

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2021



Dear Friends,

I am writing this just a few days before COP 26 convenes. As usual, with events like this, there is a mixture of cynicism and hope, disappointment and anticipation, realism and envisioning. You begin to have what you think is a clear view of what it's all about and what to expect only to have a voice in the media dismantle it all and leave you floundering once again. Well, it's just another example of how complicated life can be. Every spiritual and moral position we adopt can be countered with 'on the other hand.' Not that that should undermine our faith in the clear teaching in Scripture with regard to the nature of God and the blueprint for living He cherishes for humankind.

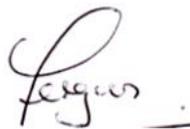
What should not be in doubt is that there are clear principles in Scripture that call us to a particular relationship with our environment. All through Scripture it is emphasised that the earth has been created by God and given to humankind to care for, nurture and protect. Therefore, if there are practises or projects that in any way despoil the earth and show carelessness in our role as stewards, they should be exposed and dealt with.

The impression is sometimes given that Christians are playing catch-up with issues related to the environment and are desperately trying to jump on the bandwagon. But where there has been faithful teaching and witness, there has been an awareness of our relationship and responsibility to the environment. Go back to the thirteenth century and Francis of Assisi's *Canticle Of The Sun* where he speaks of 'Brother Sun' and 'Sister Moon'. Go back to 1970 when the prophetic Christian writer Francis A. Schaeffer wrote a book entitled: *Pollution and the Death of Man: The Christian View of Ecology*.

There have been many Christian voices over the years raised in warning and calling for a change of heart and policy. That the world does not listen is something that even Jesus had to endure and he prepared His disciples for a similar experience. Not that this should in any way slow the momentum of the message. It is good therefore to hear that Tear Fund and other Christian charities have planned a number of events throughout COP. They will call people to recognise that there is an issue of global justice involved. The poorer the nation, the more they will suffer from climate change.

In the end, few of us are directly involved but our priority, as in all things, is to pray. May there be an emergence of a new way forward that will benefit the quality of life for future generations in every nation. May there be bursts of renewal that will point forward to the day when all things will be made new under Christ and the earth and humankind will be restored, a new Eden, harmony between God and humankind and everything He has created for our good.

Praying you and yours stay safe and well,

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

Advent Services

Our traditional Saturday Advent services will begin on 27th November at 9.30 am.

It's an opportunity to worship together and reflect on God's Word for us today, a time given to God in the midst of a demanding Season.

Elders from St Paul's will preach on themes arising from the ministry of the prophet Malachi.

Men's Association

Meetings are as below, in the Jubilee Hall with get together and tea/coffee at 7.15pm/7.30pm followed by the speaker from 7.30pm till 8.30pm and then questions. In view of the current guidelines, masks will be required to be worn during the meeting except when having tea/coffee. Windows will be open in the Hall to provide ventilation and members and guests should realise warm clothing may be appropriate.

2nd Nov	Rev. Claire Herbert - Chaplain to Lodging House Mission.
16th Nov	Rev. Linsey Brennan - Dundonald during the pandemic.
	Joint meeting with the Guild.
30th Nov	Dr Robert Hamilton - Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

All members and friends of St. Paul's, and for the avoidance of doubt, including ladies, will be made very welcome at all or any of the meetings.

Also, an early reminder of the Men's Association Christmas lunch at Milngavie Bowling Club on 14th Dec.



Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's



Saturday 27th Nov	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 28th Nov	10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship: Joint Churches Advent Service in Milngavie United Free Church
Saturday 4th Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 5th Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship: Joint Churches Advent Service in Allander Evangelical Church
Saturday 11th Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 12th Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship: Joint Churches Advent Service in St. Luke's Parish Church
Saturday 18th Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 19th Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Christmas Family Gift Service Christmas Readings and Music
Friday 24th Dec	7.00pm 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Family Service Watchnight Service
Saturday 25th Dec	11.00am	Christmas Morning Family Worship

Breakaway@StPaul's dementia support outreach was closed on the 10th March 2020. Our committee had gathered that morning and, on the agenda, number 9 was moved to the number 1 slot - '**Coronavirus 19**' This demanded response and action.

We decided that the fast-moving developments and spread of this new virus posed a serious threat to health; particularly to our elderly group. 20 months on we continue to experience pandemic uncertainty although we are thankful for the amazing vaccination programme and see the buds of hope as we recover and begin to look to better days.

The Committee met for the first time on the 12th October to discuss when we thought it safe to restart BreakAway. In view of the challenges of winter bugs and flu, mixed with Covid, we decided to wait till it is safe to do so. The Committee will meet again in early 2022 and if infection rates have fallen significantly to allow us to restart, we will draw up plans and make preparations for BreakAway to resume sometime in March 2022.

It has been a difficult time for many families coping with a loved one with dementia, facing the isolation imposed by lockdowns together with changes in care provision and the absence of normal support networks. There have been changes within BreakAway too and several members are now happily settled in nursing homes and a few remain at home with bespoke support in place. We have kept in touch throughout this time with phone calls, text messages, cards and gifts as well as remembering our friends in prayer through their difficult and painful challenges.

Our dear friend Elise passed away in the early days of the pandemic. Her husband, Frank O'Hagan appreciated the love and kindness BreakAway gave to Elise and the respite provided for him. He has been busy compiling a website which includes a section on social care and an article about BreakAway. As I read it, I reflected on how much I miss our sessions and the contribution of our wonderful befrienders. Here are the details with a message from Frank - "Gabrielle, I hope that all is well with you and everyone at St Paul's. You asked me to let you know when I had placed the page on contributions from voluntary support groups, on the website which I was setting up. It is now available on the link below".

<https://improvingcareand.education>

Thank you to the St. Paul's family in your support for BreakAway, praying that God grants us all 'Strength for today and Bright Hope for tomorrow'.

Gabrielle Buchanan

BreakAway knitting - A Stitch in Time !!

I am full of admiration for all the folk who have been producing a mountain of knitting throughout this pandemic. The BreakAway knitting group organised and co-ordinated by Elizabeth Bragg and Kate Sellar have 'cast-away' many balls of wool and patterns to our volunteers to enrich our communities on land and sea. Here is their story.

Since BreakAway closed its doors in March 2020 Kate Sellar and I have found our spirits uplifted by the large quantity of beautifully knitted newborn baby hats, small cot blankets and chunky warm sailors' hats which have found their way to our doors. The baby items were donated to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Maternity Unit and the Theatre Charge Midwife has written expressing her gratitude, together with that of her staff and the babies' parents, "to all who have given their time and money so willingly".

I was able to hand a large bag of sailors' hats to Becky Haldane, Port Chaplain for West of Scotland Sailors' Society. Becky told me the hats are an absolute necessity and in constant demand by our fishermen and merchant sailors throughout the year.

Kate and I thank you all very sincerely for your continued support of these two organisations. We on the committee are looking towards the re-opening of BreakAway when our Members can once again enjoy their knitting group.

Elizabeth Bragg

Gardening Thank You



The last 18 months have been really trying in lots of ways. Many of the garden team, for various reasons, have been unable to do any gardening but for those who managed may I convey my thanks for all your hard work through difficult circumstances. May I also give a big thank you to Hugh, our Church Officer, for his hard work in keeping the grass cut and of course not forgetting the hedge. I hope next year our team will be willing and able to continue in helping to keep our Church garden looking beautiful.

Sheila Dickson

Garden Convener

Remembrance

On 14th November, Remembrance Sunday, the service in St. Paul's will start at 10.30am with a time of Remembrance at 11am. Although there will be no service or parade in the precinct, the Session Clerk will be present at the War Memorial in Milngavie to represent St. Paul's. This proposal is for this year only.

There will be a time of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Thursday 11th November at 11am

Life and Work have produced a FREE four-page COP26 Special Supplement available now at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/cop26-special-supplement>. The purpose of this publication is to enable congregations to engage before, during and after COP26 and also signpost resources. Also, the November issue of the magazine has a focus on COP26 and Remembrance. Anyone that is not a subscriber and interested in this particular issue can purchase a single print or digital copy at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe>.

90 kg Kilombero Rice Challenge

Normally, at this time of year, the Bible Class would undertake the 90kg Kilombero Rice Challenge. Unfortunately, in these strange times, it's not going to be possible.

The good news is, we will be holding a virtual 90kg challenge and can help to fight food poverty both locally and globally. It's a win, win situation helping the Malawian farmers and local people. The downside is you don't get any rice.

You can donate any amount you like, and the donations will be used to purchase from Just Trading Scotland who will then donate Kilombero Rice to local food banks. Each kg costs £3.20. A box will be at the back of the church throughout November or contact me if you would like to donate by bank transfer.

If you are missing the wonderful taste of the Kilombero Rice and the Eswatini Sauces, we have plenty for sale at Gavin's Mill.

For more info, please contact me at Janice.maclean2@outlook.com or visit <https://www.jts.co.uk/realgoodfeelgoodrice>

Janice Maclean T: 07711361936

Guild News

We were delighted to hold our opening meeting on Monday October 4th when we welcomed a wonderful singer, Kirsty Duncan, as our special guest. She entertained us with popular songs from the shows, and was rewarded with some tuneful and enthusiastic singing from the audience. That same audience needed some encouragement to be quiet before the meeting could even begin, so pleased were they to be back among their friends! Many extra chairs had to be put out as the crowds poured in, proof of the pleasure everyone felt to be back.

The following week even higher numbers attended our first afternoon meeting. Our speaker, Alisa Turner, was a big draw. Her reputation as an excellent speaker was well-deserved and everyone thoroughly enjoyed her talk on The Glasgow Boys.

At the next evening meeting, on October 18th, five members received long service certificates for their commitment and contribution to the Guild for over thirty years. In addition, a further eighteen ladies were rewarded for over forty years' service. As was remarked later, it is thanks to ladies like this that our Guild is thriving even in these difficult times. It was fitting that Fergus was with us to present the certificates.

Our final meeting in October was again in the afternoon. Our speaker, Mhairi Philipson, works with Bethany Christian Trust and gave a very moving account of the range of activities and support they provide, especially among the homeless in some of the most deprived communities in the country.

Our first meeting in November is on the 1st, at 7.30pm, and is a presentation by Linda and Des Nicholl about their walking trip in the Himalayas- Walking with Yaks. The following week we meet in the afternoon when Ida Rennie will tell us about her passion for crafts, and on November 15th, in the evening, we will hear about the first of the projects we are supporting this year, 'Home for Good', which aims to find homes for vulnerable children by raising awareness of the need for churches and individual Christians to get involved.

The following evening, November 16th, we accept an invitation from the Men's Association when we look forward to hearing our own Lynsey Brennan talking about 'Dundonald in the Pandemic'.

On November 22nd Stuart McAra, a Milngavie 'boy' who grew up in St. Luke's, will tell us about the work of the Leprosy Mission in an afternoon meeting. Our final meeting for the month, on the 29th, is also in the afternoon and features Patricia Rundell who will talk about living on a canal boat.

All ladies are very welcome at any or all of the meetings. If you would like more information please contact Eleanor Easton (943 0368), Jean Scott (956 5251) or Kate Seller (563 9904).

Flower Donations - November

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the Month of November.



S. Collar, D. Stark, M. Hutchison, Mrs Morrison.

Please mark any donations for The Flower Fund addressed to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson.

Donations can be left in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or in the offering plate.

Service Recording Rota

Over the period from Lockdown in March 2020 until now, we have produced a recorded Church Service which has been seen on the Church website and the internet, via YouTube and on DVD for those who did not have internet access. The recordings have been made every Thursday morning and edited later that day to be produced the next day. The recorded service is different from the "Live" service on Sunday.

It is our hope that we will still be able to continue with a presence online, and our intention is eventually to be able to "live stream" the service to the internet, as it happens on a Sunday morning and this will be available on the website for later viewing. If this is successful, then I'm sure this will remove the need for Fergus to continue with the Thursday recordings.

To be able to do this, apart from the equipment we require, we will also need to have a dedicated team of volunteers to operate the equipment on a rota basis.

If you feel you could help with this important ministry on a Sunday morning or would like to chat with me about what this would entail, please phone me on 07723304077 or speak to me at Church and I can talk you through what is required. Age is not a barrier for this work, and it would be essential and an encouragement to have more people involved.

Chris Scott



Dear Friends

I hope you have been enjoying the beautiful autumn colours. I am looking forward to them this month in Tokyo. I always appreciate reminders in nature of God's amazing creative power.

Here in Japan we have seen an incredible drop in coronavirus case numbers. We now only have a couple of hundred new cases a day out of a population of 127 million people! However, although some restrictions have been relaxed, most people are still being very cautious and the government is already warning that a 6th wave of cases is coming! So everyone is still wearing masks, socially distancing, being careful to ventilate places well etc. Our church services remain spaced out and short to avoid any risk, and the country's borders remain firmly closed.

I have noticed how different this is to the approach in the UK which is much more relaxed. According to research, Japan is "one of the most uncertainty avoiding countries on earth" (Hofstede Insights). This means that Japan likes to be as prepared as it can be for various things that might happen in the future. Considering that Japan regularly has earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions (one volcano erupted last week in the far west of the country) you can understand why Japanese people like to make good preparations for uncertain situations. But while preparations can be very helpful, trying to prepare for every eventuality can mean that you miss out on some great opportunities.

As Christians we should have a different view of risk and uncertainty from those around us. We have a heavenly Father for whom nothing is uncertain and in whom we can completely put our trust. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I am a natural worrier and really don't like uncertainty, but God has been teaching me more and more of the need to trust Him for both the present and the future. As it says in the next verse of Philippians, then "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

May many Japanese people come to know that amazing peace that comes from trusting in Jesus.

Thank you as always for your prayers and support.

Lorna, Calum and Alistair

Preshal Trust

Dear Friends,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your most kind and generous donations, for the people of the Preshal Trust, from your Harvest service which will be a great help to us over the coming weeks.

At Preshal we are still extremely busy with the demand for hot food and are continuing to work with various agencies who are referring clients to us who are in need of a daily meal.

We are also witnessing the huge impact that isolation is having on the most vulnerable, many of whom saw the Preshal Trust as their place of safety, and also where they could meet up with friends and be given support and encouragement.

We have just recently been able to welcome people back into our centre, although restricted to outside dining, and both staff and clients are delighted at this move to a sense of normality.

I would like to thank you all once again for your generosity, kindness and support and we wish you good health and every blessing.

Kind regards,

Alan Nicholson,
CEO, The Preshal Trust.

St. Paul's Society Cards

There will be a mini re-launch the first Sunday in November, with cards being available once again in the church foyer. At the moment the most popular cards are the flower cards and they are available as Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You and just a note. You can see for yourself in the foyer but at the same time try and observe some social distancing. You can also contact me on 0141 384 0274 and orders can be delivered.

Money collected so far for Dumbrock House

Having sent off a cheque for £500 we have now reached a further £230 towards a Christmas Cheque for Dumbrock House. We are hoping for a bigger push nearer Christmas so we will keep you posted on how we are doing. Thanks as always for your wonderful support and donations.

Alex McEwan

The Church Cough

To sit in church, but I will cough?
I'd rather not, to avoid a scoff,
God on the pew beside me,
Oh, I wish I did not cough.

Covid is a blasted nuisance,
When can we meet without such prudence?
It blocks and restricts our options,
Still, friends, faith and fellowship must be our guidance.

Digital friends upon the Zoom,
They may as well be on the moon,
Pixel boxes share little,
When all we want is in the room.

I ought to wear a badge,
I did a lateral test and got a match,
Negative; I am relieved,
Pray it was an honest batch.

Isolation is no solution,
But there is real need for caution,
Time to learn to sing, write, paint and dance,
The world will always cause commotion.

For all the fear,
We must hold this dear,
This too shall pass,
Then all can cheer,

David Shaw

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021 takes place from 31st Oct - 7th Nov. This year the theme is 'Together for Our Planet' and the week will coincide with COP26, in Glasgow. Interfaith Scotland encourages individuals, faith communities, local interfaith groups and organisations across Scotland, to host climate-related events for the week.

Check out the Scottish Interfaith Week website for a number of ideas for running climate-themed events for adults and for young people. If that's not enough, you can find more inspiration on the Climate Action Resources page.

Want to know more? Why not sign up to receive the Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter to get regular updates. Or check out the Scottish Interfaith Week social media channels – find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
<https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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Copy Date

The copy date for the December issue is Wednesday **24th** November.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries
Oct 31st	K. Hagart J. Mill
7th Nov	A. McLeod
14th Nov	C. Tanner S. Anderson
21st Nov	P. Barlow S. Robertson
28th Nov	M. Conway K. Edwards