



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine March 2010

Dear Friends,

My wife returned to work after being laid low with one of those bugs which have been wreaking havoc lately. Her colleagues greeted her enthusiastically. One said: 'We're glad you're back because we have a question for Fergus.'

Gabrielle braced herself for some deep theological conundrum or perhaps an agonising moral dilemma.

'Who does he think killed Archie Mitchell?'

Now there might just be one or two people who are unfamiliar with the name Archie Mitchell so I'd better explain that he was the baddie in *Eastenders* who was murdered on Christmas day. About half the population of Albert Square had reasonable motive to do away with him so the mystery of who 'dunnit' has been exercising many thinking people for some weeks.

As I write, the culprit has just been revealed and unfortunately I got it wrong. In fact, I got it spectacularly wrong.

You might be able to convince me that this failure doesn't really matter and that my professional integrity hasn't received too much of a dent. I am conscious, though, that people like myself are supposed to have answers to questions that do matter and that sometimes our failure to satisfy has led people to fall out of love with the Church.

I recall a movie I once saw about a British Prime Minister. He was under enormous pressure and when in one scene he is reminded by an aide that it is Question Time in forty minutes he replies despairingly: 'It's always question time!'

I know how he feels. I have often been asked searching questions about the nature of God, the uniqueness of Christ, the challenge of suffering, the effectiveness of the Church – and while my pride will not allow me to withhold an answer, it is not always an answer that makes a difference to the questioner.

It comforts me to know, however, that Paul didn't have all the answers. Remember what he wrote to the Church in Corinth?

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now

I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. (I Corinthians 13: 12)

Even a monumental intellect like Paul's had to admit that this side of eternity there would be no clear-cut answers to many important questions. That leads me to think that part of the challenge of living a Christian life is being prepared to live with unanswered questions. And I think I can do that because it is possible to know the love of God in the midst of everything that would confuse and perplex me in this life.

Paul again:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39).

Having been touched by the love of Christ Paul found it easier to live with the questions – although you get the impression he was looking forward to the time when everything would be made clear. I am too.

Wishing you God's Peace,

Fergus C Buchanan

Holy Week Services



This year the Joint Holy Week Services will take place in St. Paul's from Monday 29th March until Friday 2nd April. All Services will begin at 7.30pm.

The Guest Preacher this year is the Rev. Willie Black of Stornoway High Parish Church. Willie spent some years as a seminary teacher in South Korea, where there has been astonishing Christian growth in recent years, preparing ministers for preaching and pastoral work. He brought a wealth of personal experience to that job and continues a highly motivated ministry in his present charge.



Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

Winter is still here and as we get into March we begin to get a little fed up of snow and look forward to its disappearance gradually from the end of this month. The piled up mountains of snow at the side of the roads start melting and surfaces which for many weeks were filled with hard-packed snow and ice give way to pools of water.

This month sees Alistair finish kindergarten with a special graduation ceremony on the 15th. Endings and transitions are always marked here very carefully. He will then have a few weeks' holiday before starting at the same school as Calum from April. It will be his second time to start school as he already did that when we were last home – children start much later here.

We have been pondering and praying about plans for the coming year for Izumi Church. Lorna has made contact with many mothers who would like to send their children to English classes. We have been able to find a building nearby to hold two classes a week for primary school children. Already people are applying and it will be a good way to get to know people in the area and also to introduce the Bible in a low-key way as each week will end with a simple Bible story in Japanese.

Soon we also hope to have an introductory leaflet about our church and also a home page. It is not easy to distribute leaflets these days here as often it is impossible to get access to the apartment blocks for that purpose and sometimes people in houses have signs up asking people not to leave fliers and leaflets. But we feel it will be good to have something to give to people we meet and hopefully with a web site, we can be found by others out there who might be searching for a church or have some interest in the Bible. Pray that we would reach people with open hearts who can find their way to Jesus.

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Brigade Blethers

We spent most of February making all sorts of goodies to sell at our Coffee morning. The girls enjoy craft and they turned out some beautiful work. Most of which, I am pleased to say, sold out last Saturday. We had a great turn out of customers and as always a good number were from our Church family. We raised a whopping £ 880 (which donations have now raised to £ 915) and we would like to say a big "Thank you" to all who supported us.



This means you might even get two sandwiches now if you come along to our birthday lunch on Sunday 7 March. The Company will be 50 years old and we would like to invite you to join us after morning service for a piece of birthday cake. Some of our friends in the Guild have already offered to help make sandwiches etc. so please come along.

Then two weeks later we are off to sunny Auchengillan for the weekend and we are all looking forward to that. I just hope that it gets a wee bit warmer! But I will tell you all about it next time.

Anne Goodlet

Chanan Trust

It is intended to collect tea, coffee, biscuits, sugar etc during Lent for Chanan Trust who operate in Glasgow City Centre from the Free Church in St Vincent Street, where they reach out to people with various problems in their lives.

Collecting started on Sunday 21st February 2110 and will go on throughout Lent. Boxes have been placed at the back of the church. Support for this work is greatly appreciated along with your prayers.

Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts 2009/10

6 th Mar	United Free
3 rd Apr	St Luke's
1 st May	St Paul's
5 th Jun	Allander

Flower Donations : March

Mr R. Bone, Miss D. Dickson,
Mrs M. Hamilton, Mrs M. Ingram,
J. & S. Lindsay, Miss A. Ritchie.

Please send donations to Mrs
Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave,
Milngavie G62 6LJ or leave in
flower pigeonhole at back of
Church.



Start the New Year with

G
A
M
E
S

Start the New Year with **SUN KIDS**



COME ALONG
AND BRING A FRIEND

FOOD

CHALLENGES

Saturday 20th March 2010

4.30 - 6.30PM

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

ACTIVITIES



Sun Kids

Sun Kids are looking for 'meeters' and 'greeters'. Simply put, we need people to meet and greet the young people and their parents as they arrive at Sun Kids. Overwhelmed with such a large number of young people (71 at our January Sun Kids) arriving within a short space of time, we wanted to find a way of welcoming people through the doors of what might be an unfamiliar building.

Meeters and greeters would be there from about 4pm to 4.45pm to welcome people as they arrive, direct them to the registration desk and answer any questions people have. Volunteers would be on duty again from about 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm to meet adults returning to collect their children and to ensure that the young people leave the premises safely.

If you feel you could assist the youth and children's outreach work of St Paul's in this way, please contact **Douglas Martin (942 7184)** or **Ross Deuchar (955 0429)**.

World Mission Prayer Diary

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated a new smart card scheme for farmers designed to increase productivity and reduce fraud.

Almost 20 million small or medium-sized farms in Bangladesh will eventually get the card, which will allow them to open bank accounts with just a few cents. It will allow the government to pay subsidies directly to them, cutting out middlemen and embezzlers who currently siphon off a large proportion of the government's help.

The first use of the card will be to distribute a \$100m fuel subsidy. The cards will also contain information on the land the farmers have under cultivation, the crops they produce and the fertilisers they will need. "An interactive database of farmers has been prepared to run in conjunction with the scheme," said Agriculture Secretary Mustaq Ahmed, "which will help the government make detailed analysis of the inputs that farmers need.

"We can then make efficient planning for agriculture, while farmers who have never been linked to the banks will become more money-literate once they start going to them.

"They will then begin to take loans from banks - instead of rural moneylenders who charge high interest rates for farmers. It will also make farmers more aware of modern agriculture technologies."

Mr Ahmed said that he hoped the initiatives would bring "revolutionary change to the agricultural sector."

World Mission update

Let us remember the people of Bangladesh in our prayers this month. Praying that the measures taken will aid the farmers to produce more food for the nation



Life and
Work
Magazine
March
contents

Down on the Farm

Jackie Macadam learns about the church's role in the Care Farming initiative, which uses commercial farms and farming activity to promote mental and physical health.

'You'll Never Amount to Anything...'

Profile of the Rev Neil Galbraith, co-founder of Glasgow the Caring City

From Lent to Pentecost

In the second part of the series, the Rev Martin Allen examines John 19:19 – the Coronation at the Cross

1st/2nd MILNGAVE COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Heating problems in St Luke's in January resulted in the Company Section adopting something of a nomadic lifestyle at the beginning of the new term, meeting in Cairns and then St Paul's. The situation served as a reminder of the benefits for the Company of being attached to a group of Churches.



Congratulations to the Company Section Boys for an excellent performance in the recent Battalion Drill Competition. Well done, in particular, to Gordon Maclean for doing such a sterling job as the marker. Our Boys were the runners-up, losing out to 1st Bearsden by just one point! As this was the first time that the Company had entered the Competition, it was an excellent result. It is a pleasure to read the adjudicators' reports: "Well disciplined squad. Boys well turned out. Worked as a team. Very good overall - keep up the good work!"

Commiserations to the Senior 5-a-side Team who played in the National Semi-Finals in Wishaw in early February. The Team played well but, unfortunately, did not qualify for the Final. Commiserations also go to the National Badminton Squad who did not have to travel too far for their Third Round match which was held in St Paul's. 3rd Gourrock played very well and, as a result, our Boys did not qualify for the next round.

The Company Section also participated in the recent Battalion Cross Country Competition in Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton. Two of the Boys have been invited to represent the Battalion at the National Cross Country Competition in Edinburgh later this month.

The Junior and Anchor Boy Sections continue to enjoy their weekly meetings. The Junior Section enjoyed a Burns Supper and is now busy rehearsing for the Battalion Figure Marching Competition in March. In January the Anchor Boys were visited by the Police, but no arrests were made! The visit was part of the 'People who help us' element of the Community section of the Anchor Boy badge scheme.

All three Sections will be attending the Battalion Parade to Riverside Church, Dumbarton, in March. This is a good opportunity for our Boys to meet other Companies and realise that they are part of something much bigger than 1st/2nd Milngavie.

The Anchor Boys will be holding a Fun Afternoon on 28th March in Cairns Church. The afternoon will include a sponsored run in aid of The BB World Mission Fund. This year the Fund will be supporting the work of Bethesda Children's Hospital, Budapest, which helps children with physical disabilities, injuries and other health problems. Please support our Anchor Boys, either through sponsorship or by attending the event to cheer them on and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and refreshments from the tearoom. Rumour has it that there will be an opportunity to throw wet sponges at the Captain!

Euan McKay



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service.

We are delighted to let you know we were able to give £1000 to the The Preshal Trust.

This would not be possible without the help of our trusty tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2009.

We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2010.

Many thanks once again.
Margaret and Margaret

Milngavie Pipe Band Coffee Afternoon

**Fraser Centre, Milngavie
Sat 13th March
12 noon – 4pm**

Homebaking, raffle,
pipe band playing in the precinct

Ticket £1 available from band
members or on the door

International Christian College

**Open Day Saturday 20th
March 2010 10am – 4pm**

**Tours, taster lectures,
worship, food and more –
EVERYONE WELCOME**

110 St James Road, Glasgow
(near Glasgow Cathedral)

Further information

Tel 0141 552 4040

email college@icc.ac.uk

or visit www.icc.ac.uk

BB Trophies



Readers of *Life* will be aware that the Company has recently been searching for a number of trophies and shields, which have been mislaid over the years.

Unfortunately the search has been largely unsuccessful and most remain lost. Whilst this is indeed regrettable, it does provide an opportunity to consider the needs of the Company in 2010.

Some activities have changed over the years and it would seem appropriate that our trophies/shields represent the current programme. Eg, the recent introduction of the Anchor Boys Programme Pack has developed the their activities and it would be good if the Boys' achievements could be recognised at the end of the session.

We would therefore appeal to anyone who would like to consider donating a trophy or shield to contact the Captain, **Euan McKay, (956-6125)**. The trophy/shield could be presented by an individual or a group and could be done so anonymously or with a name engraved on it.

Traidcraft



Dear Mrs Fraser,

Thank you very much for your recent donation of £200.00 to Traidcraft Exchange on behalf of St Paul's Traidcraft group. Gifts like this come as a great encouragement to everyone here at Traidcraft--especially in these particularly difficult times.

Traidcraft Exchange's current projects in Asia & Africa are touching the lives of over 25 million people, with many more benefitting from our campaigning for trade justice. Sadly the scandal of world poverty remains immense with 1.4 billion people living below the absolute poverty line. Your gift will help us to continue to go the extra mile for all those who can benefit from fairer trade.

Thank you again for your continuing support of traidcraft.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Smith, Support Relations Team

Friday Friday Sunday Sunday

A play by the Jasperian Theatre Company which explores Easter themes in a contemporary setting will be presented at Allander Evangelical Church on Friday 19th March at 7.30.

Tickets are available at £5.00.

This is a drama that brings us in touch with the very essence of the events that have long exercised the minds of people for over twenty centuries. - the crucifixion of Jesus and the extraordinary happening of a few days later. Familiarity can stifle perception and the Jasperian Theatre Company take these events and place them squarely in a contemporary context to recapture their power to persuade and guide us.

How can a young Christian woman whose boyfriend loses his life in Afghanistan make sense of this and the future in the light of Easter? This is her dilemma. We meet others who drawn into her story know that they have their own issues to solve. Hard themes come our way including the nature of forgiveness and the waste of human life.

This is an absorbing drama, not without humour, that lets us make our journey of seeing those events of the Friday and Sunday relevant to our own lives.

Weekly Freewill Offerings

A Note on the New Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

There are some changes to the W.F.O. envelopes which will be delivered along with the March edition of Life.

Since the number of members using the W.F.O. envelopes has fallen, we have reduced the number of colours of envelopes from four to two. There will now be only blue and pink envelopes instead of white, blue, pink and yellow.

For members already using blue or pink envelopes there will not be any change.

Members using white envelopes at present will now receive blue envelopes and will be given a new number.

Members using yellow envelopes at present will now receive pink envelopes and will also be given a new number.

The new envelopes should be used in the usual way.

James McQueen
(W.F.O. Treasurer)

We regret we ran out of space for our next Simple Acts article, so There's still time to send in your recipe from another country as mentioned last month.



The Guild

We have continued with the second half of our Guild with no further interruptions due to bad weather.

At our final January meeting, Mary Kavanagh entertained us with amusing tales, readings and anecdotes.

February 1st we had Eileen Robertson speaking and showing slides of her many visits to Israel.

Next we had a very interesting speaker (Euan Donaldson) telling of his work at Botanic Gardens and Kibble Palace. The Palace was built in 1870 and he showed slides of the Palace and Gardens and of the restoration work which had taken place.

On 15th February Rev. Kenneth MacDonald was with us for a bible study.

Next we are having Sir Roy Cameron speaking of Policing then and now.

ISABEL LYLE

1st March: "An Evening of Fragrance" - Peter & Mary Corby

8th March: Cinema City - Tom Kinvig

15th March: Skye, Orkney, Rum & Muck - Heather Willimott

22nd March: AGM & Home Night.





From the Treasurer

	General Fund	
Income	to 24th Feb 2010	to 24th Feb 2009
Offerings	30,192.11	29,428.64
Other Income	1,539.26	394.00
	<u>31,731.37</u>	<u>29,822.64</u>
Expenditure		
Ministry & Mission	12,899.56	13,193.44
Local Staffing	4,510.40	4,493.51
Other Local Costs	1,446.45	1,871.27
Building Costs	3,648.02	5,682.00
	<u>22,504.43</u>	<u>25,240.22</u>
Income Less Expenditure	9,226.94	4,582.42

General Fund. Offerings for the first 8 weeks of this year are comparable with last year's total although the increase in the Standing Order method of giving has been offset by the reduction in members giving by other means. Expenditure over the same time period is similar but the difference between last year and this is a result of a gas bill not received yet and a grant to the Sunday Club not being made this year.

While we show a modest surplus at this time it will be swallowed up very quickly in various large monthly outgoings. e.g. staffing costs and Ministry and Mission Allocation.

If the offerings continue at the present rate we will again be faced with a deficit at the end of the year and our reserves will be drastically reduced.

The Stewardship and Finance committees have met and are initiating a Stewardship Campaign to inform the Congregation and promote all aspects of Christian Stewardship and have a table available at the back of the Church and vestibule after the Church Service.

We would ask you to prayerfully consider what you can do and encourage others to do the same. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Scott or Graham Mill.

PS The final total raised for Haiti Earthquake appeal was £4962 with Gift Aid of £3547 bringing in a further £1000.

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mr & Mrs Robert Law, 25 Galbraith Drive, Milngavie	37
Mr Steven McNab, 132 Prestonfield, Milngavie	31

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Elizabeth Bennett, 29 Dumgoyne Ave., now Blawarthill Hospital	27
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DEATHS

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

26.1.10 Ann-Marie Nicholson, 21 Strathblane Road, Milngavie	
29.1.10 Mr Walter Macfeat, Campsie View Nursing Home	51
30.1.10 Mrs Helen Young, 28 Bredie Drive, Milngavie	
30.1.10 Mr Charles Rumbles, 159 Clober Road, Milngavie	
13.2.10 Mrs Margaret Cameron, 54 Balvie Road, Milngavie	
15.2.10 Mr Eric McDowell, 6 Craigmielea, Milngavie	34

Please note copy date for April edition is Sun 21st March for church pigeon hole or Wed 24th for email. Send to Rona.dawson@go.uk.com or post to 123 Garscadden Road, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
7 Mar	J Ford C Tanner	Wilson, Bolton, Sillars	A Begg J McLean	Team 9 Duncan Kelly
14 Mar	J Clark M Taggart	J Deuchar, Lawrie, Goodlet	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Sheila Harrison
21 Mar	P Barlow C Buchanan	K Deuchar, Cockburn, Richell	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Linda Muirhead
28 Mar	S Anderson R Fraser	Bates, McKinnon, Whitelaw	C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 Maureen Donaldson
4 Apr	M Conway M MacPherson	Wallis, Berry, Baxter	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Margaret McDowell