

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2016



Dear Friends,

There is a moment when you set out into a big city for the first time you can feel quite overwhelmed, especially if you are on your own. Like every city there will be noisy traffic, people in a hurry, buskers, beggars. You might even see shops with familiar names. But perhaps the language is beyond you, there are no familiar faces, you haven't worked out the street plan, it's getting to that point where you don't know where to turn.

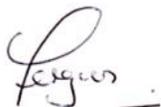
I remember feeling a bit like that when I first went to London on my own. I thought I had worked out how to get to Chiswick where my aunt and uncle stayed but it didn't take long for me to become a bit disorientated. The waves of people, the density of the traffic, all of it seeming to be at breakneck pace. Thankfully the language wasn't too much of a problem and an approach to a friendly London 'Bobby' set me on the right lines.

Cities can be scary places, especially to the newcomer. And yet it was in some of the most prestigious cities of the ancient world that Christianity made its first vital advances. In their own time they were no less complex and challenging than the major cities of our day and yet it was there that the Gospel was preached, people responded, and Christian communities were established. You can read about this in the Acts of the Apostles. Damascus, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, Rome all felt the impact of the early Christian mission.

There has been some disagreement as to the extent of the Gospel's impact on the ancient city of Athens but it was a bold mission that in the end turned some hearts to Christ. Paul was there on his own initially having escaped persecution in Thessalonica. As he awaited Silas and Timothy he wandered through the streets and became 'greatly distressed' that the city was so full of idols. This led to him preaching in the synagogue and also to engage with the intellectual community. (Acts 17: 17). Certainly the response was mixed but Paul left knowing that there was now a Christian witness in that great city.

Continued overleaf

These ancient Christian people believed in the power of the Gospel, in the promise of Jesus that He would build His Church, in the fulfilment of God's great plan to renew the whole of Creation. Interestingly, the Book of Revelation describes the climax of God's work as a city, 'the new Jerusalem', a place of challenge and opportunity, but where God is in control and nothing will come between Him and His people. As Paul wandered the streets of Athens this vision burned in his heart. He saw everything that was against God but he also saw the transformation that God could make as the story of Jesus was shared.



### **Christmas Tree Festival**



This year we plan to hold another Christmas Tree Festival, from Saturday December 3rd - Friday 9th. We are hoping to raise money for local charities. As usual we will be looking for help from members of the congregation, for baking, stewarding and tearoom duties, as well as coming to swell the numbers. In the past you have always been most supportive and we are sure we can depend on that same support this year.

Fuller details will be printed in the November edition of 'Life at St. Paul's'. Please put the dates in your diary now and tell your friends outside St. Paul's! If you have any queries feel free to contact Jean Scott on 956 5251 or Eleanor Easton on 943 0368.

### **Men's Association**

Our programme of meetings for 2016/17 restarts on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of October when Ramsay Vallance will give a presentation entitled "A West Highland Odyssey". This will be followed by a talk by William Black on "Images of Old Glasgow" on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

A very warm welcome is extended to all members of the congregation and friends to join us at any or all of our meetings throughout the session.

Further information about our meetings will appear regularly in the weekly church intimations.

## Harvest Thanksgiving

One again our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was a great success. The posies in the pews, plants and flowers provided a splash of colour and the various foods made a wonderful display.



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

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

Once again The Girls Brigade enthusiastically created and donated the beautiful posies which made the church so colourful and which were appreciated by the members who received them. Well done girls and the officers and to my helpers.

The contribution on the day to Glasgow City Mission was £524 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 Convenor

## **The Pound Cards**

Once again the cards are flying off the shelves and a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the sale of 500 cards so far. Some of you have even phoned with special requests for personalised cards and I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. For the time being we will continue with the theme of Butterflies, Birds and flowers.

Up until the 22nd October all monies will be going to The Preshal Trust. Just after that date we will be selling Christmas Cards and the money from these cards will go to The Vine Trust and the project that Rhona Raeburn and Marilyn Ure are to be involved in. So watch this space for The Big Launch.

Can I just thank each and everyone of you who have bought cards, complimented or even suggested ideas for future cards. I am very grateful and hope you continue to support the projects through the selling of these cards.

### **Alex McEwan**

## Guild News



Just to remind you that the Guild will resume on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, with entertainment provided by Yvonne Waring who will bring us memories of Joyce Grenfell.

The Guild dedication service will be on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter programme for October is as follows:

Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> .	Valerie Kinghorn	Japanese Reflections
Mon. 17 <sup>th</sup> .	Hilary Wildman	Waitrose
Mon. 24 <sup>th</sup> .	Douglas and Stuart Annan	Commonwealth Games
Mon. 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Valerie Paterson	Travel Gone Wrong

On Monday afternoon 14th November the Guild will be celebrating Guild Week with a Songs of Praise followed by Afternoon Tea in aid of our Guild Project - Care for the Family. We would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to join with our members on this occasion

We would be delighted see you on the 14th November at 2.00 p.m. in the Large Hall.

### Jubilee Hope

Rhona and I would like to thank all those who have encouraged and supported us prior to our volunteering to work on the Jubilee Hope.



The Jubilee Hope, was named to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee and in 2014 the Princess Royal commissioned the vessel in Mwanza, Tanzania as the first medical ship on Lake Victoria.

Rhona, a retired GP, and I, a retired midwife, look forward to the challenge of being of use around some of the islands in Lake Victoria where many people, being isolated, have previously had no access to any medical aid. High mortality rates are the result of people suffering and dying from common and treatable illnesses. We hope we can play a part in making a difference to some of the poorest children and communities in the world.

If anyone would wish to support the Vine Trust in this work they can do so through the following web sites.

[www.vinetrust.org/fundraise/rhonas-jubilee-hope-page](http://www.vinetrust.org/fundraise/rhonas-jubilee-hope-page)

[www.vinetrust.org/fundraise/marilyn-jubilee-hope-page](http://www.vinetrust.org/fundraise/marilyn-jubilee-hope-page)

### Marilyn Ure

## Book Group



Our book this time is *Entry Island* by Peter May, who is better known for his Lewis trilogy. A prolific writer, he has also written *The China Thrillers*, *The Enzo Files* and to date 5 stand-alone novels. Detective Sime Mackenzie is sent from Montreal to investigate a murder on the remote Entry Island, 850 miles from the Canadian mainland. The narrative moves between the murder investigation, Sime's troubled private life and the story of Sime's ancestors on the Isle of Lewis.

Peter May is excellent at atmospheric description and some of the best sections in the book were his description of the wild, remote landscapes both on Lewis and on Entry Island. Some of the group felt that this could almost have been two books instead of one. On one hand we have the murder mystery and on the other hand we have Sime's relationships, both with his ex-wife and the chief murder suspect. However, his depiction of the clearances was excellent. It was generally agreed that his Lewis trilogy was better than this stand-alone book.

Our next book is *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner and the next meeting of the Book Group will be on Tuesday 13 December 2017.

**Joyce Clark**

### Flower Donations - October

Thank you for your donations. It would be helpful if your name and address were included with the gifts, so that I can acknowledge receipt. Please continue to forward donations to Marjorie Thoms, at 66 Braeside Ave Milngavie, G62 6NN Tel 0141 956 5372 or place in flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the church.



Donations for October:

Mrs S Collar, Mrs R Fraser, Miss M Hamilton, Mrs G Morrison, Miss A Niven, Mrs D Stark, St Paul's Guild, Mrs J Townsen, Mrs M Ure, Fiona Brown.

Thank you to all the new members for your willingness to join the team, and to Margaret Hossack who has beautified our worship with her arrangements over the years.

There will be a team meeting after the morning service (23rd) at the front of the church, to discuss a few issues. Any points to discuss please forward to me ASAP.

Thank you,  
**Marjorie Thoms**



**Dear Friends,**

For the Ferguson family, life is beginning to settle into some kind of rhythm again after the school summer holidays and various comings and goings of family members in recent weeks. Matthew is now back in Glasgow for his second year studying law and Daniel is now in Japan until some point early next year. The younger two boys are back to school and football routine.

David is of course in a somewhat different rhythm to what has been the norm up till now and we thought he would share a little this time about his experience so far. By the time you read this I will have completed half of the chemotherapy sessions and awaiting a PET scan early October which will determine how the treatment is going so far.

In some ways these past months have been an odd experience. As an active person, I've had to learn to live with being much more inactive. As someone who was very involved in things and in a way 'visible', I'm learning what it means to be more in the background and taking life at a very different pace. Actually though in other ways, it is proving to be a good experience. It's kind of like a sabbatical I've been given that I hadn't asked for! There is time to read, reflect, and pray. There is time to be quiet and still, though I still need to resist the temptation not to overdo it!

In 'busy' Japan and in the 'instant', 'always on the go' culture that marks many societies today, moving at a different pace for a while is no bad thing. Reaching Japanese people with the gospel is challenging because so many are just overly busy and overly tired. There are no easy ways to get over these hurdles but maybe these months will teach us something different that can hopefully open doors to people and situations that we would not ordinarily encounter.

Thank you for your prayers and support for us here.

*With our love,*

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

## LIFE AND WORK: October Edition



### **Caring in Christ's Name**

As CrossReach Week approaches, Jackie Macadam profiles the work of the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland

### **'Follow My Nose'**

Interview with designer turned author Ethyl Smith

### **From Gender Justice to Fresh Expressions**

The Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, Andrew McPherson, reports on the work carried out by this year's delegates

### **An Online Life**

The Church's Head of Communications, Rob Flett, explains the benefits of social media to congregations and presbyteries

### **Hope in Death**

Robin Taylor considers the role of faith in end of life attitudes

### **Swapping Stark Pews for Smart Phones**

The Very Rev Dr Albert Bogle emphasises the need for change in communicating the core messages of Christianity

### **A Lonely Job**

In the months of harvest, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr reflects on the challenges facing Scotland's farming community

### **Divine Liberation**

Ron Ferguson reflects on the limitless love of God

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### **Church Secretary**

We are seeking to recruit a Church Secretary to manage and run the Church office and provide a secretarial service to the minister. The successful applicant should be experienced, computer literate with good keyboard skills and familiar with current office practices. The hours are nominally 20 hours per week 9am – 1pm.

If you are interested in applying and would like more details then contact either Rev Fergus Buchanan, the Session Clerk Mr Graham Mill or Clerk to the Board Mr Gordon Hamilton. (Contact details are in the Church Directory.)



## Noah's Ark

Now in its fourth year, Noah's Ark, the mother and toddlers group which meets in the large hall on Thursday mornings and afternoons is going from strength to strength. There are 60 toddlers registered for the morning session and the average attendance is around

40. There are 16 registered for the afternoon and the norm is around 9/10 attending. As you might guess, it is considerably more peaceful in the afternoon.

Noah's Ark was the brainchild of one of our elders, Rosemary Fraser, and we give thanks to God for her inspiration. She has now decided to step back from organising. She has been succeeded by Jackie Sillars and we pass our blessings to her for taking on this important role.

Towards the end of last term, we recognised that the small contributions made by the toddlers each day they attended had built up and that we could help others. We decided to gift £200 to each of Glasgow City Mission Child and Family Centre in Govan and Crossreach Daisy Chain Early Years Project. Members of St Paul's will be pleased to read the responses which can be seen below and on the next page.

Finally, Noah's Ark are always happy to welcome new volunteers to assist either on the floor or in the kitchen. Why not drop in and see what it's like - you'll be made very welcome. Please contact Jackie in church or on [noahsarkmilngavie@gmail.com](mailto:noahsarkmilngavie@gmail.com). We look forward to welcoming you.

Dear Mr Scott,

Thank you so much to the committee of Noah's Ark at St Paul's Parish Church for your generous donation of £200 to Glasgow City Mission' Child and Family Centre in Govan.



The Child and Family Centre celebrated its 30-year anniversary earlier this month. Your donation is helping families such as Sarah Jane, 30, and her daughter Savannah. Sarah Jane came to the nursery when it first opened back in the mid-80s. She says of the Centre, "It's been running so long you know it's successful. You can put your children in it and know they're going to learn. They use methods that work." The activities for parents which we run include a coffee morning, parenting classes and vocational courses.

Thank you also for your good wishes and prayers. Our work with some of the most vulnerable families in Govan would not be possible without such support.

Yours sincerely,

**Graham Steven**, Partnerships and Communications Manager

Dear Christopher,



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the families attending Noah's Ark for the very generous donation of £200. We are delighted that you have chosen to support the work of the project by making this donation from your funds.

At the Daisy Chain Early Years Project, we work with children aged 0-8 and their families. We provide a safe place for children to play together, to build relationships and to develop the skills they need to cope with school and the outside world. We also put a great deal of effort into helping parents develop strong and nurturing relationships with their children. It is hoped that supporting children at such a young and critical age will build their resilience and improve their life chances longer term.

The Daisy Chain project opened in December 2011 and since opening, we have welcomed several hundred children through the doors. The families attending reflect the diversity of the community and come from many different countries including Pakistan, Poland, Malaysia, China, Ghana, Libya, The Philippines, England, Slovakia, The Czech Republic and Romania as well as Scotland. By the grace of God we work towards breaking down the barriers of race, religion and language to unite children and families.

Bless you all for your generosity.

Yours sincerely,

**Kenny Fulton**, Acting Service Manager on Behalf of The Daisy Chain Team

### **Thank You**

The family and I would like to express sincere thanks to Fergus and our many caring friends in St. Paul's on the occasion of Harry's death - also for their attendance at the Thanksgiving Service. During Harry's long life he enjoyed good health but his final years showed a slow deterioration. A life well lived. Harry is now at rest.

**Margaret Laws**

### **Welcome: Czech minister inducted in to Annan Old linked with Dornock**

The World Mission Council and the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland have enabled a minister from the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB) to come to Scotland to serve in a parish for one year.



On Tuesday 30th August, the Rev Petr Peňáz was inducted to the charge of Annan Old linked with Dornock by the Moderator of the Presbytery, Rev. John Pickles.

Rev Peňáz, his wife and two daughters are looking forward to their stay in Scotland and have already been warmly welcomed by their congregation.

### **Creating Safe and Child-friendly Schools in Nepal**



The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) have inaugurated a Temporary Learning Centre Up-gradation programme for three schools in South Dhading, Nepal. Following the earthquake in 2015, it was vital that children were able to learn in earthquake-resilient buildings.

This programme provides the means for school buildings to become safe in the event of an earthquake, whilst ensuring that children enjoy a positive learning environment. The three inaugurated schools are part of a wider programme to improve educational facilities in Dhading. So far, Temporary Learning Centres of 14 schools have been upgraded, with plans in place to construct 45 more learning centres in Pida, Mahadevsthan and Jharlang.

The Regional Education Director, Dinesh Shrestha, was therefore very pleased to inaugurate the project which is part of UMN's Dhading Disaster Response Programme (DDRP) and supported by their partners PRAYAS Nepal and the District Education Office.

## **Church Of Scotland News**

### **New phone app showcases Maryhill Activity Directory**

A new smartphone app showing the vast choice of activities on offer in Maryhill is now online, thanks to a chance conversation between a local church minister and university lecturer. It led to the popular Maryhill Activity Directory booklet being turned into a free online resource by a University of Glasgow student who took on the challenge as a summer project.

The Maryhill congregation created the directory 15 years ago as a resource for local residents. Now more than 500 local community events, fitness classes, drop in cafes and a wide range of courses are now just a tap away for residents in north Glasgow.

“Now no one can ever say there’s nothing to do in Maryhill!” says Rev Stuart Matthews, whose Church of Scotland congregation in Maryhill produced the first directory 15 years ago. “We’re delighted with the app. Local people know their “M.A.D” booklet comes out every two years, but the 30,000 copies are essentially out of date as soon as they are issued.

Times or days of activities change and new things are happening all the time. Now all the information can be kept up to date online. It’s brilliant!” It’s now free to download on both Apple and Android devices such as smartphones and tablets.

### **Moderator signs interfaith declaration of shared humanity**

The Moderator joined a delegation of international religious leaders who signed a new declaration for humanity at the University of St Andrews. Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr said he was very glad to represent the Church of Scotland at an event that was both moving and timely:

Once signed, it is hoped that the document will be used in schools, and by community and faith groups around the world, to form discussion and foster the idea of a common humanity as a tool against radicalisation.

The signing event forms the beginning of the conference ‘Silence, Texts and Service: Towards a Christian, Hindu and Buddhist Dialogue’, a three-day series of special events, prayers and lectures at St Andrews.

The event marks the culmination of the Year of Interfaith Dialogue, an initiative set up by Professor Aguilar to stimulate conversation about the commonalities between the different faiths of the world.

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Copy date for the November issue is Sunday 23rd October if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 26th October if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
2nd Oct	M. McLean A. McLeod	Goodlet Wallis		Team 1 F. Dorrall (C)
9th Oct	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars Bates	E. Burns C. McKinnon	Team 6 G. Blackadder
16th Oct	C. McKinnon S. Stenhouse	Berry McCreadie	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 J. MacIntyre
23rd Oct	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Wilson Tracey	B. Watson M. Conway	
30th Oct	S. Anderson M. Adams	MacKinnon Richell	M. Ure J. Mill	