

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2014



Dear Friends,

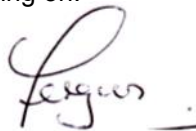
It was refreshing to spend some time recently in Kilmahog, just outside Callander. We are now officially in Autumn but the sun was shining and showing up the Autumn colours in all their variety. Of course, this is evidence of 'change and decay' in nature and soon some of the red blazing trees will be stripped of their colour. It was good, however, to look out on some spectacular scenery and to realise that though there was change and that some things were dying still there is growth and life in the world of nature. You cannot hear it or see it but the power never ceases to be working.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus he encouraged men and women to look out at the world and to realise that something was happening, a power was working. He began his ministry by announcing: 'The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near.' (Mark 1: 15) There is an unstoppable force working in the world leading to the day when all things will be made new. This renewal begins in the lives of men and women. Jesus made this plain when he followed his announcement of the Kingdom by calling on men and women to 'Repent and believe the good news.' If they were to be part of God's great renewal project then there had to be a turning away from the ways of decay and a wholehearted turning towards the freshness of God. With Jesus there was a new spiritual momentum which would continue to the end of all things.

It has to be acknowledged that there is much in our own society and the world at large that would seem to work against this. As I write, nations have united with air strikes against Islamic State whose dark influence has increasingly cast a shadow over areas in the Middle East. There is a strong sense of uncertainty as to where this is all leading. In our own country there are mixed emotions and aspirations in the wake of the Referendum. Time only will tell how this will work out.

There are times when it is hard to believe that there is a good and loving purpose at work in the world. But as the old hymn says: 'We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.' The Bible speaks of a Deep Story that is being worked out in the midst of the darkness, the disappointment and the despair. Jesus has said: 'I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.'

There is no darkness so threatening, no disappointment so painful, no despair so overwhelming, that it will not in the end give way to the Son who has promised to bring renewal to the whole of creation. Our God is marching on.



### **Can You Help?**

We urgently seek volunteers to help in our Learning Centre at our premises in East Campbell Street (near the Barrows). Our Click & Connect centre provides free computer facilities and digital classes for some of Glasgow's poorest communities.

We are looking for people who are competent in "Introductory" computing, (internet, e-mail etc). Volunteers are required to oversee our service users who are using computers for a wide range of basic applications such as job search, social security addresses etc. People skills are more important than computing skills.

The Learning Centre is open for this purpose each morning from 10am til 12pm and we seek help on any of these days. Afternoon activity may follow depending on available supervision. We can be flexible to suit your needs and a trial period is possible if that is your preference.

Please call in the first instance to Mags Wilson or Gus Smeaton - 0141 552 0285

### **Cameras Needed**

We have recently started up a new photography group at the Lodging House Mission. We are in desperate need of some digital, compact or DSLR cameras for the group. If you have any unwanted or used cameras you think could help the group we would welcome them very much. This new group will offer a great learning opportunity for those most venerable and isolated in our city. In addition it is hoped throughout the weeks the participants will learn new skills and enjoy getting out and about in a more meaningful and fulfilling way.

Your help and support will be very much appreciated.

Mags Wilson - 0141 552 0285



## The Guild

After a summer break, The New Session begins on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>. Oct at 7.30 p.m. We will be entertained by students from the Douglas Academy School of Music and would be delighted to welcome all who are free to come along to our Opening Night.

### Diary Dates

Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Douglas Academy School of Music.
“ 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dedication Service
“ 13 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Cotton - Fair Trade
“ 20 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Aitkenhead - The Life and laughs of a Vice Lord Lieutenant
“ 27 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Aid
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jill Scott - Grand Central Hotel

### Margaret Stirling

## Brigade Blethers

September is the month for a "wee" blether because we have only been back for a couple of weeks. However we like to start with a challenge so last Thursday Elizabeth McEwan, Iris Torbet and Marylyn Taggart came along to help the girls produce 60 posies ready for harvest Sunday. The girls always enjoy this task and Elizabeth thanked them for all their hard work and for sharing their talents with members of the congregation who cannot come to Church.



One of the Juniors said that she knew that the flowers went to old people and she looked straight at me! I wonder why.

Our numbers have risen slightly this year which is great but we still have plenty of places if anyone else would like to join us. Our badgework this year will be centred on "Scotland" so if you have any wee anecdotes or unusual snippets of information we would like to hear from you.

Till next month, God bless,

**Anne Goodlet**

## Moderator calls for unity

Prior to the Referendum the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev. John Chalmers, called on all members of the church to pray “for unity of purpose ... working together to build Scotland’s future with shared purpose and shared values”. He suggested that a prayer be shared on the Sunday after the Referendum which was part of our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Members of St. Paul’s have expressed appreciation of this and suggested that the prayer be printed in our Magazine.

We commit ourselves, to work for the people of Scotland,  
uniting to build a better society, grounded in the values and ideals we share,

Let us act wisely:

respecting our differences  
healing one another's pain  
working together for the common good

Let us act justly:

towards those who have held different views  
towards those who cannot stand up for themselves  
towards those who live life on the margins

Let us act with compassion:

when we see others struggling  
when our neighbour needs support  
when our rivals are in despair

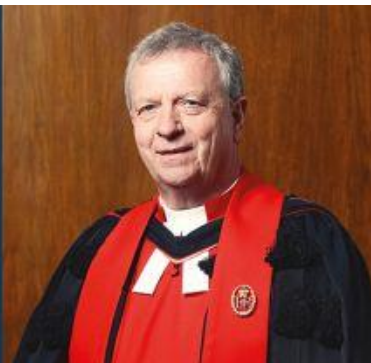
Let us act with integrity:

putting the good of others before our own  
putting honesty and truth before personal advantage  
putting self-interest aside in favour of self-sacrifice and noble service



We cannot let ourselves be defined by which side we were on, on the 18th of September. We must make sure that post-referendum there is no us and them but only us.

Rt Rev John Chalmers



# Life And Work

## October Edition



### **Caring for Creation**

Thomas Baldwin examines the relationship between faith and stewardship of nature

### **Reforming the Kirk**

In the first of a six-part series, the Rev Dr Doug Gay outlines the challenges that lie ahead for the Church of Scotland

### **Blessing 'the Animals Who Grace Our Lives'**

Jackie Macadam looks at the growing numbers of 'blessing of the animals' services

### **The Radical Behind the 'Ragged Schools'**

Jackie Macadam learns about the man who helped educate the poorest in Victorian Scotland

### **An Act of Liberation**

The Very Rev Professor David Fergusson considers Jesus' message in healing the bleeding woman

### **All Are Welcome**

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson urges congregations to become more accepting and inclusive

### **A Narcissistic Culture?**

Ron Ferguson reflects on the issues created by the cult of 'celebrity' and technology

### **'Many Generations of Christians'**

John R Hume visits a Perthshire church with links to early Christianity

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



## **Inside Out: Faith Driven Action - A joint conference by Church and Society and CrossReach**

This conference will look at how faith drives people to engage in society and the role of faith in local and political involvement. It aims

to provide support to Church and Society and CrossReach representatives in local congregations, but is open to all those who have an interest in the work of both Councils.

Worship will be led by the Moderator, the Rt Rev John Chalmers, and we will be joined by a variety of speakers and workshop facilitators who will lead sessions relating to our key themes. There will also be the opportunity to share stories and best practice with delegates from other congregations.

Workshops will be available on the following topics:

- Let's Get On: churches and digital participation
  - The Church and Divestment: should we divest from fossil fuel companies?
  - Scotland's Future Now: beyond the referendum
  - Learn-Link-Love: Serve Your Local School
  - Money, Money Money: the way we use our wealth
  - Prayer and Partnerships : From small seeds good things grow
  - Two are better than one: Practical ways you can support CrossReach
- Places are limited and bookings are on a first come first served basis and must be made by 18 November 2014. You can book your place by emailing:

[churchandsociety@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:churchandsociety@cofscotland.org.uk)

### **Event Details**

Date: Saturday 22nd November

Venue: Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church

43-47 Merry Street

Motherwell. ML1 1JJ.

Cost: Free, includes lunch. Cancellation charge applies.

## World Mission

### 'A State of Emergency' - An Appeal from Syria and Lebanon



The Church of Scotland has received an appeal from the Supreme Council of the Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon, including our partners NESSL, with regard to the current situation in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Declaring a state of emergency, they highlight the dangers faced by minorities in the Middle East including

the immediate threat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), resulting in mass displacement, and the killing of groups and individuals.

They are asking all Protestant churches, including the Church of Scotland, to exercise their political and moral pressure to stop international and regional bodies who fund radical groups. Highlighting the need for humanitarian aid, they also ask for our support in healing the wounds of the Christian communities in the Middle East and to preserve what is left of the Christian community in the region.

You can help by holding the Christians in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq in your prayers, writing to your MP and supporting Christian Aid's Iraq Crisis Appeal.

### 1000 Years of Christianity Celebrated in Sweden

In this our year of Europe, we are pleased to celebrate 1000 years of Christianity in Sweden with our partner church The Uniting Church in Sweden. Originally part of the Roman Catholic Church, the Diocese of Skara in southern Sweden has been part of the Uniting Church in Sweden since the Reformation

The Swedish crown princess, church leaders and thousands of others from Sweden and across the world took part in an ecumenical pilgrimage, worship services, concerts and seminars.

The celebrations raised awareness of the plight of Christians in the Middle East as well as the lessons that can be learnt from the younger African churches.

## **Prayers for Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories**

We are joining with Christians around the world to pray for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month. We pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month. The next meeting will be on 22 October, 7-9pm: East and Old Church, East High Street, Forfar.

The Church of Scotland is joining this movement with Christian Aid and the Scottish Episcopal Church and in partnership with the worldwide ACT Alliance.

ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 130 churches and affiliated organisations working together in 140 countries to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalised people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality in keeping with the highest international codes and standards.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

24 November, 7-9pm: Elgin High Church Hall , Elgin

## **International Guild Members Visit Scotland**

There was an international presence at The Guild Annual Conference in September with the visit of Nancy Lin (Presbyterian Church of Taiwan), Rev Mwawi Chilongozi (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Livingstonia) and Kateřina Vojkůvková (Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren). Nancy Lin and Rev Mwawi Chinlongozi spoke at the WM Presbytery Conveners Conference and were able to tell us about some of the work of the Guild in Taiwan and Malawi. In Taiwan where

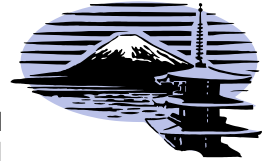


Christians total less than 4% of the population, the women are very active in evangelism and outreach, particularly among women known as 'migrant brides' who are brought into the country from Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Guild in Malawi has 60,000 members spanning from their 20s to 70s who meet weekly for bible studies and are involved in supporting widows who have lost their husbands to HIV and Aids. They have also set up a tailoring shop to make vestments for ministers, which previously would have been imported from Scotland, Ireland or America! This gives the women a sense of independence and purpose as well as empowering them.



## Japan Jottings



### Dear Friends

It has been interesting to watch the referendum debate and vote, at a distance. We were not allowed to vote but on the day it became quite a topic of conversation here in Japan, even having 20 minutes coverage on the main TV channel as the top news story on the morning after voting day. At that time, allowing for the time difference, the polls had not long closed and there was quite a lot of coverage during the day as the results came in. We were not really sure why it became such high profile news here.

This month someone is going to look after our boys for a few days and we are going on a visit to Nagasaki. That is a city well known for being one of the places where the atomic bomb was dropped but it also has quite a history, including Christian persecution. There is a famous place there with the statues of what are called the 26 martyrs, an earlier generation of Christians who lost their lives. There were some children among them and there is at least one recorded testimony of one of the martyr's final words as he faced death. We are looking forward to a break and seeing another part of Japan.

Our thoughts are now also turning to our short home assignment from January. Lorna will return with Calum at the end of December though Calum can only be back for two weeks. David and Alistair follow early January. The three of us will be in Scotland till early

April but David will stay on until the beginning of May to visit more churches during that month. As it is just a short return home this time, we will be based at Lorna's parents' home near Kinross. We will certainly aim to get over to Milngavie as time permits to catch up with everyone and will soon need to get working on some dates.

Many thanks for all your support for us including the generous financial gifts that we receive from St Paul's. It is a great encouragement in our work here as we aim to see the good news of Jesus shared with the people of Japan.

*With our love,*

*David, Lorna, Daniel,  
Matthew, Calum and  
Alistair*

### Flower Donations - October



Mrs S. Collar	Miss A. Niven
Mrs R. Fraser	Mrs D. Stark
Miss M. Hamilton	Mrs J. Townson
Mrs. A. Jones	Mrs M. Ure
Mrs G. Morrison	St. Paul's Guild

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

## Christmas Tree Festival 2014



This year the Association of Milngavie Churches plans to hold another Christmas Tree Festival in St. Paul's. It will run from Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> till Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>. The charities we are supporting this year are Chanan Glasgow, Friendship House and the Fraser Centre, run by Milngavie Old People's Welfare Association.

The November edition of the magazine will have fuller details about the Festival including the Music Programme. In November we will also ask for volunteers to steward in the Church, man the tearoom and provide baking for it. We have always been most grateful to everyone who has helped in the past, and look forward to the same level of cooperation this year.

Please put the dates in your diary and plan to join us in this community effort where all the churches work together. We find it is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!



## Men's Association Session 2014—15

After the summer break, our meetings re-commence on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October when Ian Marshall will be giving a presentation entitled "Waterway of the Czars - Moscow and St. Petersburg". A fortnight later on the 21<sup>st</sup> October we will be hearing about the charity work of "Help for Heroes". Both presentations will, I am sure, be interesting, enjoyable and informative and we look forward to a good turnout of members, friends and any members of the congregation who wish to attend.

Our meetings start with tea/coffee, biscuits and chat from 7.15 to 7.30pm. The presentations usually last for about 45 minutes and are followed by an opportunity to ask further questions of the speaker.

Our annual Coffee Morning will be held in the main hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 10am. to 12 noon. As well as tea, coffee and a delicious selection of cakes, there will be the usual stalls selling books, dvds/cds, toys, games, bric-a-brac and home baking. An ideal opportunity for an autumn "clear out" to set aside donations for our stalls!

## Silent Auction

It is proposed that we organise a Silent Auction this Autumn, all proceeds to go to the Preshal Trust. This would be a repeat of a very successful venture organised some years ago by our former Assistant Minister, Emily Campbell. The Lots which we hope to be able to offer for auction include:-

A golf lesson	A Power of Attorney
A round of golf	A dinner party
A beauty treatment	A Christmas cake
A hair cut	A steak pie
A bird watching trip	A clouty dumpling
A garden tidy-up	A week-end away (self catering!)
A Will	A tennis lesson

If not for yourself, perhaps you would consider offering with a view to securing a Christmas present as a charitable alternative to browsing the internet or hitting the High Street!

If you feel that you may be able to offer any services or goods in addition to these listed above, please contact Neil Rankine – 0141-956-1453 or 07986580116.

The Auction will be held after the morning service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014, when the bids will be opened! Mr. Buchanan will augment supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits with the £10 which he was given to invest by Preshal Trust, so come and join us after the service for fellowship in aid of this most worthy cause!

More details will be available in next month's Life and in intimations available at the services during the course of next month.

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Copy date for October issue is Sunday 19th October if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 22nd October if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th Oct	A. Gibson A. McLeod	Wilson Tracey		Team 1 P. McCreadie (C)
12th Oct	M. Abbott K. Hagart	McKinnon Wallis	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 S. Anderson
19th Oct	M. Mclean R. Cameron	Goodlet Chapman	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 S. Adair
26th Oct	J. Ford C. Tanner	McCreadie Sillars	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 L. Johnston