place on Good Friday. We gather at the Allander Evangelical Church at 10.30am for Prayer. The Walk of Witness itself will begin at 11am at the Town Clock. Afterwards all are invited back to Allander for tea/coffee and hot cross buns.

CHURCH REGISTER

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr & Mrs Robin Orrock, 8 Courthill, Bearsden	62
Mr & Mrs John Souter, 13 Hazel Ave., Bearsden	44

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Nan Sutherland , 11 Middleton Drive now Wellmeadow Lodge, Newton Mearns	
Mrs Iris Torbet , 26b Mugdock Road now 21 Elm Court, 97 Main Street, Milngavie	40

DEATHS

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

23.2.06 Miss Caroline Farmer, 110 Ledi Drive, Bearsden	62
28.2.06 Mrs Ellen Sifton, 2;19 Mugdock Road, Milngavie	
28.2.06 Mr James Mathie, 2 Keystone Ave., Milngavie	
28.2.06 Mr Dawson, 55 Blantyre Court Erskine	
2.3.06 Mrs J Bain, Homebrae House, Milngavie	3A
3.3.06 Mrs Margaret Hill, 1 Lynn Drive, Milngavie	11
4.3.06 Mr Hamish Stewart, 54, Heather Avenue, Bearsden	
17.3.06 Mr David Cabbage, 5 Craigton Ave., Milngavie	

World Mission Prayer Diary for April

Sudan :- We would pray for the Presbyterian Church in the Sudan who are working for peace in this troubled land. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement is holding. They are taking steps towards the creation of new government structures in Sudan.

Egypt :- The Refugee Ministry at St. Andrew`s United Church in Cairo , with which the World Mission Council was associated continues to expand. We would pray that this continues.

Lebanon :- Rita Kharrat is in charge of the library at the Near East School of Theology. We would pray that more students would come forward to attend this School

Child Protection

As it has been some time since I have given the congregation an update on child protection matters, I would like to tell people about some of the important issues of which everyone should be aware.

The main change in child protection in the past year has been in relation to what the law says about working with children. Without going into too many details, everyone should note that all new volunteers have to be cleared to work with children and young people (defined as those anyone under the age of 18). This involves a locally completed application form with references and a background check done through Disclosure Scotland. Many people in their work situations will have already experienced these types of checks. I appreciate that many other people in the congregation may find the idea of an application form and a background check daunting.

I would hope to reassure people whatever your views might be of such new procedures that we try to look at it as ensuring we have the most suitable people to work with our children and young people. Our hope and prayer is always that we nurture, train and encourage our children and young people to them make disciples of Jesus: surely the best “child protection” we could ever want!

Douglas Martin
Congregational Child Protection Co-ordinator

DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH GROUNDS

Our Church recently bought a strip of ground to the North of the Jubilee Hall with a view to providing access for maintenance purposes and also for security reasons. A new metal fence has been erected on the new boundary.

As a first stage to landscape this area an approach was made to Messrs Gleeson the Civil Engineering Contractor currently involved in the Katrine Water Project at Barrachan and their Project Manager, Mr Brian Mackie readily agreed to assist. They have now blanketed the area with terram fabric and overlaid it with gravel. At a later time pockets will be cut out in the area and some shrubs planted.

St. Paul's is very grateful to Messrs Gleeson for their willingness to assist us in our Centenary and their continuing involvement in Community matters in Milngavie

W. Dudgeon(Convenor-Church/Halls FabricCommittee)

IMPACT

Writing this in the depths of the icy blasts that are sweeping about outside, you might think that the Impact summer mission programme would be far from everyone's thoughts.

Surprisingly....no! Impact these days is very much a 12 month in the year type of programme. Many of the activities do happen in the summer of course, but congregations very often want to build up their youth work throughout the year too. Congregations in Robroyston and Newton Mearns are doing their youth work around the year running evening events once a month. Other congregations use the Mission Leaders Training Programme as a means of doing a weekend event (while at the same time putting the leaders of the future through their paces!).

Teamers meet regularly throughout the winter months for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. There is also a teamers weekend held in October where people from a whole variety of teams come together for outdoor activities, worship and teaching.

One of our church elders, Douglas Martin, will be leading a team to Dalgety Bay in Fife from Saturday 22 July to Sunday 30 July 2006 to help run a children's holiday club programme. As always, volunteers are needed to help with this mission: anyone who would like to serve God for a week in the summer in this way can contact him on 942-7184. The only requirements are that you over 16 (under 16 with parental consent), you have undertaken all the relevant child protection procedures (including the child protection training course) and have a desire to share your faith in Jesus by assisting a local congregation in their work of mission and outreach.

TREASURER'S REPORT

St Paul's Parish Church - Stated Annual Meeting 15.03.2006

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Congregational Board, I have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Accounts for year ending 31.12.2005. We finished the year with a surplus of £9624.00 as opposed to a deficit of £1378 for the previous year. You will see from the General Fund a substantial increase in Income due to the successful Review of Giving we had in January 2005. Unfortunately, our Expenditure is up as well although some of it is attributable to bring our facilities up to a good working standard on the completion of the alterations.

The core giving in the 'Restoration in Faith' Fabric Appeal was slightly down on our expectation but fortunately we received unexpected income from other sources and a further boost by transferring into it £9000.00 from the surplus in the General Fund. I would ask members to be mindful of the pledge they gave to contribute to this Appeal to service our Loan from the Trustees and I ask for their continued support until it is paid off. I hope to see a considerable reduction in this burden over the coming months and I will keep you informed of the progress made. We are still holding on to the retention fee we owe the Contractors but as far as I am aware, the snagging list is nearing completion. I gratefully acknowledge an anonymous donation of £4036.00 (plus tax recovery) from two members of the Congregation for the purchase of the new chairs for the Large Hall.

The Overseas Mission Fund is in surplus and as I stated at the meeting last year it is sufficient to target an approved Overseas Project The Committee dealing with this, having considered a number of Projects did not come to a conclusion before the end of the year.

On a personal note, I thank -

- The Ministers, the Kirk Session. The Congregational Board and the Finance Committee for their support and advice throughout the year.
- The Conveners who help me throughout the year, Barbara Lawson, Jim McQueen and Liz Traill who despite her terrible accident continued to be very active in her role as the General Fund Gift Aid Convener. At this time, I would also mention Bill Dudgeon and Gordon Hamilton for their unflinching practical support and advice in the many meetings we had over the past few years.
- Helen Arnold who throughout the year gave me advice on computer related matters, her willingness to do most of my photocopying and carry out system back ups.
- Anne O'Hagan and her Staff for making themselves available to give me their expert advice any time I had a need to call them.

On behalf of the Congregational Board, I thank -

- Anne O'Hagan, Bell Barr and Company for carrying out the audit of the Accounts on our behalf.
- Cathy Buchanan and Jean Ferguson for sorting the Accounts into bundles for distribution.

- A special thanks to all the Church Visitors for delivering the Accounts to each household.
- The Centenary Committee for organising the Treasure Auction and Gift Day last Saturday for the benefit of the Fabric Appeal and the repayment of the Loan.
- All members of the Congregation without whose encouragement and support we would be unable to continue here as a place of worship and witness.

As I was gathering my thoughts for this meeting, the theme of God as the Creator of all things kept pressing on my mind. It occurred to me that He actually owns all that we have and we are merely stewards of our possessions for our short sojourn here on earth. In James 1:17 we read, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." When you think about it we do not even possess eternal life, we have it because of God's love for us. Christ who is the 'Life' and is the Saviour possesses us.

The demands for the maintenance of the Ministry from the National Church will increase in the years ahead and while tithing is admirable and has merits, I do not think it is sufficient for us to say that we give God 10% and we are then entitled to keep 90%. Tithing, without getting into a debate was peculiar to the Levitical priesthood and I think it finished with the destruction of the Temple in 70AD. What is required from us is to give, "as God has prospered us". (1 Cor. 16:2) Christian giving is the Grace of God at work and the Creator-God is the owner of all that He has created. It follows then that Christian giving is an expression of God's givingness as we express it in what as a people we give for His glory.

Angus Maclean
Congregational Treasurer

TRAIDCRAFT NEWS

As reported in our March edition profits from sale of Traidcraft Goods at St. Paul's have been donated to new projects in Cambodia. We also elected to send £100 to a hospital in the Kunhar Valley in Pakistan, which your editor visited while on holiday there a few years ago. In response, Dr. Haroon LalDin writes "We have been able to provide wells and shelters Today, we visited a family that we had helped in November and found them crowded into two small shelters Three of their children had been born at Kunhar Christian Hospital. At the hospital we have also organised help for people to rebuild their homes by supplying materials and expertise, as well as helping to rebuild a much needed bridge over the river. Reconstruction of the hospital ia making good progress with the help of David Wood and Ian Murray (former members of staff at Murree Christian School)".

Dr. LalDin also mentions that his son, home from his American university, is taking time out to help with reconstruction. Their home has also housed up to 25 people who have been giving help where necessary in this very devastated region.. He has also sent photographs which it is hoped to reproduce at a later date.

He asks for prayer for more funding, and for himself and family.

Brigade Blethers

In my last letter I mentioned our Spring Church parade. Well we all enjoyed a lovely family service with the man in the funny hat but - where did Spring go ? Please pray for some nice sunny weather this weekend for we are off to Auchengillan to do some canoing and crate climbing! This year the girls are having a go at fencing and archery so I have packed plenty of plasters. (Only joking Mums.)

We sent three teams into Glasgow's Regional Competitions earlier in the month. No medals I'm afraid but lots of fun and good practice for some of our display items. Talking of which, we only have about four working weeks left till the big night. We are trying to build our display round our church Centenary so if you were ever in Brigade or The Guildry please let me have your name and we will print it on the programme. There must be a lot of us out there !

Yours, *Anne Goodlet*

St Paul's Church Society – Annual Outing, 6th May 2006

As agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the Annual Outing this year will visit the interesting and historic Old West Kirk on the Esplanade, Greenock. The original Church which was the first Church to be built in Scotland following the Reformation, was moved brick by brick in 1927 from the centre of Greenock to make way for the expansion of Harland & Wolf Shipyard.

Among the many interesting features of the Old West Kirk are beautiful stained glass windows by Cottier, Rossetti, and Burne-Jones, and the Church also has historic ties with James Watt.

The cost of the outing is £20; which includes coach travel from Milngavie Station at 12.30pm; a guided tour of the Church; free time in Largs and High Tea at the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs. We expect to return to Milngavie around 7.30/8.00pm.

A list for names of those interested will be available at the back of the Church from the 1st Sunday in April, and payment will be accepted on Sundays 23rd & 30th April.

All Members and friends will be assured of a very warm welcome, and of course, an interesting and enjoyable day.

Iris T. Torbet
Secretary & Treasurer

Church Picnic

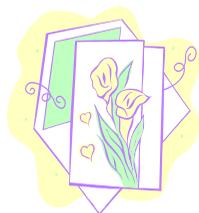
Saturday
17th. June

Dean Castle Country Park
Kilmarnock

Tickets £5 and £2.50

STATIONERY

Left over from the Church Auction is a Wedding Stationery Package, for up to 100 guests, from Carolyn's Keepsakes. The cost of the package is £250. The full value of this package would normally be considerably more. This could be adapted to suit a Golden or Silver Anniversary, Engagement or 21st. Anyone wishing more information should contact the church office on 956 4405.



THE GUILD

The 27th. February was a good night with Irene Strang and Edith Blackadder taking us through bygone days in Milngavie and beyond. Two videos reflected life for a housewife in the Fifties. The following Monday was a night of music and history from three Salvation Army lassies, who also displayed their talents as tambourine players. The heavy snowfall meant a cancellation of the meeting on the 13th., but we met as usual on the 20th. when Shona Cardle told us about the work of the Yorkhill Children's Foundation which raises funds for equipment for the hospital, and do a very worthwhile job of heightening people's awareness of its needs.

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 1st. April. We look forward to a good attendance. There will be the usual stalls, as well as coffee, tea and goodies!!

Our AGM is on the 3rd. Following the business matters, we will be entertained by Mrs. Jessie Cameron.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AT ANY OR ALL OF THESE MEETINGS

Christian Aid Week - 14th to 19th May

St. Paul's needs 34 collectors to cover our districts during Christian Aid Week and soon the sign-up sheet will be available at the rear of the church. Please sign up as soon as possible as this helps greatly with the preparations.

We would welcome any new collectors and full guidance will be given.

We also require people to help with the count on 17/18/19th May.

Gordon Campbell

LIFE AND WORK APRIL ISSUE OUT NOW

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

April is a time of new starts here – people move with their jobs, the new school year starts and it also sees the beginning of the new church year. The boys have a short spring holiday before they get going again on 6th April. This year Daniel will be in the oldest year so he will have more responsibility in the school. Calum is also going in to his final year at kindergarten.

This month we are looking forward to a visit from Lorna's parents. They have bravely volunteered to look after the boys for a few days while we have a break on our own. Then we will all spend time visiting a hot spring resort.

Just now life in the church is tough with quite a number of people facing serious issues, some related to illness, others to different problems. Sometimes we wonder how so much can happen in such a little church. Yet as we go into the new church year we look forward to see what God will do – we have quite a few seekers coming regularly to worship and we would love to see them coming through to faith and baptism through this year. We pray too that more and more we and our church members would have opportunities to reach others with the gospel. There are many in this country with deep needs but so few are finding them met in Jesus. Please pray with us that this would be a year in which we can really impact the community here in Otaru.

We continue to plan and pray for a Japanese pastor. There are one or two possible candidates in the pipeline and we need much wisdom and discernment to know the candidate of God's choosing.

*With our love and prayers for you all
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Bible Sunday appeal. The amount raised was £981. Of this total £590 was donated under Gift Aid – this will increase the final amount once the tax has been recovered.

Frances Ireland, Grace Rogerson.



FLOWER ROTAS-APRIL

DONATIONS

Mrs. Sinclair Mrs. More
 Mrs. M. Rae Mrs. H..Lindsay
 Mrs. C. Mackay Mrs. McGregor
 Mrs. Cairns

DELIVERIES

Apr. 2 Mrs. J. Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson
 Apr 9 Mrs.T. Abbot Mrs. T. Douglas
 Apr 16 Mrs.L.Hughes Mrs.R. Buchanan
 Apr 23 Mrs.A.McLean Mrs. J. Ford
 Apr 30 Mrs J. Clark Mrs. M. Taggart



CRECHE ROTA- APRIL

2 April	Martin, Baxter, MacKinnon
9 April	Reid, Bolton, J Deuchar
16 April	Hughes, Sillars, MacAulay
23 April	Lawrie, K Deuchar, Chapman
30 April	Goodlet, Cockburn, Fleming

Traidcraft Rota

*Apr.2nd C Mackay R Fraser
 Apr.9th. S Dunlop L Cowie
 Apr.23rd.. B Barr H Reid
 Apr.30th. B Watson M Conway
 May 7th. M Thomson M Ure*

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for the MAY issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by 22nd. April.

Editor- Morag Thomson, 36, Roselea Drive (956-2801)
 e mail mthomson@beeb.net