

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2015



Dear Friends,

After an indifferent Summer we are currently enjoying one of the best Autumns I can remember in a long time. The seasonal mists are with us in the early morning and the rest of the day is bathed in light and, amazingly, heat. All the better to appreciate the changing colours of the trees which are quite stunning. Of course those same colours are often represented in a negative way. They are a sign of decay and the unstoppable advance towards the darkness and cold of Winter. Was it Frank Sinatra who sang 'I'm in the Autumn of my years'? Hmmm.

Sometimes, however, somebody brings a welcome new perspective on things. A minister friend of mine is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 2's 'Pause For Thought'. He spoke about the positive side of the leaves turning brown and falling off the trees. Apparently this is all about conserving energy. The trees and plants are jettisoning what they don't need over Winter when heat and light are in short supply. They are better able to face the Winter without their mantle of green. Furthermore, where the leaves fall they can become mulch to improve the fertility and health of the soil.

This challenged me to think about the things I don't need which if I cast them off would enable me to face better the challenges of discipleship.

Jesus once came face to face with an earnest young man who was interested in 'eternal life'. Jesus told him that the first step was to sell everything he had and give to the poor. But the young man was rich and couldn't bear to jettison the things that were so precious to him. (Mark 10: 17-31).

Paul once appealed to two women in Philippi who were at odds with one another to be reconciled, to jettison the feelings that were coming between them. (Philippians 4: 2)

The unknown writer of the Letter to the Hebrews places a more fundamental challenge before his readers, to jettison all the thoughts, words and actions that undermine our Christian witness:

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' (Hebrews 12: 1)

There may be a lot of stuff - material, psychological, spiritual – that we need to ‘throw off’ to fulfill Jesus’ vision of a people who are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Our hearts might sink at the challenge but I cannot believe that the Saviour who died for us would place the vision before us unless the resources were available for us to run that race marked out for us. He has given us His Word to show what needs to be thrown off and His Spirit to strengthen, encourage and empower in the way that lies before us.



## **Men’s Association**

Our programme of talks and presentations restarts on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.



The committee members have organised what we believe will be a very interesting, informative and entertaining programme for the coming session.

Our opening meeting is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, please note not as previously intimated. It will be a talk entitled the "Summerlee Experience" which will be given by Justin Parkes the curator, Industrial History at the Coatbridge museum. This will be followed by a visit to the Summerlee Experience on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, Ross Deuchar will be giving us a presentation entitled " Glasgow and American Gangs : Problems and Solutions". Our Association meets fortnightly at 7pm in the Centenary Hall. We look forward to welcoming members, friends and members of the congregation to our meetings.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind everyone that our annual Coffee Morning will be held on the morning of Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup>. October. Now is the time to be tidying out all those unwanted gifts, bric a brac, books, toys etc. to donate to the stalls!

**Ken Maclver**

## Harvest Thanksgiving

Once again our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was a success. The posies on the pews, plants and flowers provided a splash of colour and the varied food made a wonderful display.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who donated items, gave up their time and energy to decorate the Church, deliver plants, flowers and gifts to members of our congregation and to deliver boxes of food to the Salvation Army and Lodging House Mission.

A special thank you must be given to the Sunday Club and Bible Class for their donations and creating the cards which are greatly appreciated by our members who are ill or housebound.

Once again the Girls' Brigade enthusiastically created and donated the beautiful posies which made the church so colourful and are also appreciated by those who receive them. Well done girls, officers and helpers!

The contribution on the day to the Church of Scotland World Mission Project – A Place at the Table was a superb £1,400 and this will no doubt continue to rise. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Once again, thanks to everyone involved in making the day such a success.

### **Elizabeth McEwan**

Harvest Thanksgiving Convener

## Mission Aviation Fellowship

The MAF Day of Prayer is on Sunday 18th October when thousands of their supporters across the UK will join them to pray for MAF's ministry.



This year's theme is based on God's wonderful promise to us in Jeremiah 29.11 and is entitled, A Hope and a Future.

It will focus on how MAF is bringing hope to the thousands of remote and impoverished communities by providing practical help, physical healing and the life-giving words of the gospel. Hope that provides those struggling to survive day after day with a future – now and eternally.

## Brigade Blethers



We now have 30 girls signed up for Brigade and hope to have more come to join us as a result of the flyers we have put out round the local schools.

Our first night was a games night and the girls were asked to bring along a friend. It was great to see the big hall filled with children having a bit of fun. Because our badgework is centred on trees and wood the leaders took the girls down to Lennox Park the following week to do a bit of bark rubbing which they will use to make a frieze for the wall. Then last Thursday Elizabeth, Iris and Marylyn came along to help the girls construct about sixty posies for the Thanks-giving service on the Sunday. Quite a number of the congregation said that the Church looked lovely so many thanks to everyone involved.

So there you go! You never know what you might get up to on a Brigade night. Why not come along and find out ?

**Anne Goodlet**

## The Guild



The new session of the Guild begins on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. in the Large Hall. Our new 3 year Strategy is "Be Bold Be Strong" and our Theme for 2015/16 is "Go in Peace". We have quite a varied syllabus organised and it would be great to see new members join us. Here's a list of our guests for the first month.

5 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Fine Fettle Music Group
12 <sup>th</sup>	Japanese Reflections : Mrs. Valerie Kinghorn
19 <sup>th</sup>	Old Maryhill : Mr. William Black
26 <sup>th</sup>	Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Britain : Dr. C. Donaldson

We have no meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November as we will be visiting St. Luke's Guild on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

If you would like to know more about our Guild Meetings please speak to Jean Scott or Marion Shearlaw.

## **Big Sing - 20th November, Dunfermline Abbey, Dunfermline**

Come and join us for a celebration of Guild Week as we sing favourite hymns and praise songs, both old and new, in the beautiful setting of Dunfermline Abbey. For tickets, email [guild@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:guild@churchofscotland.org.uk) or call 0131 240 2217. All welcome!

## **World Mission**

### **ACTS Anti-Human Trafficking Conference**

The Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group invites you to their conference 'Crossing Continents to Combat Trafficking' on Saturday 17 October, 10-4.30pm at St George's Tron in Glasgow. Come along and hear about how churches in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe are tackling human trafficking and find out what we can do to help



Contact Miriam Weibye to register or for more information: [miriamweibye@acts-scotland.org](mailto:miriamweibye@acts-scotland.org) or 01259 216980

## **World Mission at the General Assembly**

2015 was a great year for World Mission at the General Assembly. We welcomed wonderful delegates from across the world, met with many of you and had a blast at Heart & Soul! Here are some of our highlights:

- The Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana invited the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan to their General Assembly to look at how they can help South Sudan.
- Rev Paraic Raemonn, minister of St Andrews, Jerusalem won the prize for most speeches during the week!
- Canon Shehadeh (Diocese of Jerusalem) encouraged us to visit Christians in Palestine and Israel: 'I encourage you to visit your brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. There are not just holy stones, but living stones, who need to know they are not alone, but belong to the body of Christ.'



### Dear Friends

Last month during our OMF Japan Leadership Team meetings we were beginning to think again about our role here and the focus and direction OMF should have. While there is a church here in this land, many are small and struggle along, though there are certainly others that are seeing growth and people coming through to faith in Jesus. In a country where over 99% of the population do not know Jesus (and many have never heard the gospel message) there is still a need for workers to come as missionaries. This is one country in Asia where missionaries can enter freely but we can never be sure that will always be the case. We need to use the time well and take such opportunities as there are now to share the gospel with the people in Japan.

Some of our OMF workers are involved in church planting. These can be new churches which are started from zero like we did several years ago. Or it can mean working alongside a Japanese pastor in an existing church, but helping that church with outreach and hopefully encouraging a vision in the church to consider starting a new church in a place where there is none. And there are plenty such places in Japan.

Other OMF missionaries here use particular skills and gifts to reach out to particular sub-cultures, using sport, dance or music. Yet others are involved with students, one sector of society where people have a bit more time and less pressure between school days and working life. As Japan becomes more elderly, one important challenge for the church is how to reach out to these older people who often have time on their hands. And with almost constant natural disasters, the church can engage in helping practically to those who have suffered and lost much in floods, mudslides or earthquakes.

Thank you for your continued support, not least the recent generous gift to our support. We always appreciate your partnership in the gospel.

*With our love*

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

## October Edition - Life & Work



### **The Son of the Manse Inventor of Television**

Jackie Macadam discovers the religious roots of John Logie Baird, through the eyes of his son.

### **Tomorrow's Calling**

A look at the drive to recruit the ministers of the future, with a special focus on the various ministries of the Church of Scotland.

### **NYA 2015**

Jackie Macadam reports from the National Youth Assembly.

### **Scotland's Cradle of Christianity**

Ian Bradley highlights the distinctive spiritual atmosphere of Argyll.

### **The Cost of Faith**

The Moderator considers the price of being a Christian in some parts of the world today.

### **God Has the Last Word**

The Rev Dr Martin Fair reflects on the challenges laid down to Christians by the Epistle of James.

### **Childish or childlike?**

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights the virtue of child-likeness

### **A 'Vibrant and Active' Church**

John R Hume finds a town steeped in history in North Lanarkshire

### **A Dog's Life**

As Ron Ferguson takes a break, his pet collie Mansie steps in...

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

### **Flower Donations - October**

Mrs. S. Collar,  
Mrs. M. Hamilton,  
Miss A. Niven,  
Mrs. J. Townsen,  
St. Paul's Guild

Mrs R. Fraser,  
Mrs. G. Morrison,  
Mrs. D. Stark,  
Mrs. M. Ure,



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

## Church Of Scotland News

### Church launches #SignUpSunday for global education



All 1400 of the Church's congregations are being asked to back a petition to the United Nations calling on governments across the world to honour their promise to provide quality education for every child. A specially created promotional video has been released featuring the Moderator of the General Assembly and the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who was appointed United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education in 2012.

The Moderator of the Church's General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison says he is backing the #SignUpSunday initiative because the Church was instrumental in the introduction of universal education in Scotland. Following the Reformation in 1560, one of the first decisions of the General Assembly was to establish a school in every parish.

Dr Morrison says congregations are "heirs to a rich tradition of support for the right of all children to education. The purpose was not only to enable everyone to read the Bible for themselves, but to give each child a solid start in life. In time that strategy led to the transformation of Scottish society."

"By signing the #UpForSchool petition now we can all make a significant contribution towards the goal of this being the first generation ever in which all the world's children will be given a basic education, and thus receive their rightful start in life. I hope the videos will be shared by our members and the wider public on social media to get the message across."

The Moderator is being joined by Gordon Brown and Hannah Mary Goodlad, Moderator of the Church's National Youth Assembly, in launching the initiative. Miss Goodlad says people have a "collective responsibility" to stand up for the 59 million children currently denied access to any schooling because education is "life changing and life-saving" ..

Addressing a recent gathering of Church's National Youth Assembly Mr Brown said "When I talk about education, I am talking about what we can do as citizens of the world to make it possible for every child to have the basic thing we take for granted - the right to a decent education that will give them a proper start in life."

Miss Goodlad said it is appalling that so many children in the world were being denied an education – a situation she believes is preventable. "We all, regardless of who are, have a collective responsibility to speak up and out for those whose voices have been silenced."

For more information visit: <http://www.aworldatschool.org/upforschool>



## Generosity of Kirk members help trainee teachers in Malawi

She was a trailblazing Church of Scotland official who spent nearly 30 years supporting missionaries in Africa and beyond and championing the value of education for girls.



Betty Walls made history when she was General Secretary of the Overseas Council – the first woman to be put in sole charge of an Assembly committee. She made a significant contribution to the Church's work around the world and two years after her death in 2013 at the grand old age of 99 is still making an impact in Malawi thanks to a £20,000 gift she left in her will.

The Church's World Mission Council decided to use the legacy money and around £6,000 left by another 'Betty' - Mrs Betty Bone, to build an accommodation block for student teachers in the community of Embangweni, at Loudon CCAP Mission.

Dubbed the 'Two Betty's Hostel', the facility will provide a safe and comfortable environment for 80 young women while they train to be teachers.

Three leading officials from the Church's World Mission Council – the Rev Iain Cunningham, convener, council secretary the Rev Ian Alexander and Carol Finlay, twinning and local development secretary – recently spent three weeks visiting church partners in Malawi and Mozambique and took part in special hostel dedication service.

Asked about the significance of the new accommodation block, Ms Finlay, who is also acting Africa and Caribbean secretary, said: "It is very important because girls' education is crucial to the development of a nation. Women who can read and write in their own language are much more likely to have healthy children. Women in Malawi have not had the same opportunity of education as men for many years, despite the fact there are many who are very strong and able. Teaching women to teach others is very important as education can help reduce gender based violence and human trafficking".

Miss Walls, who lived in Morningside, Edinburgh and was an elder at the city's Palmerston Place Church, retired in 1975 at the age of 61. Mrs Bone, a member of Dundee West Parish Church who died in 2013 at the age of 94, had strong connections to Malawi. She and her minister husband, the Rev Bob Bone, lived in - Embangweni in the 1960s where he worked as clerk of works for the building of the original Loudon Teacher Training College. Mrs Bone was a teacher and taught at the night school and with other groups.

## Church learns lessons from educational visit to Srebrenica



The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood has led a high profile Scottish delegation, which included a number of people from the Church, on a visit to Srebrenica. The visit was part of the 'Lessons from Srebrenica' educational programme which aims to promote understanding of how the worst atrocity on European soil since World War Two can be used in Scotland to help create better, safer and stronger communities.

The nine-strong group travelled to Bosnia with the UK charity Remembering Srebrenica, which Dr Hood represents as chair of its board in Scotland. The delegation met survivors and relatives of the victims, as well as the British Ambassador Edward Ferguson and officials from the International Commission on Missing Persons. The visit took place shortly after the twentieth anniversary of the atrocity in July 1995 which resulted in the systematic murder of more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys.

Dr Hood said "This is a group of people who are influential in Scottish public life and who are deeply affected by the experience we are sharing in Bosnia. Already, our delegates are thinking about how they can use what they have seen and heard within their own spheres of influence to help shape a better society in Scotland. This is the second time I have led a Remembering Srebrenica visit - the power of this experience never diminishes. Bosnia was an integrated society which disintegrated; that genocide happened here is a sober reminder that it can happen anywhere, unless we learn to respect and appreciate our differences."

Speaking of her time there, Rev Foster-Fulton (convenor of Church and Society Council) said "The trip challenged my understanding of what multi-cultural means. I was humbled by the grace and the frank, pragmatic forgiveness shown by the victims and their families. Sarajevo is a city of great beauty, awash with culture and history, which feels like home. It made me appreciate the deep distinction between living alongside and living with, between those who share your space and those you share yourself with. For me the lesson we are called to learn is to live together as real family, not just faces who share a space, but friends who share life."

Remembering Srebrenica's Scotland Board was established in March this year. The charitable initiative raises awareness of this genocide in the UK. It works with individuals and organisations to help strengthen British society by learning the lessons of history to help tackle hatred, racism and intolerance wherever it occurs.



Grateful thanks to Fergus and the congregation of St. Paul's for the amazing support you have shown to our family following Jimmy's unfortunate accident in Majorca.

Your prayers, thoughts and cards of good wishes have kept us going during very difficult days.

We are pleased to say that Jimmy is making slow but good progress and hopefully will be home in the near future.

He is having good care at the Royal Infirmary.

Thank you all sincerely, once again,

**Margaret White and Jill Wallis**

"It's great to be back at Church!!!" After my fall at home in March 2014 I am very thankful that I've fully recovered from my extended ill health and I'm able to attend church again and return to my previous duties. I am grateful to all of you who encouraged me through your prayers, visits, gifts, cards, flowers, phone calls and friendship in so many ways. So Thank you all, and Fergus too for his visits; I appreciated all you did for me as it's lovely to be back with you.

**Linda Cowie**

Many thanks to the congregation for all of the good wishes/cards/presents that we've received to celebrate Chloe's birth. Your prayers and words of support over the past 9 months have been greatly appreciated and we're thoroughly enjoying parenthood!

Thanks again,

**Carla and Graeme MacAllister**

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Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th Oct	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Chapman		Team 1 J. Sillars (C)
11th Oct	S. Anderson M. Adams	Goodlet	L. Cowie C. MacKinnon	Team 6 G. Blackadder
18th Oct	M. Conway K. Edwards	Wilson	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 M. Boyd
25th Oct	A. Galloway J. Townson	Bates	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 L. MacNeill

Copy date for the November issue is Sunday 18th October if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 21st October if emailing. Please send to:  
[st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)