

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

May 2015



Dear Friends,

A Very British Coup was a television drama that made a big impact in the late 1980s. It told the story of Harry Perkins MP, a former steel worker from Sheffield, who becomes Prime Minister in a socialist government. His radical policies are generally popular with the country at large but he is constantly frustrated by unsympathetic civil servants, smeared by an influential media mogul and undermined by governments of other countries. Eventually forces opposed to Perkins come together in a bloodless coup to have him removed from office.

It was first-class drama with the late Ray McAnally excelling as Harry Perkins. It raised a serious question, however, which is still being asked and ought to be of concern to us all: who governs Britain? Is it our elected representatives or is it people we have never heard of who are in the background but press the buttons and pull the levers of power?

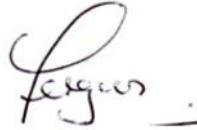
Contributions to that debate are still flowing from the pens of political and social commentators and rightly so. Whatever conclusions Christian people might come to we must always hold the perspective of the Scriptures on political power. Psalm 2 presents a picture of a God who is above political machination but is ultimately in control of the flow of human history. The Apostle Paul is clear that political authority is part of God's plan for the stability of the nations. Jesus boldly proclaimed to Pilate that he would have no power if it were not given 'from above.'

It is a great encouragement for us to know that whatever plans emerge from political manifestoes there is a Deep Story unfolding. Jesus would call it the building of God's Kingdom, the transformation of the whole of God's Creation, restoring it to that state where suffering and injustice and death have no place. In the meantime, certain individuals are entrusted with the welfare of the nations. They are given power 'from above' and are responsible to God for the exercise of that power. In the end, the big question will be how close a government has been to the Deep Story.

This is why we are commanded in Scripture to pray for those in authority. Paul writes:

'I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2: 1-2)'

Not that we are to endorse everything a government stands for but that a vision of the Kingdom might be kept before all those in authority along with an awareness of their awesome responsibility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fergus', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

## **St.Paul's Church Society**

The Society celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.

To mark this occasion the members decided they would like to give a gift to the church. The amount raised in a relatively short time far exceeded the committee's expectations and has enabled us to purchase the Lady Visitor Magazine stand. This is a beautifully crafted piece of bespoke furniture which enhances the Baldernock Road entrance and we are grateful to the members for their support and generosity.

As part of our celebrations next year we are not having a day outing but instead a weekend away. Leaving Milngavie on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and returning on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying for the 3 nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis at the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa in Craignure. On the Friday we will have several hours in Oban before crossing by ferry to Mull. We will tour the island on the Saturday with time in Tobermory. On the Sunday we will cross to Iona for worship at 10.30am in the Cathedral. We return home on the Monday. The cost is approximately £339 per person sharing a twin/double room with a £15 a night supplement for single rooms. Insurance is included in this price with Glenton Travel.

There are a few places available if anyone in the congregation would like to join us. Please contact:- Marylyn Taggart (secretary) 584-9993.

## **The Guild**

**The Guild: Summer Outing on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May** – The bus leaves Milngavie Railway Station at **11 a.m. prompt** and there will be a stop at Dobbies – Kinross for a lunch/coffee break. From there we travel to St. Andrews where there will be leisure time for shopping etc., before having High Tea at the Scores Hotel. The icing on the cake would be a warm, sunny day.



## Brigade Blethers



We headed for Auchengillan on the last Friday in March and driving up the Stockiemuir Road was like driving up a river. The rain was really heavy and those nice people at the weather centre had been predicting gale force winds. For weeks the girls had been talking about all the activities they would be able to tackle and I thought they were going to be disappointed. However! Our desperate prayers were answered and we ended up with a weekend of rather mixed but mainly good weather.

So we had everyone climbing the big outside tower, hitting the target with their crate climbing, playing laser tag and loads of other things. One of the leaders even had a shot at water walking. No, you don't walk on water, you are inside a huge plastic ball. Great fun to watch. We had a party on Saturday, Alex came up to take the wee service on Sunday and we all ate and ate and ate. I had a lovely e-mail from one of the Mums saying that her 8 year old had enjoyed it so much that she wanted to know how many days it was till next March. I know the feeling!

But now it is all hands on deck for the Display so guess what you will be hearing about next month.

God Bless,

Anne Goodlet

### Flower Donations - May

Mrs. E. Burns,  
Miss E. Izatt,  
Mrs. M. Robertson



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

Tel 956 2630

## Book Club



How many folks nowadays remember the terrible Biafran/Nigerian civil war in the 1960s ? Last night our group discussed the book we had just finished reading - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel "Half a yellow sun".

No-one could read this book without being deeply moved and troubled.

The author brings together strong characters from the different factions involved in this war. Her writing made us stop and realise the extent of the unbelievable suffering which the people endured. She made the reader care deeply about how her characters were pulled apart by events and how they stood up to the changes in their lives

Everyone in our group agreed that although this is a hard read at times they would definitely recommend it as a compassionate and thought provoking novel and several of us said that they would read it again. What came over strongly in our discussion was how the author had shown war to be a pointless and unsuccessful way to solve a nation's problems

Our next book is Gilead by Marilynne Robinson and it promises to be a good read. We dont meet again till Tuesday 16 June.

## World Mission - Scotland

### Get involved: Climate Change

Climate change not only affects us here in Scotland or the United Kingdom, but it has been identified as a huge threat by our partners across the world. It is easy to forget, but our actions in Scotland impact upon the lives of our partners living in Africa and Asia and beyond.

For members of the Church of Bangladesh, for example, the impact of climate change is a daily reality, resulting in the destruction of crops and farmland, and forcing people to migrate. This December the 21<sup>st</sup> CoP Conference will be held in Paris and there is plenty that you can do to get involved in to learn more about climate change and to lobby our government to activate change this year.

From lobbying our politicians in London on 17<sup>th</sup> June to taking part in the 'For the Love of' campaign there is something for everyone. Why not get started by exploring our partner Christian Aid's One Million Ways website to learn more and start making little changes that will have a big impact?

## **World Mission (Cont.)**

### **Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Statement about the University of Garissa Massacre**

The Moderator of PCEA, the Right Rev David Gathanju has spoken out about the University of Garissa Massacre, which took place on 2 April, 2015 in Kenya. In a statement delivered on 5 April he said:

“The PCEA joins the nation in condemning this cowardly act in the strongest words possible. As a church we are praying and mourning with the families affected and with the whole nation during these trying moments, when there are more questions than answers.”

Further information can be read at: [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/World\\_Mission/world\\_mission\\_news/africa](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/World_Mission/world_mission_news/africa)

### **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 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 September: St Kentigern's Church, Kilmarnock

24 October, 10.30-12.30pm: Selkirk United Reformed Church, Selkirk

You can organise an event for your congregation, for a small group of interested people or pray individually. Candles are available from the World Mission Council.

If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Carol Finlay, World Mission Council [cfinlay@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cfinlay@cofscotland.org.uk) or Val Brown, Christian Aid, [VBrown@christian-aid.org](mailto:VBrown@christian-aid.org)

## Church Of Scotland News

### **Munro challenge: reach a summit, raise money for Christian Aid**



The Moderator of the General Assembly has called on the Church to get behind a major fundraising drive for Christian Aid by signing up to his Munro challenge.

On Saturday 2 May, Rt Rev John Chalmers and Rachel Hutcheson, National Youth Assembly Moderator, will be leading by example by climbing Ben Lomond. Mr Chalmers said: "This day out is much more than a fundraiser – it is an opportunity to join me and Rachel on a pilgrimage during which we will contemplate some of the mountains that Christian Aid and others are still trying to climb on their way to creating a world that is just and fair and which gives the poor a chance to climb out of poverty."

As they prepare for their trek, the two Moderators are calling on congregations across Scotland to reach the summit of 69 other Munros to mark the 70th anniversary of Christian Aid. Ms Hutcheson added: "I really hope everyone who is able to will climb with us in order to raise as much money as possible for a charity I am very proud to support. If people are unable to support John and me in person then I'd be very grateful if they could sponsor us."

### **New Partnership Projects Unveiled by Church of Scotland Guild**

SIX new partner projects – are set to benefit from a three-year partnership project with the Church of Scotland Guild. The new set of project partners are:

- Street Pastors (500 of them operate in 20 towns and cities across Scotland providing care on the nighttime streets principally at weekends)
- Care for the Family (working with those facing family difficulties)
- a Christian Aid project in Bolivia (caring for the environment and seeking to educate about climate change)
- Mission International's Haiti Project (working in one of the poorest countries in the world)
- a Feed the Minds project against FGM in Kenya (tackling complex cultural and social problems)
- Prospects, an organisation which supports people with learning disabilities in churches.

## **Guild Projects Cont.**

Previous partnerships have raised substantial six-figure sums for the projects supported by the Guild during the three-year initiatives.

Announcing the projects for 2015 to 2018 under the theme of 'Be bold, be strong!', Guild General-Secretary Iain Whyte said: "These wide-ranging project will allow the Guild to reflect on inclusion, poverty, gender inequality, climate change, relationships and pastoral issues."

## **Dates For Your Diary**

### **Summer Songs Of Praise**

The Milngavie Churches Summer Songs of Praise evening will take place on Sunday 7th June in the UF Church at 7pm.

Please note there will be no service in St Paul's that evening. We hope as many as possible will join us for this popular service.

### **Thinking Allowed Lecture Series Presents Bishop Jack Spong - "Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy" Cairns Church, 11th June**



If one could read Matthew's Gospel with Jewish eyes, we would know that many of the stories were not written to be understood literally, but to be read as Jewish stories fulfilling the Scriptures.

If we knew the liturgical calendar of the Synagogue, we could recognise the organising principle behind Matthew's Gospel. Bishop Jack Spong will further explore the fact that Biblical fundamentalism is so often the response of Gentile worshippers who are unfamiliar with anything Jewish. He will invite us to look at Matthew's Gospel with a new set of eyes.

Tickets are £12 and can be purchased from the Cairns office - 956 4868, or a booking form is available at [www.cairnschurch.org.uk](http://www.cairnschurch.org.uk)



**Dear Friends,**

By the time you read this we should all be together again in Japan, apart from Daniel who is continuing the third year of his Law course in Brisbane. It has been an encouraging time spending a few months in Scotland, touching base again with churches, friends and family. We are hoping that our next time back here will not be as long as six years from now! Actually we are hoping it will be in the second half of 2017 which does not seem that far away. However, plans can change...

The school year in Japan is now in full swing. Alistair has started his final year of elementary school and Calum is in his final year of Junior High school which lasts three years. The next stage is a different school (also for three years) and everyone needs to sit difficult entrance exams for these schools early next year. It is a complicated system that is new to us as our older two boys did not go through Japanese high school. Calum is hoping to stay on with his present football club and move into their youth team which means a three year commitment. The news from Matthew is that he has decided to follow Daniel and will go to Glasgow to study Law.

There is quite a lot going on over May and June in the OMF Japan world as we put in place a new organisational structure with a new leadership team. Changes are not necessarily easy so there will no doubt be a number of bumps and challenges along the way as we implement the new system. But we hope that this will be something which enhances our ministry in Japan and gives everyone the support and freedom they need to engage the people of Japan with the gospel. There is so much still to be done and so many people still to be reached with the good news of Jesus. OMF is just a small part of that, but as the largest mission group in Japan, we want to play our part responsibly and work well with the Japanese church and local pastors to help God's kingdom expand in that land.

Thank you as always for your faithful prayers for us and for the regular financial support we received from St Paul's. It is a joy to be in partnership in the gospel.

With our love,

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



## April Edition - Life & Work



### **Christian Aid Turns 70**

Jackie Macadam meets the Rev Kathy Galloway, head of Christian Aid Scotland, and learns more about the charity's anniversary.

### **General Assembly 2015**

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Angus Morrison.  
Reports to the Assembly.  
Heart and Soul preview.  
Assembly timetable and Fringe programme.

### **Pentecostal Birthright**

Ron Ferguson calls for a return of the original Pentecostal vision.

### **Service and War**

Lynne McNeil discovers the cost of the Second World War to the Church of Scotland.

### **The Quintinshill Firestorm**

Jackie Macadam reports on the role of churches in commemorating the centenary of a rail tragedy that cost 216 lives.

### **In Praise of Pilgrimage**

Muriel Armstrong reports on the formation of a new body charged with promoting pilgrimage in Scotland.

### **Stopped in My Tracks**

The Rev Gordon Jamieson shares a personal encounter with stress in the ministry.

### **Rediscovering Family**

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson calls on the Kirk to be family again.

**The General Assembly opens on Saturday May 16. Follow proceedings with daily updates at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), [www.facebook.com/lifeandwork](https://www.facebook.com/lifeandwork) and [www.twitter.com/cofslifeandwork](https://www.twitter.com/cofslifeandwork)**

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## Lodging House Mission Update



Dear friends,

Our grateful thanks to everyone who donated to our Easter Meal Appeal. Your donation will enable us to provide a good number of healthy meals to our service users throughout the rest of the year.

Numbers coming have increased over the past few months with a daily average of 90 attending. This has meant that the hall is much busier and more vibrant. The opening of the pool table for a period in the morning and afternoon, with a weekly pool competition on Tuesdays has contributed to the lively atmosphere we are now experiencing.

Two other significant classes are happening at the moment. One is storytelling with Wilma at which tea with scones and jam are served during the telling of the story and very much appreciated by both teller and listener. The second is baking with Catherine. This class takes place in the main hall and the aroma from the baking causes much mouth-watering. The group so far have made scones; different flavoured sponges (coffee, chocolate, lemon,) pancakes and pear muffins with raisins. There is no shortage of volunteer samplers!

We would also like to welcome Ilisa who is studying photography at one of

the colleges in Glasgow. She is with us two days per week and has already taken a number of photographs of some of the activities and events which can be accessed on our Facebook page.

Numbers coming to the Tuesday Service and Bible Study remain steady with anything between 6 and 9 attending. A retreat to Alltnacriche (SU Activity Centre near Aviemore) is taking place from 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April. 8 or 9 service users along with 4 staff are looking forward to peaceful surroundings and an opportunity to study God's word together and spend time reflecting on his goodness and love. More details on how the weekend went will be shared at a later date.

Work on the church refurbishment is making steady progress. The floor has been sanded and is now waiting to be varnished. A new toilet is in the process of being installed.

Finally, remember to keep **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July** free so that you can join us in a **Family Fundraising Day at Kelvingrove Park**. Plans are well in progress and more details will be sent to you in the near future.

Blessings,  
Gus McKay, Chaplain

## Lodging House Mission AGM Report

On Wednesday 8th April I attended the AGM of the Lodging House Mission. The support of churches, trusts and individuals was acknowledged and thanks expressed. It was pointed out that 2014 was the first year since 2008 that the LHM had not benefitted from six figure donations (lottery or legacy). As a result there have been two redundancies resulting in an even greater emphasis on volunteering. Anyone considering this should bear in mind that it can be for short periods. All are welcome.

The golf day, normally a big fund raiser, didn't take place and, because of the Commonwealth Games, the cycling event was organised last minute so not as well attended as usual. In spite of the drain on reserves it is very much hoped to maintain the same level of facility to the service users.

After the business meeting we heard from a volunteer, a young man planning to train to be a priest and spending a gap year with the LHM, a service user describing his life and the benefits and friendship he has found in the LHM, and lastly an employee. She explained that no day is the same. She is called upon to be an advocate, give advice, assistance and friendship. The latter is so important within the mission as loneliness is a big aspect for the service users.

All the contributors were very impressive including the young choir mistress who finally lead the LHM choir singing two Scottish songs for us.

### Ann Begg, Congregation Rep to the LHM

#### Poem for Pentecost

His pairtin wurd tae them wis,  
    'Bide ye tryste';  
Belyve they socht the weil-loed upper room  
    Wi aa its waesum memories o Christ  
The nicht afore men drave him tae the tomb.

Foregethert wi accord they bade in prayer:  
They mindit, though they didna unnerstaun  
Sum wirds he spak, that he wad aye be thair  
    As near tae them as their ain fit or haun.

They mindit hou he lowned the win at sea  
The time they speired, 'wis he tae lat them  
    droun?'

An hou wi Jeames an John he wadna gree  
Fan they'd hae brunt wi fire the fremit toun.

A suddent blast gaes rummlin roun the  
    houss,  
Win reemishes an shaks the verra waas,  
    Fae airt oonseen the lowpin fire braks loose  
    An flambeau sets on lika heid it faas.

Upo them comes, wi force o win an flame  
The Halie Ghaist wi tokens o his micht;  
In ilka tounge wi pour they preach God's  
    Name,  
An set ableeze the age-auld mirk wi licht.

Ivo Macnaughton Clark  
(1883 -1950)

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Copy date for the June issue is Sunday 25th May if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 27th June if emailing. Please send to:  
st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
<b>3th May</b>	S. Anderson M. Adams	McCreadie	M. Ure J. Mill	Team 9 H. Arnold
<b>10th May</b>	M. Conway K. Edwards	Berry	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 B. Shearlaw (EC)
<b>17th May</b>	A. Galloway J. Townson	Wallis	J. MacIntyre M. Fewell	Team 3 R. Gow
<b>24th May</b>	M. McIntyre M. Spencer	Richell	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 E. Bragg
<b>31st May</b>	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Wilson	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 G. Fairbrother