

St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine February 2013



Unlike other Christian traditions we Presbyterians are not required to stick rigidly to the Christian year and yet many of us have found value in observing seasons like Advent and Lent as well as the major seasons of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Our Advent and Lent services have been well supported over the years, giving us an opportunity to reflect on some of the more challenging aspects of our faith. In the end the whole purpose behind these seasons is that we emerge from them with a firmer grasp of the faith and a deeper commitment to the life of discipleship.

It is not automatic of course. Mere participation is no assurance that anything will happen in our inner being. We cannot work up or force a blessing from God just by adhering to certain spiritual practices. Elizabeth Jennings has a poem called 'Making A Silence' in which she reflects that certain silences can be commanded like the silence that is needed for a child to sleep or for a sick person to have rest. There is also a silence that happens naturally when everyone else is asleep 'And you can feel the stars/And mercy over the world.' In the end, though, there is the greatest silence of all:

'But the greatest one of them all
Is a gift entirely unasked for,
When God is felt deeply within you
With his infinite gracious peace.'

What she is thinking of here is a silence which cannot be created by us and does not happen naturally but is the work of the Holy Spirit, a gift from God. That can come to us at anytime, unsought and unanticipated. People have told me of times when challenging experiences brought them to the very end of themselves and yet they felt a sense of God's peace at the very core of their being. It seemed to come as a gift for that moment.

This does not mean that nothing is demanded of us in the spiritual life. It is possible for our inner being to be so cluttered with self-centered priorities, deadening routines and pressing duties that we are no longer turned wholeheartedly towards our God. That's when we need to consciously create space for God to do a new thing in our lives. It is His gift to give but we must be eager to receive. Jesus said: 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.' (Matthew 7: 7-8)

Even Jesus needed space for his soul to breathe. Luke tells us that there came a time in His ministry when there was considerable pressure on Him to preach and to heal but 'Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.' (Luke 5: 15-16). So we need to find times for prayer, reflection on the Word, and worship with fellow believers in order to keep a tight connection with our God. I hope the coming season of Lent will bless us in this way and that there may be Springtime in our souls.

Yours in Christ
Fergus C Buchanan

Chanan Trust

During the period of Lent over the past few years the Congregation of St Paul's have collected tea, coffee etc. for Organizations who feed the people on the streets of Glasgow, also giving support. This year it is intended to continue this during the period of Lent beginning on Sunday 17th February, 2012 for five Sundays.

Boxes will be placed at the back of the Church for anyone who wishes to make a contribution. This year it is intended to give the contribution to Chanan Trust who would appreciate donations of pasta sauces, tins of meat balls and Mars Bars.

Please pray for this work on the streets of Glasgow and in Barlinnie prison.

Norman Barlow

PSALM 40:2



SUNDAY COFFEE THANK YOU

We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service. We are delighted to let you know we were able to give £1100 to Chanan Trust Glasgow.



This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2012.

We are most grateful to Bob at Milngavie Mini Market who donates the milk and biscuits for our coffee every week and also a special thank to our helper for the continued delivery of these to St Pauls on Sunday.

We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2013.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret and Margaret

Book Club

We have been reading *No Great Mischiefs* by Alistair Macleod, the first novel by this Canadian author. This is a beautifully written book with haunting descriptions of life in Scotland and Nova Scotia stretching from 1779 to the present day – one man's story of his ancestors, Clan MacDonald.

The language, description, sense of heritage of family and place come across very well. The author's story blends poetry and history, tracing a family line back to its exodus from Scotland and exploring the fierce loyalty to blood and history that binds people together over generations.

This complete absorption in land and culture continues to the present day with Calum, the oldest surviving broth-

er, being taken back home at the end of his life by his younger brother, Alexander. This is a story of real people – their tragedies, love and loyalty all told with a strong sense of community and family.



Many of the group could relate to their own stories of life in the islands and this made for a lively discussion. Although not quite a masterpiece, the story of Clan MacDonald will stay with us for some time.

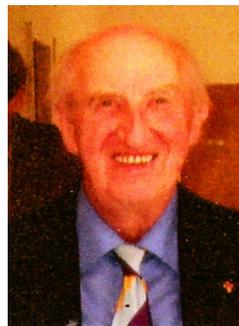
Next time we are reading *Phantom* by Jo Nesbo and we are meeting on Tuesday 12 March 2013.

JOYCE CLARK

Congratulations – 50 years an Elder in St. Paul's

At the December meeting of the Kirk Session, the Reverend Fergus Buchanan, thanked Mr Duncan White for his 50 years service to the eldership and presented him with a Long Service Certificate on behalf of the Kirk Session together with a book of his choice.

Duncan was ordained in St. Paul's on 25 November 1962 and on 2 December 1992 was awarded a Long Service Certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for distinguished service as an elder for thirty years.



Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL and as the Festival takes place.

We want to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped during the Christmas Tree Festival! Many of the visitors commented on the lovely atmosphere in the Church and this was due in no small way to the friendliness of the stewards on duty who gave such a warm welcome. This was continued in the tearoom where the team were efficient and friendly, and where the delicious home baking was much appreciated. Several members of the congregation took part in the Musical Programme which is such an integral part of the Festival; their very varied contributions were greatly enjoyed. Thank you all those who were involved in any way.

It is also worth mentioning how much we enjoy working with members of all the other churches in Milngavie. We meet many new people and really appreciate the fun and fellowship, both beforehand on the planning committee

This year the standard of decoration of the trees was better than ever! It was good to have some new organisations taking part, and also to welcome back one or two who had not taken part last year.

The two charities, Mary's Meals and The Way Ahead were both delighted to receive £1,300, the result of the generous donations of our visitors. At the Opening Ceremony it was heart-warming to hear about the work of each charity - so different in many ways but both very deserving. It is gratifying to know that even in these difficult economic times we are able to help others in this way.

Thank you again for all your support.



“Life and Work” Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for ‘Life and Work’ are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £17.40 – a reduction of 35 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the **end of March**, if possible.

If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul’s Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Keeper of the Cradle Roll

At the December meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed that Mrs Patricia Knaggs, an Elder, would replace Mrs Jackie Campbell as Keeper of the Cradle Roll. Patricia was thanked for taking on this role and the best wishes of the members of Session were conveyed to her.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

ACTS 1 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY HOUSE GROUP

If you have a free Tuesday evening once a month, why not come and join our informal Bible study group for men which meets in various homes in Milngavie and Bearsden?

We are currently doing a series in Romans from a study guide by John Stott. You will receive a very warm welcome.

For further information, please contact me at 942 1831 or e-mail ramsay.vallance@googlemail.com

Ramsay Vallance

Thank you

Helen, Diane and Gordon would like to express our sincere thanks to St Paul's congregation and Guild for the tremendous support received throughout Duncan's illness.

The cards, flowers and prayers have been a great comfort to us all. The funeral service on 10th December provided a fitting tribute to Duncan's life and we would particularly like to thank Rev Fergus Buchanan, organist Derek Norval and church officer Edith Blackadder. They, and all who attended, made this service very special for us.

Helen Kelly

Church Visitors and W.F.O. Envelopes - Advance Notice

The new W.F.O. envelopes for the coming year will be available at the back of the Church on Sunday 3rd March 2013, and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.

Jim McQueen

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone in St Paul's for prayers, cards, phone calls and many practical acts of help.

The outpouring of spiritual comfort and kindness has sustained us through a very sad time with the loss of our mum, Dorothy Sheret.

A special thank you to the church society for the beautiful flowers.

Sheila Sheret and Fiona Dorrall.

Rev. Fergus C Buchanan

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Dates for your diary

Members of the congregation may wish to note the dates of the two events which have been arranged to celebrate Mr Buchanan's 25 years as the minister of St. Paul's.

Friday 3 May 2013 – Musical evening with the pupils of Douglas Academy.

Sunday 5 May 2013 – Special Service of Worship with invited guests and conducted by The Right Reverend Albert O Bogle, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, followed by a presentation to Mr Buchanan and a congregational lunch.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

Scottish Bible Society



This year Bible Sunday will be held on 24th February in St Paul's. The project being supported this year is in Malawi.

2013 is the bicentenary of the birth of David Livingstone, one of Scotland's best known explorers and missionaries, and 200 years later his missionary work in Malawi still has a lasting impact as today Christians there continue to proclaim the Word of God.

However, the challenges faced by the people of Malawi today are very different from those which faced David Livingstone. One such challenge is HIV/AIDS. 12% (a conservative estimate) of the population have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS – ranking Malawi top of the prevalence rate in Africa. Many children have lost both parents to the disease and are being brought up in

orphanages.

The Bible Society of Malawi is running the Good Samaritan Programme and trainers are doing excellent work in fighting HIV/AIDS. As they show how biblical values can be applied to this challenge, they are promoting love, lifestyle change, and challenging stigmatisation and bringing hope to the infected and affected.

Behavioural change is required in this battle and to help bring this about the Bible Society of Malawi is planning to build on the Good Samaritan programme by placing Scripture engagement packs containing a Bible, a children's Bible and Bible reading guide into 9,000 homes. The Society will also complete the translation of 'The Great Bible Stories' into Chichewa and make it available to 25,000 children as part of the 'Let the children encounter Christ' programme.

Coffee and Mince Pies

As intimated in January 'Life' the sum of £496 was raised for BEAM at the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 23rd December. The following letter of thanks has been received:-

Dear Frances,

I am writing on behalf of the BEAM committee to say how much we appreciate the donation you have given us. I would like to thank you, Liz and your other colleagues for their hard work and thinking of us, but most of all I would like to thank the congregation of St Paul's for their generosity to us.

I know that you donate to a local charity every year and we are grateful that you have chosen us this year. The money will help us continue our work for the blind and partially sighted in our community. As you are part of our team you know how much our listeners enjoy receiving a weekly digital copy of the local newspaper. Your donation will help us continue this work.

With grateful thanks,
Desnée Ashley, Secretary, BEAM.



Flower donations—February

Mrs. E. Farmer, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. H. Kelly, Mrs. P. Knaggs, Mrs. J. Pirie, Mrs. A. Jones



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

KIMO PERU COFFEE MORNING

A date for your diary is Saturday 16th March from 10am - 12noon.

We will have the latest news of the home at Kimo and look forward to seeing you.

More information will be available in next month's 'Life'.

Editor's note

If you have any comments, criticisms or queries regarding the content of Life magazine, we respectfully request that you address them in the first instance to the editor, Rona Dawson, as she is responsible for all articles featured. Contact details on the back page.

We apologise to all of you whose emails didn't make it through in time for the January issue and hope that the situation has been resolved.

At the end of the year the Church made donations to several charities from the surplus in the General Fund. I have received acknowledgements from some of them and would like to share with you the positive feedback that the charities show in their letters and the encouragement they received from our support.

Chris Scott – Treasurer.

Scottish Bible Society

We were very grateful to receive your cheque for £650 which you very kindly donated for the ongoing work of the Society. Thank you so much for this very generous gift which will help us share the Bible with many people around the world and work to fulfil our mission **“for all people to have the Bible in a language they understand, a form they can access and at an affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God”**.

Our very own Bibleworld Mobile continues to visit schools, introducing children to the Bible and the Christian faith in an exciting, interactive way. We can only continue valuable work such as this due to support like yours.

With grateful thanks and greetings to all in St. Paul's.

**Catherine Johnstone
Volunteer Co-ordinator.**



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 addictions 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.

Something for Romania

Our Watchnight Service Offering was for the charity
"Something for Romania"

It is with pleasure that I respond to your recent letters containing cheques to the value of £1102.27 raised at your Christmas Eve Collection in support of my ongoing work in Romania. This sum is accepted with grateful heart and any expressions of thanks I can give seem

very inadequate. I do, of course, acknowledge God's grace in all that has been done and how He opened the hearts of all who gave so generously and I thank you for organising the Gift Aid Envelopes you produced on my behalf.

It is of wonderful encouragement to me to be supported in this way and may I wish you all every blessing in our Lord's work and service. We live in what appears to be a time of declension but it is all of Grace and we have His promise "**I will not leave you nor forsake you**". This alone should help to strengthen us as we continue to serve in our individual spheres. Please pass on my grateful thanks to all who contributed to this amazing display of Christian witness.

Lachie MacLeod MBE - Chairman

Brigade Blethers

Before Brigade broke up for Christmas the Juniors planted little daffodil bulbs and we put the pots up in the loft to keep them nice and dark till the first shoots came through. Then round about New Year I realised that we hadn't topped up their water so up I went up to give them a drink. Every pot except one had nice strong healthy shoots and were managing fine without our attention.

I decided to pop my finger into the soil and find out why that one pot hadn't survived - but it had! Someone had planted her bulb upside down and the green shoot had actually started to grow upside down before righting itself and heading for the surface.

The hymn says that God sees the little sparrow fall - well He also sees a little bulb struggling to grow and puts things right.

I find that very comforting and I thought I would share my little story with you. Keep praying for Brigade as we try to seek, serve and follow this wonderful God.

Anne Goodlet



World Day of Prayer

Milngavie Churches' Joint Service in the Allander Evangelical Church, Douglas St. Milngavie on **Friday 1st March at 10.30am**. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of France, and the speaker is Maxie Richard. All welcome to attend the service and to join the committee for refreshments afterwards.

Margaret White

Keep Clear road markings Baldernock Road.

A few of our church members have been asking about the Keep Clear markings on Baldernock Road which recently have been extended by the local council to the church boundary wall adjacent to the main hall.

The footpaths on both sides of Baldernock Rd had deteriorated to the extent that they presented a trip risk to pedestrians, in particular those of us who are elderly or very young. In addition there was an issue of car parking outside the entrance which impacted on the dropping off and collecting of members and importantly had the potential to obstruct the emergency exit from the main hall.

Meetings were held with representatives of the roads department and a local councillor and as a consequence the footpaths were resurfaced, yellow no parking lines were reinstated and the Keep Clear markings extended to the church boundary. In addition several kerb stones at the Baldernock Road entrance were lowered to facilitate wheel chairs.

There have however, been a few instances where vehicles, not all belonging to church members, have been left over the markings resulting in adverse comment.

Keep Clear markings are installed where the highway should be kept clear of waiting or parked vehicles. The exceptions I would suggest are official vehicles for weddings and funerals. The markings are advisory and unlike yellow lines, not legally enforceable. However, in the event of a complaint, the presence of such markings could contribute to the offence of obstruction. The Highway Code [page 116] in relation to Keep Clear markings is simple, "do not block that part of the carriageway so indicated". Drop off and pick up by all means but please do not park within the markings if at all possible.

I hope that this information is of value and not too draconian. The work completed was well intentioned and used sensibly, the extension of the markings should be of benefit to us all.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Graham Getty.

Lent Services



Our traditional services for Lent will begin on Saturday 16th February at 9.30am in the West Transept.

Details of speakers and themes will be contained in future Sunday intimations.

World Mission—your prayers are needed

Southern Sudan

Doctors without Borders has identified Jonglei State as the “epicenter of violence” in Southern Sudan. The medical aid agency has issued a report stating that the violence has escalated from cattle raiding to beatings and rape. Women and young children seem to be particularly targeted and we are asked to remember Southern Sudan in our prayers.

Ghana

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana calls for calm in light of election results. Ghanaians went to the polls to elect a new president and parliament. These were to take place over one day, however problems with the biometric voting system meant some polling stations stayed open into the night and in some cases voting continued the following day.

When the results were finally declared naming the incumbent President Mahama winner, Nana Akuffo Addo, the main challenger rejected the verdict. He sighted instances that the figures were doctored at the collation centres. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is calling for calm as they seek to have their grievances addressed lawfully.

Korea

The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea requests prayer and support from world partner churches to secure the release of Reverend Jung Yeon-Kil, a Methodist minister, who was imprisoned on September 6th as a result of a protest against the construction of a naval base at the southern coast of the island of Jeju. During the protest actions, the government, navy

and police acted with unrestrained violence and many villagers, peace activists and members of religious groups have been wounded and arrested. Jeju Island has been selected as a UNESCO biosphere reserve, for its outstanding natural treasures. Unfortunately, the defence of God’s creation has been taken as defiance to government policy. The Presbyterian Church of Korea considers that the behaviour of the Korean government lacks understanding and consideration of the concerns of religious groups and faith organisations, and is obviously suppressing religious groups.

St Paul’s Society Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16th February 2013
10am— Large Hall

The St Paul’s Society was inaugurated in 1966 for the purpose of enhancing the beauty of St Paul’s sanctuary as a place of public worship and private devotion.

Membership involves one meeting per year. A spring/summer annual outing is arranged to visit other churches of historical and spiritual interest and periodically a further afternoon/evening outing in autumn/winter.

The annual general meeting will be held on 16th February. The committee assures new members of a very warm welcome and looks forward to greeting existing members. Tea, coffee and scones will be served on arrival.

Iris T Torbet, Secretary/Treasurer

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

'In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8

Jenna and Rowan Tracey, 34 Roselea Drive

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr & Mrs Ian MacCalman,	5 Mitchell Drive now	50
	Flat 1/3 Devonshire Row, 46 Hughenden Rd	70
Rutherford Family,	45 Keystone Quadrant now	42
	31 Crawford Road	21
Mrs Carla MacAllister,	16 Nethermains Road now	41a
	46 Keystone Quadrant	42

DEATHS

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

06.11.12 Mrs Nan McMeekin, 13 Glasgow Road	55
07.01.13 Mrs Vera Greig, 8 Fairview Court, 46 Main Street	18a
12.01.13 Mrs Jean Hewat, Whitecraigs Nursing Home, Thornliebank	
13.01.13 Mr Leslie Hancock, 12 Finlay Rise	
15.01.13 Mrs Margaret Carruthers, 6 Homebrae House	

Please note copy date (the last date for submissions) for March Life is Sunday 17th February if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 20th if emailing.
Email to rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk Please contact by phone if you don't receive an acknowledgement 0141 276 5393 (daytime).

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
10 Feb	M MacIntyre M Spencer	Cockburn Deuchar	L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 6 Robin Easton (EC)
17 Feb	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Berry McKinnon	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 7 Ross Deuchar
24 Feb	E Izatt F Ireland	Wallis Chapman	B Watson M Conway	Team 8 Stephen McFarlane
3 Mar	M Abbott K Hogart	Sillars McCreadie	M Ure J Mill	Team 9 Ken McIver