

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2024



Dear Friends

I hope you have had a very happy Easter with family and friends as we celebrated the Risen Lord. It is a time of many different traditions whether it be Easter Egg Hunts, rolling your painted hard boiled eggs down slopes, Easter Bonnet Competitions or Easter Egg Trees. In this mix is the joy of Easter Morn when Jesus rose from the dead confirming His identity as the Son of God and His work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation and salvation. St Gregory, who lived some 1,500 years ago, said that Easter was like the sun among the stars of the other festivals. It is the heart of the sacred calendar, around which all of the other festivals have meaning and purpose. Easter is the summit of the Christian year. I couldn't agree more – the resurrection of Christ on Easter Day gives us the hope of eternal life and victory over death.

The Sunday after Easter is often known as Low Sunday. We do not really know why but it could be the aftermath of the Easter celebrations. It is the time when we consider our faith and maybe even our doubts. We recall the doubts of Thomas as contained in the Gospel according to John. We read at chapter 20 verse 25 "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side I will not believe." The Thomas story does not end there, but with his words "My Lord and my God!" The message for today is contained in Jesus' words "How happy are those who believe without seeing me." The story of Thomas is a powerful reminder that faith is not about seeing or understanding everything perfectly. It is about believing even when we don't have all the answers.

Here at St. Paul's we continue to work towards the Mission of the Church in all the various activities that take place throughout the seasons of the year. It is a joy to read about all the different events that go on from week to week. My thanks go to everyone who continue to give of their time and talents, in so many different ways, in the life of the church.

With every blessings to you and yours.

Barbara

Future Services

	MORNING	EVENING
07 April	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Rev. Paul Read
14 April	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Men's Association
21 April Communion	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	TBC
28 April	Dr. Robin Easton	Rev. Ramsay Shields
05 May	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	TBC

Vacancy Update

The Nominating Committee has advertised the vacancy and received some expressions of interest. The work of the committee is strictly confidential and they will report back to the congregation when they have selected a sole nominee.

Please remember the committee in our prayers as they seek a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the Large Hall on Wednesday, 8th May 2024 at 7:45 pm. At this meeting the Accounts for year ended 31st December, 2023 will be received and members will be elected to the Congregational Board.

There are currently 5 vacancies on the Board. If you or any member you know, would like to serve in this way please contact Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Board, for further information.

Life and Work

In 2024, *Life and Work* magazine is featuring a monthly Presbytery Focus and the April issue features Clyde Presbytery as well as the advert re our vacancy.

If you would like to try a print copy of *Life and Work*, some copies are available at the back of the church while stocks last at £3.50 each.

Annual subscriptions printed or digital, are available through
www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.
Digital issue only £2.99 and print £3.50.



Lodging House Mission Easter Egg Appeal

A large number of eggs were delivered at the beginning of Holy Week for which they were very grateful. They send thanks and every blessing to the congregation at St. Paul's for their support.

A number of Gift Aid donations were also delivered and received with thanks.

Charity Donations

The charities that we are supporting have received their first delivery and all have expressed their appreciation of the donations from St. Paul's.

All contributions welcome and they can be left in the baskets at the entrances.

1st Sunday Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry

2nd Sunday East Dunbartonshire Food Bank

3rd Sunday St Rollox Community Outreach

4th Sunday Preshal Trust

St. Paul's Church Society Cards

As a result of your kind donations for cards over the past few weeks, £315 has been collected to date for our present charity CHAS.

Special occasion cards are still available on request.

Cards are still priced at £1.

Some examples of these cards are available next to the main card stand.

Since this project began, over £8,000 has been sent to various charities.

Many thanks for your continued support.



Elizabeth McEwan

St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship

FORWARD PLANNING KEEP THE DATES
for St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship 2025.

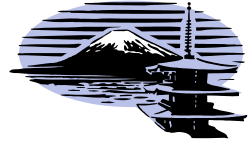
"Oxford and the glorious Cotswolds" from 26th-30th May, 2025,
staying at Walton Hall Hotel in Warwickshire.
Led by Anne Ritchie in conjunction with Strathmore Travel.



The balance for the church holiday to
Strathpeffer (22-26 July) is due to be paid
by Monday, 3th May.

Participants will be contacted individually by Anne.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

Happy Easter! I hope that all the Easter services and activities at St. Paul's go well. In Japan, Easter goes almost unnoticed. There are no public holidays, no Easter eggs in the shops, and almost no awareness outside of the church as to what Easter is. Many people will never even have heard of Easter.

Missionaries often try different ways to tell people about the meaning of Easter. When we were planting a church in Sapporo, we held an Easter festival for local families. We had various fun activities for children, and a place for coffee and cakes for the parents. In the middle we would have a short explanation of the Easter story.

A friend with young children invited children in her neighbourhood for an egg hunt and also gave them all a small Easter tract. The children had great fun looking for the eggs. Another family regularly holds a Kids Song Circle. They ran a special series in the week running up to Easter. Missionaries at another church put on a Kids' Easter outreach.

When so many people in Japan don't know about Jesus and have never heard the gospel, the things we do can seem like drops in the bucket. It can be easy to get discouraged.

In Galatians 6:9, however, Paul tells us to "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

In Japanese, the phrase used for a drop in the bucket, when something is much smaller than needed is "a sparrow's tears". I like that image because it can also capture a sense of sadness. And it is a reminder of what Jesus said about sparrows: although two sparrows are sold for a penny, not one of them will fall to the ground outside our Father's care (Matthew 10:29). And we are all worth more than many sparrows (verse 31).

God cares about us and the people around us more than we can possibly imagine, so let's keep on doing good, trusting Him for the harvest.

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair

Guild News

Another busy Guild session has come to a close.

After the business of our AGM we were once again entertained by David Turner with a singalong and a quiz. A great end to our session.



Members wishing to keep in touch over the coming months are reminded that they are able to book a place for afternoon tea at Caulders.

To do so please contact:
Kate Seller (tel: 463 0857 or mob: 0790 1862 086) for details.



The total for our coffee morning now stands at £1,245 which will be divided between the two National Guild projects which St. Paul's Guild is supporting this year:

Starchild and The Vine Trust.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Guild in their work this session.

Members are reminded of the Dunbartonshire Guilds Together Summer Gathering in Faifley Church on 13th May at 2pm.

Our new session begins on Monday the 7th of October at 2pm when we will be looking forward to organising the celebrations for 125 years of the Guild in St. Paul's Church.

Elizabeth McEwan

Men's Association

This is the final report for the year 2023/24.

On 5th March, our speaker was Fiona Hennebry, ably assisted by her mother Liz, who gave a most interesting and informative presentation about the work of the Charity, *Bags Full of Love*, which was the Charity we had supported at our Coffee Morning in October last year. Thanks to the support of our members, their wives and the Church Family, we raised £1261.95 which was a magnificent sum for what is a very worthwhile cause. Fiona and her mother, who also run the Dalmuir Barclay Church Cafe and Pantry, were very pleased with the enormous support given to both the Charity and the Cafe and Pantry.

Our final meeting was on 26th March, and was our AGM plus some added entertainment, about which, more later.

At the AGM, the Treasurer was able to report that we had 26 members, our highest number for some years, of whom 19 attended the Christmas Lunch. He recommended that the subscription should remain at £20.00 for next year, which was approved. He reported that we had made the donation referred to above to *Bags Full of Love*, and had made a donation to Church Funds of £250.00, plus a donation to Dalmuir Barclay Church Cafe and Pantry of £250.00.

The Secretary, Treasurer and the 4 Committee members were all re-elected to serve for another year and the 6 volunteers who assist with tea/coffee duties and other administrative tasks will continue in place.

The AGM concluded with a vote of thanks.

Thereafter, a very old retired solicitor recalled being a very young inexperienced solicitor and shared his memories of a most bizarre case from 1974.

Finally, as has become tradition, Chris Scott, our AV specialist, showed some very funny clips from old TV shows which, as they say, had the audience laughing in the aisles!

The Association wishes all members of the Church to receive their blessings at this time and we look forward to serving Christ in the months ahead.

Brian Adair

Christian Aid Lunch

£751

was raised at our soup and roll lunch on Sunday 24th March.

Many thanks to the congregation
for their very generous support to Christian Aid.

Thanks also to our team of “volunteers”
and
to the people who put the tables and chairs away.

Your willing help was much appreciated.



Christian Aid Scotland is appealing for volunteers to fundraise and take part in the Kiltwalks in Scotland this year.

The popular events take place in Aberdeen on June 2, Dundee on August 11 and Edinburgh on September 15. A range of distances are available in each city, from 3 to 23 miles.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton took part in last year's Aberdeen Kiltwalk for Christian Aid Scotland; while her predecessor, the Very Rev. Dr Iain Greenshields took part in the Glasgow walk.

You can sign up at <https://thekiltwalk.co.uk/>

Thank You

The flowers delivered yesterday were most appreciated by Hanna and Dana. They were touched to know they were in people's thoughts and prayers.

They have asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks.
David Shaw

(Hanna has painted a beautiful picture of a flower arrangement on a card with a lovely message inside which is available to view at the back of the church)

Flower Donations

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory:

M Spence, C Inglis.



Please address donations to:

Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson & 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".

Saying it with flowers

*The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2.12



Each week, our church is enhanced by beautiful floral arrangements which are appreciated by us all. Perhaps, however, not all of us are aware of the creativity, time and effort that go into making sure that there are flower displays present, every week.

The flowers are purchased from gift donations from various church members, perhaps in memory of a loved one, and these flowers are lovingly arranged each Sunday to enhance the beauty of the church.

It appears that the history of the Flower Guild goes back into the last century!

The wooden pedestal was donated by St. Paul's Church Society and is in keeping with the rest of the features within the sanctuary, providing a beautiful base for the flower arrangements.

Marjorie Thoms is the current person with responsibility for arranging the rota for the team of volunteers who create the flower arrangements each week. Presently there are seven on the rota who dedicate several hours each week, from choosing and buying the flowers to arranging them in readiness for the Sunday Morning Services. They are not trained in any way apart from learning on the job.

Marjorie says that her personal delight is when Derek practises the organ at the same time as she arranges the flowers!

The flower arrangers always bear in mind that the arrangements should reflect any special occasion and that they should be suitable to give out to members of the congregation after the Morning Service.

The recipients of the flowers are nominated members of the congregation and include for example - the housebound, those who are ill or in long-term care or those who have suffered a bereavement. Any person in the congregation can nominate someone to receive the flowers and Elizabeth McEwan keeps a record of recipients, as well as providing a beautiful hand-made decorated card to accompany each bouquet.

Once the Morning Service is over, the Flower Delivery team takes over! There are fifteen ladies on the Flower Delivery Rota (including five new ladies who recently volunteered and have been greatly welcomed).



Two ladies, each week, divide the flowers into three bouquets and along with the cards, set off on the deliveries – come rain or shine!

The Flower Delivery team delivering the bouquets value doing so as it allows them to keep in touch with often elderly members and friends who due to circumstances have been unable to attend church.

Kate Edwards, who manages the rota for the team, says that the church flowers are always warmly received by the individuals nominated and in return, the person making the delivery sees the joy that this brings to the individual, thereby making this all very worthwhile and allowing the individual to see that they are in the thoughts and prayers of the congregation.

We often receive cards of gratitude from those who have received the bouquets telling us how much they have appreciated the flowers and the thoughtful words in the accompanying card, and these thank you cards are usually displayed at the back of the church.

Next time you are sitting in the church, take a moment to enjoy the floral arrangement and give thanks to God for all those involved in our congregation for their effort and dedication in helping us to bear witness to our faith by:

Saying it with Flowers.

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Copy Date

The copy date for the May issue is
Wednesday, 24 April.

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