



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine September 2012

Dear Friends,

It has been said that we understand ourselves better as individuals and as a nation if we have a sense of history. That was one of the great strengths of Winston Churchill, something that was brought out very strongly in a recent television series on the Churchill family. Winston, it was said, was a great war leader because he studied the life of his ancestor John Churchill, the seventeenth/eighteenth century soldier and statesman. From him Winston learned the importance of having clear objectives, taking hard decisions and motivating those under his leadership.

The television series was presented by the controversial historian David Starkey. In a newspaper article he wrote prior to its screening he said that the trouble with most modern politicians is that they have no sense of history. He mentions one honourable exception in the present UK cabinet but even he, according to Starkey, does not seem to be learning the lessons of history.

It is a problem we have in the Church. We tend to think of ourselves as cast adrift on a modern sea of troubles, facing hazards never before encountered and which are threatening to overwhelm us. A close study of the Church in her earliest days, however, will show that her very existence was threatened by a departure from Gospel truth, slack moral standards and a dangerous drift away from a sense of Christian community. Paul and the other apostles had to work hard to hold things together until a new sense of purpose was established and Jesus' vision of a world-wide mission could go forward.

In these troubled times for the Church we need to get back to our sources to discover afresh what was important to those who were closest to Jesus and who made great sacrifices to preach His truth and show His ways to the world. We are called to engage with our times but never to disparage the lessons we can learn from our ancestors in the Lord who knew what it was to see great days of the Spirit.

Yours in Christ

Fergus C Buchanan

Organisation restart dates and information



1/2 Company Milngavie Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys for P2 and P3 start back on Monday, 3rd September at 6.15 p.m. and Mrs Val Dunn 956 4992 is the Officer-in Charge

The Junior Section for P4 - P6 are back on Monday, 3rd September at 7.30 p.m. and Mr Andy Mathie 956 1551 is the Officer-in-Charge

The Company Section for P7 - S4 resume on Friday, 7th September at 7.30 p.m. and Mr Allistair Fettes 956 5098 is the Officer-in-Charge

The Rev Andrew Frater is the Chaplain and he is also the Chairperson of the Representatives' Committee

Everyone is preparing for the new session and looking forward to seeing the all the Boys back. There are spaces for new recruits so if you know of anyone who would like to join any of the groups, please contact the Officer-in-Charge and they will receive a very warm welcome.

Badminton Club

The Club resumes play in the Large Hall on Tuesday 4th September at 7.30pm and we look forward to welcoming new members for friendship (and exercise!).
Come and try!

Cath Buchanan (Secretary)



Girls' Brigade

Our Company meets here in St Paul's every Thursday evening and we work to a badgework programme which is tailored to suit your age group. Badgework is split into four parts: Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service. If that sounds a bit "heavy" let me tell you that for the physical part you may have to learn dancing eg Zumba or Botwa; education can cover cooking, craft, First Aid etc and service can mean making posies for harvest or fundraising for a popular charity.

Girls from any Church in Milngavie can join and at the moment we have around forty girls on the roll.

- P1.to P7 girls meet from 6.30pm till 8.00pm and they form two groups - Explorers and Juniors.
- S1 to S6 girls who are called Brigaders, come from 7.30pm till 9.00pm and we try to give them a say in their choice of programme.

We also manage two or three parties; a Panto visit, a Company activity weekend to Auchengillan and we enter into Competitions with other Brigade Companies. In other words - WE HAVE FUN!

If you want to know more, why not come along any Thursday evening and have a look. We'll be really pleased to see you.

**Anne Goodlet - Company
Leader (Tel. 956 1715)**





The Guild

The new session of the Guild starts on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm when we will be celebrating 125 years of the Guild nationally. We would be delighted to welcome any person in the Congregation to join us on our Opening Night which will finish later than normal.

Evelyn Williams, President

St Paul's Lunch Club

This is just a name for people who meet for lunch—there is no 'club' to join and you can come occasionally or every week. It caters for a mixed group of people from young Mums through a variety of ages to some of our very senior young citizens. It is not exclusively for members of St. Paul's and is open to everyone.

We serve

- Home-made soup,
- selection of freshly made filled rolls,
- home baking all for £2.50

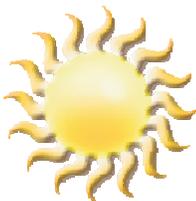


Dietary needs such as gluten free can be met if requested in advance. We are open most Wednesdays from 12noon – 1pm during term time with our new session beginning 5th September 2012. Come along on your own or with a friend to enjoy a tasty lunch and some friendly chat.

Such activities require a lot of volunteers and If you can help with either occasional baking, preparing the food or serving the tables (usually every second week) please contact Ann MacLeod 942 8339 or in church.

There is also a short Service in Centenary Room at 1.15pm for those who wish a time of fellowship conducted by the minister and elders.

Sun Kids



This is a Saturday event for Primary School pupils, but pre-schoolers are also welcome, and S1 pupils who are excellent helpers. Sun Kids runs from 4.30-6.30pm; it includes crafts, games, Bible stories and food, and costs £1.00.

The dates until the end of the year are: 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

Please make a note of these and try to keep them free – your children and their friends will be most welcome.

Men's Association

Our programme of meetings for the 2012-2013 session commences on Tuesday 9th October.

The president and committee have organised what we are sure will be an enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking series of talks and visits starting with a talk on Glasgow Locomotives and Heavy Industries at our opening meeting, followed by an insight into Forensic Pathology on October 23rd.



We meet fortnightly on Tuesday evenings with a get together for coffee, tea and biscuits and chat at 7.15 pm followed by the main speaker for the evening from 7.30 - 8.30pm. The evening ends with a question session when we have an opportunity to ask the speaker more about his or her subject.

We have a healthy membership of around 25 who regularly attend our meetings and would very much welcome new members from the congregation. There are no age limits, upper or lower, to attending and we look forward to welcoming "new faces" at our opening meeting on October 9th.

Finally, a note for the whole congregation - our annual Coffee Morning will be held on the morning of Saturday 27th October.

Ken McIver Secretary

Teen Ranch Ladies' Weekend 16-18th November 2012

We had a wonderful time at the Ladies' weekend last year. I have provisionally booked 12 places again for this year, this can hopefully be increased if we have more uptake. We took part in all the activities that the children do except the zip slide, think the boys are too embarrassed to ask ladies what weight they are. We did however make up for it with Quad Bikes, my personal favourite. There is also lots of singing and Christian Fellowship.

There is no such thing as too old for this weekend. If there's something you

don't fancy doing, there is a constant supply of tea, coffee, home baking and chat in the Plough Inn. You can however be too young: over 16's only.

The price is £99 which includes all accommodation, food and fun. A £20 deposit would be required as soon as possible to secure the booking. If you are interested, please see me in the large hall after the morning service or contact me by email at: janice.maclean2@ntlworld.com or Tel/Text: 07711361936.

Looking forward to the fun and fellowship.

Janice Maclean

Book Club

The members of the Book Club met recently to discuss their latest book “The Story of Beautiful Girl” by Rachel Simon.

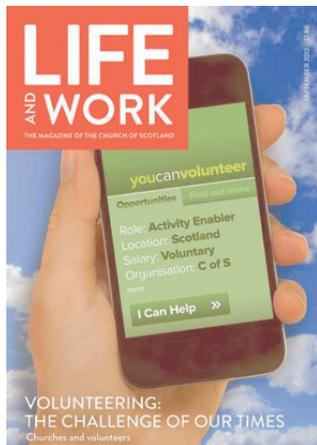


The book begins on a wet and windy night in small-town America when a man and woman arrive at a stranger’s door. The stranger (Martha) takes them in and discovers they have escaped from the local State School. Both have disabilities – Lynn timer has an intellectual disability and Homan is a deaf mute. Lynn timer is carrying her newborn baby girl and before they are captured and returned to the State School, she is able to secrete the baby with Martha who will care for her for fourteen years. So begins the story of “Beautiful Girl”.

This book was a Richard & Judy Book Club choice and at first glance it seemed to be a gripping read - part love story, part mystery and part social commentary covering a period of 40 years. We felt the book was too far fetched and the author’s light touch meant that the actual story was not dealt with in depth. Some of the group found the dialogue irritating and repetitive with over-powering personal reflections, which were not believable. Although initially promising, the book did not deliver and expected quite a leap of imagination from the reader.

The next book we will be discussing will be Blood and Sand by Frank Gardner so look out for our review in the October issue of Life.

JOYCE CLARK



Life and Work September—Contents

Volunteering: The Challenge of Our Times

Jackie Macadam explores the issues surrounding volunteers in the Church.

Believing in People

John Lee, Policy and Public Affairs Advisor at Volunteer Development Scotland offers his perspective on working with volunteers.

A Gospel Invitation to ‘Turn’

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Albert Bogle, reflects on the importance of healing relationships.

Friends of Paul

A new series reflects on a small number of men encountered by Paul but mentioned only once in the New Testament.

Overseas Committee

The Overseas Committee is one of the Kirk Session Committees which deal with specific areas in our Church. There are 10 elders and as well as organising the offerings at Harvest and the Christmas Eve, we have overall responsibility for quite a wide range of organisations, including the Scottish Bible Society and Christian Aid.

Over recent years we have been actively involved in the Kimo Peru project, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Tearfund, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, India Missionaries Fellowship, Church of Scotland HIV Aids programme when we held a Souper Sunday to raise funds, and we receive regular reports from the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and communications from our missionary partners, the Ferguson family in Japan.

This year, through the Overseas Mission Fund, we have been able to contribute financially to the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and also to Prison Fellowship for their work in Pakistan. Special collections are also organised in the aftermath of major disasters.

As will see from the above, we are an active and lively Committee with quite a wide remit, running fund raising events as required and generally overseeing the commitment to our friends overseas.

The offering from this year's Harvest Thanksgiving will go to Indian Ministries Fellowship.

The vision of India Ministries Fellowship (IMF) is to bring hope and purpose to the lives of children and young people in the poorest and most oppressed strata of Indian society, most of whom are Dalits. Constituting about 15% of India's population, Dalits, more commonly known as 'untouchables', still suffer severe discrimination socially, in education and employment opportunities.

Over the past 30 years India's economy has improved considerably but this has been of little advantage to this group and at least 15 million people fall outside the Hindu hereditary caste structure.

Over the past 25 years at least 1000 children and young people have been cared for in a Christian ethos and many have become Christians. The centres themselves have shown the practical and spiritual relevance of the Christian faith. The work began with a home for boys from a group of villages round Thiruthani, Tamil Nadu (80km from Chennai).

Some were from broken homes, others had disabled parents, others were orphaned; all were without opportunities to grow & develop. IMF has given them shelter, a good diet, love and Christian nurture.



Harvest Thanksgiving

This year Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 16th September. Donations can be delivered to the church on Saturday 15th September between 10am and 12 o'clock or on Harvest Thanksgiving morning. As usual donations of flowers, plants and posies will be delivered by elders to the elderly, house-bound and sick members of our congregation and food items will be delivered to the Lodging House Mission and Salvation Army.

Any donations are most welcome. Fresh vegetables, fruit, tinned goods, dried goods such as rice, pasta and soup mixes are always welcomed by the Lodging House Mission and Salvation Army.

Envelopes will be available in the pews for those members wishing to contribute to the work of the India Ministries Fellowship.

Thank you
Elizabeth McEwan
Harvest Thanksgiving Convener



End of an Era

Dear Members of St Paul's,

Now that I have retired as the cleaner of halls and church after numerous years, may I say to all the pleasure I got working in a wonderful establishment was champion!

I really could write a book about it!

From the first church officer, David Ogilvie and his wife Morag (they showed me the ropes), the brilliant ministers to the "roll up the sleeves" people when cleaning was tough – during the renovations etc – thank you all so much.

Yours sincerely,
Jane

Flower donations September

September donations:

Mrs. M. Brown, Mrs. M. Taggart, Mrs. E. Watson

Please put donations in Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave, Milngavie G62 6LJ
Phone 956 2630



Holiday Club

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped to staff the Holiday Club over the holiday weeks. The children enjoyed themselves each Sunday and we feel it is important that visitors, as well as our own families, know that their young folks are catered for when they come to St. Paul's at any time. Your contribution is much appreciated!

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Once again we plan to support Blythswood Care as they send shoe boxes to countries in Eastern Europe and Asia. The boxes are given to children and adults who live in extreme poverty and would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.



More information is given in the forms at the back of the Church. Please keep the form and find a shoe box! We need to have the boxes in Church by Sunday 28th October to enable us to give them to Blythswood Care on time. Sunday Club teachers will collect the boxes and will remind you nearer the time when the boxes are due. Thank you in anticipation!

Prayer Pointers

The case of Iranian Pastor Yousef Nardkhani, who received a death sentence for apostasy in September 2010, is due to be reviewed on 8th September.

Open Doors tells us "Written confirmation has been received that Pastor Yousef will face another court hearing on 8 September. The written summons does not state the purpose of the hearing." In July pastor Yousef was verbally informed that he would face a new trial on different charges. However, the original apostasy conviction has not been rescinded. He has been in prison since October 2009. Yousef and his wife, Fatemeh, have two sons, aged 10 and 8.

Pray for God's peace for Pastor Yousef and his family as they await the hearing, that it will go ahead on 8 September and that his conviction will be overturned. Pray for strength to stand firm in their faith

Prayer and memorial services took place recently to remember the 44 people who died amid protests at the Lonmin-owned platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa.

In August 34 striking miners died when police opened fire on them. Prior to that, 10 people including two police officers were killed in clashes.

The president of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Jo Seoka, has been in talks with Lonmin executives and the miners in an effort to resolve the dispute. Lonmin agreed to withdraw their threat to fire the miners if they did not end their strike.

Pray that the Bishop's negotiations bring a peaceful resolution to the dispute without further bloodshed and that all sides agree to compromise.

Japan Jottings Sept 2012



Dear Friends

As we reach the end of August here, we are melting in the heat of summer with the accompanying humidity. David will perhaps be in for a bit of a temperature shock when he is back in Scotland in September. We have a number of changes in our family just now. Daniel has returned to Scotland to attend a camp for missionary children to help them adapt to their 'home' culture before starting in the Law School at Glasgow University.

Matthew is having a term out from Hebron and beginning his A Level studies at home till the end of the year. And we have deferred Calum's going to Hebron until the start of the next semester in February next year, mainly to accommodate his being involved in football. He recently became one of the starting eleven for the Under 12 team for the whole of Hokkaido (which has a population the same as Scotland) and may join a team going to Korea in November. He too will be home schooled till the end of the year by Lorna, with occasional visits to the local primary school too. Meanwhile, Alistair continues as normal there.

It has been good to have one two folks beginning to attend our worship service regularly as well as some new faces who have come along. One time eight of Daniel's friends came for his last service here and that made for a great atmosphere! We have a number of things planned for the autumn, including distributing a leaflet which we have put together to introduce the church to the local community. The church in Hiragishi is growing slowly but surely.

David is looking forward to spending the whole of September in Scotland, not least the times in St Paul's on the morning of the 9th and evening of the 16th. He will hopefully be around in the area on a number of other occasions too so it will be great to catch up with folks then.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Copy date for October Life: is Sunday 23rd September if using the pigeon hole or Wednesday 26th if emailing. Please note that the editor will be on holiday for quite a lot of September and you may only receive an "out of office message" as acknowledgement—we apologise in advance for this.

Please send to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or phone 944 4198. Please look out for new contact details next month.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

I would be very grateful if as many members as possible would be willing to complete this questionnaire and return it to **Anne Ritchie at 12 Norwood Park, Bearsden, G61 2RF** or post it in the box at the back of the church. This would help me greatly to plan the next trip for 2013 or to decide that there is no need for such an organisation within the church. Remember that the last trip had to be cancelled owing to lack of numbers.

✂.....✂

I/We would like/would not like to participate in another organised HF trip.
Please delete as required.
If not, what would your reason be?

Which country/place(s) would you like to visit with the HF?		
For how long?		
What price range would you consider?		
	Yes	No
Would you consider another river trip?		
Would you like a cruise?		
Would you prefer a city break?		
Would you choose a centre with optional excursions?		
Would a short break in the UK appeal?		

Any other comments:

MANY THANKS FOR TAKING PART.

Finance

Since the beginning of the year our income has struggled to keep up with our spending, even although we planned for this in the budget we set out at the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

Comparing last years figures for income up to the end of July we show a 3.3% drop of nearly £4,000.

	2012	2011
Non Gift Aid envelopes	7,117	7,558
Cheques	4,707	5,997
Standing Orders	64,520	65,302
Gift Aid Envelopes	16,357	16,247
Tax Recovered	10,346	11,931
Open Plate	13,180	13,161
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	116,227	120,196
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Donations from Organisations, Weddings, Funerals, Bank Interest and miscellaneous donations raised £3,794 compared with £4,043 for the same period last year.

While this is a considerable sum, our expenditure is equivalent to an average of £17,146 per month and this is made up of Ministries and Mission Allocation paid to Church of Scotland, staff wages and NI contributions, gas, electricity, water and insurance charges and various other smaller items.

On average we spend £542 more each month than we receive through offerings.

To try to offset the deficit we have transferred some of our reserves to a higher interest account with Scottish Widows and this has proved very successful.

We also provide envelopes in the pews which can be used to allow us to claim Gift Aid on the offering enclosed as a one off donation. The current level of income tax means that for every £1 we receive a further 25p is claimed.

If you are a UK tax-payer and would like more information on the Gift Aid scheme, contact either Jill Foggo, the Gift Aid Convener or myself and either of us will be more than willing to give you all the details.

If you would like to know anything further on the finance of the Church please speak to me at any time.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer.

Scottish Bible Society Sponsored Walk

The annual sponsored walk to raise funds for Bible Society projects will take place on Saturday 6th October at 10am in Mugdock Country Park, meeting at the Visitor Centre. Sponsorship forms will be available at the back of the church. If you would like to come for the walk, but would prefer not to be sponsored, please feel free to join us for the fresh air and fellowship.



Money raised from the walk will be used for a project in the Dominican Republic – **‘Bibles instead of weapons’** Sadly a gun culture exists in the Dominican Republic with almost daily reports of shootings.

Working with the police department in Puerto Plata, the Dominican Bible Society is making a call to the nation where they will give Bibles in exchange for weapons. They want to see 5,000 people change their weapons for the word of God and as a result reduce the rate of criminality in the nation. Trials have already proved successful in developing projects of prevention, working with children, teenagers and youth. They are achieving good results with young people turning their lives around due to engaging with the Bible.

Support for this project will help to bring real change to young people.

Frances Ireland.

The Way Ahead Group (a Stroke Club for the Local Community)

Club meetings recommence for the autumn session on Thursday 6th September. Members meet every Thursday in Killermont Church Hall from 1.15pm until 3.45 pm for a social get-together, physiotherapy, games and tea.

The Committee is now finalising Club activities for Autumn/Winter 2012 and planning our Christmas party. If anyone is interested in helping/driving one Thursday afternoon each month, please contact Anne Wightman (942 4052) or Mary Munro (942 7961).

For your information, the Way Ahead Group was established about 15 years ago by the Association of Bearsden Churches and has members mainly from the Bearsden/Milngavie area. It is staffed by volunteer helpers and drivers and we pay physiotherapists to attend each session. For some members, it is the only outing of the week and may be the only respite for carers. Members pay a nominal weekly subscription and we rely mainly on charitable donations for our funding.

Gordon Ferguson (Fund raising Manager)



Mary's Meals - Haiti

In Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, people live in shabby tents or tin shacks. These makeshift homes are surrounded by mountains of rubbish. There is rubble from collapsed buildings as far as the eye can see and the air is rancid with the stench of garbage and open sewers.

More than two years on from the huge earthquake that devastated the lives of over a million people, the Caribbean nation is back in the news for all the wrong reasons following the passage of Hurricane Isaac. Ten people have lost their lives in flooding and mudslides and more than 14,000 have been evacuated from their homes while another 13,500 were living in temporary accommodation.

Life feels hopeless for many families who are still living in the wreckage. The severe poverty makes it almost impossible for parents to find enough food to feed their children, who are so weak that they barely notice our presence.

Out of this desperate situation, there is hope. Hope for children like eight-year-old Chery who moved from the country to one of Haiti's cities with her

mother in search of a better life. Chery's mother could not find work and she could not feed her little daughter. Chery has however started going to a school where Mary's Meals provides food.

She tells us: "Life is good now that I can come to school. School is important to me, because I want to learn how to read and write and I am able to make new friends and be with them every day."

Chery is one of over 16,500 children in Haiti who rely on the one meal a day we provide for them in school. For many of them, this is their lifeline. Without it, they wouldn't eat at all.

It costs Mary's Meals just a global average of £10.70 to feed a hungry child for an entire school year. We provide a daily meal to over 650,000 kids every school day in 16 of the poorest countries, including Malawi, Liberia, Kenya, India and Haiti.

To find out more about what this Scottish based charity does and how you can help, log on to www.marysmeals.org

