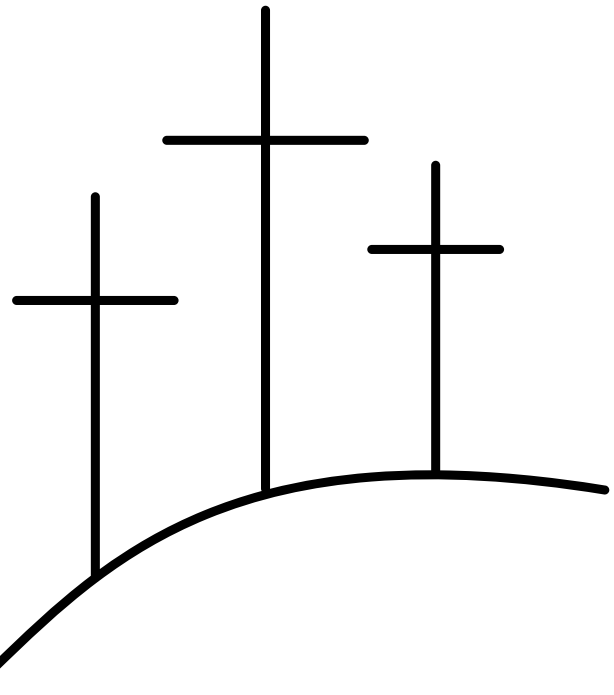
ST PAUL'S MILNGAVIE

LIFE

29 MARCH 2026

9TH ISSUE

"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"
MATTHEW - 28:6



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Editor's Note

CARLA MACALLISTER

As we continue our journey together at St Paul's, I am reminded that church life isn't just about Sundays but about shared faith, community and care that shape our everyday lives.

This Easter, I pray that we continue to grow together in the renewed hope that the resurrection brings.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed this month. I hope there's something for everyone in this edition.

With love,

Carla

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Lynsey's Letter

REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Happy Easter to you all!

Dear friends,

As we come to this special time in the Christian calendar, my prayer is that you may gently experience the peace, hope, and joy that come from knowing the risen Jesus. Please also remember that you are not alone, your church family is here for you. If you or someone you know would value a visit or a listening ear, do feel free to contact myself, Rev John and/or Hilary at the church office.

I remember, early in my ministry, speaking with a young woman who shared how Easter was her favourite time of year - even more than Christmas. What stayed with me wasn't just what she said, but how she said it. There was a light in her eyes as she spoke about the new life we are given through Jesus; life made possible through His death and resurrection. It was clear that this wasn't just something she believed; it was something she was living.

And perhaps that's what Easter invites us into - not just a story to remember, but a life to receive.

The message of Easter is, at its heart, a message of new life. Through the cross, we see the depth of God's love for us; through the resurrection, we see His promise that death and darkness do not have the final word. In Jesus, we are offered a relationship with God, not because of what we have done, but because of His grace.

This "new life" doesn't only speak about eternity - though it wonderfully includes that. It also meets us here and now.

It means that

- even in difficult seasons, hope can take root.
- peace can be found, even when life feels uncertain.
- we are never beyond God's love, and never without purpose.

It is a quiet, steady assurance that Christ is with us and that He is at work, bringing renewal in ways we may not always see at first.

As we reflect on Easter, perhaps we might gently ask ourselves: how might this new life be seen in us? In our kindness, in our patience, in the way we notice and care for others?

Sometimes, simply living with that quiet hope is itself a powerful witness.

Easter reminds us that we are resurrection people - people who carry light, even in dark places. Not perfectly, but faithfully.

As these words from Colossians remind us

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven… Let heaven fill your thoughts… For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed… you will share in all his glory.”

(Colossians 3:1-4)

May this Easter be a time where, in whatever way you are able, you become aware again of that life - Christ in you.

With love and every blessing,

Lynsey x

Pastoral Letter

REV JOHN MACGREGOR
- PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

A few years ago, when our grandson Jack was visiting the church where I was minister in Cadder, Bishopbriggs, he was there with Susan, his gran, and his older brother Harry. Outside the church are some very old gravestones, and Jack, with all the curiosity of a five-year-old, asked, “Can me and Harry go and look for Jesus’ gravestone?”

Susan smiled and said, “You can look, but you won’t find it because Jesus doesn’t have a gravestone. He is not dead; He is alive!”

What a lovely moment that was, and what a timely way to share the heart of the Easter message.

As we move into April, we’re reminded again of that wonderful truth: Jesus is not dead, He is alive and that truth changes everything.

Life can feel heavy at times and many of us carry worries or burdens that aren’t always easy to share. But Easter brings us hope, not just a vague hope, but a living hope that meets us where we are. The risen Jesus is with us in our questions, our struggles, and our everyday lives. He brings light into dark places, peace into anxious hearts, and hope when things feel difficult.

So, whatever you may be facing just now, please remember this: Easter tells us that darkness never has the final word! The angels at the empty tomb asked, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” It’s a question that still speaks to us today. Let’s not look for life in places that cannot give it, but instead place our trust in the living Christ, who is risen and with us.

May you know His peace, His joy, and His hope this Easter and in the days ahead. In Christ’s love,

Rev John

St Paul’s Church Society Cards

ELIZABETH MCEWAN

At present the amount raised for St Margaret’s Hospice from the sale of the £1 cards stands at £320. Over the years an amazing £9600 has been donated to various charities from this outreach project.

Examples of Easter cards have been placed in front of the office and can be ordered if wished.

Special occasion cards are also available on request. All cards are still priced at £1. Many thanks for your continued support in this project.

Hello from Sakata

LORNA FERGUSON

It's lovely to see the Lent and Holy Week services being held at St Paul's and in some of the other churches in Milngavie. I wonder if you've enjoyed any cream eggs or mini eggs yet - I certainly appreciated them while I was in Scotland last year!

Here in Japan, Easter isn't widely known at all. There are one or two shops where you might see small plastic eggs to fill, or perhaps a bunny ornament, but there are no chocolate eggs, no public holidays, and very few special church services.

At my church in Sakata, we are holding a children's outreach event on 29th March. I'll be giving a short message and organising games and some crafts. It's a real challenge to think through how to explain Easter to children who have probably never heard of it before. A friend in the US has kindly sent us some Easter crafts that we can make with the children, which is helpful since crafts aren't really my thing.

We will then have a Good Friday service on the evening of 3rd April and our Easter service on the 5th. We're encouraging church members to invite family and friends to come along on Easter Sunday. I've been asked to give a short testimony about

what Easter means to me, in a way that visitors will hopefully understand. I'm also helping the "young people" (that is those under 50) in the church to sing a special praise song that day.

It is both challenging and exciting to have the opportunity to explain the meaning of Easter to people in Japan. It's challenging because most people have no idea what Easter is, and even words like the "cross" and "sin" aren't used in the same way in everyday Japanese conversation, so it can be hard to know where to begin. At the same time, it's a real privilege to share how much God loves us and what Jesus has done for us on the cross with people who may be hearing it for the very first time. They don't have any of the usual associations with chocolate eggs or bunnies!

Please do pray for us over this Easter season—that many people would be curious enough to come along, that the message would be clearly understood, and that hearts would be open to the good news of Jesus. Pray especially for the children's outreach event, for those who are invited to the Easter service, and for all of us as we seek to share the hope of the gospel in a culture where it is still largely unknown.

Happy Easter! With love and prayers.

Lorna

Recipe of the Month

A USEFUL RECIPE

MARGARET WHITE

While searching for an old recipe book, I found this wee poem.
My granny put it in my book, but I've no idea where it came from or who wrote it.

Take one whole pound of kindess
And stir it round with thoughts that bless
Plenty of patience makes it nice
Some fun will add a little spice.
Don't weigh out love but pour it in
Oil of good cheer will grease your tin
Mix well in, just the old time way
And you'll have made a happy day.

Thank You

MAGGIE CONWAY

I would like to thank Lynsey, John and our church family of St Paul's for the support I have received since my hip operation. The gifts of cards, flowers, texts, phone calls and visits all have been greatly welcomed and so lovely. A big thank you to all on the communications team for making the online services so amazing.

Thank you all so much for your kindness and prayers and also an extra thank-you on my big birthday.
Love and prayers to you all.

KENNETH MACANNA

Diane Macanna's family would like to thank all those who joined us in celebrating Diane's life at her service of thanksgiving on Tuesday 10th March. Particular thanks go to the BreakAway group for their patience and kindness.

ANNE RITCHIE

Wishing all church holidaymakers a good trip. So sorry I cannot be with you, but I am now home. Onwards and upwards.
I cannot tell you how much the congregation's prayers, cards and visits helped to get me to this point.
Thank you.

Elder Tribute

REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Maureen MacIntyre lived a life shaped by love - love for her family, her friends, and her Lord.

Born in Paisley, she went on to build a home in Bearsden with her husband Ian that became a place of warmth, welcome, and faithful care. She was a devoted wife and a deeply loving mother to her sons, Ian and Alasdair, who were always at the heart of her life.

Maureen had a quiet, generous way about her. She found joy in simple things - her garden, time with family, shared laughter with friends, and the small acts of kindness that meant so much to others. Her friendships, especially with Nan and Marie, were marked by years of loyalty, laughter, and unwavering support.

Even in the challenges of her later years, she was cared for with great compassion, and her family remain deeply thankful for the kindness shown to her.

Maureen held onto the promise of Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life.” That promise guided her life and now holds her in eternal peace.

She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered, with gratitude for a life so gently and faithfully lived.

Guild News

ELIZABETH MCEWAN

The annual Guild coffee morning on the 7th of March was very busy with standing room only at one point! The response from the Guild members and congregation was greatly appreciated and a huge thanks must go to all who helped in various ways.

Here's a breakdown of funds raised:

£1,022.50 from ticket sales, stalls and donations
£94 from the cake stall on the Sunday
£75.30 from the Sunday morning coffee - Thank you

Grand total of £1,191.80 for the Guild National projects:
Scottish Bible Society,
Bibles for Bairns and
Bear Necessities - Build My Church, Bulgaria

Our final meeting of the session will be on Monday 23rd of March at 2pm in the large hall when we will have our AGM followed by afternoon tea.

A Prayer

KIRSTEEN DUTTON

Jesus prayed,
“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done."

“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message...”

Dear Lord, our loving Father, Redeemer and Life,
In your humanity, you asked for deliverance, but you remained true to your calling, and purpose, and denying self. Relying wholly on your Father's love, you accepted death and suffering and a sense of God's absence, in order that your deeper prayers would be answered. We are grateful to find ourselves in scripture "those who will believe through their message". By your grace, we ask that we would live by your resurrection power, and that you would enable us, day by day, to grow more like you; to show that same trust in our Heavenly Father, enabling us to lose our lives for others, and thus find Life more fully, not for fame, fortune, security or comfort, but with purpose, in the centre of your will, and thus, lacking nothing, as the Moravians once sang "that the Lamb who was slain might receive the reward of his suffering".

"A Shepherd's love led him to die.
A cross remember?
His Father, with Spirit-power, lifted him high
To lift us, to call us, to love us—that's why
There's a heart-door to open and bid Christ enter."

Through Christ we ask,

Amen.

The Fellowship of the Believers

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to
fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone
was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed
by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had
everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions
to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to
meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their
homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47
praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the
Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

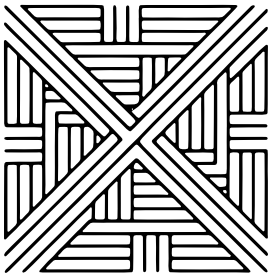
“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts…”

This passage gives a beautiful, practical picture of what real Christian community looks like:

- They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer
- They shared what they had and cared for anyone in need
- They met both in homes and in larger gatherings
- There was joy, generosity, and a strong sense of belonging
- Their life together drew others in

Community is built through everyday rhythms: eating together, supporting one another, praying, and simply being present.

Safeguarding Training Dates



ELIZABETH MCEWAN,
SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Several Safeguarding training dates have been arranged to take place in May. All volunteers are reminded that it is an important part of their duties to attend a training session.

1-New and current volunteers
Friday 8th May 2-4pm, Large Hall

2-New and current volunteers
Wednesday 13th May 7-9pm, Jubilee Hall
Volunteers need only attend one training session

3-Trustees
Friday 22nd May 2-4pm, Large Hall

4-Trustees
Wednesday 27th May 7-9pm, Jubilee Hall
Trustees need only attend one training session and are reminded that Safeguarding is one of their responsibilities.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the back of the church from Sunday 12th April.

Parliamentary Motion

OFFICE OF MARIE MCNAIR MSP

Marie recently lodged a Parliamentary Motion in order to recognise and congratulate Noah's Ark Milngavie for the coffee morning that was held to raise money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. This was a fantastic achievement, and Marie would like to thank the whole group for raising £1,500 for such an incredible charity.
Parliamentary motion: S6M-21070

Christian Aid Lenten Lunch

ELIZABETH MCEWAN

A total of £895 was raised for Christian Aid during the Lenten Lunch on the 22nd March. Thank you to all who supported this event.

News from the Church of Scotland

STATEMENT - ASSISTED DYING BILL VOTE

The Scottish Parliament has voted to reject the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill by 69 votes to 57.

Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "I welcome the news that the Scottish Parliament has chosen not to approve the Assisted Dying Bill.

In May 2025, the General Assembly reaffirmed its opposition to assisted dying, following extensive Church-wide consideration, lengthy debate and a close vote.

While there is a diversity of views within the Church, the considered opinion was that we could not support a change in the law. Christians believe that every human being is made in the image of God with inherent dignity and worth, this is true for how we live, as well as how we die. I recognise that the outcome will be a disappointment to many, but it was clear that the safeguards included did not offer sufficient protection.

We have been consistent in our position that we need to prioritise the development of excellent palliative care services that are universally available and fully funded.

Without that, had the Bill passed, we would fear that many vulnerable people might have seen an assisted death as their only realistic option.

That concern remains and we will continue to advocate for increased funding and availability of palliative care.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard and diligent work of our MSPs and the staff in the Scottish Parliament who have scrutinised this Bill over the past five years.

It has been notable how respectfully the debate has been conducted and how gracious opponents have been to one another.

My hope is that this spirit of kindness, even when there are deep political differences, can continue through the election campaign and beyond."

The Noticeboard

1 HOLY WEEK SERVICES

These will be held in the United Free Church at 7.30pm from Monday 30th March to Friday 3rd April.

2 WALK OF WITNESS

Takes place on Good Friday 3rd April starting at Gavin's Mill and walking through the precinct, finishing at St Paul's for refreshments.

3 EASTER SUNDAY - 5TH APRIL

At St Paul's there will be a family service at 11am. Communion will be celebrated.

Beforehand, come along to Baldernock Church for an outdoor service! Starting at 9.30am, there will be a shorter 20/30 minute service to celebrate Easter. Hot Cross Buns will be served after the service.

3 ST PAUL'S CHURCH SOCIETY

The St Paul's Church Society AGM will be held on Saturday 11th April with tea/coffee and hot cross buns at 10am. The meeting will start at 10.30am. Subscriptions remain at £3 and new members will be made very welcome.

5 FLOWER DONATIONS

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".

Thank you for the flower donation received in memory for this month:

Mairi Spencer

6 ST PAUL'S SERVICES

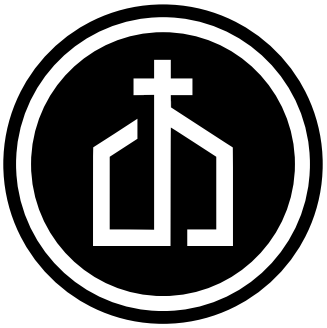
Our Sunday morning services continue to take place at the regular time of 11am. As always, we invite you to stay for tea and a chat after the service. On 26th April, we join together for *The Way*. This is a contemporary service encountering the Spirit of God. We meet at 6.30pm for hot drinks and doughnuts, before the service at 7pm.

7 ANNUAL LEAVE

Rev Lynsey will be on annual leave from 6th-13th April. Rev John will lead the services and be available for any pastoral concerns.

8 LIFE DEADLINES

The next issue of St Paul's Life will be published on Sunday 3rd May. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 26th March. All submissions and suggestions are welcome. Thank you for all your continued support.



1 BALDERNOCK ROAD
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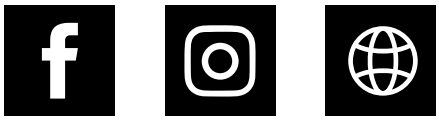
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