



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine May 2010

Dear Friends

The word "stranded" is very prominent at the moment. It is being used to describe the fate of those travellers who have been affected by the flight ban brought about by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano. Thousands of people who have gone overseas for an Easter Break have been left either to wait or to find their own way home.

Some of the interviews on television have been quite heart-rending. People who have important medical business and appointments to keep. People who are running out of money or vital medication. Parents separated from their children. They all just want to get home.

This is a powerful impulse within us all. The human soul is always aspiring to find a place where we are safe, comfortable and accepted unconditionally. Not everyone experiences this at a human level. The experience of many early Christians was that they had no permanent place to call "home". Jesus himself said that he had nowhere to lay His head. Paul describes himself as "constantly on the move". Other Christians were harassed out of their homes and had to depend on the kindness of strangers. Any sense of permanence in their lives came from their experience of the God and Father of the Lord Jesus. When all around them was uncertainty and sometimes mayhem they could turn to their God who was "home" in the midst of a hostile world.

Reading Psalm 23 recently, I was reminded that there are actually two pictures of God in this well-loved part of Scripture. Not only is He the Shepherd, He is also the host at a banquet. Read verse 5 and you will see the ample provision being made: a table prepared, oil for anointing, an overflowing cup. And this is provided "in the presence of my enemies".

From time to time, our present circumstances may be uncomfortable and indeed threatening but we have a home in God who assures us of His goodness and love and promises us the safety of His "house" in this life and the next. We have a place in His heart which will not be affected by time, circumstances or even death:

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Hoping you have arrived "home",

Yours,

Fergus C Buchanan



Japan Jottings

Dear Friends

Here the snow has gone at last and we are looking forward to warmer spring temperatures. Alistair has started school, beginning with an entrance ceremony when everyone gets dressed up in smart togs. He seems to be enjoying it so far. Something which happens here is that the teachers make a visit to each child's home during April to chat about the child and also be able to see the environment in which the child is living.

David has just come back from India after visiting Daniel and Matthew at Hebron School for half-term. Both are doing well. Daniel is hopefully working hard for his GCSE exams which start later this month. Matthew had great fun starring as one of the brothers in an excellent production of the musical Joseph. And all enjoyed the time at the beach to unwind after a busy first week at the school.

Meanwhile in Hiragishi Lorna has started two English classes and these are going well so far. There is a good atmosphere and each time Lorna is able to share in Japanese a simple Bible story with an application. At the moment she is looking at some of Jesus' parables.

It has been encouraging to have a young man come along three times to our Sunday service. He is a friend of Sambi's. He has come each month since February, the last time being at Easter. Do pray that his heart would open to the gospel – he has lots of issues in his life. His name is Wataru.

Thank you as always for all your support for us, both prayerful and financial. We look forward to what God is going to do here as we begin our second year in Hiragishi. It would be great to see more people added to our baby church over this coming year.

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, best wishes cards and gifts while I was in hospital recently.

**Best wishes,
Janet Henderson (Jessie)**

Apologies that this did not appear in its entirety last month—Ed

World Mission Diary for May

www.christians-count.org

Let us remember in our prayers this month

The Overseas Staff : Mission Partners and their families – Ecumenical Appointments (EA)

Bangladesh David and Sarah Hall (EA); Pat Jamison (EA); James and Linda Pen-der (EA)

Israel and Palestine Ian Alexander (EA); Colin Johnston; James and Nicola Laing; Jimmy Maxwell; George and Margaret Shand; Antony and Darya Short

Malawi Robert and Ritu Jones (in training in Scotland); David and Rebecca Morton; Helen Scott

Zambia Jenny Featherstone (EA); Ida and Keith Waddell (EA)

Let us also remember the World Mission Council as they bring their report to the General Assembly

In **Senegal**, two thirds of the population are illiterate, but within churches the figure is 98%. Just imagine the implications of that in your own situation: hardly any access to the Bible, hymnbook, news-sheet, posters, magazines. Pray for the literacy work that the Scottish Bible Society is promoting there.

Christians Count

Christians Count website has been set up by ordinary people who are passionate about their Christian faith, and care deeply about the country and the society in which they live.

Christians Count is reaching to connect with Christians from all denominations, and political parties, so that politicians hear a Christian view point on key issues.

To read more about the aims of Christians Count go to their website and if you want to receive a regular newsletter you can register your details.

Christians Count is an innovative venture with the aim of encouraging greater involvement by Christians in public affairs. It is supported by CARE Scotland, the Evangelical Alliance, the Christian Institute and

There is not necessarily any time or resource commitment, simply an indication of interest and concern.

May Flower Donations

Mrs J. McCaughie, Miss M. McLean,
Mrs M. Robertson, Mrs I. Torbet.

Please send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas,
34 Braeside Ave, Milngavie G62 6LJ, phone 956 2630
Donations can also be put in Flower Rota pigeonhole at back of the church.



Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts 2009/10

1st May	St Paul's
5 th Jun	Allander

Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Pass-over Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honour, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others, the Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays...."

The judge leaned forward in his chair and said, "But you do. Your client, counsel is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools' Day. Psalm 14:1 states, "The fool says in his heart, there is no God." Thus it is the opinion of this court that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore 1st April is his day. Court is adjourned."

You have to love a judge who knows his scripture!

We are indebted to Janet Charles for this article.

Book Club

We have been reading *Fugitive Pieces* by Anne Michaels over the last few weeks. The story is about Jakob Beer, poet, translator and university professor, beginning with his experiences during the Holocaust, his early years living in hiding in Greece and his later life in Toronto.



This is a beautifully written but challenging book. Jakob's parents and sister, Bella, are killed during the Holocaust in Poland when he is 7 years old, but he survives and is rescued by Athos, a Greek geologist. Athos smuggles the boy to the Greek island of Zakynthos but despite Athos' love and compassion the trauma stays with Jakob all his life and Jakob is haunted by the memories of his sister Bella who was a gifted pianist. The language is descriptive and flowing with wonderful characters and an engrossing story using spare dialogue and subtle metaphor. This is a quiet but profound book which deals with fundamental human issues. Anne Michaels is a gifted poet and with *Fugitive Pieces* she demonstrates that she is also a gifted writer of prose.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1 June 2010 at the usual time of 7.45pm. Helen in the Church Office has details of the venue. We will be reading the intriguingly titled "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen.

Joyce Clark

1st/2nd MILNGAVIE COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE



Anchor Boys

Friday 21st May at 7pm

Junior Section

Monday 24th May at 7.30pm

All friends of the Company are cordially invited to attend these events.

On **Sunday 9th May** the Company will parade to St Luke's. Mr Bill Stevenson, National Director of the Boys' Brigade, will be in attendance. During the Service he will present a number of President's and Queen's Badges.

Euan McKay,
Captain

ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP 2010

Are you likely to be spending Christmas 2010 at the home of relatives or friends?

Why not come with us and relax on board before the festivities begin? There are still twin/double cabins available on our **Rhine Discovery river cruise** from Basel to Amsterdam 12th-19th December, 2010.

A grade D twin/double cabin costs £995 per person, inc full board, excursions and flights. This represents a saving of £500 per person on the full price.

A deposit of 25% of the cost is required on booking. We shall visit the Black Forest, Alsace, Kehl, Speyer, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Cologne, Kinderdijk and Amsterdam.

A sheet giving details and the booking form is available at the back of the church or at the church office.

Anne Ritchie, Group Organiser.

Well done to the Junior Section Boys for their performance in the Battalion Figure Marching Competition. Unfortunately they were unable to hold onto the trophy from last year, but we hope it won't be too long before the trophy is back in Milngavie.

The younger Company Section Boys recently participated in a 'sleep-over' in Cairns. There was much fun and laughter as the Boys played a range of games and watched DVDs. The boys reported having seen a ghost in the Church who had the audacity to play the organ. Unfortunately for the staff there wasn't much sleeping, although revenge was sweet when the Captain woke the boys with a bugle reveille in the morning!

The older Company Section Boys were pleased to be part of the Milngavie Churches' Good Friday Service in St Paul's during which they uplifted the Offering.

The Parents' Nights and Prizegivings will be held in St Luke's on the following evenings:

Company Section
Friday 7th May at 8pm

Friday 4 June - Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 5 June - Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 6 June - Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets are now on sale from the Box Office:

Tel **0141 353 8000** or online www.glasgowconcerthalls.com

Founded as the 'Psalms Alive Choir' back in 1985, the ministry of Praise Gathering has developed significantly in recent years and now comprises over **400 singers** who represent some **125 churches** across Central Scotland. Its all about ordinary people, with ordinary voices singing praises to God. The wide range of musical styles is reflected in the 15-80 age range of the choir members, who rehearse for 10 weeks prior to the annual Summer concerts: 5800 people attended the 2009 events over 3 nights in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Brigade Blethers

This month's page has got to be all about our Auchengillan weekend. I don't know if you remember the week beginning 14 March? Well it poured with rain right up to the Friday evening then lo and behold the sun came out and stayed out for two whole days. So from Saturday morning till Sunday afternoon the girls were able to go out and have a go on all the activities we had arranged: bouncy castle; crate climbing; grass sledging; archery and pedal karts to name but a few.

We had taken indoor games and crafts with us because of the doubtful weather and they managed to cram a few of those things in too. We had a party on the Saturday and most of the games were organised by the Brigaders.

Susan Berry and Gill Wallace were our masterchefs again this year and the food was great. We had been disappointed that Anne Faith might not be

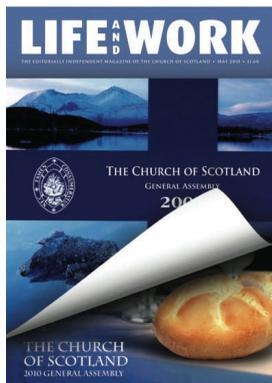
able to attend the weekend but Gail Thomson brought her up in time for the party and they stayed almost to the end. Someone had found out that I had a recent birthday and the leaders provided a big cake with lots and lots and lots of candles!

When we asked the parents afterwards if the girls had enjoyed themselves they all said the same thing. Apparently they had all been in bed and sound asleep much earlier than usual that Sunday. It must have been all the fresh air. I mean it couldn't have anything to do with mid-night feasts going on till 2am !!

Our thanks to all the leaders at Auchengillan who bent over backwards to be helpful and all I can say is roll on next year.

Anne Goodlet





General Assembly 2010

Interviews with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev John Christie, and the Lord High Commissioner, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn
Reports to the assembly
Fringe diary

Ballot Box Views

Representatives of Church organisations and Christian charities offer their thoughts on the issues that should count at the forthcoming Westminster election.

Water Works

To mark Christian Aid Week, Jackie Macadam meets a collector who has experienced the charity's work in Kenya first-hand.

A European Vision

The Rev Doug McRoberts highlights the diversity, breadth and history of the Presbytery of Europe, which 'really isn't about providing convenient churches for Scots on holiday'.

Online: Life and Work will provide updates throughout the General Assembly at www.facebook.com/lifeandwork and twitter.com/cofslifeandwork.

Christian Aid Week 9th—15th May



Seven amazing days

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, action and prayer. It's a time when communities all over the country get together to raise funds to make real and lasting changes in the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

The beginnings

The week started out as the churches' response to the horrors of the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War. The different churches in the UK and Ireland got together and started fundraising – sending the money through partner organisations who were best placed to make a difference on the ground.

Christian Aid Week

It has now become the country's biggest 'house-to-house' collection – with 300,000 volunteers going from door to door every year delivering envelopes and picking them back up from householders in the week.

The Christian Aid Week envelope

The little envelope gets everywhere. Hand-delivered by volunteers and landing on over 10 million doormats, it raises about £9 million each year – and nearly £1 million in Gift Aid alone.

The envelope is an iconic symbol of the generosity of people in the UK and Ireland – giving money to those who need it most.

Dewdrops

Apologies first of all that the dewdrops have been somewhat erratic of late, and in some cases duplicated. However things should improve from now on.

Its almost a year since we started our “Year through the Bible” and inevitably its about to come to an end. In the middle of May we will start a new topic for a new year.

The next subject we will cover will be

“Men and Women of the Bible,” some will be well known, some will be obscure but I am sure they all will be interesting.

The dewdrops will be available each Sunday at the back of the church and on the counter outside the Church Office at the Baldernock Road door.

Alex McEwan

Holy Week Services

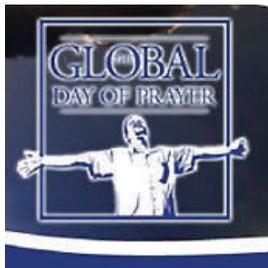


CD copies of the sermons from this year's Holy Week Services are available. A donation of £5 for the copies will go to the Preshal Trust. If you would like a copy please contact the Church Office on 956 4405. The Sermons are also available on our website.

www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

Edinburgh will see a gathering of Christians from across the nation at this year's prayer gathering, where it is hoped that representatives from each of the five continents will share something of their style of worship and local culture, which is particularly appropriate in this centenary year of the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh 1910).



This is the last time this event will be held and, although the location is the city of Edinburgh, an invitation is extended to Christians from across the country 'to stand as the united body of Christ in the land, making Scotland's final Global Day of Prayer one to remember'.

23 May, 2.30pm start (following a picnic at 1pm) Blackford Hill, Edinburgh.

For further information, visit www.edinburghprayer.org/gdop.php

Hear Good News at



Hear Good News at **Sun Kids**



G
A
M
E
S

Saturday 22th May 2010

4.30 – 6.30 pm

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

FOOD

**COME ALONG AND BRING A
FRIEND!**

CHALLENGES

ACTIVITIES

Maryhill Parish Church

It is with pleasure that we note that Stuart Matthews has been appointed as the new minister for Maryhill Parish Church of Scotland.



The church is the largest parish in Glasgow, formed from the union of Maryhill Old and Maryhill High in 1998. It has a population of over 14,000, and covers a wide area: north to south from Summerston to the River Kelvin, east to west from Lochburn Rd to Acre Rd.



Stuart's induction date is yet to be set but will be some time in May—look out for details in the intimations.

Election Special



At the time of writing, the election campaign is still in full swing—we hope that most of you receive your copy of *Life* before polling day. As Christians, our priorities in deciding which candidate to vote for at the election may often be (should be?) different from those of the world but there is no question that we should be speaking out with a strong voice on issues of social justice at home and abroad.

Tearfund, Christian Aid, Oxfam, RSPB, CAFOD, WWF-UK and others have all joined together on the crucial issue of climate change to ask all their supporters to do the same thing: **Ask the Climate Question**. The idea is simple - whenever you encounter a politician during the election campaign take the opportunity to ask them about their position on climate change.

We have done a quick survey of a number of websites with a Christian focus and reproduce a summary of their main election priorities below, we hope that it informs your thinking when considering who to vote for.

Tearfund's top issues are completion of Millennium Development Goals such as sanitation and water for all; goals which are currently off track. They also seek renewed focus on tackling HIV/Aids; anti corruption and ensuring that the pledge to spend 0.7 per cent of national income on Overseas Development Assistance are met.

- Please pray for the voice of the voiceless to be heard during this election campaign and that Christians do not miss this opportunity to speak up for global justice.
- Ask the Lord for a new intake of MPs who are committed to action on climate change.
- Following the expenses scandal, pray for MPs to be elected who are committed to representing their constituencies with integrity and who can restore public faith in the democratic process.

www.tearfund.org

Christian Aid's main election themes are Climate Change and Ending Poverty Now. Their website features a 5 point manifesto which calls for

- Poverty eradication to be the sole focus of UK International development spending, rather than military or foreign policy objectives.
- A future UK government should work for transparency in global accounting procedures to ensure that developing countries receive the tax due to them, ending secret practices of tax havens which lead to revenue loss for many nations.
- More investment in peaceful alternatives to conflict resolution and rebuilding sustainable legitimate political systems.

www.christianaid.org.uk

UNICEF UK (naturally) focuses on issues from children's perspective. In 2008, UNICEF UK highlighted how children in the developing world were already suffering from the impact of climate change.

They are now encouraging individuals and businesses to take responsibility for their carbon emissions by calculating their own carbon footprint and investing £10 per tonne back into environmental programmes.

Their other priorities include ending child poverty in the UK and overseas, asking candidates to “Put it Right” for children and are looking for champions for the Millennium Development Goals for low income countries. www.unicef.org.uk

CND are urging everyone to remember that the new parliament will be making decisions on whether Britain will remain nuclear powered, or will join the world movement towards disarmament and a nuclear-free future. They are urging people to make the strength of feeling against the replacement of Trident very clear to their candidates. www.cnduk.org

Oxfam too focuses on climate change, reducing carbon emissions and making good the promises regarding overseas development assistance payments. Oxfam also favour a tax on financial transactions in order to meet national debt payments and international aid commitments.

- The next government should make the UK a world leader in the protection of civilians threatened by conflict, ensuring a shift from policies that have failed in Afghanistan and elsewhere, so that protecting civilians is the single most important objective in every crisis.
- The next government must also press for the successful conclusion of negotiations for a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty in 2012. www.oxfam.org.uk

Mission Sunday—23rd May

As you have heard, the date of Mission Sunday has been changed because Paul Clark, the General Director of Scripture Union Peru, is to be in Scotland in May and will accompany Rev. Willie McPherson from the Vine Trust. Willie wants to thank us for our support for the Kimo Peru Project since its launch just 2 years ago and to give us up-to-date information about it.

It is particularly appropriate that Paul will be here too, because S.U. Peru runs the homes for abandoned boys. Paul has had a special love for Kimo for many years and spent several days there with us last sum-

mer; in the evenings he told us enthralling stories about the history of the campsite at Kimo and people who had been associated with it over the years.

Several members of last summer's workteam plan to join us, and the whole congregation is invited to a light lunch in the Large Hall after the service when Paul and Willie will tell us more about the project and show pictures of the home. We hope that many members of the congregation will be able to come and share in this special event!

Eleanor Easton

CHURCH REGISTER

DEATHS

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

8.4.10 Mr Allan Daniel, 44 Ferguson Ave., Milngavie

27

11.4.10 Mrs Alexandrina Dewar, 45 Crossveggate, Milngavie

12.4.10 Mr George Etherington, Almond Court Nursing Home

12.4.10 Mr Frank Morris, 66 Main Street, Milngavie

Please note copy date for June edition is Sunday 23rd May for church pigeon hole or Wednesday 26th for email. Send to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or post to 123 Garscadden Road, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 6UQ. 944 4198. This is the last edition before the summer.

Church Organisations and rota co-ordinators

Please remember that the June issue should include details of summer activities and rota details up to 1st week in September. Please send details and updated rotas as soon as possible. (The only one I have for summer is Traidcraft)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
2 May	M Thomson E Izatt	Goodlet, K Deuchar, Cockburn	M Ure C Tanner	Team 8 Robert Rutherford
9 May	A Gibson A McLeod	Bates, Richell, MacKinnon	A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Margaret Macpherson (EC)
16 May	M Abbott R Douglas	Whitelaw, Wallis, Berry	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Irene Strang
23 May		Baxter, Chapman, McCreadie	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Ian Ferguson
30 May		MacAulay, Reid, Wilson	C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 David Lawson
6 Jun		Bolton, Sillars, J Deuchar	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Douglas Martin