

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2022



Dear Friends,

There is something about sunflowers that always make me smile. They seem to radiate a vitality that touches me in the depths. What has added to my appreciation recently is that the sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine. For many hundreds of years, the sunflower has contributed greatly to the economy in the export of seeds and oil. It is not uncommon to find fields in the countryside ablaze with yellow.

Mention sunflowers, however, and many people will think of Vincent Van Gogh. They were the subject of 11 of his paintings and featured in many more. It is obvious that they made him smile too but when you look more closely at some of the paintings, the sunflowers look a bit bedraggled, petals falling off, stems rotting. Vincent's point seems to be that even the most colourful and vibrant parts of creation are subject to decay and death. Some have argued that Vincent became a little too preoccupied with this theme, more than likely arising out of his own fragile mental and physical health but he forces us to face up to an inescapable truth. The glow of the sunflower does not last forever. Every positive experience in life has its negation.

This is the life that Jesus has shared with us. He celebrated life. He appreciated, the birds, the flowers, the mysterious growth of the crops but he was touched by the disease, the disturbance, and the death that he observed and experienced. This was not the way God wanted His creation to be and we are told that there were times when His whole being revolted against the darkness that had invaded human experience.

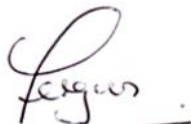
The Gospel According to John contains the story of Jesus mourning the death of His friend Lazarus. We are told that as Jesus stood outside the tomb and saw the distress of Lazarus' family and friends 'he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.' (John 11: 33). The Greek word translated in this way would normally be used to describe the snorting of a horse. John seems to be saying that in this moment, Jesus endured a violent convulsion of His spirit. He revolts against the darkness that has overwhelmed His friend.

However, he also holds in His Spirit the promise that he earlier shared with Lazarus' sister Martha;

'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and he who lives and believes in me will never die.' (John 11: 25-26).

This connects with Jesus' mission to reverse the fall into sin and death, to pay the price for the sin that opened up the way to death, to accelerate the momentum towards the New Creation in which sin and death will have no more dominion. This is what we celebrate at Easter. We exist as a community of faith because of Easter. We are Easter people called to celebrate the renewal Jesus has brought to creation and to reflect this in our renewed lives, a foretaste of the values that will dominate when the Kingdom comes.

Praying you make the most of this Season in reflecting on its truths,

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

Easter Evening Service

There will be an Easter Evening Service at 7 pm on Sunday 17 April. Readings, preaching and contributions from the choir will help us to focus on the truths at the heart of the Season.

Life and Work Easter Offer

Life and Work is offering an Easter Promotion to anyone interested in becoming a subscriber.

Print: 12 issues for the price of 10 - offer price £30 – enter promotion code EAST 22 to receive £6 discount.

Digital: 12 issues for £14.99 (normally £20.99) - no code required – simply select the introductory offer option.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the offer should visit www.lifeandwork/subscribe. The offer is valid until 30.04.22

The Association of Milngavie Churches Holy Week Services 2022

The evening services will be held in St. Luke's Church at 7.30pm

**The preaching will follow events in the last week of
Jesus' life and mission.**

All welcome.

Monday 11 April Rev Ramsay Shields
Clearing the Temple Mark 11: 12-19

Tuesday 12 April Rev John Macleod
Facing Hostility Matthew 21 : 33-46

Wednesday 13 April Gavin Matthews
Guest Preacher from the Solas Centre for Public Christianity

Thursday 14 April Rev Douglas Campbell
Demonstrating Service John 13 : 1-17

Friday 15 April Rev Fergus Buchanan
Fulfilling His Mission John 19 : 16b -30

There will be a service of reflection on Saturday
morning at 9.30am in the United Free Church led by
Rev Fergus Buchanan.

Awaiting Glory Matthew 27 : 57-66

**Based in Scotland, Solas persuasively communicates the
transforming truth of who Jesus is and empowers Christians to do
the same.**



Dear Friends



Greetings from Tokyo where the cherry blossoms are now in full bloom. In Japan there is much appreciation for the changing of the seasons, and in March the weather forecast regularly includes forecasts as to when the blossoms will be in full bloom in different parts of the country. However, at the same time as being a source of joy, in Japan the cherry blossoms are also said to bring a sense of sadness because the flowers last only a few days. This is seen as a reminder that life is short and so we should enjoy the beauty when we can.

The cherry blossom season is a reminder for me too since this was the season when David's cancer relapsed, 5 years ago now. I remember seeing the beautiful blossoms from the car as I drove to the hospital each day. The last time David was able to go outside was to view the cherry blossom trees in the hospital grounds. So seeing the beautiful blossoms come out each year is a bittersweet experience.

At our recent leadership team meeting we heard a report about the prefecture of Fukushima, which is also an area of much beauty and yet much sorrow. This was where the nuclear disaster happened 11 years ago, when thousands of people had to leave their homes because of the radiation. Some areas near the former nuclear plant are beginning to reopen. It was encouraging to hear of the work being done by some churches in that area, but there is so much more that needs to be done to minister among the people there. OMF hopes to be able to send some people there at some point to help those churches.

I recently read Kay Warren's book 'Choose Joy' with a friend. In it she talks about how our lives, even perhaps each day, contain both good things which give us joy, and also difficulties and challenges which bring us sorrow. She calls these the "track of joy" and the "track of sorrow" and notes that "one of the toughest challenges in life is to learn how to live on both of these tracks at the same time." It is indeed challenging yet, as Christians, we live in hope that one day the track of sorrow will disappear and only the track of joy will remain. Please pray that many more Japanese people will come to know this same hope.

With love and prayers,

Lorna, Calum and Alistair

Glasgow City Mission, Child and Family Centre

15 March 2022

Thank you!

Dear Fergus

Thank you very much to St. Paul's Parish Church for your generous donation of £254.47 to our Christmas appeal. Your support will help *Gift hope this Christmas*.

We told three similar stories this year in our Christmas Appeal, although they were set in different countries with different sets of circumstances. However, at the heart of these stories is the restoration of family relationships. Your encouragement will allow us to continue to help our guests to flourish.

As Rukhsana explained when telling us her story, "Margaret [our project worker] helped me to register for college. Margaret pushed me to study! I learnt I am able to keep learning and eventually find work. I am studying Childcare and Healthcare with English. I have a very different life now."

Thank you again for your support that will directly benefit those affected by homelessness and poverty this Christmas.

We send our best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a hopeful 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Geddes
Marketing and Fundraising Manager

St. Paul's Society Cards

We are having one final rally to raise funds for Dumbrock House Boys' Home in Strathblane and a final cheque will be sent over the next few weeks. We had a great effort with The Sunflower card for Ukraine and around £200 will be handed over to The Church Treasurer. The next quick project will be to donate toiletries for emergency patients at QEUH. Cards will be sold but you can donate toiletries via The Preshal basket and they can be siphoned off for QEUH. Cards are available outside the office window as usual and orders as always are welcomed. Thanks to all the members who have given donations too.

Alex McEwan

Lodging House Mission - Can you help?

At LHM we want to ensure that those who are experiencing homelessness, social isolation or exclusion have a place where they feel that they belong, a community for those who come through the doors. Food provides us with a perfect opportunity to engage with people and allow us a chance to build relationships and trust whilst assessing their needs. We are able to provide support to people in-house for a number of issues they may be facing and those issues that we are not able to deal with internally, we can signpost to and even support a meeting/contact to ensure a smooth transition for the vulnerable person.

The Prayer Supporter Role is a new volunteering opportunity being set up at LHM to increase the Christian presence and support available for the work and people of the Mission. The role as part of the chaplaincy team, would be to provide prayer support in a variety of settings. This role has two main purposes; to support the mission aims through prayer for the events, activities and people of Lodging House Mission, and secondly to provide and oversee the provision of a prayer space for guests of the Lodging House Mission to support their prayer life.

Volunteer Role Front of House Team

This role is so much more than just taking details for track and trace, you will be the first person people see so it is crucial to set the scene. Show a friendly face and be helpful and considerate.

If you are interested in either role or in supporting LHM in another role please contact Claire Herbert 0141 552 0285 or email enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk

Flower Donations - March

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



B. Adair

Please address donations to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson and clearly mark "For The Flower Fund"

Donations can be left in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or in the offering plate marked for The Flower Fund

GUILD NEWS

Since the last report in this magazine we have had wonderfully varied and interesting meetings. Roxanne Boyd's account of her career in journalism, with amusing anecdotes about memorable events, was at the end of February. Ramsay Shields told us about his visits to the Holy Land with interesting insights into well-known Biblical places and William Kean gave a fascinating presentation of photographs, some with a spoken commentary and others with well-chosen background music. We have just enjoyed an outstanding evening of songs and stories by the well-know singer, Linda Ormiston, whose hilarious tales provoked welcome laughter in the midst of the tragedy of current times. We now look forward to our AGM on March 28th where we will thank some committee members who are retiring; we will also be delighted to welcome several new ladies on to the committee. Normally the AGM marks the end of our session, but this year we have decided to have three extra meetings at the end of April and in May because of having to cancel all our January meetings. On April 25th Iain White, who should have been with us in January, will talk about coastal paths.

In May the meeting on the 9th will highlight the tremendous 'upcycling' work going on in Faifley Parish Church – find out what it is by coming along! On the 23rd a representative of 'Chocolate Heaven' will outline the work of one of the Guild projects in Asia.

We have yet another event which we hope will receive support from all sections of the congregation. It has become very obvious how much everyone appreciates Derek Norval's contributions to our worship and, in particular, how attentively people listen to the music at the conclusion of the service each week. Derek has kindly agreed to play for us on the morning of Saturday May 14th; two young musicians in the congregation have also agreed to take part: how privileged we are to have them all in the church! Rachel Rutherford, well known to many, will play her clarsach, and her husband, Julian Pombo, will play guitar. All proceeds will go to Guild projects which is especially important this year because we have been unable to hold the Coffee Morning, normally such a good fund-raiser. Full details about this event are to be found elsewhere in the magazine, and we look forward to seeing as busy a church as is permitted!



Christian Aid is one of the UK's largest aid agencies, carrying out vital work in areas of the world which depend on aid because of disasters, famine, drought or war. This year, once again, there will be no house-to-house collection in Milngavie. Helen Martin, Secretary of the Milngavie Churches Christian Aid Committee says "Although we won't be knocking on doors, there are still lots of ways people can donate to Christian Aid."

In St Paul's we will do the same as last year with envelopes available in the Church and Collection boxes for the envelopes to be deposited. There will also be envelopes in magazines that can be brought back to church.

Some houses may get envelopes through their letterboxes, and these can be returned to Ruby Red in Milngavie precinct, or back to St. Paul's - whatever is easiest for you.

For many people it will be easier to donate online, and there are several options for this too! Like last year, we had an e-envelope which you can use to donate – this is the link <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/milngavie?channel=status> Alternatively you can visit the Christian Aid website.

Finally, a team of walkers from Milngavie churches are taking part in the Kilt Walk on 24 April, and you can sponsor them (even after the event!) at this link <https://glasgow.thekiltwalk.co.uk/teams/MilngavieChristianAid>.

Christian Aid Week runs from 15-21 May but you can donate at any time until the end of June.

Alex McEwan

St. Paul's Guild

MUSICAL MORNING SATURDAY MAY 14th 11:00

Derek Norval - organ

Rachel Rutherford - clarsach Julian Pombo - guitar

Refreshments from 10:15 Cost: £5 Proceeds to Guild projects



The Preshal Trust – Caring for Families

President: Dr Hermione Thornhill

PO Box 7344
8 Aboukir Street
Glasgow, G51 4QX
Tel: 0141 445 3689

e-mail : Admin@preshaltrust.org.uk
www.preshaltrust.org.uk
www.facebook.com/ThePreshalTrust

15 February 2022

Mrs Barbara Lawson
Congregational Treasurer
St Paul's Parish Church
Milngavie
G62 8DP

Dear Barbara

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the congregation for their most kind and generous donation of £453.00 for the families of the Preshal Trust. We are overwhelmed that despite this being a desperately difficult time for everyone there is still a care and compassion for others being shown.

On the run up to Christmas we provided Christmas lunches for 150 clients. The initial plan was to deliver 3 sit down 3 course Christmas lunches but due to Omicron and further restrictions we had to revise our plans and deliver the Christmas lunches via take away from our front window. The clients also received a Christmas gift such as a toiletry gift set and a box of sweets and some Christmas pies. Each client was also provided with a Christmas food package with prepared food to be heated up at home with instructions as well as some basic staples. The package also included some special New Year treats such as sultana cake, cherry cake, shortbread, etc.

We are thankful that we can once again welcome our friends back into our building although still having to follow procedures and limiting numbers but hopefully we can gradually build up the numbers and start up many of our activities once again.

We would like to thank you once again for your amazing support for the Preshal Trust throughout the years and we wish you all a peaceful and healthy 2022.

Every blessing

Alan Nicholson

CEO
The Preshal Trust

Chair, Secretary & Treasurer: Brett Nicholls CA, Deputy Chair: Nigel Williams, Trustees: Don Giles, Shanny Newall, Maclain Service, Gavin Shanks, John Thomson, Kenneth Smith, Irene McFarlane

Scottish Charity Number SCO 33632

Stated Annual Meeting 30 March, 2022 from the Session Clerk

2021 has been a challenging year for us all. Immediately the year started the country went into lockdown and it was Easter Day before worship services in the church were allowed. Congregational singing was not permitted until June and numbers attending worship were restricted to 50 until July due to social distancing. Face coverings were required throughout the year and NHS Trace & Protect in place until September. Our minister Fergus Buchanan, although still shielding, resumed limited return to work in May.

Throughout the year, the various Scottish Government regulations and guidance from the Church of Scotland were monitored and we are very grateful to Lachie McNeill, Roy Prentice and Hugh McGorm for their work in keeping us safe and within the ever changing law. On completion of a satisfactory risk assessment, some organisations resumed meetings in October, albeit under restrictions. The Saturday morning Advent services were able to take place in December and most Christmas services also took place, although there was no Watchnight service. The uncertainty of the restrictions has perhaps been the biggest issue we have had to contend with and our thanks are due to all those who kept us going during the year. The recording of a morning service and evening reflections each week, was very much appreciated and viewed world-wide. A lot of extra work for Fergus and Chris Scott. Thank you. Pastoral issues and communicating the various changes to the congregation, was a major concern throughout the year and our thanks are due to the District Elders and Church Visitors for their phone calls and practical help, particularly to those not connected to the internet.

As a congregation, we are greatly indebted to Ramsay Shields who continued in the role of Interim Moderator at St Paul's and Baldernock until September 2021. This was a considerable increase in his workload while continuing to serve his own congregation at St. Luke's.

The biggest thanks is to you the members, for ensuring the life of the congregation has continued in these challenging times. Thanks also to our dedicated employees, Derek, Hugh, Aileen and Sandra who willingly contribute so much to the life and smooth running of St Paul's. After many months on furlough Aileen left in August and our thanks are due to her for her work in the office over the years.

Chris Scott stepped down as Treasurer in March and Barbara Lawson took over with Jackie Pirie undertaking the role of Finance Assistant. Thanks are due to Chris for over 13 years as Treasurer and to Barbara and Jackie for agreeing to undertake these important roles on our behalf. To the many people who put in considerable hours voluntarily, to keep the Congregation running from finance, insurance, fabric, furnishings, communications, health & safety, food hygiene, safeguarding, data protection, the roll, *Life* magazine and many others whose contributions are often unseen but essential to keep St. Paul's running smoothly and legally, we thank you.

Thanks also to Ken MacIver who is stepping down as Deputy Session Clerk after almost 10 years. Your support Ken, has been a great encouragement.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May 2020 approved a Radical Action Plan which envisages considerable changes in all areas of governance of the Church, including the reduction in the number of Presbyteries from 42 to around 12. In September 2020 The Presbytery of Dumbarton merged with the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley to form Clyde Presbytery. Clyde Presbytery are currently working on a new 5 year Presbytery Plan which will reduce the number of charges from the present 60 to 40. This will impact on St Paul's.

A special thanks to Barbara Lawson and Ann O'Hagan for their hard work throughout the year and in particular their work on the Annual Accounts which does not get easier with the passing of the years.

Finally, to our Minister of 34 years. Fergus, we thank you for your inspiring leadership, devotion and commitment to St Paul's over the years. As retirement approaches after 40 years as a parish minister, we wish you, Gabrielle and your family every happiness and assure you, you will remain in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

To Everyone At St Paul's

Thank you so much for everything you have done for us, as a family, during our most difficult times!

Thank you for making our safe arrival (all the way from the war torn, but still beautiful, Ukraine to our wee bonnie Scotland) possible!

Most of all, thank you very much for your continued prayers for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

May God reward you all for your kindness! We, certainly, will never forget it!

With deepest thanks and very best wishes,

David, Dana & Hanna (who feels very welcomed in Milngavie)
27 March, 2022

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Copy Date

The copy date for the May issue is Wednesday **27th** April.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries
3rd April	F. Ireland
10th April	A. McNellan K. Hagart
17th April	J. Mill