



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine April 2011

Dear Friends,

It was with some trepidation that I approached the talk I was to give to our Men's Association last month on the topic of 'Creation.' It is a controversial subject throwing up many questions for which there are no hard and fast answers. In the event, it was an excellent evening with many worthwhile contributions from the floor and the inevitable humour to lighten the atmosphere.

It struck me when I was getting ready for the talk that the question of *origins*, how the universe came into being, is usually at the top of our list of concerns. Rarely do we reflect on the *destiny* of Creation and this is of great importance in the Bible. We are assured that although things have gone wrong and there is much to cause us pain and dismay God is moving His Creation forward to a day when all things will be made new.

There is a powerful image in I Corinthians 15 of the Risen and Ascended Jesus flushing out all the imperfections that cause us pain and dismay and then handing over a renewed Creation to His Father as a gift. A giant leap was taken towards that day when Jesus rose from the dead. He was, in the words of Paul, 'the first fruits' of the new Creation (I Corinthians 15: 21-23), the 'firstborn among many brothers' (Romans 8: 29). When He appeared to His disciples He presented the physical evidence of God's will for the whole of Creation free from suffering and death.

Easter is almost upon us when we will join in the traditional celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, 'the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised'. (1 Corinthians 15: 20). It is a time of great assurance for individual believers as we contemplate death not as the end but a door-way to eternity. But it also points us to the greatness of our God. He has plans for the whole of His Creation of which our renewal is just a part. We will rise to enjoy Creation as He always wanted it to be. A friend of mine who has endured much illness in his life once said: 'I can hardly wait!'

I hope the joy, the assurance and the encouragement of Easter will be in all your hearts.

Wishing You God's Peace,

Evacuation of the Church in an Emergency

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

Main Doors to Baldernock Road

This exit should be used by those seated towards the back of the main body of the church on the east side of the centre aisle (the side where the halls, toilets etc. are), from the back pew as far forward as row 78 (centre aisle) – 45 (east aisle). Row 78 – 45 is opposite the widest pillar on the east side of the church. Once outside please assemble on the Baldernock Road pavement and roadway.

Main Doors to Strathblane Road

This exit should be used by those seated towards the back of the main body of the church on the west side (the side where the choir and organist are), from the back pew as far forward as row 103 (centre aisle) – 136 (west aisle). Row 103 – 136 is opposite the widest pillar on the west side of the church. Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

Fire Exit at Front of Church Beside East Transept

This exit should be used by those seated in the East Transept and by those seated towards the front of the main body of the church on the east side, from row 79 (centre aisle) – 44 (east aisle) to the front pew. Row 79 – 44 is opposite the widest pillar on the east side of the church.

Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

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

Fire Exit at Front of Church Beside Organ

This exit should be used by those seated in the West Transept and by those seated towards the front of the main body of the church on the west side, from row 102 (centre aisle) – 137 (west aisle) to the front pew. Row 102 – 137 is opposite the widest pillar on the west side of the church. Once outside please assemble on the Strathblane Road pavement.

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

P.S. It is recommended that those whose emergency exits are the fire exits at the front of the church take a few minutes one Sunday after the service to familiarise themselves with these routes out of the church.

Is Sunday night TV saving your soul?

The evening service is often a peaceful and meditative experience where the Lord comes amongst us in the quiet. Why not give your soul a spiritual treat on a Sunday night and come along?

We are blessed with some of the best, most spirit filled, thought provoking, challenging preaching it is possible to find yet currently an average of 50 people are attending our evening service which is only 5% of the church membership (we have 1000+ members).

So do we have to ask ourselves what kind of congregation this makes us?

Financially we're pretty rich – collectively we always rise to the challenge when putting our hands in our pocket is concerned, but is that enough? Are we also spiritually rich?

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the message we heard recently. Is storing up spiritual riches where our hearts are? Riches like knowing the wisdom of God, experiencing fellowship with God, having a heart that is right with God are better than all the silver and gold this world has to offer. Or even Sunday night TV.

And these riches are to be found in abundance if we have ears to hear and hearts open to the message. The opportunities for hearing the gospel and experiencing its saving power are many – but so, seemingly, are the excuses for not doing so.

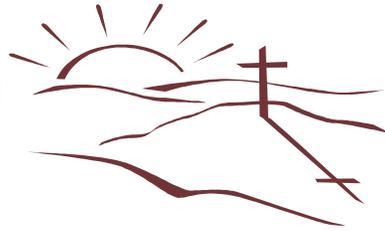
“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Please come and we will open the door together.

**Evening Services 7pm.
Saturday Lenten services 9.30am
Holy Week Services 7.30pm
Prayer Group Thursdays 8pm**

Holy Week Services

This year the Joint Holy Week Services will take place in St. Paul's from Monday 18th April until Friday 22nd April. All Services will begin at 7.30pm.



Rev. John Macleod, Allander Evangelical Church, Milngavie will preach at the Monday Evening Service.

On Tuesday – Friday the Guest Preacher this year is the Craig Dyer, who is the Training Director for Christianity Explored Ministries.

Craig was formerly the minister of Harper Memorial Baptist Church before moving to his present position with CE. He is married with three daughters.

The family and I would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, phone calls and prayers which were very much appreciated at this sad time.

God's blessings to you all.

Tom Scott

St Paul's Church Society Summer Outing – Bothwell Parish Church - Saturday 7th May

A coach will leave Milngavie Station at 1.00pm for the Sandyholm Garden Centre Rosebank, (now Dobbies) to have afternoon tea, before proceeding to Bothwell, to visit the Parish Church. Built on the site of a former 6th century Church, a medieval Quire still remains within the chancel. This was built by Archibald Douglas who became 3rd Earl of Douglas. This was to be the main part of the new Collegiate Church of Bothwell which was dedicated in 1398. A guided tour has been arranged and will be conducted by the Minister, Rev James Gibson, T.D. There will be free time to explore the interesting Church grounds; other interesting sites in Bothwell, or to visit the shops in Main Street, before enjoying High Tea in the beautiful Bothwell Bridge Hotel. We expect to return to Milngavie Station at approx. 7.15pm.

A sheet for names will be at the back of the Church from Sunday 3rd April.

The inclusive cost of the Outing will be £27, and should be paid in cash before Sunday 1st May.

Holiday Club Dates April & May

This year we have decided to make some changes to the normal arrangements over the holiday period because of the lateness of Easter.

Holiday Club will operate for the first two Sundays of the holidays, as usual, but this year we will have Sunday Club and Bible Class on April 17th, the day before school resumes. On Easter Day there will be Holiday Club. Sunday Club and Bible Class will start again on May 1st, continuing until May 29th which will be a holiday.

We hope these arrangements will fit in with family plans and look forward to having the young people in Church over this period.

St Paul's Playgroup and Nursery

St Paul's Playgroup and Nursery meets in the large church hall, Monday-Friday, 9.30 am – 12 noon. It takes children from age 2½ - 5 years old, with funded places for 3-5 year olds in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council. This session there is an average of 14 children attending each day with the number increasing as the year progresses.

Each day at playgroup there is a physical element such as a climbing frame or a selection of different styles of trikes



and scooters - a favourite amongst the children. There is a "home corner" set up as a little house with a door, table and cooker. There is also a reading corner where they can have some quiet time and get stories read to them. There is a wide selection of dressing up clothes and each day there is the opportunity to do some arts and crafts.

In November, the children participated in a sponsored autumn walk, raising funds for the playgroup. During which they were fascinated by the molehills which led to further study of moles and other woodland animals.

At Christmas time the children learned some Christmas songs which they sang in the church twice, during the Christmas Tree Festival. They also enjoyed getting a chance to look at the beautifully decorated trees, one of which they decorated themselves. The Christmas party was a highlight when the boys and girls met Santa who made a special trip to the playgroup to give



them each a present.



In January a representative from the Scottish Wildlife Trust came to talk to the children about the importance of looking after birds around their gardens. She also helped them make bird feeders out of yoghurt cartons.



This term the children have chosen the topic 'Pirates'. They recently went on a treasure hunt and followed maps to find the treasure. They have also recently been on a trip to the build-a-bear factory where they made a bear for the nursery.

We would like to extend an invitation to any interested families to come along for a visit. There are places available at present though the numbers are growing fast.

For further information, contact Anne Shields on 0141 577 9171 or email playgroup@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

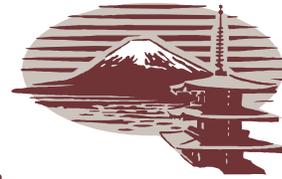
Large print version

Life magazine

We have been made aware that some people are struggling to read to read Life in its current format. If you require a large print version, please ask your delivery person to contact the editor on your behalf (contact details on back page) to request one. We will then include a copy in their bundle for delivery.

Ed

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

It was a normal Friday afternoon. We had just finished a conference call planning for a training week. Both of us were sitting down and our boys were walking home from school. Sapporo is not prone to many earthquakes and it was unusual for us to feel the house beginning to rock like a boat. And it went on and on and on. We wondered when it would end.

As you always do here, we switched on the television and discovered where the epicentre of the earthquake was. The announcers repeated over and over again that people on the coastal areas should flee to high ground as a tsunami was expected. Little did anyone know that it would come in with such speed and force. You have all seen the pictures of devastated towns and the sheer loss of life is almost unbelievable.

For the coming days we were just numbed watching the aftermath of the tsunami and trying to take it all in. The death toll continued to rise and still is as we write this. So many thousands are missing. The task of rescuing trapped people got underway. The search began to find and identify bodies amongst the mud and complete chaos of towns which had literally just been swept away. Hundreds of thousands ended up in evacuation centres. Many were left to live their lives with no power, no running water, in fact nothing at all apart from the clothes they were in as they fled their homes.

It was tragic to watch the stories of human suffering on the news. Many who survived know people who had perished. Family members vainly sought their loved ones. Communication lines were down, mobiles did not work so it was often days before relatives in other parts of the country could make contact.

Every Japanese television channel covered nothing but the aftermath of the earthquake for the first few days afterwards. Actually it became difficult to watch as it was so heart-breaking to see such appalling suffering which had come to people we love so much. We were left numbed. And of course all of this came at a time when we were still processing what had happened in Otaru in February and feeling very emotionally weary.

As people woke up the next day to the reality of what had happened, the vast needs for help and relief became apparent. The road ahead is a long one. What can you do in the face of such horrific and widespread devastation? Here in Japan a group called CRASH was set up a few years ago staffed by missionaries from various agencies including OMF. Its objective is to provide relief and help to areas affected by natural disasters. Almost immediately a command centre was set up to coordinate teams of volunteers and offers of supplies and money from within Japan and overseas.

Here in Hokkaido we are not affected by power outages which have affected other parts of the country. In some ways life goes on as normal. But of course nothing will ever be 'normal' again. As OMF here we wanted to do something to help and serve people in these times of deep need. As this is being written a team of six has gone to one of the worst affected areas to help with preparation of hot meals for those who are in the evacuation centres or somehow continuing to live in their houses. The team will also get involved in clearing up and such practical tasks as it can do. We are not part of the team this time but have the task of coordinating everything from Sapporo. It is likely that there will be many visits over the coming months and even years.

Where does Japan go from here? The recovery will take time. The physical rebuilding will take years. The emotional scars are raw and deep. Families have been torn apart in an instant. Whole communities have just been wiped out. It is a privilege to be here in Japan in these days to do what we can to reach out to people with the love of Jesus. As one of our colleagues put it, this is a time for all of us to be Jesus' hands and feet.

By the time you read this, Japan will probably not be headline news in the UK media. Please do though continue to pray for this land, its suffering people and all of us here who seek to speak, act and care in the name of Jesus.

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Stewardship

Our talents, time and money are all precious gifts from God and it is important that they are put to good use. We are all blessed with varying amounts of each gift but are we using them appropriately in God's work? Enclosed with this edition of *Life* there is a postcard which we would like you to complete and return. Additional copies will be available at the back of the Church throughout April as we would encourage each individual member to submit one.

The card can be left in the box at the Church, returned to the office or given to your Elder during the Communion visit.

The Easter **Walk of Witness** will again take place on Good Friday meeting at the Allander Church for prayer at 10.30am and the Clock from 11am.

The Milngavie Churches **Summer Praise Evening** will be on Sunday 5th June at 7.30 in the Town Hall and will be led by Iain Whyte. Another **ceilidh** is proposed for Saturday 12th November. Please keep these dates free – more information later.

Graham Mill

Shahbaz Bhatti assassinated

Pakistan's Minister for Religious Minorities and the only Christian cabinet member, Shahbaz Bhatti, was assassinated on 2 March outside his home in Islamabad. He was the second Pakistani government official murdered this year after expressing opposition to the country's law that makes criticism of the Prophet Muhammad a capital crime.

Bhatti was leaving for his office when the attack occurred. Witnesses and police said three or four gunmen drove up, firing at his black sedan. Before escaping, the assassins dropped leaflets around the scene stating that Bhatti was murdered because of his opposition to the blasphemy law.

Bhatti had said he felt he was in danger. "I am receiving threats on speaking against the blasphemy law, but my faith gives me strength and we will not allow the handful of extremists to fulfill their agenda," he said recently.

On 4 January, Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab, was also gunned down after he expressed support for a Christian woman, Asia Bibi, who is imprisoned for the alleged crime of blasphemy.

The U.K. advocacy group, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, said Bhatti was dedicated to realizing the vision of Pakistan's founders: "a harmonious, pluralist society." Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said Bhatti and Taseer's murders mean "questions need to be asked about the government's ability and willingness to protect those who speak out against extremism in Pakistan."

From ENI website www.eni.ch

Koffee and Cake for Kimo

A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning and may not have heard that the final total reached is £1,132! This is an amazing amount which indicates once again the continuing concern among the members of the congregation for the street children in Peru and their desire to help.

As we said at the Coffee Morning there is an ongoing problem at Kimo because the Home is ready for operation, but Scripture Union Peru has now been asked for a bribe by the authorities so that the necessary permit and licence will be granted. We are praying that this impasse will soon be resolved and that boys will be living in the Home in the near future. When there is news we will publish it in 'Life'.

Eleanor Easton



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Bible Sunday Appeal. The amount donated was £983.40 and this total will be increased when the Society reclaims the tax from the Gift Aid declarations submitted.

Frances Ireland

The Guild

On Monday 1st March we visited St. Luke's Guild to hear last year's National Convenor, Betty Dunn speak about her year in office. Betty was a super National Convenor and we enjoyed what she had to say very much.



The following week we heard about the Erskine Glasgow Hospital from Linda O'Malley. Linda is one of the Fund Raisers at Erskine and her stories were wonderful and very enlightening.

Ian McCrorie was our guest speaker on the 14th when he told us many stories about the Clyde Steamers for which Ian is very passionate about. He's also a Church Organist and conducted us in

our closing worship, making sure we smiled while singing You Shall Go Out with Joy!!

The 21st saw us welcoming Robert Hamilton to hear about the Biblical Gardens at Elgin. This was something most of us had never heard about and it was fascinating. If you are in Elgin the Gardens are beside the Cathedral and you will be able to see Bible stories depicted in statues and flowers with readings beside them.

As Life goes to print we come to the end of our Session in the Guild on the 28th March when we will be holding our A.G.M. and Home Night.

Jean Scott

World Mission Diary for April

In our prayers this month let us remember the people of Japan as they try to come to terms with all that has happened to them. We would also remember the Ferguson Family at this time. The following prayer is taken from the World Mission Update



Prayer for the people of Japan

God, present in our struggle,
We place before you the people of Japan
as they try to make sense of the earthquake and tsunami.

Be comfort to those who grieve and to those who seek to support them.
Be close to those who are injured and to those who bring healing.
Be sight and strength to those who search for survivors.
Be courage to those who take care of the dead.
Be wisdom to those who are dealing with failing power stations.
Be vision in those who, even now, plan for rebuilding.
Be sure footing for those who must lead in uncertain times.
Be generosity for all who can offer help.

We ask this through Jesus who is our hope.
Amen.

Brigade Blethers

The long awaited Auchengillan weekend has come and gone and once again it was brilliant! Even the weather turned up trumps and the girls (and a few of the more adventurous leaders) were able to take part in all the activities.

The girls were really keen to try the Water Walkerz because, with a frozen outdoor swimming pool last year, they could not have a go. Just in case you don't know how to "walk" on water let me tell you! The girl climbs into a huge deflated plastic sphere which is then pumped up firm. The girl is zipped inside and the whole ball is pushed into the water. All the girl has to do is stand up and try to "walk" the ball across the pool. Sounds easy but remember the ball is bobbing about so unless you are really good you spend most of the time scrambling about trying to keep your footing. No one minded hanging about waiting for a turn because they were too busy laughing at the efforts of everyone else. We also did the usual things like Crate climbing; pedal karts; archery; the climbing wall and Kayak-



ing plus much more.

We had a good party on Saturday evening but the girls were so tired out with all their running about that they were asking to go up to their rooms. Mind you they revived enough to have a midnight feast before collapsing.

Sunday morning brought Alex McEwan (with all his Easter eggs) for our short Sunday service then it was out for a couple of hours more fun before starting on the big clean up. Yes Mums - believe it or not your daughters swept and mopped floors, washed dishes, tidied rooms and even cleaned up toilets. The leaders supervise them in this and do a lot of the work so a big thank you to Carol, Sarah, Vivienne, Janet, another Sarah, Katy, and Gayle. We also need to thank Susan, Gill and Louise who were our Masterchefs for the weekend. Clean plates all round as usual.

Now it is back to reality and the thought that the Display is only two weeks away. No prizes for what I'll be blethering about next month.

Anne Goodlet

World Mission Stamp Appeal

Thank you for your continued support of the World Mission stamp appeal. Over £2000 has been raised in Scotland, more than double last year's effort – well done to everyone who contributed!



The 2011 stamp appeal is for the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The Government of Jamaica works through the Mount Olivet Boys' Home to provide a place of hope for young boys who have been abused or neglected. Through the home they have access to spiritual nurture, medical care, emotional support, vocational training and recreation.

Please help this very worthwhile cause by continuing your stamp donations.

Margaret Hamilton and May Phillips.

The following is another letter received from one of the charities we sent donations to at the end of last year.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer.

From the Lodging House Mission

On behalf of the clients, volunteers and staff at the L.H.M. please accept our heartfelt thanks for your donation of £600 to help the ongoing work we are engaged in.

As you are all probably well aware, many of the 120 clients who use our services on a daily basis are associated with the homeless community in one form or another. They are very often regarded as the marginalised in society. However, when you read the Gospels it is to such a group of similarly outcast and diverse people that Jesus engages with and shows great love, care and compassion towards them. Our "Open Door" policy like the Lords helps us to see past a client's social status, any mental health issues or addiction they may have and see someone's son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother, partner or friend. In other words we are dealing with real people, many whose lives are fragile and broken. Since the Lord turned no one away our aim is also to work (whenever possible) with whoever God brings through our door.

Please continue to support us in our work here at the L.H.M. through your donations and also through your prayers so that this important work among the homeless will continue to develop and that God will be glorified as clients lives are transformed and changed.

May God's richest blessing be with you all

Gus McKay – Chaplain.

60 Years of Contribution

Refugee Week 20 – 26 June 2011



- Since 1951, the UK has provided protection to those fleeing war and persecution. Refugee Week highlights the importance of upholding and further building on this proud tradition.

- Refugees have made an enormous contribution to the social, cultural, economic and political life of the UK in last 60 years, and this should be celebrated

- In escaping war and building a new life in a strange country, refugees acquire a great amount of courage, resilience and creativity. With these invaluable skills, refugees can play a vital part in shaping our new Britain.

It is through simple, everyday actions that we can make a big change to the way British (young) people and refugees see and interact with each other (www.simpleacts.org.uk)

Simple Act: Share your sweets



It's a well-known fact that sweets make life sweeter. That's why they are called **sweets**.

But the good thing about them is that if your life is bitter, sweets make it sweet, at least for a bit.

So if you are in a sharing mood and with some extra sweets at hand, we think it might be a good idea to ... well, share. And who knows, you might make a new friend, which will probably make your life even sweeter.

If you find yourself smiling at the thought, there are all sorts of things you might want to share – like a penny, a book, last season's jeans, the spare bike that's been collecting cobwebs in the shed...?

Book Group



This month we are reviewing two books – **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by Muriel Barbery and **Alone in Berlin** by Hans Fallada.

The first of these books is set in Paris and is the story of the relationship between the concierge in a block of flats (Renee) and one of the young tenants (Paloma). You are not surprised to discover in course of the book that the two characters have more in common than they realise. Renee loves Tolstoy, Japanese cinema and Mahler.

The tenants in the flat would be scandalised if they knew, so she pretends to be more stupid than she actually is. Paloma is the precocious 12 year old daughter of one of the bourgeois families in the flats. Muriel Barbery explores her favourite theme here, which is philosophy as applied to everyday life. The book therefore is quite radical in its relation to French Classicism and hypocrisy. Although the book was clever and informative, the group did not find it particularly interesting, but it would be worth reading.

Our second book is in complete contrast. **Alone in Berlin** deals with the lives of an ordinary German couple who rebel against the Nazis. The novel, which only took 24 days to write, is reputed to be based on actual Gestapo files dealing with the illegal activities of a Berlin working class couple who were tried, found guilty and executed in April 1943. The book has been described as a German Nemirowsky and has been filmed for German television and also for the cinema in 1975.

The plight of ordinary German citizens comes home very strongly. We tend to forget that they were suffering food shortages, were penalised if they did not join the party, and were in constant fear of saying or doing the wrong thing, which could result in them simply disappearing. There is a harrowing account of the Quangel's experience in prison, including torture, their eventual execution and the attempt by one of their friends to smuggle poison to them to allow them to take their own lives before they were executed. The characters are well drawn, the language is graphic and the climate of fear is almost tangible. This is a book which needs to be read and comes highly recommended.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26 April 2011, and as usual Helen in the Church Office has the venue if you would like to join us. The book we are reading is **Crow Lake** by Mary Lawson.

JOYCE CLARK

St Paul's Book Café. The next book stall.

Because of Lent, Lunches and Communion the next book stall will definitely be the **23rd April**. Apologies for the delay. If you would like to see a book or order a book see Alex McEwan.



WeFeedback, an initiative of the **World Food Programme**, is the world's largest community for sharing food and changing lives. When you donate the cost of your favourite food, you provide vital school meals to hungry children, giving many of them the only meal they will have all day.

School meals have become even more important for struggling families as high food prices are forcing tens of millions into extreme poverty.

How about that \$2 cappuccino? Donate it ("feed it back") to 8 children who need a meal more than you need that coffee addiction.

Find out more at www.wefeedback.org/calculator

Safeguarding

Readers will be aware that over many years now, child protection issues have featured significantly in the way we undertake our congregational work with children and young people. Those of you working in our youth organizations will at some stage have been given forms to complete in relation to the work that you do. At the heart of this form-filling is the desire, shared by all of us, to provide a safe and caring environment in which to deliver our various activities. The child protection procedures have usually been a "one-off" activity after which volunteers can safely get on with the job to which God has called them in His church.

In child protection, as in life, things

never stay the same for too long and church members may be aware that new legislation has recently been passed by the Scottish Government that will affect the way that we will work with children and young people.

I wanted to say a little about what people can expect in the future. The new legislation affects not only the way we work with those under 18 years of age, but also with what the law describes as "vulnerable groups". The legislation governing "vulnerable groups" is somewhat complex and the Kirk Session is currently getting to grips with what it means for the congregation. For the present, I wanted to concentrate on what will happen with our work among children and young people.

Over/...

Since 1997 all volunteers were cleared by completing a form stating who they were and the name of the organization in which they were involved. Over the past eight years, child protection has operated on a statutory basis meaning that all new volunteers have been required to submit their details to Disclosure Scotland prior to approval as a children's worker.

The new scheme that came into force on 28th February 2011 eliminates the need for multiple checks. Volunteers new to St Paul's will complete the necessary documentation and will need to be cleared before they begin working with children in the church. However if people in this situation have already satisfactorily undergone a check through their paid job or some other voluntary organization, all that is required is that I confirm this with the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office.

Existing volunteers, irrespective of previous clearance will, however, need to be cleared under the new scheme between February 2012 and 2015. However (and this must be stressed) at the present time to allow the scheme to settle in, all existing volunteers can continue to work with children and young people in the congregation, so there should be no disruption to any of the activities in which we are currently engaged.

I will in due course be writing to all our existing volunteers to explain in detail what they need to do but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Douglas Martin
Safeguarding Coordinator

Nine things I learnt from my children

- There is no such thing as child-proofing your house.
- If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 3 stone boy wearing batman underwear and a superman cape.
- It is strong enough however to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 by 20 foot room.
- Baseballs make marks on ceilings.
- You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on.
- When using the ceiling fan as a bat you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit.
- A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
- The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
- When you hear the toilet flush and the words Uh-oh, it's already too late.

St Paul's Watercolour Cards. Easter Announcement

Cards are available at the back of the church depicting St Paul's Church (Baldernock Road view). They come in either decoupage or a pack of two flat cards. These cards are blank for your message.

There is also now a pack of two Easter cards available showing an Easter message inside and outside the card.

These cost £3 for a pack of two. All proceeds go to the Preshal Trust.

The cards are proving popular and there is an honesty box for your money should no one be around to take it from you.

Alex McEwan

High Court Judgment suggests Christian beliefs harmful to children.

Fostering now in doubt

From Christian Concern website
www.christianconcern.com

In a landmark judgment, which will have a serious impact on the future of fostering and adoption in the UK, the High Court has suggested that Christians with traditional views on sexual ethics are unsuitable as foster carers, and that homosexual 'rights' trump freedom of conscience in the UK. The Judges stated that Christian beliefs on sexual ethics may be 'inimical' to children, and they implicitly upheld an Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) submission that children risk being 'infected' by Christian moral beliefs.

The ruling relates to the dispute between married couple Eunice and Owen Johns and Derby City Council. The Johns applied to the Council in 2007 to foster a child but the Council blocked their application because they objected that the Johns were not willing to promote the practice of homosexuality to a young child. In November 2010 both parties jointly asked the Court to rule on whether they could be excluded from fostering under equality laws because of their Christian beliefs.

The nature of the judgment means that Christians who hold orthodox Christian views on the family, marriage and sexuality will continue to face difficulties in the fostering and adoption process and the Courts will not intervene to stop this from happening. In fact, the summary contained in the judgment sends

out the clear message that orthodox Christian ethical beliefs are potentially harmful to children and that Christian parents with mainstream Christian views are not suitable to be considered as potential foster parents.

St Paul's Book Café.

Some readers of the book "A place of healing" by Joni Eareckson Tada met last week to consider Joni's plight of being a quadraplegic and now a cancer sufferer. We all commented on her braveness that shone through the book and the fact that describing her pain and her relationship with God was both inspirational and awesome.

After a diving accident when she was 17 she has gone on to be one of the most significant Christian writers of this century and this book made us all think about facing pain, dealing with a lack of healing and suffering affliction.

This was the first meeting of the Book café and it is hoped to have another in June following the book choice for May (still to be announced)

If you would like to see a book on the book stall or being discussed by the book café please see Alex McEwan

Flower donations—April

April donations: Mrs. M. Hossack, Mrs. S. Lindsay, Mrs. C. Mackay, Mrs. I. More, Mrs. M. Rae.

Please put donations in Flower rota pigeon hole at back of church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave. Milngavie G62 6LJ.



CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mr & Mrs E MacNab, 38 Queens Court, Milngavie G6s 6QA 49

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Fiona Andrews, Kirkhouse Cottage, 74 Main Street, Killlearn 70

DEATHS

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

21.2.11 Mrs Jane Sharpe, 41 Glasgow Road, Milngavie

08.3.11 Mrs Jean Brown, Buchanan House, Bearsden

10.3.11 Mr Stanley Thurgo, 5 Homebrae House

Copy date for May Life— Sunday 17th April for the pigeon hole or up to Wed 20th if emailing. Please send to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or 123 Garscadden Road, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
3 April	M Thomson E Izatt	Reid Lawrie	L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 5 Bill Ponton
10 April	A Gibson A MacLeod	Sillars Goodlet	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 6 Elizabeth Watson
17 April	A Abbott R Douglas	Deuchar Bates	No stall	Team 1 Colin Cooper (C)
24 April	M MacLean R Cameron	Cockburn MacKinnon	M Conway B Watson	Team 7 Jean MacIntyre
1 May	J Ford C Tanner	Richell Whitelaw	M Ure	Team 8 Jacqueline Pirie
8 May	J Clark S Stenhouse	Wallis Berry	A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Norman Barlow (EC)