

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

August 2024



Dear Friends,

It is with sadness and gladness that I write this my last letter for *Life at St. Paul's*. My time as your Interim Moderator will come to an end when Lynsey will be inducted as your minister on Tuesday 13th August 2024.

When I retired at the end of April 2022, little did I think that I would be working again by the beginning of October! It has been a great privilege and a joy to have been with you during this time, getting to know everyone in the happy times and in the sad times. I have enjoyed working with the elders of the Kirk Session and the members of the Congregational Board. My thanks go to Graham and Lachie who have made sure that the administrative structure of our Church has run efficiently and effectively over the months of vacancy. It has been awesome to celebrate the events of nearly two Christian years, the memories of which will stay with me as I go back into retirement!

On the second Sunday of July, I was up at Baldernock where I preached from the Old Testament on the Prophet Amos' third vision – a passage that has always been special to me (Amos 7: 7-17). The image of God standing with a plumb line as the standard by which the faithful need to live and the measure from which divine judgement is gauged is such a strong metaphor.

The message of this vision is that true worship should always lead to justice, righteousness and loving of our neighbours. In this passage God's words can seem harsh, and we may prefer a message of God's uncompromising mercy and love, but I believe God's words in that vision are just as important for the world within which we live as they were back in 8 BCE. Justice, righteousness and love - these are wise words for the world of today.

With my mind set in the Old Testament, can I leave you with
God's words
to Moses:

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. (NIV)

With every blessing to you and yours,

Barbara

Future Services

	MORNING
04 August	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell
11 August	Rev. John Campbell
18 August	Rev. Lynsey Brennan
25 August	Rev. Lynsey Brennan

There will be no evening services in August.

Rev. Lynsey Brennan

The Rev. Lynsey Brennan will be inducted to the charge of Baldernock linked with St. Paul's on Tuesday 13th August at 7pm in St. Paul's.

The service will be led by the Rev. David Burt, Moderator of Clyde Presbytery, and the Rev. Dr. Alan Hamilton will deliver the sermon.

All are invited to attend the service which will be live streamed.

There will be a light supper in the Large Hall after the service to welcome Lynsey.

Interim Moderator

When Rev. Lynsey Brennan has been formally inducted as minister, Rev. Barbara O'Donnell will cease to be the Interim Moderator. At the end of her last service as Interim Moderator on Sunday 4th August, the Session Clerk, Graham Mill, presented Barbara with a cheque, a gift and a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the congregation.

2024/2025

Dates for
the Diary:

Here are the dates of the new session
for the following organisations:

Organisation	Date Resumes
Ark	Saturday 17 August
Badminton	Tuesday 03 September
Book Club	Tuesday 27 August
BreakAway	Tuesday 03 September
Choir Practice	Thursday 19 September
Guild	Monday 07 October
Lunch Club	Wednesday 04 September
Men's Association	Tuesday 01 October
Noah's Ark	Thursday 29 August
Prayer Group	Thursday 05 September
Sunday Club	Sunday 25 August

Some words from our new minister:

Dear Friends,

It is an absolute delight to be writing this letter knowing that I have been elected as the next minister of St. Paul's Milngavie (linked with Baldernock).

Many of you will remember me as Fergus' student that brought to the church the summer SU holiday club, fun-action worship songs and an energy to try new things to connect with our local community and to bring life in Jesus' name.

I see my new position as both an honour and a challenge. An honour in that I am succeeding a wonderful minister, mentor and friend in Fergus Buchanan. And a challenge in that the road ahead is far from easy.

We are no longer living in a Christian society where people attend church, so this means we need to be creative in how we reach out to our secular and pluralistic society with the life-giving Good News of Christ.

The National Church is also facing many challenges with a shortage of ministers, reduced resources/finance, church closures and falling attendance. However, we cannot see this as a barrier – with God all things are possible!

God has given me a passion for missional evangelism, preaching God's word and a sincere trust in Him. A trust that He is indeed 'doing a new thing' and that if we partner with Him, we can reach out beyond the walls of our church with Christ's love, grace, power, and joy.

Why wouldn't we want to partner with the living God in His mission!

A wee bit about myself: I am a local lass, my parents moved to Bearsden when I was 16 years and I attended my final schooling at Bearsden Academy. I initially trained as a Speech and Language Therapist at Strathclyde University and enjoyed an 18 year career serving within Greater Glasgow and Clyde. At the age of 28 I came to faith in Jesus on an Alpha course, and this gave my life purpose, vision, and a joy I'd never experienced – the joy of knowing Jesus as my saviour, Lord and companion. This experience has very much shaped my ministry; I have a heart for those out-with the church and enjoy forming positive relationships that witness Christ's goodness and love. I see God's value in all people, and I believe God gives us a heart to care for those especially on the fringes and margins of life.

I met Stephen my husband at St Silas Church, in Glasgow, and we married in 2007, having Samuel (16) in 2008, Ciaran (14) in 2010 and Malachi (7) in 2016. Like Fergus, we are blessed with 3 boys and life is never dull or quiet!

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Before moving to Dundonald where I have been serving as a minister for the last 5 years, we lived in Killermont and attended Killermont Parish Church in Bearsden. I am therefore delighted that Rev. Alan Hamilton will be preaching at my Induction on Tuesday 13th August at 7pm.

My priorities as your minister are firstly to get to know my church. And the church is the people! I'd like to spend quality time after the Sunday service getting to know you and I plan to have regular vestry hours so people can pop in for prayer, pastoral support or just to get to know their new minister.

I also plan to run a conference where we can vision together the way ahead and dream big with God about His plan and purposes for St. Paul's and our local community.

But the most important thing I'd like to do is to inject a renewed passion and joy into the church for our faith in Jesus. Because Christ's joy is tangible, attractive, engaging and powerful.

The Joy of the Lord is our Strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Let's believe this as we partner with our living God to achieve His great purposes and plans.

Love, Lynsey

Work in Progress

The new audio visual equipment has been installed in the sanctuary which has enabled live streaming of services. Only the backs of some of the congregation may appear and only the faces of those leading the service will be broadcast. If you have any concerns please speak to Graham Mill.

To fully use the new system, a rota of trained operators is required and if you would like to be involved or know more about what is required, please contact Stephen Thoms or Graham Mill.

The new kitchen for the Large Hall was installed in July and although still to be painted is operational.

New boilers have been fitted to heat the building which will reduce running costs and improve reliability.

The Brennan family moved into the new manse in mid-July.

Thanks are expressed to all involved in the successful completion of these major projects.

Shirley Dunlop

Shirley Jane Montgomery was born on 14th May 1947.

Shirley was the only daughter of John and Jean Smith. The family lived at Stewart Drive in Clarkston.

Dad, John, worked as a mechanical engineer with Weir of Cathcart for most of his working life, retiring with the traditional gold watch for a long and loyal service.

John worked hard to support the family and Shirley went to Westbourne School for Girls and then went on to Central College of Commerce, where she gained her Scottish National Diploma in Business Studies and Secretarial Certificate.

Work experienced followed in several different companies and from 1967 she worked at Paisley College of Technology, The Weir Group, Food, Drinks & Tobacco Training Board and R S McColls. From 1992-96 Shirley worked with Dyslexia Institute Scotland.

Shirley enjoyed many different sports, golf, badminton indoor and outdoor bowls, bridge and going to theatres and concerts. She was a member of Intervarsity Club and Samover Clubs in the 1970s.

In 1971 tragedy struck her family when Shirley's mother lost her life in the gas explosion at the Clarkston Toll Shopping Centre. Losing her mother in such a tragic way had a huge impact on Shirley and her Dad and they moved from Clarkston to a flat in Busby.

When Shirley met Ian, it is fair to say that they got off to a wee bit of a rocky start. They eventually got onto the same wavelength and love finally blossomed. They married in February 1981, an enduring marriage that lasted for some 43 years.

Shirley was a woman of faith and that faith formed a major part of her life from an early age. She was a member of Greenbank Church, going to Sunday School, Bible Class and Youth Fellowship.

Shirley was ordained as an elder in Cairns Church in 1984 and in 2003 Ian and Shirley decided to join St. Paul's where she was admitted to the Kirk Session.

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In 2014 Shirley received a long service award for 30 years dedicated service as a church elder. Shirley felt very privileged to receive her award and appreciated the NIV Bible that was given to her along with a certificate. Shirley took her responsibilities as a church elder seriously and served conscientiously.

Shirley had a quiet personality. She was kind, caring and thoughtful. Her natural default was to think of others – she was always happy to speak with others and in particular she was comfortable dealing with older people. For many years she helped out in Friendship House in various roles.

The last few years of Shirley's life had become a little more difficult and indeed a bit of a struggle for her both mentally and physically. However, Shirley coped as best as she could. For the past few months she was confined to hospital and it was there that she passed away with Ian at her side.

The world is a lesser place today with Shirley's passing.

Thank you

Please convey my heartfelt thanks to all the friends at St. Paul's for their outstanding support for me after my accident.

I have been overwhelmed by the cards, messages, calls and flowers sent to me, and especially appreciative of the prayers offered on my behalf.

Thank you all so much, with Christian love, Lilian, Lady McNee.

Sam Cooper

Margaret and Colin would like to express their gratitude for the support, prayers, telephone calls, visits, thoughts, cards, flowers, baking and loan vases which they received from so very many of you when Dad died.

All your kind actions and words were most appreciated, thank you.



St. Paul's Church Society Cards

Due to your continued support, a cheque for £500 has been sent to CHAS (please see below for letter of thanks from CHAS). Thank you once again.

Cards will continue to be available, still at £1, over the summer months.

Please contact me if you require a card for a particular occasion.

The next charity will be Ronald McDonald House Glasgow — an independent charity providing a home away from home for families whose children are receiving treatment at the Royal Hospital for Children Glasgow.

Phone 0141 384 0274 Email: elizabethmcewan1957@gmail.com

Elizabeth McEwan

Thank you so much for your recent donation of £500 from the sale of your cards. We appreciate your ongoing support of CHAS and you are truly making a difference to the families we support, and on their behalf, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and to the members of St. Paul's, Milngavie.

Benjamin Morgan
CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland)





Dear Friends

What would you think if you heard someone refer to a place as 'having a high threshold'? This is a phrase used quite often in Japan. 'Shikii ga takai' – the threshold is high. Traditionally the threshold referred to the wooden grooves for the sliding doors used in Japanese homes. I have these sliding doors in my house, in particular to my tatami room. It is good manners not to step on this wooden threshold, but rather to step over it to avoid damaging it. All without shoes on of course.

When a place is referred to as having a high threshold, it means that a place is hard to visit. Perhaps the visitor will feel embarrassed or awkward for some reason.

Churches are often referred as 'shikii ga takai', as having a high threshold. Most Japanese people have never been inside a church. Conformity is important in Japan, to do the right thing in each place. Because they don't know what happens in a church and what the expectations would be, people find it difficult to think about going in. So churches will often try to find ways to lower that threshold. In my church, the pastor's wife took a class in baby massage so that we can offer this to Mums and babies in the local community. We are careful to be quite precise in the wording on the flyer so that the Mums know what to expect. Now we are thinking of starting a Mums and toddlers gathering too.

On the 11th of August, my church will host a concert, with a Christian violinist, trumpeter and pianist. The church pays the cost of the musicians, so attendance for visitors is free. Over the last couple of weeks, church members have delivered a few thousand flyers inviting people to come to the concert. Other churches might do English classes, a kids' club, cooking classes etc. The hope is to make it easier for Japanese people to come into the church and meet the people there, with the prayer that they will hopefully experience something of the love of Jesus for them. Please pray that many people would come to the church concert and discover that the threshold isn't actually high, but that everyone is welcome.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair



Guild News



The next Afternoon Tea
&
a chat together will be at
Caulders (Mugdock) on

2nd September at 2.00 pm.

Please note that the cost is now £15 per person
(this does not include a tip for the restaurant).

If you plan to go please get in touch with Kate Seller:

Phone: 0141 463 0857 Email: kseller@dircon.co.uk

Elizabeth McEwan



Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who carried out the annual cleaning of the chairs on 02 August in the Large Hall.

A special thank you to Hugh who put out **every one** of the chairs himself!!





The Preshal Trust

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our friends at St. Paul's for their most kind and generous donation of foodstuff for the families and people of The Preshal Trust.

The Preshal continues to be a place of warmth and comfort to many in our community.

We have recently started a lunch club on a Monday, taking our lunch clubs to four times a week as we are concerned about the amount of people who are choosing trying to heat their homes over having a hot meal.

We have also felt challenged about starting a Pilot Scheme in Paisley and have rented a side hall at Old St. Luke's, Neilston Road on a Wednesday and Friday.

There, we will be offering breakfast and lunch as well as various arts and crafts, cooking classes, sewing etc.

We are really excited about this new outreach and pray that we can be a place of care and support for the needy in this area.

Thank you all once again for your continued support for The Preshal Trust as this ensures that we can continue to serve the disadvantaged of the community.

Kindest regards

Alan Nicholson

The Story Behind The Name

Our church's WW1 war memorial is beside the pulpit at the front of the church.

It contains the names of the men who served and a list of those killed. Just underneath is a smaller list of those who were killed in WW2.

The war memorial plaques in St. Paul's display names but not stories behind the names. I am hoping to be able to find out and share some of these stories with you.

Please email me (rockyrutherford@gmail.com) if you have any information or stories that could help me in my search to discover the story behind any of the names.

This is the story of Ronald Stobo who was my mother's first cousin.

Pilot Officer Ronald (Ronnie) Stobo was the son of John and Amelia Stobo who lived in Ferguson Avenue in Milngavie.

Ronnie had been home with the family at Christmas. Before leaving to go back to RAF Fiskerton, he had spoken to his mother about his anxiety about returning saying he had a bad feeling about restarting bombing missions but knew he had to do his duty.

He was aged 21 and the bomb aimer in the crew of 7 when he took off in Avro Lancaster JB727 from RAF Fiskerton in Lincolnshire on the evening of 2nd January 1944, having helped to clear the snow from the runway first.

The bomber was with other aircraft of 49 Squadron on a bombing raid over an industrial complex north of Berlin. The area was heavily defended with anti-aircraft guns and nightfighters.

At 2.30am on the morning of the 3rd January, his aircraft was intercepted north of Berlin by a Bf 110 night fighter. Damaged, the aircraft turned for home directly into the path of another bomber. The two aircraft collided with Ronald's cockpit smashing into the other aircraft's port side inner engine and wing. Ronnie and his pilot would have been killed instantly. The other bomber was mortally damaged but all the crew bailed out and survived.

Ronald's bomber, pilotless and out of control spiralled down and crashed into Lake Muritz some 5k north west of Berlin. The crew were reported missing in action.

As the crash site was in Soviet controlled East Germany, the RAF Missing Graves Unit and family were unable to visit. The remains of the crew were buried in unmarked graves at Retzow cemetery near the lake.

In 2000 the remains of the aircraft were found and after the 4000lb “cookie” bomb was removed and defused, the remaining recognisable parts and some recovered documents were placed in the Rechlin Aeronautical Museum.

The crew were reburied with full military honours to which family members attended.



This is the crew in front of the Lancaster, Ronald Stobo is second from the left.

Robert Rutherford

St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship

CHURCH HOLIDAY TO STRATHPEFFER

22-26 July, 2024.

We are safely returned without mishap from a super holiday in remarkably good weather. Dozens of photos are on Facebook to give you a flavour of the trip. Thanks to Janice for these.

Fun and fellowship sum it up.



2025 CHURCH HOLIDAY TO OXFORD & THE NORTH COTSWOLDS

SAVE
THE
DATE

The 2025 church holiday, Oxford and the North Cotswolds, will be earlier next year. Walton Hall Hotel in Warwickshire with a spa and swimming pool has been booked for some time from 26th - 30th May. No costs yet but the programme is pretty well established. We shall be using Strathmore Travel and Allander coaches once more.

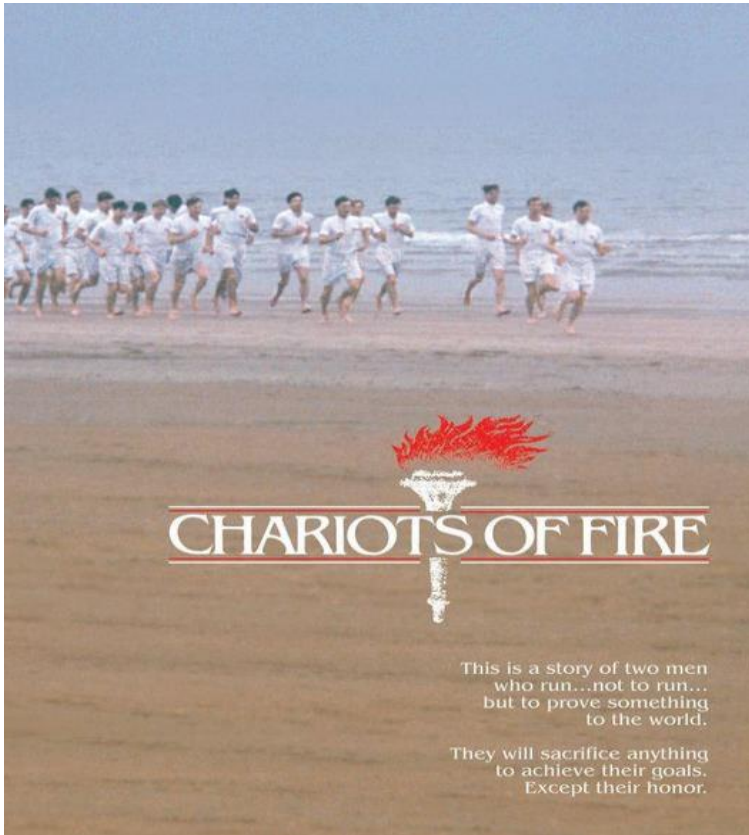
Anne Ritchie
Group leader

Baldernock Parish Church

Thursday, 8th August

Chariots of Fire

Come along to Baldernock on 8th August to watch the classic film about the the Scots athlete Eric Liddell at the 1924 Paris Olympics, 'Chariots of Fire'.



Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm screening - and entrance is free.

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Flower Donations

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory:
I More, F Ireland

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".



Copy Date

The copy date for the September issue is
Wednesday, 28 August

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