

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2015



Dear Friends,

I caught the Great British Bake off on television the other night – quite by accident you understand. It was the Easter Masterclass with Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood showing us how we can have a more calorific Easter. It was Paul's task to bake the ultimate hot cross buns and I must say they looked quite delicious.

While he was kneading away at his dough, Paul recalled the days when his father's bakery turned out thousands of hot cross buns every Easter. And he had ways of making sure everyone knew they were on the go. He would mix in some bun essence with a pail of water and then wash the floor of the shop. Everyone who came in was wrapped in the fragrance of the hot cross buns. Even more craftily, he placed a capful of bun essence above the extractor fan so that the fragrance would flow out from the shop to hook unsuspecting passers-by.

That's how to pack them in and ship out thousands of hot cross buns!

The Apostle Paul writes of Christians as a fragrance that leads people to knowledge of Christ. (2 Corinthians 2: 12-17) He is realistic enough to know that not everyone will be captivated but to many the Gospel we share and the values we embrace will be 'the fragrance of life'. That is what it means to live the Easter faith. There is too much in the world that gives off the stench of death, the materialism, the violence, the injustice. Those who have been touched by the story of Christ and live by His ways can show a better way leading to renewal, the fragrance of life that flows from self-sacrifice, compassion and truth.

Mr Hollywood's bakery poured out a fragrance that drew people in to taste and see. An Easter people, pouring out the fragrance of Christ, brings the hope of life to the world.

Wishing you God's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ferguson'.

Christian Aid Week



Christian Aid Week 2015 is from 10th to 16th May and as usual we are looking for collectors and a sign up sheet will be at the back of the church.

If you have never collected before and would like to do so, please speak to any member of the committee (Gordon Campbell, Betty Watson, Margaret Bonis, Alex McEwan, Marylyn Taggart) and they will tell you what is involved.

Counters will also be required in the main hall on 13th, 14th and 15th May,

Noah's Ark

We shall soon be in to the 3rd term of our 3rd year, & the babies keep coming!



At the beginning of 2015 an afternoon group was started so that a waiting list might not be necessary. It has proved quite popular, especially with mums whose 3 year olds now attend an afternoon nursery. Our afternoons have been very calm & gentle, as most of the children are fairly new babies, but, guess what, they are fast becoming crawlers & toddlers! We would appreciate a few new helpers over this next session, so if you could spare 1&1/2 hours once every 6 weeks or so, we would love to hear from you

Rosemary Fraser

Flower Donations - April

Mrs. M. Harald, Mrs. M. Hamilton,
Mrs. M Hossack, Mrs. I. More,
Mrs. E. Whyte

Please put donations in the Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to:

Mrs Wilma Douglas,
34 Braeside Ave.,
Milngavie
G62 6LJ



Brigade Blethers



Just a wee blether this month because all of our time is being spent preparing for the Auchengillan weekend and the Display. We head for Auchengillan this weekend coming and the excitement is building. Most of the girls have been before but they did ask to go back again. Suits the leaders because we all love it too. However I am really glad that we will be sleeping in a nice warm building and not fighting off the draughts that blow into tents. Must be my age showing!

The Display this year is on Thursday 7 April. We always have it early because the older girls have exams later in the month. We are doing "All things Scottish" this year and if you think Gaelic is difficult to understand just wait till you hear our Glasgow Patter. I'll give you a full report of the night in next month's Life.

God Bless,

Anne Goodlet

Book Club



This month's book is A Man called Ove by Frederick Backman. Everyone in the group liked this book about Ove and his trials and tribulations. Ove is a man of staunch principles, strict routines and a short fuse! Just think Victor Meldrew and you are almost there. The book starts slowly but is essentially a moral tale and a story of unexpected friendships. We understand this story was originally a blog and eventually emerged as an actual book. The story of Ove and his neighbours is by turns heart-warming and sad and will carry you along with its very readable narrative. All the characters are well drawn and believable. Give it a try – we think you will enjoy it.

The next book is Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and we will be meeting on 21 April 2015.

Joyce Clark

World Mission

Cycle Iona With EMMS

The Christian healthcare charity EMMS International, which works in Malawi, India, and Nepal, is delighted to launch Cycle Iona 2015, which takes place from 25th – 27th June 2015

Cycle 120 miles in 2 days through breath-taking Scottish scenery to raise much needed funds for their international healthcare projects.

More information can be found out at:

<http://www.emms.org/get-involved/join-an-event/cycle-iona/>

Fairtrade footballs launched in Scotland

Sports balls are always popular in youth clubs, BBs, GBs and with our own children, but did you know that only 0.25% of balls sold in the UK are Fairtrade balls?

A new company has been launched to try and help change that. Bala sports are offering a wide range of Fairtrade balls from Sialkot for sale here in Scotland. Why not consider them the next time you are buying sports balls? More information can be found at: <http://www.balasport.co.uk/>



United Mission To Nepal Sow Seeds of Hope 2015

Our partner the United Mission to Nepal's (UMN) theme for 2015 is 'Hope and a future.' They say that:

'As a Christian organisation, sowing 'seeds of hope' is what UMN is about. We must believe that the despair, oppression, injustice, inequity, conflict, shame, ill-health, vulnerability and environmental degradation that are endemic in Nepali society can be addressed.

We must believe that even the poorest and most exploited people in Nepal have hope.



World Mission (Cont.)

The world was shocked again recently as terror attacks on people worshipping in churches left 20 people dead and more than 50 people injured. Bishop Samuel Azariah, the President Bishop of the Church of Pakistan, has strongly condemned the cowardly and inhuman acts of terrorists against a religious minority in Pakistan. He also expressed the insecurity being felt by minorities in Pakistan at the moment.

The Bishop has called upon all Christian denominations in Pakistan to stand united in this time of trial and difficulty, and has stated that the people of Pakistan shall overcome through love and kindness to those who believe in evil and inhuman acts.

The Church has held a series of vigils and services to remember those who have died and were injured and to pray for peace and reconciliation. Further information can be found on the Church of Scotland World Mission Facebook page.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev John Chalmers has also issued a joint statement with leaders of the Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church in which they say "Christians and Muslims across the world are shocked and dismayed by this barbaric attack. There is never any justification for hatred. We join with everyone who is praying for Pakistan, for the families and communities that have been devastated by this attack."

The full statement can be read at:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/prayers_for_pakistan_following_terror_attack

LISAP success highlighted in Malawi

The success of our partners in Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme (LISAP) has been celebrated in the National Assembly of Malawi and their work will be highlighted by Ministers at the Conference on the Status of Women in New York later this month.

In particular a programme that works with boys and girls entitled Scaling Up Girls and Boys Empowerment is to be shared with delegates at this high profile event. The inclusive approach to addressing challenges such as forced and early marriage, child labour and increased exposure to HIV in some traditional authorities has particularly impressed Ministers and is to be used as an example of good practice.

Landmark Event to Preserve Gaelic Within the Church

The Gaelic speakers in our congregation may be interested to learn that the first ever conference exploring how the Church of Scotland can nurture and promote the Gaelic language in Glasgow was held on the 21st March.



The event was organised after Moderator-Designate, Rev Dr Angus Morrison, and Council of Assembly Secretary, Pauline Weibye, identified the urgent need for the Church to do more to promote Gaelic.

Speaking after the conference, Dr Morrison said: "It was a significant moment in the history of Gaelic use and provision in the Church of Scotland. I believe we can only go forward from here.

"The conference was clearly appreciated greatly by those who attended."

Hosted by well-known Gaelic broadcaster Cathy Macdonald, an audience of over 50 people enjoyed presentations from Margaret Mary Murray, Head of Service at BBC Alba, and the Rev John Urquhart, who has been developing contemporary and traditional Gaelic worship materials in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye.

They were also joined by Professor Donald Meek who talked about the development of Gaelic resources, Assistant Editor of The Scotsman Donald Walker who looked at the Gaelic print media, and Rev Hugh Stewart who provided a minister's perspective.

Titled 'An Ciad Ceum' (first step) the aim was to identify ways to develop the Gaelic language for future generations.

Some of the ideas discussed included harnessing the power of online resources, conducting a national survey to assess how the Church is equipped to provide Gaelic worship and encouraging presbyteries to include Gaelic provision within their presbytery plan.

The next step is to forge an action plan through the Church of Scotland's Gaelic Group

Traidcraft

Rice & Easter Eggs



Many thanks to all who support our work for Fair Trade, especially to our Bible Class which has highlighted the great need in the countries in which Traidcraft works.

So far you have bought about 260kg of rice-- which everyone seems to agree is about the best cooking/ tasting rice you can get, & this year about 110 of the 'real' Easter eggs have been sold. We still have some bags of rice left, & I hope by the time you read this that the last of the Easter eggs will have been sold & eaten! We were able to send a cheque to Traidcraft Exchange & I received the following letter :-

I quote,

Dear Mrs Fraser,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of £150.00 sent on behalf of St Paul's Traidcraft, to our Lent Appeal. At the moment, as you know, we are able to double your gift through match funding from the UK government. This means that we can help twice as many people.

Traidcraft offers people the training, skills, knowledge & investment to escape the poverty cycle & grow more, earn more & eat more-----

DFID's International Development Secretary, Justine Greening said; "By matching public donations to the appeal pound for pound, we can give isolated farming households in Bangladesh the skills, equipment & services they need to boost their incomes, improving the quality of life for thousands of people"

Thank you so much for your continued support--it means that together we can keep working with people who desperately need our help.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Bush

Director, Traidcraft

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Our time in Scotland has gone past quickly. By the time you read this, Lorna and Alistair should be back in Japan where Alistair will start his final year of Japanese primary school. Calum will also be starting his final year at Junior High school - an important year with major exams. We have enjoyed visiting different churches and prayer groups together and also having the chance to catch up with many friends and supporters. The downside of a shorter home assignment is that inevitably we can't catch up with everyone nor spend the more leisurely time with folks that we could do were we back for a year.

David remains in Scotland for the month of April and will move to be based at his mother's home in Linlithgow. It will be a time to catch up with some churches and prayer groups that we have not yet visited and it also gives the chance to share at the St Paul's prayer meeting on the 23rd.

We had an unexpected trip to Singapore last month for the funeral of a dear OMF Japan friend and colleague. How Chuang and his Japanese wife Kaori joined OMF with us in 1998 and together we started the church in Sapporo when we last returned to Japan in 2009. It was good to be there, though it was of course a poignant occasion. While he has gone to be with Christ which, as Paul says, is better by far, those of us who remain in Japan are called to serve and minister there while we have the opportunity to do so. And that is a reminder for all of us wherever we are, whether being a witness for Jesus in our locality or praying for and supporting those who serve overseas, that we should make each day count. The task in Japan remains vast and we value your ongoing partnership with us as we continue to serve there.

We are very thankful for those who helped at and attended the Cherry Blossom Fair in February. We have received a wonderful sum into our support which is as always a great encouragement for us.

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

April Edition - Life & Work



Easter 2015

The Rev Dr Martin Fair considers whether the risen Christ can be encountered when least expected. Easter reflections from Ron Ferguson and the Very Rev Dr James Simpson.

The Big Question: Is enough emphasis placed on Easter?

Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

The Water of Life

In the month of April showers, Jackie Macadam considers the impact of water (either too much or too little) on the lives of millions of people – and their faith.

Engineering a New Future

Angus Armstrong highlights the work of a Christian charity bringing clean water and sanitation to impoverished communities.

A Beadle's Tale

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson sheds light on the history of the Church of Scotland Beadle.

The Money Question

The Rt Rev John Chalmers emphasises the importance of affordable credit.

'An Extraordinary Possibility'

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the differences – and links – between science and faith.

Striving for a Fairer Nation

Thomas Baldwin discovers the plans of the Rev Martin Johnstone, new Secretary to the Church and Society Council.

Memorial to a Pioneer

Moves to commemorate the life of Robert Stirling, Church of Scotland minister and ground-breaking engineer and inventor.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

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

The Guild



16th Feb. Morag Thomson – Have Camera-will Travel. We were joined by the Men's Association when our intrepid traveller took us on a visual tour and a very well presented description of the many countries she had visited and sights seen. With her camera she captured the awesome sights of Victoria Falls, Grand Canyon, the Tulip Festival in the City of Ottawa & her trip on the Nile, to name but a few, plus pictures of Hippos, elephants, & exotic birds & shared her memories with us.

23rd. Feb. Matt Ramsay: A very welcome return from this talented young singer who is the Deputy Songster Leader at the Citadel. We were entertained with a selection of songs and were challenged To Go and make Disciples. His message to us was from Hebrews: 'Fix your eyes on God and stay strong'

3rd. March: We visited St.Luke's Guild where the Speaker was Penny MacLeod from **The Well-Multi Cultural Resource Centre** in Govanhill. 30% of the population is ethnic and they use it as a drop in Centre for advice, help with language etc. They also have a Mother & Toddler Group which doubles as a social gathering for the women. Hospitality followed with Tea & delicious home baking.

9th. March: Rev. George Vidits had to cancel due to illness. This provided us with the opportunity to watch a DVD of the 2013 Guild Annual Conference, when the Very Rev. Lorna Hood was Moderator. She talked about her time as a young minister in Renfrew, when it was not the norm to have a female minister and was treated poorly by some traditionalists who did not think it appropriate. When speaking to various guilds, her quips about remarks made were hilarious, challenging, uplifting & at times left her speechless. Her message was Take Risks – Take a Leap of Faith.

16th. March: The Time of our Lives was a compilation by Dr. J. Deans MBE and Anna Magnusson. Anna fired the questions and Dr. Dean answered with her recollection of how things were. During the war, teachers & pupils of Laurel Bank School for Girls, were evacuated en masse to Auchterarder House & Strathallan Castle in Perthshire. These were happy days for the girls as they continued their education and helped with the war effort, It was only on her return home that she became aware that her experience of the war was different from the harsh realities of others.

The Guild (Cont.)

23rd. March: AGM & Home Night. After the completion of the business part, we continued our final evening of the Session with Tea & Entertainment by our 'in house Thespians'. This was a take off of the BAFTA's and took the form of the 'Golden Teapot Awards', where the scene was taken from films which has TEA in the title. A surprise award to our President from her Committee in the form of a 'Certificate of Participation' in recognition of the many parts with which she has enriched the guild. She wished everyone a happy summer & we ended by The Grace being said by all.

Coffee Morning 7th. March raised **£ 1088.30** which was a tremendous result. Thanks to everyone for their support .

Bible Sunday Donation



Thank you to everyone who supported the Bible Sunday appeal in February. The total sum donated was £737.30. Thanks to all those who completed the Gift Aid declaration. When Gift Aid has been claimed by the Society the final total will rise to £883.55.

Frances Ireland

Thank You

I am still completely overwhelmed by the amount of kindness, cards and gifts which I received at the end of February when I reached a rather significant number in the birthday stakes. The words "thank you" seem inadequate to express my feelings to my many friends in St Pauls, but thank you all.

Hope to see you soon,

Mary Woods

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Copy date for the May issue is Sunday 19th April if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 22nd April if emailing. Please send to:
st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th Apr	M. McLean R. Cameron	McKinnon	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 J. Scott
12th Apr	J. Ford C. Tanner	Goodlet	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 B. Lawson
19th Apr	J. Clark S. Stenhouse	Sillars		Team 1 A. McLeod (C)
26th Apr	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Chapman	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 A. Begg