

St Paul's Church Life Magazine March 2007



www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

Dear Friends,

My study has recently undergone radical refurbishment and reorganisation. New book shelves, new filing system, more space. It was time to address the disorder and accumulated debris of the years. Even as I write the process is not complete and will not be complete for some weeks.

The biggest eye-opener has been my old filing cabinet. It was a big, ugly green thing which took up a lot of space. When I finally decided it had to go the big challenge was emptying it and deciding what was to be kept and what was to be consigned to the bin bag. It was nice to find old photographs and letters which I had completely forgotten but I was truly amazed at just how much rubbish there was, stuff which should have gone a long time ago.

The season of Lent is traditionally a time to take stock of our lives, to decide on what is essential and what has to go. We can all fall into slackness with regard to our personal behaviour. We can all lose our focus with regard to our prayer life and our Scripture reading. We can all feel our commitment to the work of the Kingdom diminishing. There has to come a time when the things which prevent our wholehearted commitment to Christ and the Kingdom are swept away allowing us once again to appreciate what is essential to true discipleship.

I hope and pray that this season of Lent will be a time of renewal for each one of us.

Wishing you Gods Bless,
Stephen Z. B...

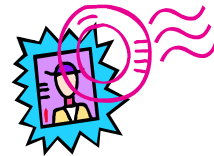
World Mission Stamp Appeal

The new world mission stamp appeal for 2007 launches this coming week with the aim of providing – through the Scottish Churches China Group – rehabilitation equipment and daily necessities to orphans in China suffering from chronic illnesses and disabilities that have hampered their childhood development.

The stamp appeal works by collecting used stamps and selling them on to collectors with the proceeds going to the nominated charity. Last year the stamp appeal raised about £2,000 for the Golden Jubilee Project helping the elderly in Bangladesh.

Used stamps can be placed in the stamp box located in the Strathblane Road entrance or sent direct to Vikki Skinner, Stamp Centre, World Mission, Church of Scotland, 121 George St, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.

Mrs M Phillips.



World Mission Diary for March

This month we will focus our prayers on the people of China

- For the many elderly beggars seen on China's city street, as the change in traditional family structures leaves many elderly people without any one to care for them.
- For the many church run projects such as hospitals, orphanages, homes for the elderly and kindergartens run by church groups. Pray that they may continue to serve all members of the community and bear very powerful witness in a society where people are mindful of helping others outside their immediate circle.
- For the success of the SCCG project to educate the children of Scotland about China, and so help promote understanding between the two nations in the future.
- That China's emergence on the world scene mirrors the growth of Christianity in China, in that it is increasingly seen as a force for good.

Holy Week Services

The Holy Week Services will take place in **Allander Evangelical Church** from Monday 2nd April until Friday 6th April at 7.30pm. The Guest Speaker is Rev. Richard Gibbons who is a Regional Development Officer with the Board of Mission and Discipleship of the Church of Scotland.

www.allanderchurch.org.uk

The short Service for the Saturday in Holy Week will take place at 9.30am in the **United Free Church**.

Lent Services

Our traditional Services during the Season of Lent will be continuing until March 31st. As always they take place on Saturday morning at 9.30am with a 10.30am finish. We are pleased that this year we have two guest speakers on March 10th Rev. Allan Hamilton from Killermont Parish Church and on March 24th Rev. Fiona Maxwell from Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church. Please consider coming to some or all of these Services as we move towards the Easter Season.

Lenten Lunch

The Lenten Lunch will be held on Sunday 25th March in the Main Hall after the morning service. Come along and enjoy a soup and roll lunch. All donations are going to Christian Aid



Lenten Daffodil Coffee Morning

Following the 9.30am Lenten Service, the Church Society will be holding a Coffee Morning with Hot Cross Buns in the large hall at 10.00am. There will also be book and bric-a-brac stalls. Admission £2; contributions of any of the above will be gratefully received.

Presbytery Exchange Sunday

The Annual Presbytery Exchange will take place on Sunday 18th March. Mr Buchanan will be "swapping" with Rev. Gregor McIntyre of Faifley Parish Church.

Milngavie Churches at Prayer

The monthly Prayer Breakfast will be on March 31st in St. Luke's Parish Church beginning at 8.00am for breakfast and at 8.45am for prayer.

This is a great opportunity for members of the Milngavie Churches to unite in prayer for common concerns.

The Prayer Breakfast on 5th May will be in St. Paul's.



Parking

Members are asked to be aware of any inconvenience they may be causing in parking their vehicles in the area of the church. In particular please be aware of yellow lines and notices restricting parking.



Christian Stewardship

My commitment to God's work in St Paul's - Time for Review?

The start of a New Year is often a time we review our circumstances and church life is no different. The Treasurer has reported a small surplus for 2006 but with costs increasing (many out-with our control) and with a balance of £72,000 remaining on our loan for the refurbishment work, it is appropriate to review the amount we contribute to the work of the church and the way we give.

Committed, regular giving helps the Treasurer manage the cash flow and Gift Aid enables a significant amount of tax to be recovered. Although not practical for everyone, have you considered giving by **regular monthly standing order** from your bank?

If you contribute through the **WFO scheme**, do you "make up" for missed weeks? If you give through the open plate have you considered either of the above?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that enables the Church to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the money you give to St Paul's. You do not need to promise to give a particular amount each week or for a specific period of time and one declaration covers all your giving to the General Fund, Fabric Fund and the Mission Fund.

If you want to know more, then contact:

Angus MacLean, Treasurer 956 4971,

James McQueen WFO Treasurer 956 5449

Elizabeth Traill, Gift Aid Treasurer 956 1479



Brigade Blethers

Taking up where I left off last month brings me back to our Jumble Sale and the grand sum of £760 which you all helped us raise. It is a great feeling knowing that our display expenses are already in the bank.

The girls themselves made some beautiful posies, homemade sweets, hearts filled with pot-pourri, treasure chests and decorated gingerbread houses. Producing these counts towards the service part of our badgework while the physical section includes the keep fit routines which the girls will perform at the display in May.

The Brigaders intend to do their own choreography and for this we need some skeletons (just the costumes!) So if anyone has an unwanted skeleton in their cupboard we would love to hear from you!

I keep telling everyone – Brigade is not all marching and uniforms. We do get up to some weird things! Our next project is a Daffodil Coffee evening on Thursday 15th March.

Please come and support us as all the proceeds go to the Marie Curie nurses.

Anne Goodlet.

Flower Donations for March

Mrs K Butler, Mrs S & J Lindsay, Mrs M Ingram,
Miss D Dickson, Mrs Tanner, Mr R Bone, Miss A Ritchie.



St Paul's Holiday Fellowship : Next Trip

28th December, 2007 to 4th January, 2008

SPECIAL OFFER with an additional 10% off and FREE excursion package.

Come and celebrate New Year with us on the DANUBE. Enjoy Hogmanay in VIENNA.

We shall visit Budapest, Godollo, Esztergom, the Danube Bend, Bratislava, Vienna, Salzburg, Melk Abbey, Durnstein and Weissenkirchen.

Our leisurely journey will be on the Hotel Ship MS Johann Strauss.

Flights will be via Amsterdam outwards to Budapest and return from Vienna.

Further details will be available at the back of the church or on the church website. (see Holiday Fellowship webpage). www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

Anne Ritchie

IMPACT News

Although the summer is a few months away yet, plans are afoot for a busy summer of Impact missions. Many locations are having teams for the first time. There has also been a change within the leadership of Impact at national level with Phil Wray moving to SU to replace Elaine Duncan who moved to the Scottish Bible Society to replace Doug Campbell. A successor to Phil will hopefully be in place by the summer, but much prayer support will be needed as the new Impact co-ordinator will be very much "thrown in at the deep end."

One of our church elders, Douglas Martin, will be returning with a team to Dalgety Bay in Fife from Saturday 21 July to Sunday 29 July 2007 to help run a children's holiday club programme. The team also hope to run some youth events and to build on last year's work where around 35 children attended the holiday club and 25 attended an open youth club.

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.

Douglas Martin

Ed's note: We weren't aware of Dougie's recent elevation in status(!) and suggest that it is he who can be contacted on the above number.



RM: When I was talking to Gordon Hamilton (February issue) we covered quite a lot of ground about the Board's responsibilities in looking after the premises and finances of the Church. As Treasurer do you have to go along to the Session each month and make a report?

AM: No Gordon, as Clerk, does that when he is reporting any other items of note. I'm just an elder on the session unless specific items come up which need more explanation. I may have to expand on the financial aspects of a particular project. The Treasurer doesn't actually have to be an elder – or even a member of St Paul's – according to the constitution.

(Margaret MacLean appears)

RM: Margaret, come and tell us about your time as fabric convenor on the Board!

MM: (Shivers) No no!

RM: You were legendary! Those of us on the board at that time still remember your reports concerning Mr Drain the plumber and so on. The first thing that happened after you took over was that the manse just about fell down – wasn't it?

MM: Yes that year was a testament to the power of prayer – that's what! I must say though, I always remember Alan Cowie's technical expertise as the surveyor being invaluable. I never fail to mention my gratitude to him in those days.

RM: And you were treasurer then too Angus weren't you?

AM: Yes – I have done two stints – each of 6 years and that was during one of them. I have told the Board that I am hoping to retire – I'll be into my 70th year and certainly had no intention of being treasurer until this age. I'm willing to do another year shadowing someone else to take over. I've been a member of the Board itself without breaks since 1985 because when I was deputy Session Clerk I was still on the board as an ex-officio member by virtue of my office – so there's no escape!

RM: How did you get the job the first time round? You were a taxi driver then. Did you do their accounts too or have any financial training?

AM: Well, yes, they discovered that I was a qualified book keeper and had an HND in business studies. Tom Hamilton was the treasurer then and like me he wanted to hand over so someone on the Session (who shall remain nameless) knew I had some financial training and convinced me that I could do it. And it would be a piece of cake! Tom gave me a lot of help. Norman Reid was the auditor in those days and Andrew Thompson was Clerk to the Board – both were very helpful and gave every encouragement.

My initial baptism into crisis was very early on in my first tenure when the church heating broke down – that could have been Fergus's first winter with us. I think about 1989. We had a terrible time of breakdowns and it was decided to renew the boiler. The cost was £21,000 which was a lot of money then (and still is now). We had just got over that when dry rot was discovered in the apse of the church which cost £18,000 and in the middle of that was the manse crisis as well.

That was a very stressful time for the manse family, because we had to put them out in the garden in a caravan, thinking it was only going to be days but it turned out to be much longer and we had to get them temporary accommodation while the work went on. At one stage we were running out of money because the manse repairs cost about £38,000 and I was at the stage of not knowing what to do. I was going to turn to the congregation again for a gift day and the Session had agreed when a member came up to me and asked "How bad is the crisis...?" and I told him. He said not to worry, that he would make a £40K interest free loan to the church if necessary, which was very reassuring and generous.

After the gift day it didn't become necessary and thereafter with the Session's permission I established the fabric fund which has been a great success and is still going today. It is sufficient to meet the repayments of the loan from the C of S for 2006.

RM: The Treasurer's job seems to have expanded – sometimes that can be down to the personality of the person in office taking on more and more – or is it just that the job has got bigger?

AM: I think what's happened in my time is what Gordon was talking about too – the impact of changing legislation. There's been a tightening of Inland Revenue regulations, labour laws, health and safety, data protection laws and we are now under the scrutiny of the Charity Regulator too. So there is a prescribed way of presenting accounts now which has changed the job.

RM: And the Church of Scotland have a say too don't they?

AM: They can only recommend a format. It would obviously be good for them if all church accounts were presented in the same way and they have given indications of what they want, and we have always conformed with requests because in the end they have their eye on the legislation too. The C of S is a charity in its own right comprising of individual churches which are also charities themselves.

We have to leave an audit trail for the Inland Revenue and the Charity Commission regarding income and expenditure so our books are open to them to inspect. We had a recent snap audit and everything was fine. In 2007 we'll have to submit full accounts for the first time to the Charity Regulator as well as presbytery and 121 (George St).

RM: I don't suppose that readers are interested in the day to day minutiae of the job, but it must be very time consuming with all the different strands of income?

AM: Well I have two very good assistants, Liz Traill and Barbara Lawson who deal with the tax recovery on the General Fund and Mission and Fabric funds respectively. We computerised the Gift Aid database about a year ago which was a huge job – we took the roll and loaded it all up onto computer making sure that every last detail was accurate. Liz was restricted in mobility last year after her accident but she prepared all the information about people's donations by gift aid and then Helen typed it up because she's faster than either of us! It's all backed up in several places so that if any one computer crashes, it's not the end of the world.

RM: **I think there are STILL a lot of people not getting the message about Gift Aid.**

AM: No I don't think they are either. It's frightening – the open plate in the last few months was in excess of the gift aid envelopes. The white and blue envelopes are non gift aid (ie non tax payers) or at least they say they are. It's often elderly people who have them. The only difference between them and the open plate is that the envelope is a reminder to them to give regularly. If they miss one week, they tend to catch up the following one, but the open plate is very irregular. I suspect though that some folk with these envelopes pay tax – even at the lower 10% rate and don't realise they are eligible for gift aid.

RM: So let's make this clear - if you're a taxpayer and you're putting coins into the bag, you're really not helping the church as much as you could?

AM: Well, we can't identify them, so we can't reclaim any tax on their giving and we miss out if they're not at the service every week, so in a way, you're right. For tax payers, without increasing your own giving, the Church can claim back 28p in tax if we know who you are and you have signed a gift aid form.

The open plate really concerns me because some of these people must be paying tax. Ideally we want them to go on to standing order as it's the most efficient. I have forms for people to fill in and take to their bank – it's very easy – but people aren't inclined to do it – you have to lead them every step of the way.

There's also the question of the risk to the people depositing the money in the nightsafe at the bank – they're carrying large amounts of cash and recently 2 women elders saw someone lurking at the back of the bank and were very apprehensive of getting out in the dark to put the money in the safe. If everyone paid by standing order, we wouldn't have that problem.

Limitations of space mean that the conversation will be continued in next month's edition.



Japan Jottings

Dear Friends

It's unusual for us to look out of our window and see so little snow. Of course compared to Milngavie we have lots, but it's really been a very tame winter after the deluge of snow last winter. This month is a time when many things come to an end as April marks the start of a new school, business and church year. Winter will hopefully come to an end too.

On a family note, Daniel is safely back in India and has settled down well again. Lorna and Matthew will visit in April for the spring break when Matthew will also have time to chat with teachers and get to know the school a little. We hope he will start too in August. Calum has his last month at kindergarten before the transition to school – he will be almost 7 by the time he starts! And Alistair will then be our last remaining link with kindergarten life.

For Otaru Church 18th February was a big day. All the church members were agreed that we call Mr Ishihara as the pastor. The Ishihara family will move here at the end of this month. They have two boys (9 and 6) – the younger boy will start school with Calum. They will live very near us and work together with us for a year before we return to Scotland next March. We are very much looking forward to working with a Japanese couple for our last year in Otaru. Many thanks for praying with us over these past months.

Thank you too for your financial support for us. We really appreciate so much the gifts we receive from the church. Without your support, we could not be here. Sharing the gospel with the Japanese people is very much a partnership. Although we are here, we need and rely on your prayers and gifts. We look forward to sharing more with you next year!

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

A date for your diary
Saturday 2nd June 2007
CHURCH PICNIC
Callendar House, Falkirk
Booking form and details next month
ALL WELCOME
Book early!



The Girls' Brigade – 82nd Glasgow Company EX-MEMBERS' REUNION



Places are still available for the ex-members reunion to be held on Saturday 31st March 2007 for former Girls, Officers and Auxiliaries. Please contact Marlyn McKay (956 3269) not later than 18th March if you are interested in attending.

St Paul's Church Society

Visit to The Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross – Sun 25th March 2007

There will be a list for names at the back of the Church from Sunday 4th March, for our visit to the recently refurbished Queen's Cross Church, on Sunday 25th March, leaving Milngavie at 2.00pm.

Transport for this outing is by provision of members cars, for which the committee is extremely grateful.

Admission cost is £2 (£1 concessions) plus £1.50 per person Guided pre-booked tour. There is also a Tearoom, plus a quality Bookshop/Gift stall, of religious and Charles Rennie Mackintosh interest.

Members, new members are friends are welcome; when inserting your name on the sheet, please intimate if you intend to be a driver.



Book Group

This month we have been reading the **Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver. Told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, an evangelical Baptist missionary who takes his wife and family to the turbulent Belgian Congo in 1959, the book is the absorbing story of their thirty years in post-colonial Africa. This book is guaranteed to keep you awake even after you have finished it! Everyone found the story of Rachel, the twins Leah and Adah, Ruth May and Orleanna Price, by turns exciting, sad, and horrific as they all struggle to come to terms with living in the jungle with no water, electricity, and often no food (but plenty of insects) as their father attempts to convert the local village to Christianity. Nathan is by turns brutal, dogmatic and eventually completely out of touch with reality. The story of their journey through life over 30 years is skillfully told. The story may be fictional but the historical facts about the Congo are genuine and the ending is full of surprises. Try it and see.

Next month we are reading **Notes from a Small Island** by Bill Bryson. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 March 2007 at 7.45pm. Please contact Helen in the Church office for the venue.

Joyce Clark

The Men's Association.

A great night was held our Burns Supper in the Jubilee Hall. After the Selkirk Grace given by Douglas Spencer the haggis was piped in by Bruce Shearlaw and carried in by Jim More. Chris Scott then Addressed the Haggis and supper was then served by a few of the ladies (four wives and one friend)!

After Supper, Gordon Campbell proposed "The Immortal Memory" in excellent style. The five ladies were invited to join the company to hear "The Toast to The Lassies" which was given by Alex McEwan in a humorous way. Bruce entertained us in true Burn's fashion with several piping pieces.

One of our Session Representatives, Miss Morag Thomson gave a wonderful "Reply from the Lassies." The evening concluded with Bobby Donaldson proposing the Vote of Thanks to all who were involved in making the evening such a success.

A great time was had by all.

Chris Scott



The success of the Burns Supper night was without a doubt due to the expert work of Chris and Alex and their assistants. Rabbie would be proud of the professional manner in which his works were portrayed by those artistes in their own particular way: Douglas, Alex, Gordon and of course Morag. A laugh a minute!

A big hand also goes to our ever willing piper and to Bob for his witty vote of thanks; special thanks and congrats to our "lassies" who played a huge part in the success of the evening.

A truly enjoyable night.

David Ogilvie.



The Guild

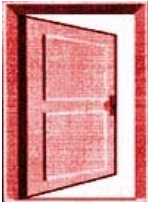
There is no Guild meeting on Monday March 5th. However, there will be a visit to St. Luke's on Tuesday 6th to which all members are invited.

On Monday 12th March, Judith Bowers will be visiting us from the Britannica Panopticon Music Hall Trust.

On Monday 19th March, Derek Norval and the Douglas Academy Choir will be entertaining us.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Monday 26th March, followed by a talk by Mrs Evelyn Williams on 'A Taste of New Zealand'.

Our Coffee Morning will be held on Sat 24th March from 10am-12 noon.



The Open Door Trust

Open Door Trust Glasgow is a Christian charity which St Paul's supports. It was founded in 1997 to help people imprisoned by a lifestyle of despair, often involving poverty, homelessness, alcohol, solvent and drug abuse, and family breakdown. The Trust's staff and volunteers draw alongside those in need and help them rebuild their broken lives, and in this way demonstrate the love and compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Activities include:

- Street work, where men and women are provided with soup, rolls and sausage, sandwiches, cakes, fruit and tea and coffee, and sleeping bags and warm clothing where appropriate;
- A lunch club, where a nutritious two course lunch is served and guests are able to access shoes, clothing, toiletries and groceries;
- Family back-up through a crèche, outings and the provision of clothes and other essentials;
- Prison work to support those in addiction into recovery and to provide back-up support once they leave prison;
- The work of recovery, the centre-piece of the Trust's work, which involves a Monday-Friday structured programme for those wanting to break with a past of alcoholism or drug abuse. This involves physical, mental and vocational elements, with spiritual recovery promoted through Bible study, discussion and programmes such as Alpha and Christianity Explored.

The Trust works in the voluntary sector, receives no public funding and offers free help etc to those who use its services."

Last year during the season of lent the congregation of St Paul's collected food and drinks that was very much appreciated by the Trust and it is proposed to collect tea, coffee, sugar and tinned fruit during the four Sundays of March and the first Sunday of April 2007. All donations will go a long way to feeding those whom the Trust encounter with so many different problems. Please pray for the work of the Trust as the workers and volunteers appreciate your prayers and your kindness in the past.

Janet Charles. Find out more at www.glasgowodt.org.uk

SCPO Lecture 2007

A Dazzling Mixture:

Scotland on the 300th Anniversary of Union

William Storrar, Director of the Centre of Theological Inquiry,
Princeton, USA (former Director of the Centre for Theology & Public
Issues, University of Edinburgh)

Thursday 29 March at 7pm

Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

The lecture will be followed by refreshments;

please contact rosemary@actsparl.org or phone 0131 558 8137
to let us know you are coming.

CHURCH REGISTER

Joined by Certificate

Mr & Mrs James Hastie, 7 Viewpark, Milngavie 54
 Mr Hamish Thomson, 35 Strathblane Road, Milngavie 4
 Mrs Kathleen Loughray, Broomlands, 26 Craigmillar Ave., 6

Change of Address

Mrs Gayle Thomson, 5 Dougalston Cresc., Milngavie now 52
 17 Dougalston Ave 2
 Mr Calum MacCalman 5 Mitchell Drive, now 50
 18 Kilmardinny Ave., Bearsden 69

Baptism

Seona Brown, 13 Coreen Gds., Bearsden 67
 John Iain Cullen Cattanach, 11 Campbell Ave., Milngavie 30

Deaths

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

26.2.07 Mrs V McInnes, 6 Craighdu Road, Milngavie 32
 29.1.07 Mrs Moira Wilson 28 Glasgow Road, Milngavie
 19.2.07 Mrs Mary Humphreyson, Hillview Nursing Home

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche	Traidcraft	Vestibule
4th March	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Smith, Sillars MacAuley	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Ann Begg
11th March	M Thomson E Izatt	Lawrie, K Deuchar Chapman	A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Duncan Kelly (Eve comm)
18 th March	J Anderson A Gibson	Goodlet, Richell, Cockburn	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Bill Marshall
25 th March	T Abbott T Douglas	Hughes Wilson, Martin	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Ian Ferguson

Copy date for April – Sunday 18th March for the Church pigeon hole or by email during the week following. The editor will be on holiday until 14th March but you should receive an out-of-office reply to any emails when they are received. rona.macdonald@scotent.co.uk 6 Garrioch Crescent, Glasgow G20 8RR.