



## St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine May 2011

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the Thursday of Holy Week.

Enjoying a few quiet moments in the garden earlier today I noticed a Robin hopping around on the lawn just a few yards in front of me. My train of thought went like this: 'Robin – Christmas Card – Birth of Jesus – This is not right, it's Easter!'

It reminded me of an occasion when I was a student minister and I was filling in for a real minister when he was away for the summer. The preaching was focusing on the resurrection of Jesus and what that meant for us and so I chose hymns appropriate to that theme. When I arrived at the Church for the service I was greeted by the organist who said: 'What's with all the Easter hymns?'

Now I realise that many hymns and themes have become tied to seasons of the Christian Year and it would seem a bit odd if we were singing 'Still the night' in the middle of June. But it would be unfortunate if we became so hide-bound that we could not reflect on the birth of Jesus until the decorations went up and the snow was on the ground. Similarly, how could we ever keep the death and resurrection of Jesus out of our preaching and worship until the 'appropriate' time arrived?

When Paul called the Corinthian church back to the basics of the Gospel he focussed on the death and resurrection of Jesus. You can check this out at I Corinthians 15: 1-8. These are the events that constitute the heart of our faith. Without constant proclamation and reflection there can be no true worship, no growth in devotion and no mission.

I hope this Easter has seen a renewal of our faith. I noticed today that some of the daffodils in our garden have begun to wilt. They were once bright signs that spring had come with the promise of warmer, lighter days. The life in them has now been exhausted. Let us pray that the knowledge we have of Jesus' death and resurrection and the love that motivated these Easter events will keep us vibrant in faith and ever strong in our witness to the life His Spirit brings to the world.

Wishing you all God's Peace,  
**Fergus C Buchanan**

Erratum—Mistake dammit!

We apologise to readers of Life last month for the pages appearing in the wrong order and trust that you managed to make sense of it despite this.

Ed

### Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

### Sun Kids

We would like to thank everyone who assisted with Sun Kids over this past session. We thank those who prepared and helped with the crafts, the games, and generally just being around to help with the busyness of a Sun Kids afternoon. We also thank those who volunteered to help with the door duty, meeting and greeting, or taking registration and our food teams working in the kitchen.

We are sure you will agree though at times challenging (when you never know just how many children will turn up) that Sun Kids is a rewarding ministry. It is great to see so many young people coming through our doors Saturday by Saturday to have a great time and to hear the Gospel message.

Hopefully we will see you all again for the 2011-2012 session

**Ross Deuchar**  
**Douglas Martin**

### Flower donations—April

April donations: Miss E. Izatt, Mrs H. Lindsay, Miss M. McLean, Mrs M. Robertson.

Please put donations in Flower rota pigeon hole at back of church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave. Milngavie G62 6LJ. Phone 956 2630



## 75% of rights abuses 'aimed at Christians' says new report

The Catholic Church agency, Aid to the Church in Need, estimates that 75% of all religious persecution around the world is directed against Christians.

The hard-hitting report was launched at St Rollox Church of Scotland by Cardinal Keith O'Brien and Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil in Iraq on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Cardinal O'Brien said there has been a surge in Christians fleeing persecution that is shocking and saddening.

"In countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, Christians face violence, intolerance and even death because of their beliefs," he says. "This is intolerable and unacceptable. Here in Scotland we value our freedoms, particularly the freedom of religion and the right to practise our faith free from persecution. Yet this detailed, and at times harrowing, report reminds us that not all Christians enjoy such freedom."

The report says 100 million Christians around the world are now facing persecution and the Christian population in some countries is collapsing.

It gives the example of Iraq, where it says that over the last 25 years the Christian population has gone from an estimated 1.4 million to about 150,000.

Nather Eisa an Iraqi Christian said, "The problem started for Christian people in 1991 when sanctions were imposed by the United Nations," "Muslim people hated Christian people because America and Britain are Christian. They say to us Christians that we make the problems for them, but we say we are

the same as them, we suffer the same."

Mr Eisa, a trained teacher, told how he was called a "little Christian rag" and received a death threat. His life was spared when his brother agreed to pay a bribe. For the father-of-two it was one of many abuses that persuaded him to flee to London in 2002. Shortly afterwards he and his family were moved to Sighthill in Glasgow.

The report's author, John Pontifex, said the choice was to do nothing or "we can pray and we can act". He added: "Aid to the Church in Need chooses to do the latter. And that's why more and more people are beginning to realise that this issue is perhaps the biggest human rights scandal of our generation and that something has to be done."

### Stewardship Card

Thanks to all those who have returned the card issued with last months *Life*. If you haven't returned a card please consider doing so. Spare cards are available at the back of the Church.

Graham Mill

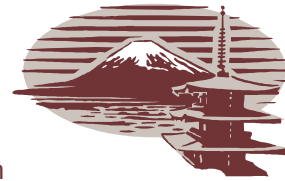
### Large print version

#### Life magazine

We have been made aware that some people are struggling to read to read Life in its current format. If you require a large print version, please ask your delivery person to contact the editor on your behalf (contact details on back page) to request one. We will then include a copy in their bundle for delivery.

Ed

## Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

As we move into May in Hokkaido, it is cherry blossom season. In other parts of Japan, they bud earlier and it is often on occasion for lively parties under the trees. This year though these have been rather muted out of respect for the many thousands who are suffering in the aftermath of the tsunami.

Within OMF we have been thinking and praying much about our response to the disaster. It is hoped that we can set up a base somewhere, with a small team of people living in that place to provide continuing help in the relief and recovery effort. This is a major decision for us to make but we want to move quickly as the needs are so vast and urgent. Over time we hope that different teams with different skills can be part of this ministry to show love and care for people who have lost so much.

The plan is that the OMF teams can try to work in cooperation with local churches, though many of the areas which have been worst affected happen to be places which have few or no churches. The task is enormous and we can only play a small part. There has been an overwhelming response by many round the world with financial gifts for the relief effort and offers of practical help. We hope all of this may be an encouragement and blessing to the Japanese people.

Last month Lorna was at Hebron for mid-term and had a great time with the boys. This month they are busy with exams (AS level for Daniel and exam week for Matthew, including later an AS level in Japanese). David survived his time as 'mum' for two and half weeks! As we write this we are looking forward to an Easter Festival we are holding for the community and will write more about that next time.

Lorna's parents are also visiting from the end of April till early May when we can enjoy the so-called Golden Week holiday together. Life continues to be busy with all our responsibilities in Hiragishi, helping where we can in Otaru and also coordinating a Training Week for younger missionaries this month. We appreciate your prayers very much.

*With our love and thanks*

*David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

**"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." St Augustine**



## Mission Aviation Fellowship

### Coffee Morning

MAF are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th May in Bearsden Baptist Church from 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. There will be various stalls of home-baking, books, plants, toys, bric-a-brac and hand massage. There will also be flight simulators for those who want to try their hand at landing a MAF plane in Africa and "Beat the Goalie" for budding strikers. Admission is £2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children.

If you are free please go along and support this very worthwhile cause.

### Sponsored 10k Run

On Saturday 17th September MAF are organising a Sponsored 10k run in Strathclyde Country Park from 12.30p.m. - 3.30p.m. All the money raised will be divided between 5 different charities bringing hope to Africa. There will be much more information in next month's Life but in the meantime if you want to know more about it please visit their website [www.maf-uk.org/runningtherace11](http://www.maf-uk.org/runningtherace11)

### CHERRY BLOSSOM FAIR SATURDAY 14th MAY 10am-12pm

Please join the Sunday Club and Bible Class at our annual Fair which raises money for the Ferguson family in Japan. This year, after the dreadful earthquake and tsunami, they particularly need our prayerful and financial support as they and other members of the O.M.F. team try to bring relief to those affected.

Come and try our freshly-made pancakes with your tea or coffee. There will be the usual stalls with home-baking and unwanted treasures, including books; contributions can be brought on the day and will be gratefully received.

Various games and other activities will also be on offer for children of all ages.

Everyone is welcome!

### Milngavie Churches Summer Praise evening.

#### Saturday 5th June

7.30pm in the Town Hall with praise being led by Iain Whyte.

An offering will be uplifted.

There are no tickets. This is a family event - all welcome.

## Just Pray to Win the Battle

From a sermon by Kwabena D. Akufo

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 “Be joyful always; pray continually.”

Muslims, Buddhists, and other non-Christian religions are disciplined and rigid about prayer. The Muslim will pray at the prescribed times several times a day without fail no matter where he is. But Christians are not disciplined about prayer! Many will only pray when they feel threatened or need something. This attitude led E.M. Bounds to say that, “Prayer works so well in a crisis, one wonders why we don’t implement it on a regular basis.”

It may very well be that Christian prayer threatens Satan so he gives you excuses and distractions to prevent you from praying in a disciplined way and praying as a habit. The cell phone has become the number one agent of Satan against praying. People will check who is calling and even answer certain calls in the middle of their prayer! That is Satanic cleverness and Christian stupidity.

If you dramatise Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians and the Philippians and James’ letter to the twelve tribes they address this issue plainly. They tell you: Just Pray! Pray for anything and everything. Pray continually. Pray without ceasing. Pray without interruption. Pray always.

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## World Mission Diary for May

This month The World Mission Council has asked congregations to pray for David Morton and his wife Rebecca . They both work at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi which is run by our partner church, The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian . David has shared some prayers requests lately.



- *That I will have faith to see that all things are subject to Christ.*
- *That another doctor will come soon, one who has experience in surgery and obstetrics, and has his/her own funding.*
- *That the district will pay what they owe so the hospital can continue to obtain what we need to provide care. Patients never stop coming so we have to care for them the best we can with what we have.*
- *That our staff will do their jobs with faithfulness.*
- *That I will be better able to carve out more time for prayer and devotional life.*
- *That we will have great wisdom in treating so many difficult patients and know how to handle the losses.*
- *That we will know joy and not be overwhelmed.*
- *Thank you for your prayers and give thanks for all the people and churches that have so generously helped the hospital.*

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” Martin Luther King.

## Brigade Blethers

Well the Display has come and gone and, as always, the girls' items were great. Our special guest this year was Mrs Margaret Faith and she very graciously presented all the awards. These included a new trophy in memory of Anne Faith. To win the trophy this year the Juniors worked in pairs to produce a collage of the Easter story and the winners were Alison Kerr and Isla MacKinnon. The collage is up on the Brigade board in the big hall and is well worth a look.



Every year I name the winners of all of our special awards because I know how much extra work these girls put into their tasks - so here goes!

- Best Explorer Squad: Nicola Berry, Heather Macleod, Catherine McCorkindale and Grace Wilson.
- Best Junior Squad: Jennifer Cockburn, Sarah Dougall, Isla MacKinnon, and Kara Mollison
- Best Jnr. Keep Fit - Eden Wilson;
- Best Jnr Girl - Jennifer Cockburn;
- Best Sunday Attendance - Esther Fletcher
- Best Brigader Squad: Chloe Drum-

mond, Kayleigh Galloway, Isla Robinson, Alison Cockburn, Gemma Clunie, and Alice Robinson.

- Best Keep Fit Brigader S1/2 - Kayleigh Galloway.
- Best Keep Fit Brigader S3+ - Gemma Clunie.
- Best Brigader S1/2 - Chloe Drummond and Isla Robinson.
- Best Brigader S3+ - Alison Biggart who also gained her Brigader Brooch.

Nicola Pirie, Catriona Rankine and Christina Sinclair all received 13 year service awards and Alison Biggart, Alison Cockburn and Eve Cockburn received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates.

Our Display was very early this year because of the Easter school holidays but we will come together again on Thursday 28 April for a big party!

We are very proud of all our girls in Brigade and consider it a real privilege to encourage them to seek, serve and follow Christ. Remember us in your prayers and have a great summer.

**Anne Goodlet**

## Christian Aid Week 2011

Commences 15 May and as usual there is an URGENT NEED for collectors.

If you have not already signed up there is a sheet at the back of the church - or contact **Gordon Campbell 563-0377**.

If you can't collect you can always help with the count which is within the main hall on 18, 19, 20<sup>th</sup> May, commencing 7pm.

["You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones." St Augustine](#)



# Roll Away the Stone

**On General Assembly Sunday, 22 May 2011 from 1pm till 6pm, the Church will take over a large area of Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh for a time of *Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery*.**

"Significance comes from the Cross and resurrection life flows from the Tomb." So celebration, inspiration and discovery will begin with reflections around a huge cross in the garden area near the Ross Bandstand. Meantime at the Bandstand itself, in the picturesque avenue and fountain areas, and in St Cuthbert's Church at the west end of the Gardens there will be space for worship, praise and singing amongst a whole range of other things to see and do.

## **Take Part — Be a Steward**

They are looking for people to help be a volunteer steward for all or part of the day on May 22nd.

The main duties will be:

- greeting and thanking folks as they enter/leave the park
- providing directions/instructions
- providing timetable information
- assisting with crowd control operations and public safety
- responding to any reasonable request for assistance

For more information, or to "Sign Up" to be a steward, please email:

[info@rollawaythestone.org.uk](mailto:info@rollawaythestone.org.uk)

Note: Not all applicants may be suitable to be stewards, and you may need to undertake (or already have) Disclosure Information checks (via the Church of Scotland) to operate in certain areas within the park.

## **Make A Day of It**

Come yourself, or better still bring others from your congregation, friends and family. Make it a church outing in the beautiful setting of Princes Street Gardens. If you're coming from a distance, then make a day of it and join with local Edinburgh churches who are ready to welcome you for morning worship before all heading along to the park.



## **Congratulations**

to five of our elders – Brian Adair, David Lawson, William Ponton, Ian Ferguson and Elizabeth Bragg – who were presented with Certificates of Long Services by the Church of Scotland and signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly in grateful appreciation of dedicated service as elders for thirty years.

The presentation of the certificates together with bibles was made by the Rev Fergus Buchanan at the April meeting of the Kirk Session.

**Ian McKinnon**  
**Session Clerk**



Below:

The annual walk of witness took place through the precinct on Good Friday. Several hundred people took part from all the Milngavie churches in beautiful sunshine, finishing at St Joseph's for tea and hot cross buns.



## Passion Play in Glasgow

The Glasgow Passion 2011 is a new and modern interpretation of the greatest story ever told – the story of Jesus.

This story has been told in many different ways over the centuries and this fresh adaptation is written by award winning Scottish playwright Rob Drummond and produced by Cutting Edge Theatre Productions who have staged traditional versions in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The play will be directed by Fraser MacLeod who currently is the Associate Director for Scottish Youth Theatre.

### Aims of The Production

- To create a high quality modern production of the story of the last days in the life of Jesus Christ.
- To create a new community cast and crew who will work together towards the finished product but, in the process, will learn new dramatic skills.
- To enable the company to be involved in the creative process which can be exciting and significant as well as enjoyable.
- To give the audience an experience of Theatre rather than just being a spectator.
- To challenge and inspire the audience and participants alike.

**The play, which tells the story of the last week in Jesus' life, will be performed in the heart of Glasgow – George Square on 6th October, 2011.**

Passion plays have been performed over the years all around the world. Theatre is a wonderful way of communicating and this production will use professional and community actors, singers and musicians. Tickets are already available—they are free, but must be obtained in advance.

Rehearsals started on 1st March but there's still time to join in, if you're interested. Not all jobs are for actors: stewards, sound crew, costume and props gatherers are required (no experience required) and stage/production crew with experience are also needed.

For more info go to [www.glasgowpassion.co.uk](http://www.glasgowpassion.co.uk) or email Suzanne Lofthus at [cuttingedge21@btopenworld.com](mailto:cuttingedge21@btopenworld.com). Tel: 0131 652 0968



# St Rollox Community Outreach

Sharon Barlow has sent us the following information from the St Rollox Community Outreach Project.

“A number of our staff and clients tell how the St Rollox Project has been life changing to them. Many speaking of how they feel part of a family when they come to Project activities.

Nora and her husband travelled through many countries from Iraq to escape persecution at the hands of Saddam Hussein. Dispersed to Glasgow, and at that time allowed only vouchers for food, she was advised by other refugees to visit the shop at St Rollox.

She came to the shop regularly and then came on a bus trip to the seaside. She began to feel less lost and lonely as she made friends at the church. Now granted leave to remain, both she and her husband have found employment. She feels that through her connection with St Rollox she has increased in confidence and self esteem. She looks forward every week to coming to the Project 'it is like coming to my family home'.

Karima, a journalist from Afghanistan, persecuted by the Taliban, says that if she is sad St Rollox is the only place that makes her happy. St Rollox is like her home. In coming to the church she meets lots of people, makes friends, has fun and can learn Scottish ways.

Hoda, a refugee from Iraq came to the UK in 2002, having lost her husband in the war at that time .She came first to

improved but she also made friends. She says she will never forget the help which she received at St Rollox, especially when her asylum claim was initially refused. She like many others sees St Rollox as being her family and says that without the support and someone to talk to she would never have coped.”

The project is always seeking good quality clothing, household items, textiles, TVs, DVDs and other electronic goods, prams and toys.

They also ask for your prayers:

- For asylum seekers who have received letters from the Border Agency informing them that they will be moved at very short notice and will only be allowed to take the minimum of personal effects. Pray for the fear and uncertainty this causes vulnerable people.
- For asylum seekers who have been made homeless and destitute, facing a very uncertain future.
- For positive word on a funding application submitted recently.

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman

05-02-2007

LEPERS ... | HEAL LEPERS

# C H U R C H   R E G I S T E R

## NEW MEMBERS

### Joined by Profession

Mr Robert Cameron, 6 Ashburn Gardens, Milngavie	33
Mrs Jane James, 42 Antonine Road, Bearsden	62a
Mr Douglas Gibson, 24 Thorn Drive, Bearsden	62a

### Joined by Resolution

Mr Arthur Wylie, 2 Lochside, 45 Drymen Road Bearsden	69
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### DISJUNCTIONS

Dr John McArthur, 7 Rowan Crescent, Lenzie	70
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### DEATHS

*Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'*

17.3.11 Mr Stewart Dawson, 8 Campbell Ave., Milngavie	30
03.4.11 Mrs Christy Grosset, 7 Auchencruivie, Fairways	50
10.4.11 Mrs May Jenkins, Canniesburn Nursing Home, Bearsden	18a
12.4.11 Mrs Marion Weir, Abbotsford House, Bearsden	3a

Copy date for June Life— Sunday 22nd May for the pigeon hole or up to Wed 25th if emailing. Please send to [rona.dawson@go.uk.com](mailto:rona.dawson@go.uk.com) or 123 Garscadden Road, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

**We remind readers that the June issue is the last one before the summer, so please send rotas and notices of events happening in July and August.**

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
<b>8 May</b>	J Clark S Stenhouse	Wallis Berry	A Begg J Maclean	Team 9 Norman Barlow
<b>15 May</b>	P Barlow C Buchanan	Wilson Chapman	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Margaret Fraser
<b>22 May</b>	S Anderson M McDowall	McCreadie Reid	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 3 Elizabeth McEwan
<b>29 May</b>	M Conway M Macpherson	Lawrie Sillars	C Mackay E Izatt	Team 4 Stephen Thoms
<b>5 Jun</b>	A Galloway J Townson	Goodlet Deuchar	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Frances Ireland