

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

June 2014



Dear Friends,

It is many years now but I had a 'free' Sunday and attended worship in the Church where my friend was minister. He was preaching through the Book of Isaiah by focussing on key passages Sunday by Sunday. On this particular Sunday he was on Isaiah 37: 1-20 which tells of the letter King Hezekiah of Judah received from Sennacherib, King of Assyria. In this letter Sennacherib is scornful of Hezekiah's God and threatens to destroy Judah as he has destroyed other nations.

Hezekiah's response is to go to the Temple and spreads the letter out 'before the Lord.' He then launches into a prayer that celebrates God's sovereignty and power and calls upon Him to act on behalf of His people and deliver them from the Assyrian king:

'Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God.' (verse 20)

I had probably read this story before but it had never made the impact it did on that day. There is something compelling about the image of an anxious, beleaguered man spreading out before the Lord this threat that threatens to overwhelm him. Despite everything, his faith is strong. He believes in God's sovereignty and power and that He can act to turn things around.

At a recent evening service I was preaching on the version of this story in 2 Kings 19 and again I felt deeply challenged. Am I as willing as Hezekiah to take things to the Lord in prayer? Do I believe that God can turn things around as did Hezekiah?

I attended a conference at the beginning of the year where the Canadian theologian Don Carson said that the trouble with many of us in the Church is that we are 'functional atheists' ie. we talk about a God of power who can change people and circumstances but do we actually believe it?

In the season of Pentecost we remember that Jesus said to His disciples: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .' (Acts 1: 8)

In response to this we need to take our lead from Hezekiah and pray that the Holy Spirit will show His power in the present age and do it through us, the people who have been called to build the Kingdom of God.



The Preshal Festival with Ian White

The Renfield Centre
260 Bath Street Glasgow

Friday 13th, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June

7.30pm

This is an all age event with Ian performing some of his children's songs during the evening.

Don't leave the kids at home - bring them!

The festival will also include performances by the Preshal Band and Jasmine.

Entrance to the event is free but there will be an offering on the evening.



Dates For Your Diary



ICC Graduation 21st June

For the last few years St.Paul's has hosted the graduation ceremony for the International Christian College in Glasgow and we have indeed done them proud. This years graduation on 21st June will be their last as the building is closing down. It is sad there will no longer be a Christian College in Glasgow and we pray that they will find another home to continue the important work of training men & woman to serve their Lord Jesus.

However, we at St.Paul's can make this final graduation a splendid day for all taking part. We will require a lot of cake and scones and a team of helpers for the day from 2-00 pm until about 4-30 and there are lists at the back of the church. If you can help lift tea pots, bake or if you are not a baker give a small donation to buy milk tea etc. please fill in list or see Ann MacLeod.

Lunch Club



The Lunch Club is finishing for the Summer and our last Lunch is on 11th June. We have had many people enjoying lunch since Christmas but there is always room for more and everyone is welcome. A big thanks should go to the many helpers who work so tirelessly to prepare and serve food and set up the room week by week. Also the wonderful team of bakers who give us much appreciated delicious home made cakes, loafs and scones, which just disappear.

We make a small profit each year and this session we are dividing this between the church to help with heating and other costs, Scripture Union and Blythswood Trust both these charities will use this money to support children from deprived backgrounds at summer camps. These children would not otherwise have a holiday and will enjoy good food, games, fun and most importantly learn about our Lord Jesus and His love for them. Thank you for your support this last year and we hope to welcome many more when we restart at the beginning of September.

CRISIS AT FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

You have often heard in the past that Friendship House needs helpers . Now it is clear that if more volunteers do not come forward we will have to close on one day a week. We would take this step very reluctantly because we know how much our regular visitors depend on our being open.

The help required is either in the kitchen – where cordon bleu skills are not needed! – or serving the customers. The time involved is three hours every four weeks: can you spare that to enable a unique opportunity for Christian witness to continue in its present form? One of the striking features of Friendship House is that every church in Milngavie is involved and it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know members of other churches.

If you have never visited Friendship House why not call in for a coffee or a bowl of soup and see what it's like? We are open every day from Monday to Friday from 10-4. Please get in touch if you are interested or would like more information.

Eleanor Easton House Convener 943 0368

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP - THE BIG PICTURE

On Saturday 7th June Mission Aviation Fellowship are holding a huge event at Hamilton College, Bothwell Road, Hamilton from 8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. and it's free to come and go as you please - there is no admission charge !! MAF aim to set a world record with 1,000 people using their zip slide in a single day and their fundraising target is £25,000 to help support MAF programmes in Commonwealth countries. Each participant will carry a piece of a giant photomosaic, which will form a stunning image at the bottom of the slide. After the event, The Big Picture will be displayed in the Scottish Parliament, Glasgow Airport and in shopping centres throughout central Scotland. The programme is as follows :

10.00 - 1.00 Performances from various Commonwealth countries, and interviews with special guests, including MSPs, NASA Astronaut Jim Dutton and MAF UK Chief Executive Ruth Whitaker.

12.00 - 6.00 : Family fun day with bouncy castles, face painting, barbecue and much more. On stage we will have performances from Hamilton College, Eloho Efemuai and Amie Aitken.

6.00 - 10.00 - Youth programme featuring Clive Parnell and Christian band Royal Foundlings. We will also have a Kick Team football cage and a Bucking Bronco !! Burgers and drinks will be on sale all day.

Life And Work

June Edition

Martin Luther King and Me

A Church of Scotland minister's experiences of the American civil rights campaign.

'A Beautiful Perspective'

Astronaut Jim Dutton describes how seeing the Earth from space impacted on his faith.

The Green Funeral Revolution

Jackie Macadam learns about environmental funerals and how new options are being offered in death.

'I am Going to be Myself'

Lynne McNeil meets the Rt Rev John Chalmers, Moderator of the 2014 General Assembly.

General Assembly

Summaries of reports to the Assembly

The Silenced Ghosts

As the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War approaches, Ron Ferguson reflects on those forgotten by the history books.

Question Time at the Kirk

William Clarke describes how Scotland's political future was debated at a London church.

A New Ministry

The development of a new centre of excellence for ministry at Aberdeen University

'Who Do You Say That I Am?'

Lynsey Martin, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, offers a personal insight into her year in office.

Plus all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters and crosswords – all for just £2.

Online visit us at www.lifeandwork.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.





Dear Friends

This is a time of year for us where the number of our family in Japan at any one time keeps changing! Daniel has just finished his second year at Glasgow University and is back for a few weeks before heading to Australia in mid-July as he will do the third year of his Law degree at the University of Queensland. Matthew finishes at Hebron School at the end of this month and comes back to Japan for a longer period as he is going to take a gap year. Quite what he will do yet is still something of a mystery! He hopes to work for a while here and then perhaps do some kind of volunteer work somewhere next year. The younger two boys generally stay put but Calum has a football trip abroad with his youth team in July. It is all go!

Summer is also a time of year when we welcome many short-term workers to Japan who come through the OMF Serve Asia programme. Some join teams and others come as individuals to serve for anything from a couple of weeks to six months or more. There is a great variety of things people can do. Some are students but others take time off from work and others are older, sometimes retired. Obviously there is not much that short-term workers can do in Japanese but there are many ways of using English and other talents to help local churches here reach out with special events and programmes. Get in touch with OMF UK if you might be interested!

We are beginning to apply our minds to our next time back home. Hopefully that will be in the early part of next year. It is all quite complicated due to the different stages of the boys' schooling, particularly Calum's need to be in Japan as he continues at Japanese Junior High School as well as in the youth team. We hope to get our plans sorted out over the next few months.

Many thanks for all your prayers and support for us here in Japan.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

World Mission

Signs of hope in South Sudan as political leaders agree to meet

President Kiir and former Vice-President Machar have now agreed to face to face talks mediated in Ethiopia, the home of the Africa Union.

The people of South Sudan have been suffering for nearly 5 months since the conflict started between rival troops loyal to President Kiir and former Vice-President Machar on 15 December. Thousands have been killed and at least 1.2 million people have left their homes, seeking a secure place to live. Members of the churches in South Sudan, including our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, have put pressure on both sides to bring an end to the conflict. Pressure has also come from NGOs and governments.



PROCMURA Release a Statement Concerning the Abduction of Nigerian Girls

Our partners PROCMURA, the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, have released a statement in response to the abduction of 250 girls from a school in northern Nigeria by Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram.



After extensive and intensive consultations with Christian and Muslim religious leaders in Africa, PROCMURA are calling on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, as well as presidents of neighbouring countries and the international community to speed up their declared resolve and commitment to rescue the girls.

They conclude their statement by highlighting their commitment to ensuring Christians and Muslims of goodwill continue to work together to promote the ultimate value of religion, which is to protect life and promote justice and peace for all.

Amity's Bakery Flourishes



During a recent visit to the Church of Scotland Offices for a meeting of the European Network of Amity Partners, Amity's Zhang Wei was able to update us about the Amity Bakery, which the Very Rev David Arnott visited in 2012.

The bakery, which trains and employs young adults with disabilities, continues to act as a platform that allows people living with disabilities to interact with wider

Chinese society. It plays an important role as there is a lack of information about disability in China and families often fear discrimination so keep disabled relatives at home. Staff members are now serving the customers and Amity believes that this sort of interaction will lead to a more inclusive society.

There are now two shops, one that is rented and another which is provided for free by the government, and is attracting a lot of custom as it is situated around the corner from a primary school.

The work of the bakery fits into our partner Amity's Christian ethos as it seeks to contribute to China's social development and make Christian involvement in meeting these social needs widely known.



Book Club

This month we have been reading *Silver* by Andrew Motion, which is a sequel to *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. We pick up the story with the son and daughter of Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver respectively who team up to finish off the business their fathers left undone and return to Treasure Island to find the treasure. This book is very well written and is, like its predecessor, a bit of a swash and a buckle! The group felt that the book was more like a children's fantasy and didn't quite live up to the original. This was a tribute book – the same as the original but not the real thing. More of an adventure story, it was at times quite surreal although Andrew Motion's writing was excellent. We were not sure who we would recommend this book to although somebody suggested their 10 year old grandson might enjoy it.

Next time we are reading *The Uninvited Guests* by Sadie Jones and we are meeting on 1 July 2014.

Joyce Clark

Brigade Blethers



Not so much a blether this month as a roll of honour! The girls all work so hard each year that when it comes to the June entry to Life I like to name those who received special awards.

All seven of our Explorers have been a joy to work with so a big "well done" to Laura Berry, Kaitlin Cook, Ava McKay, Kaitlin Macleod, Eilidh Shaw, Finty Smith and Jolie Wallis. We look forward to welcoming those who are due to move up to Juniors next session.

Talking of Juniors - the best Junior Squad was No 3 i.e. Meira Jardine, Rachel Jobson, and Sarah Mackenzie. The Chaplain's Cup for best Sunday attendance went to Heather Macleod; the Anne Faith Memorial trophy went to Rachel Jobson; our best Keep Fit Junior was Sarah Dougall and the best Junior over-all this year was a very deserving Chloe Edgar.

We only have five Brigaders at the moment but what we lack in quantity they make up for in quality. So much so that all five made up our best squad. So thanks to Jennifer Cockburn, Kayleigh Galloway, Alison Kerr, Nicolle McArdle and Isla Robinson. Nicolle also won the Jennifer Macintyre Memoria Cup and the St Paul's Trophy for our best Brigader went to Jennifer Cockburn.

As a company we all appreciate the support that we get from our Church family so can I ask you to pray that when we start again in September we will have lots more girls coming along to seek, serve and follow Christ.

Anne Goodlet

Flower Donations ~ June

Mrs. K. Canlin,	Mrs. W. Douglas,
Mrs. E. Easton,	Mrs. J. McColgan,
Miss A. Martin,	Mrs. M. Phillips,
Mrs. M. Reid,	Mrs. I. Torbet



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
Tel. 956 2630



MORE THAN
GOLD
2 0 1 4

Prayer Walk

Saturday 7th June 2014, 10:30am at Community of the Risen Christ, G42 8HJ

These walks are open to all believers and we would love you to join us. The walks start at 10:30am and finish at 12noon.

Prayer Walking is a great way to engage with God, develop your prayer relationship, meet new folk and improve your fitness. Wholeness and Holiness while praying that Glasgow will Flourish.

This is the last prayer walk before the start of the Commonwealth Games - if you can't join us for the walk please remember us in prayer. More information can be found on the More Than Gold website:

www.morethangold2014.org.uk/prayer/Prayer-Meetings.html



Sports Plus 2014 (Glasgow)

Wed, 6th Aug 2014 - Fri, 8th Aug 2014

Venue: The High School of Glasgow, 637 Crow Rd, Glasgow G13 1PL

What is Sports Plus?

An intense three days of specialist sports coaching, games and team competitions for young people aged 11 - 17. Sports Plus is for those passionate about improving in their sport and finding out about Jesus and what it means to live for Him.

For more information please visit the christiansinsport.org.uk website



Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office

Representatives and leaders from Scotland's Christian traditions met with Alex Salmond on Thursday 15 May in the Scottish Parliament. Senior figures from the Church of Scotland, Catholic Church, Scottish Episcopal Church were joined by those representing the Baptist Union of Scotland, Congregational Federation, Free Church of Scotland, Methodist Church, United Free Church, United Reformed Church the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Salvation Army.

The First Minister meets with Scottish Church leaders on an annual basis, to discuss an agenda proposed by the Churches. This year three topics were raised; the prospect of a written constitution in the event of a yes vote in September's referendum, responding to welfare changes and the growth of food banks, and resourcing and support for palliative care.

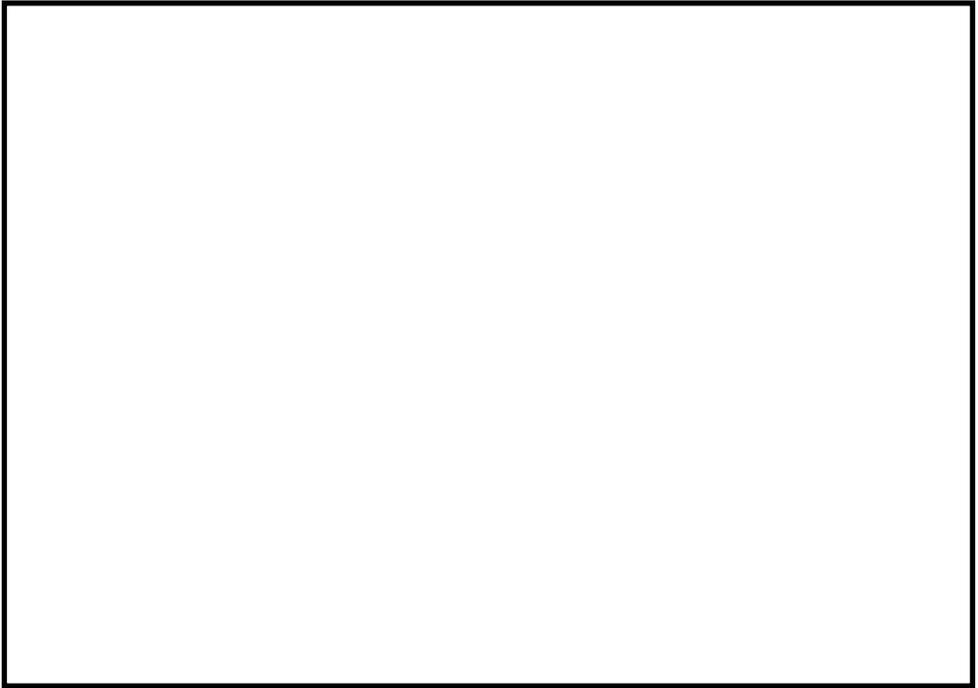
On the role of faith in a written constitution, the Church leaders spoke of a desire to see principles of liberty and integrity considered together in any constitution convention.

On welfare and food banks, the First Minister was told about some of the work being done by churches at a local level. A particular concern which was raised was a perceived lack of joint partnership working between voluntary and statutory agencies.

The third item for discussion touched on provision of acute palliative care services across Scotland, such as the number of specialist beds available and the role of the hospice movement. The First Minister was asked if the Scottish Government might adopt a new model for funding palliative care, such as match funding voluntary donations, which could help incentivise charitable giving as well as lead to stronger links being built between a hospice or hospital unit and their local community.

David Bradwell, Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer said: "A meeting with the First Minister is a welcome opportunity for the Churches to, as the Quakers call it, 'speak truth to power' in our shared striving for the 'common good' - a concept rooted in Catholic social teaching. The unity and shared perspectives of all of Scotland's Churches is a powerful demonstration that there is a huge deal of common ground across the diverse variety of Christian tradition in Scotland."

The First Minister recognised and affirmed the positive contribution of churches and all faith communities to the common good. He encouraged Scotland's Churches to continue to work in the practical outworking of their faith for the good of communities throughout the whole of Scotland and internationally.



Copy date for September issue is Sunday 24th August if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 27th if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
1st June	S. Anderson M. Adams	Goolet Chapman	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 B. Ponton
8th June	M. Conway K. Edwards	Sillars Tracey	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 G. Blackadder
15th June	A. Galloway J. Townson	Berry McKinnon		Team 2 N. Rankine (C)
22nd June	M. McIntyre M. Spencer	Wallis Bates	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 R. Deuchar
29th June	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	McCreadie Richell	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 J. Pirie