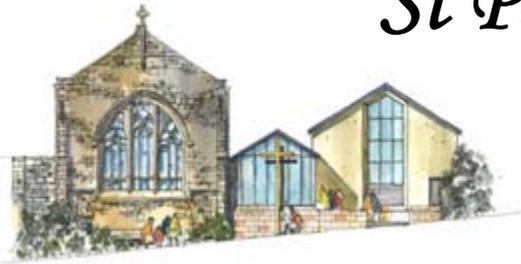


# St Paul's Milngavie

## Life Magazine

April 2008



Dear Friends,

I recently attended a lecture on the life and ministry of John Bunyan. He is best remembered as the author of the Christian spiritual classic *The Pilgrim's Progress* although his complete works extend to something like twenty volumes. The title of the lecture was 'Preaching Under Pressure' which refers to Bunyan's position as an Independent preacher in seventeenth century England who was not recognised by the mainstream Church. As a result of this he spent long periods in prison where he wrote many of his books and pamphlets.

What amazed those of us who attended the lecture was the relevance of Bunyan's writings for today. The personalities he had to deal with, the evangelistic challenges he faced, his own inner struggles as a preacher – they all mirrored our own personal experiences. It made me think, not for the first time, that despite our undoubted advances in so many fields since the seventeenth century, at a spiritual level humankind does not change.

Someone has said that the only difference between ancient man in his chariot and modern man in his Volvo is the speed they are travelling. They share the same basic needs, aspirations and fears. Moreover, from a Christian point of view we can add to this that they both need a Saviour. Bunyan's England was a time of war and repression, conditions which affect practically every country in the world today. It seems that while there are so many things we can change and improve, human nature is stubbornly fixed on a course of self-destruction. This is why Bunyan's Gospel is as relevant today as it was four hundred years ago.

The Easter message is that because of Jesus' death and resurrection renewal is possible in the depths where attitudes and motivations are formed. We need to affirm our confidence in this at a personal level and to be bold in our proclamation of Jesus, not only as our personal Saviour, but as the Saviour of the world.

Yours in Christ,

Fergus C Buchanan.

## The Guild

On **Monday 3rd March** we had many 'Laughter in the Kirk' tales from Rev. Ian Millar of Bonhill Church, where he has been Minister for nearly 20 years. Members from St. Luke's joined us that evening.

On **Saturday 8th March** we held our Annual Coffee morning. This was very well attended considering the extremely bad weather. President Marion and her Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the morning such a success, namely the donors of delicious home baking, jams and marmalade, books and bric-a-brac, the 'tea' ladies and the 'helpers'. The superb sum of £760 was raised.

On **Monday 10th March**, The Guild closed the session with their AGM, which was presided by Rev. Fergus Buchanan. President Marion thanked her committee for their support and assistance during her first year. She expressed appreciation to retiring members, and welcomed four new ladies to her committee. The evening ended with entertainment from the committee. Judging by the laughter from the 'audience', this was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the Past President 'Judges' for their assistance!



### **The Guild Summer Outing is on Tuesday 27th May 2008, leaving Milngavie Railway Station at 12.15 p.m. prompt.**

Our first stop is Lomond Shores, followed by a sail on Loch Lomond. We shall then travel to Aberfoyle where, after a short break, we will have High Tea at Gartmore House Hotel. before our return journey – arriving in Milngavie around 8.30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing all our friends then. A day of sunshine has been 'requested' this year, not 'ordered'.

(Think that's where I went wrong last year!! – Molly.)

## The Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has a break over Easter when we are closed for three weeks.

We reopen on Wednesday 16th April at 12-15. We are open to everyone – "club" is only the name, and you can enjoy a bowl of home made soup with a choice of filled rolls and home baking all for a bargain price of just £1.50.

If you wish you can also join us for a short service at 1.15pm taken by one of our ministers, a refreshing spiritual uplift in our busy lives.

You can be sure of a warm welcome whether you come every week or just pop in occasionally. Hope to see you on the 16th April.

**Ann MacLeod**

# Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

By the time you read this, we should be in India visiting Daniel and Matthew at Hebron School. We leave Japan on 1st April and travel to India, spending one week at the school and the next week at the beach for a family holiday. We arrive in Scotland on the morning of 22nd April. We are delighted to have been able to rent a house in Drumbeg Terrace for our year back!

We are looking forward to our year back, although there will also be many challenges as we settle in to life in Scotland once again, not least for the boys as they transition to Scottish schools. Daniel and Matthew will remain in Hebron but come back for the long summer and winter holidays.

Why do we come back for a year? There are several purposes. One is to **re-connect** with family, friends and churches. Another is for **refreshment** – to have time for rest and reflection after living and working abroad for four years. And another is to **report back** – to spend time with supporting churches sharing something of what God has been doing in Otaru and more widely in Japan. That can involve taking part in anything from church services to children's groups, from conferences to smaller prayer groups. And then it is also a time for **re-commitment** – we need to build up our support base, both prayer and financial so that we can return to Japan next year.

This time we will not only share stories of what God has been doing but also about the work to which we will return in spring 2009 when we will begin a new church from scratch in an area of Sapporo. Japan remains a country with many challenges and needs – outwardly there may seem to be little suffering, but inwardly so many are hurting and the social problems, which are often hidden, are growing. Only the love of Jesus can truly free and heal the millions of people squeezed into the islands that make up Japan.

**Thank you for all your support for us. See you soon!**  
**David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

**Thank you!**

**We would like to say a big thank you to all who attended and supported the Cherry Blossom Fair in February. We have very much appreciated the effort that has been made on our behalf at these Fairs during our years in Japan. We look forward to meeting with many of you during our year back in Scotland.**

## **Alastair MacLeod**

Ann and family would like to express their thanks to the Rev. Fergus Buchanan and Rev Ken MacDonald for their care and help during Alastair's illness and for their services at the Burial and Thanksgiving Service.

Also thanks to the many who visited Alastair in hospital, sent cards and flowers but mostly for your prayers which have greatly sustained us in the past difficult months.

Ann MacLeod

## **Opendoor Trust Glasgow**

We are very grateful for the excellent response of the gifts of foodstuff donated by the members of St. Pauls church during the period of Lent.

Your kindness allows God's work to continue on the streets of Glasgow. Please continue to pray for this work and for the workers and volunteers who appreciate the prayers and kindness throughout the year.

**Norman Barlow**

## **Men's Association.**

Although we have officially finished for this year we still have a visit arranged on Tuesday 15th April to the Police Training College at East Kilbride. The evening promises to be quite eventful as we will be given a talk on the training that police drivers go through, and also we will be allowed to test our own skills in handling cars on the skid pan...

We will be aiming to leave the church hall about 5.30 pm to get us at the college for about 6.30 (traffic at night is a nightmare).

Please let Ian Ferguson or myself know if you will be coming along so that we can arrange adequate transport.

Chris Scott

## **Scottish Bible Society**

The total amount donated to this year's Bible Sunday appeal was £968. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Thank you also to everyone who completed a Gift Aid declaration. When the tax is recovered by the Bible Society this should add a significant sum to the total received.

Grace Rogerson, Frances Ireland

## Church Outing

### Dunfermline - Saturday 31st May 2008

We will be based in Pittencrieff Park which is very close to many varied attractions including the Abbey Church (where Robert the Bruce is buried), the Abbot House Heritage Centre (inc tearoom), Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum, a traditional High Street and modern shopping centre as well as St Margaret's Cave.

Something for everyone.

### Note the date in your diary NOW

Booking Forms at the back of the Church from mid-April

### ALL WELCOME

Further information from Graham Mill (956 5155) [g.mill@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.mill@ntlworld.com)

## International Christian College

The summer series of Monday classes runs from 21st April to 9th June (exc 5 & 26 May) in the College at 110 St James Road, Glasgow (near Glasgow Cathedral).

The sessions are:-

10:15 – 11:15am

Katharine Robertson

***Knowing God: Spirituality for Today***

Visiting Lecturer, ICC & YWAM Scotland

12:00 – 1:00pm

Elizabeth Clark

***Jeremiah: Lessons for Today***

Associate Lecturer, ICC

7:30 – 9:00pm

Peter Neilson

***What is emerging as Church?***

Visiting Lecturer, ICC

OR

Vicki Shaver

***The Heart of a Child***

Lecturer in Children's Ministry, ICC

Coffee is available from 9.50am.

Between the morning classes there is a chance to join the college students for morning worship and also to have coffee or tea. Lunch is available from the student canteen from 1pm. For further information or to enrol contact the college Tel 0141 552 4040

email [Sandra.Mcsporrان@icc.ac.uk](mailto:Sandra.Mcsporrان@icc.ac.uk)

## Flower Donations - April

Mrs M Sinclair, Mrs M Rae, Mrs C MacKay, Mrs Cairns, Mrs More, Mrs H Lindsay



**Facilitating peace in southern Sudan - bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.**

Seth Le Leu, World Vision's Sudan Country Director, affirms, 'If MAF hadn't flown in the peace conference's facilitator, there would have been great strife. They were our wings of peace.'

Due to facilitate a peace conference between Dinka and Nuer clans, World Vision had one problem – bringing together all the negotiators and the chief mediator. Rose Mary from World Vision called our team in Lokichoggio asking for a last-minute flight to Labone on the Ugandan border to collect chief mediator Rev Okumu.

Airborne from Lokichoggio, pilot KeA Arnlund flew to Labone. Flying overhead, KeA reported, 'Hang on, where's the airstrip?!' Tall elephant grass interspersed with shrubs and bushes made the strip unsuitable for landing. Arriving 40 minutes later in Juba, World Vision administrator Sara Green was greeted without the key passenger. Sara shared, 'This whole peace process hangs on his presence!'

Explaining the problems with Labone airstrip, Sara quickly communicated with Rev Okumu, getting assurance that the strip would be cleared. Flying to Marial Lou, KeA collected the first Dinka group, ten representatives from the community appointed for the peace talks. The following day, KeA was airborne at first light for Labone. He reported, 'I touch down on the freshly cut grass just as the first beams of sunlight makes the crest glow to the east. Rev Okumu is radiant when he tells me how they managed to mobilise the church and village to clear the strip.'

KeA was quickly airborne again, for Mapear, to collect the second group involved in the negotiations. *En route*, Rev Okumu shared about mediation. 'My method is quite simple. First I try to understand the root of the conflict by listening to both parties. Many times it's about cattle rustling, about grazing, about access to water. Then I spend a lot of time talking about human rights. All men are equal before God. All are equally valuable. But we also have responsibilities of caring for one another and managing our resources. 'Finally, everybody gets a chance to suggest solutions to the conflict. I have also come to realise that community development, schools, access to medical treatment, water, is crucial in creating a long-term solution to conflict.'

Landing in Mapear, the group of ten community representatives waited. It's just a 15-minute flight on to Mayendit where they met Sara, who exclaimed, 'Now everybody is here and the peace conference is on! Thanks for making this possible.'

Dinka men are defined by being warriors so peace is counter to their identity. Not just anyone can mediate such negotiations. But the outcome of the peace conference was very positive, with a peace agreement signed between the clans including a section on small arms control. MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.

# Book Group



Maybe some of you have heard of Colette, not many of us in the group had heard of her although she wrote Gigi. She was a classic French novelist of the early 1900s who led quite a bohemian lifestyle. Her “Claudine” books were written around 1922 and were initially published under her first husband’s name, which he insisted upon.

The book is one which can be picked up randomly as the chapters stand alone and read more like anecdotes or a collection of short stories. The story revolves around Colette’s early childhood in rural France and is autobiographical. The title of the book is Claudine’s House but we felt it was more about her mother and the way she brought up her four children than about the house they all lived in. A vivid picture of provincial life in a loving but chaotic household is the result.

Although we would hesitate to recommend the book, it is beautifully written and her descriptive writing is excellent. The book is quite small and as one of the group commented it was “a perfect size for the bus”!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15 April 2008 at 7.45pm when we are reading A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (author of the Kite Runner). Please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue if you would like to join us.

JOYCE CLARK

## Christian Aid Sponsored Walk

Now that I am mobile, but not necessarily of sound mind, I have decided to walk the Erskine Bridge on Saturday 26th April 2008 for Christian Aid as this is part of their fund raising events.

Not that I am looking for the sympathy vote, but any donations will be much appreciated, and there is no way that I can run away with the money!!!

Therefore, I will leave a form on one of the tables at the back of the church so that, if you wish to sponsor me, you may add your name etc. to the list.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

**Liz Traill**

## Long Service Certificate

At the Kirk Session on Wed 5th march 2008, the Rev Fergus C Buchanan presented a long service certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly and a gift of a Bible to Mr Steven McFarlane in grateful appreciation of 30 years’ dedicated service to the eldership.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

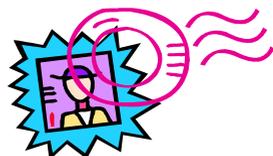
## World Mission Diary

During the Easter period our thoughts were taken to the Holy Land where Jesus lived, died and rose again. Let us bring the needs of the people who live in that land in the present day to God in prayer during the month of April

Pray for justice to be sought for Palestinians so that both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace. This year is 60 years since the partition of Palestine hardened into a permanent nightmare for Palestinians. It is also 41 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza overwhelmed the peaceful vision of one land, two peoples. This year's celebrations of the establishment of the State of Israel reflect the fulfilment of one dream at the expense of another.

It's time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace; time to end 60 years of conflict; time for freedom from occupation; time for equal rights; and time for the healing of wounded souls. Pray that all tragic deaths in Palestine and Israel will lead to a renewed effort among people of faith for peace.

Pray for churches living under occupation.



### Stamps

The total amount collected in Scotland last year was £1947.50. This will assist Church of Scotland missionaries to support an orphanage in China. Thank you for your help.

### May Phillips

### Plant Sale in aid of Leukaemia Research

It is less than a year since our last plant sale but this is to announce details of the next one: This year the plants will be brought on by the same person – it will be basically the same range of plants as last time and the date of the sale is **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, however the venue will my garden at 5 Blane Drive (off Roselea Drive/Strathblane Road) approx 600 yards up the hill from the church. Please come along and make your choice of plants. (More details in the May issue of Life)

In the meantime I am looking for help in sourcing small flower pots (3-4" in diameter) so if you have any, give me a call on 0141 563 9173 and I'll be pleased to collect them. The sale is not far off now – so please don't delay!

Bill Law

The editor apologises that this article did not feature in the March issue as intended

# St Paul's Children and Youth Page

## Happy Easter

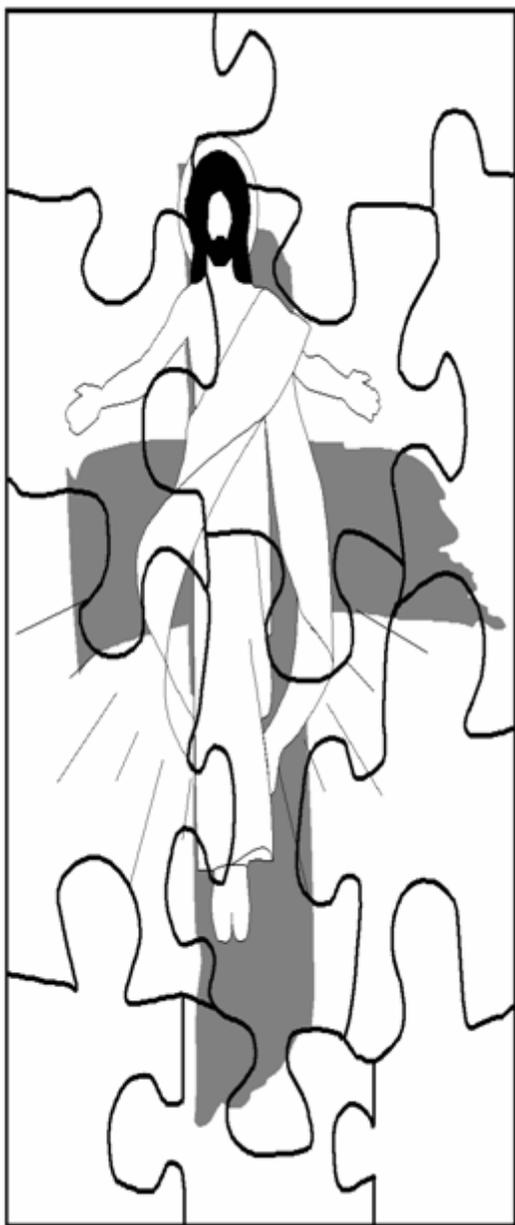
Opposite is a jigsaw of Jesus resurrection. This was when Jesus raised from the dead. He did this so that we have the opportunity to have a relationship with Him. This is Good News for us!

As you do the jigsaw remember the message of Jesus.

All you have to do is rip out this page from the magazine then cut round the edges and try to fit it back together.

Enjoy your holidays.

Gem



## What's on in APRIL?

### Children:

**Sunday club & Holiday Club** – Pre and Primary age

During Sunday morning service  
All Halls

**MaxClub** – Pre and Primary age

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – During morning service  
Large Hall

**Girls Brigade** – Primary and Secondary age  
Thursday – 7 till 9pm

### Young People:

**Bible Class** – S1-S5

Sunday morning – 10 till 11am  
Centenary Room

**Joining Together**– S1-S6

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April – 8.15pm till 9.30pm  
Centenary Room

For information about anything to do with the Children or Youth Work in St Paul's please don't hesitate to contact me (Gemma Stoddart) on 07751477583.

## Brigade Blethers

We paraded to St Paul's at the beginning of this month, but Oh dear - where were you girls? Never mind, those who did attend really enjoyed the service.

This whole month has been very "bitty" for Brigade. Our badgework is just about finished - but not quite; we have suddenly realised that we need to find display items NOW; and we are trying to work our weekly programmes round the school holidays.

The Display is not till **8 May** but with the on/off holiday situation we feel as if it is just round the corner. The leaders all get a bit twitchy at this time of year but the girls seem to take it all in their stride.

The Explorers and Juniors are working hard at dance routines and smiling all the way and a couple of the older Brigaders have produced a marching routine which they are now teaching the others in their section.

We continue with our "animal" theme so if you happen to hear one of the young ones saying that we think she makes a great elephant, dont be alarmed, we are not making remarks about her size.

Intrigued? You will just have to come along to the Display and all will be revealed!

Speak to you next month  
**Anne Goodlet.**



## Christian Aid

The local committee is holding an afternoon tea in the Fraser Centre, Milngavie on Saturday 26th April, 2pm - 4pm.

We would appreciate donations of home baking and paperback books.

Contact Gordon Campbell, Graham Greig, Betty Watson or Margaret Bonis.

**Christian Aid** are having a 'Reservoir Ramble' for 'children of all ages' round Craigmaddie on Sunday 27th April, 2pm – 3pm.

All are welcome to come along - sign in at the little gate on Tannoch Drive.

Back to Cairns Church later for a reviving afternoon tea/coffee/juice and snacks.

This is a family event and youngsters must be accompanied by responsible adults.

Sponsorship Sheets are available at the back of the church or during the Holiday Club.

## Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts

Start time 8am for  
Breakfast, 8.45am Prayer

5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	St Luke's
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	St Paul's
7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	St Andrew's

## Letters

### **Letter received from Mission Aviation Fellowship.**

I was quite overwhelmed when you handed me the gift of £2,500 from St. Paul's Parish Church Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation. Words are hardly adequate to express our sincere thanks. This is such a marvellous gift and I would ask you please convey our deep appreciation to the whole fellowship for their generosity and ongoing support of MAF.

This gift, along with the previous gift from your Watchnight Service will go a long way in helping Scotland's Operation Sudan project. Here is a flavour of how our work in Sudan benefits so many people.

Pilot Stuart Fitch flew an eye team, led by Dr. Nyholm from Christian Blind Mission, to Marial Bai, Southern Sudan, where they restored sight to nearly 300 people. The team from Juba teaching hospital spent ten days operating on patients, examining 596 people and operating on half of these. The other half were patients suffering from river blindness and sadly some were blind beyond help. But more than 200 others, received mectizan medication, which reduces the symptoms. Each day on average, the team screened 60 patients and operated on 5 patients each hour. Dr. Nyholm reports, "Thanks to the joint efforts by so many here, vision has been restored to almost 300 people. Darkness has turned into light and in the harsh conditions of this semi-arid desert district, 300 people will have a better chance to survive and enjoy life".

Wishing you all God's richest blessing on your own work in Milngavie. With many many thanks again

**Andrew Martin, Volunteers' Manager for Scotland.**

### **Letter received from Christian Solidarity Worldwide.**

Thank you so much for your recent gift of £2,500 to CSW and our work on behalf of the persecuted Church. Your support is a tremendous blessing to us as we seek to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your generous donation will help CSW to meet the challenges of 2008 and succeed in the work God has laid before us. We have already seen some amazing results. Just recently we learned of the early release of 26 year old Belarusian Christian, Zmitser Dashkevich, who was imprisoned for his pro-democracy work and whose freedom CSW had been campaigning for. Praise God for this wonderful answer to prayer!

This year CSW will be working harder than ever to speak out against persecution, advocate at the highest levels of government and seek justice and freedom for millions of Christians who are persecuted because of their faith. In particular, we will be focussing on the plight of Christians in Eritrea, highlighting the repression of religious freedom in China and encouraging young people around the UK to take a stand for the persecuted Church. We're also planning many exciting events, including two sponsored challenges: a Great Wall of China trek and Ben Nevis climb!! Please contact Esther Priest on 0845 456 5464 or email [challenge@csw.org.uk](mailto:challenge@csw.org.uk) for more information.

Once again, thank you for all that you are doing to support our vital work. Together we can, and will, have a lasting, positive impact in the lives of our persecuted Church family.

Yours in Christ

**Stuart Windsor, National Director**

## CHURCH REGISTER

### New Members

#### Joined by Certificate

Mr & Mrs William Ritchie, Braemar, 19 Craigmillar Ave., Milngavie 6  
Mr Bert Mitchell, Briar Cottage, 3 Briarwell Road, Milngavie 1

#### Joined by Resolution

Ms Sandy Marshall, 45 Campsie Drive, Milngavie 9  
Mr Alan Scott, 98 Burnbrae Court, Milngavie 40

#### Disjunctions

Mr & Mrs Craig McCall, 19 Thorn Heights, Bearsden 62a

#### Weddings

1.3.08 Aileen Stenhouse, 4 West End, Bearsden and  
William Galloway 10 Sanda Street, Glasgow

#### Deaths

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

21.2.08 Mrs Elma Choat, 8/6 Sinclair Street, Milngavie 14  
08.3.08 Dr Alastair Macleod, 46 Golf View, Bearsden 62a  
14.3.08 Mrs Margaret Dunn, Canniesburn Nursing Home 42  
15.3.08 Mr Thomas Broadfoot, 51 Ashburn Gardens, Milngavie 33  
21.3.08 Mrs Roberta Morrison, 79 Galbraith Drive, Milngavie 37  
23.3.08 Miss Agnes Buchanan, 82 South Mains Road, Milngavie 28

**April Life Publication date: Sunday 4th May**

**Copy date – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April if using pigeon hole or Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April if emailing. [Rona.dawson@go.uk.com](mailto:Rona.dawson@go.uk.com)**

The editor would like to thank contributors for their promptness for the April edition

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	M McLean R Cameron	Sillars K Deuchar Chapman	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Graham Greig
13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	J Ford C Tanner	Goodlet, Cockburn, Richell	B Barr H Reid	Team 6 Margaret B Hamilton
20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	J Clark M Taggart	McKinnon Martin, Kerr	No stall	Team 1 Chris Scott (C)
30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	P Barlow S Anderson	Whitelaw, Wallis, Berry	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Malcolm Boyd
4 <sup>th</sup> May	S Anderson R Fraser	Baxter, Wilson, Smith	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Steven MacFarlane