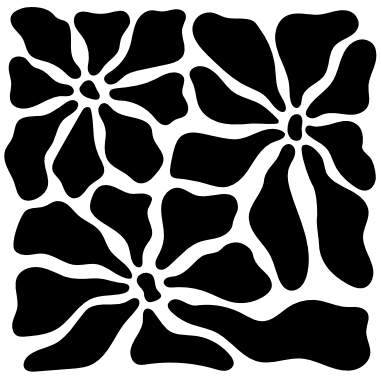
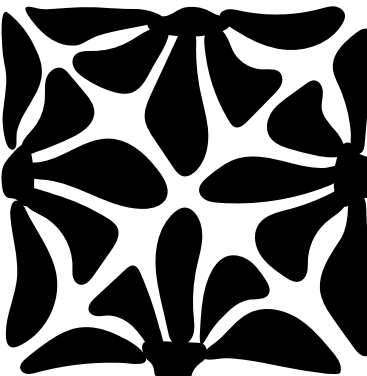
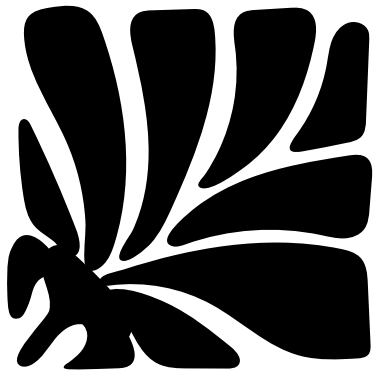
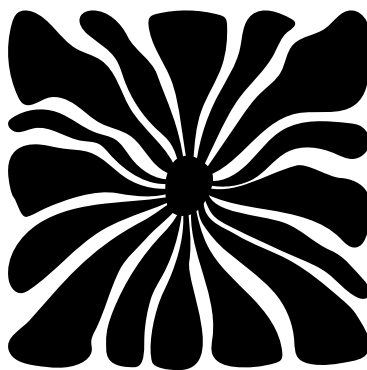
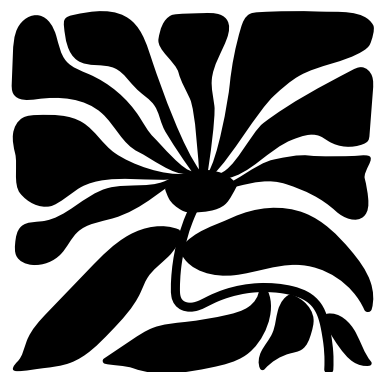
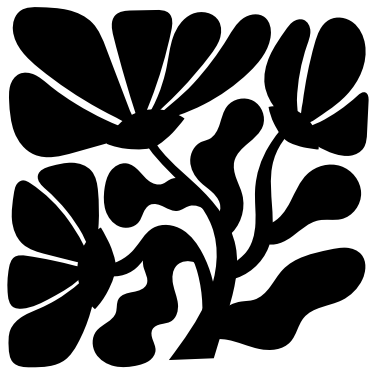


ST PAUL'S CHURCH

LIFE



1 JUNE 2025

1ST ISSUE

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Lynsey's letter

- REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Joyful Generosity

Dear friends

As summer begins and the light stretches longer into the evenings, we find ourselves entering a new season—not just in nature, but as a church family.

Over the next few weeks in church, we will be exploring the theme of Joyful Generosity—listening to powerful stories of

lives changed by simple, generous acts; reflecting on the truth that we are made in the image of a generous God—a God who gives freely, abundantly, and with joy; and celebrating the many ways our generosity toward others has blessed us in return.

This series isn't just about finances—it's about our posture towards life. It's about how we use our time, our talents, our presence, and our hospitality to reflect God's heart. Together, we'll consider how generosity can



transform not just the lives of those we serve, but our own hearts too.

The theme of this year's General Assembly was "Extravagant Love," inspired by Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus. This reminds us that when we come to know Christ Jesus, we are embraced by His deep and overwhelming love. It's that same love that moves us to care for others in ways that are generous and sacrificial, showing the world a God who truly cares for every person.

As a church family, caring for others, especially those in need, is at the heart of who we are. That's why we're planning to refresh our pastoral visitation system and elder district structure. We want to ensure that we're reaching those who need our support, particularly those who can no longer join us in worship due to ill-health, frailty, or disability.

So it's with great joy that we welcome Rev. John MacGregor to our ministry team as our full-time Pastoral Assistant. Please do get in touch with me or John if you or those that you know are in need of support.

This month, we're also living out our joyful generosity by stepping boldly into something new—our monthly evening worship service, The Way. As followers of Christ, we want to walk in His way and help lead others to Him here in Milngavie. Our town may be known as the starting point of the West Highland Way, but perhaps

we're also being called to guide people, especially the younger generation, toward the way of Jesus, with open hearts that seek to know Him more.

We are also rolling out our new ministry teams, launching new outreach opportunities, and prayerfully considering how we can continue to share the love of Christ with our community in Milngavie and beyond. You'll hear more about this in the coming weeks, and I hope you'll be inspired to find your place in this shared mission.

As a church, we are compelled by Christ's generous love—a love that never held back from blessing us. In response, we long to be a blessing to others, especially the children whom God dearly desires to see welcomed and nurtured within His church. If our focus were only on those already among us, we would fall short of reflecting the wide, inclusive love of the God who has called us.

This summer, let's be known as a church marked by joyful generosity—in our words, in our actions, and in the warmth of our welcome.

When we live generously—not out of duty, but out of delight—others will be drawn to the God who created them and loves them deeply.

Thank you for the joyful generosity you show to me as your minister, and for the love and kindness you share

with our manse family. It means more than you know and truly keeps our hearts going.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Lynsey

P.S. From Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus:

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” EPHESIANS 3:14 - 21

The General Assembly

- RHONA RAEBURN

Attending the general assembly was a wonderful experience, although it threatened to be a bit overwhelming at times. I travelled through on Friday afternoon as there was a session for new commissioners in the evening between 6.30 and 8, and the first person I

met after getting my lanyard and Bluetooth voting thingy was a lovely young elder from Baljaffray, Katy Hart.

Katy is very good at the social media stuff and managed to post a vlog every day for her church. I, on the other hand, had struggled with the language of the reports before going to Edinburgh, and it wasn't til well on in the week that I felt comfortable with finding stuff on the iPad, so that I could follow the business of each day. Learning about deliverances, amendments, questions and comments was hard work! And I did feel a bit sorry for Rosie Frew, the new moderator, as she learned to chair all this, but the principal clerk kept her right.

It would take too long to mention all the pomp and circumstance, the gong and shout of the moderator before each session, the Lord High Commissioner, the service at St Giles, and a lot of processing, uniforms and maces. I particularly loved the unaccompanied singing of "Ye gates", ex moderators stepping in when the new moderator was called away, Eilish Angiolini's Airdrie story, getting to shake Tommy McNeil's hand, and being bought a salted caramel ice cream by the minister of Faifley and Clydebank. But I was truly impressed by the amount of work done by people on committees, and by those who had obviously read the reports and thought deeply about them. It almost made sitting til 7.30pm on 2 nights worth it, and getting pressure sores on your bottom!

A lot was discussed this year at the General Assembly, but here are my key take-aways:

- We discussed a shorter General Assembly; maybe a long weekend to benefit working elders and to, I think, save money.
- Elaine Duncan spoke well for the Scottish Bible society re translation work, Bibles for bairns, and a quiet revival among 18-24 year olds.
- We considered changes to the Westminster confession and focus on the Nicene creed (which I need to find out more about).
- Most of the stuff about the investment trust went over my head, sorry!
- The Ethical Oversight Committee: 5 marks of mission.
- The Assembly Trustees' Report: Balancing the budget by 2027, with massive readjustments required; what to do about insolvent churches in priority areas; Seeds for Growth; Giving to Grow; Life and Work redundancies; Ministers' stipend is £34 million.
- Ecumenical relations, with much reference to the St Margaret declaration, to nourish trust and friendship between denominations.

- The Faith Action Programme Leadership Team's (FAPLT) joint report with the Theological Forum on assisted dying. This took a while! Do we uphold the church's traditional, unified stance against the practice? Should we instead acknowledge a broader range of opinions in the church on the issue? Or should we take a more nuanced approach to our existing stance? The report noted concerns for care staff if the law changed, and called for improved palliative care. There were very good personal stories contributed, including that from a long-term contributor to the assembly who is in advanced renal failure.

- FAPLT's Vivid Vision video. New apprenticeship scheme for ministry. Extended scheme for assistant ministers til the end of 2025. A third of ministers take a half-day off rather than a full day or the recommended 2 days. Study leave scheme. Christian Aid moderators chosen charity. Life and work ending with new digital ministry. Diaconate ministry to be recognised. Church planting strategy to be recognised.

The Bield Retreat

- GEORGE MITCHELL

St. Paul's, linked with Baldernock Parish Church, has engaged in a spiritual retreat to The Bield at Blackruthven, on the outskirts of Perth.

The theme of the retreat was based on the story of Martha and Mary, with participants invited to share in the experience of Mary as she sat at the feet of Jesus simply listening to the Lord Jesus, whilst Martha complained bitterly that she was being left to do all the work. The retreat was led by Valerie Allen, a retired Church of Scotland Minister.

Over four days, nine church members enjoyed all the facilities the Bield has to offer, including an art room, two labyrinths, morning and evening worship, beautifully tended grounds, time for meditation and reflection, and in some cases a massage!

This is a new venture for our churches and one that we hope to run in future years.

A New Way to Give

- FINANCE TEAM

The finance team are pleased to announce the introduction of a new facility to enable the giving of offerings using your Bank card or phone.

The contactless machine can be found in the Baldernock Road vestibule near the door into the Sanctuary.

The facility is easy to use and you simply choose the amount on the screen you wish to give, to support the work at St Paul's and present your card at the top of the machine.

The use of this method of giving also helps the Treasurer and the volunteers who count the cash offering on a Sunday.

Please give it a try the next time you are Church and if you have any questions, please get in touch with the team.

Graham Mill, Treasurer - 0141 956 5155

Jackie Pirie, Finance Assistant - 0141 956 1790

Gordon Fairbrother, Vice Convenor, Finance Team -
07769 648434

What's on?

EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH THIS JUNE

7th

Milngavie Week

Flower and Music Festival at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 7th June from 10-4pm.

Friendship House will be open for tea and baking, so we hope that folk will enjoy refreshments there, combined with a visit to the Flowers and Music Festival. Any donations will be in support of Water Aid.

St Paul's Church Society will be visiting St Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch, on Saturday 7th June at 2 pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Large Hall. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church. Cost £5 per person.

Baldernock's Big Picnic is on Sunday 8th June from 1 - 4 pm at the Glebe, Baldernock. All are

8th

welcome to come along. Bring a picnic and friends,

Summer Praise evening on Sunday 8th June at 7pm in St Paul's Church. An evening concert of hymns and worship music with Scottish Hymn writer Greg De Blicke and Band.

On **Sunday 15th June**, we will celebrate our Sunday Club together in an all-age Family Service.

15th

22nd

The Holiday Club will start on June 22nd and will run each week until the Sunday Club resumes in August. As always, we need to people to help run this so that families feel welcome in church. If you are able to volunteer there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church or please speak to Janice Maclean or Sue Rollings.

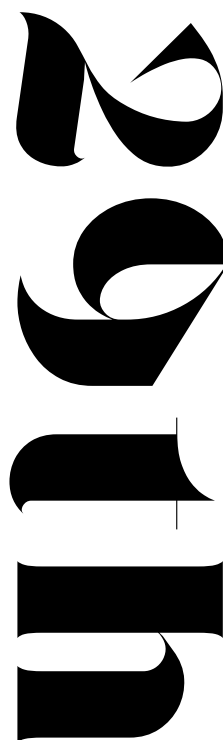
The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd June during the morning service lead by the Rev Lynsey Brennan. The white linen cloths will be on alternate pews and we would ask you to sit only in these pews. This will allow an elder to serve you with bread and wine from the pew in front. There

will be stewards to assist you and we hope that this will not distract from the meaning of the celebration. District Elders will not be distributing cards for this service.

On Sunday 29th June we will be holding the first of our monthly evening services. Entitled **“The Way”** there will be joy filled praise worship, engaging Christian speakers and a chance to get to know others in Milngavie. We are followers of “the way” of Jesus and we live at the start of the West Highland Way. Let’s lead the way and worship God in joy.

Coffee and donuts from 6.30pm with the service starting at 7pm. All welcome.

There are a lot of exciting events lined up in the St. Paul’s calendar this summer. We hope that there is something you can get involved in! We especially urge you to support all of our new ministries this June as we explore new ways to grow the church and bring Jesus’ message to the people of Milngavie. However, there are likely other opportunities we haven’t been able to cover! Be sure to follow all the latest announcements to stay up to date.



The noticeboard

EXTRA NEWS AND NOTICES TO KEEP IN MIND
FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

Minister on leave

The Minister, Rev Lynsey Brennan, will be on leave from Monday 30th June until Monday 14th July. Any pastoral needs at this time should be addressed to the Rev John MacGregor or the Session Clerk.

Rev John MacGregor

TEL 07387 851020

EMAIL jmacgregor@churchofscotland.org.uk

Copy date for next issue

Articles for the next issue should be sent to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

The Life magazine is on holiday next month, so there will be no July edition; our next issue will be available on Sunday 3rd of August.

The deadline for submissions will be Wednesday 30th July. However, we urge contributors to submit their articles by Sunday 25th, if possible. Thank you.

Fundraising

£1571 was raised from the Christian Aid envelopes with an additional £303 from Gift Aid making a total of £1874. In addition our soup and roll lunch raised £719 making a grand total for St. Paul's Christian Aid 2025 of £2593. Thanks once again to the congregation for their very generous support.

Flower donations

Thank you for the flower donations given by S Speedie. Please address donations to 'Treasurer' and clearly mark 'For the Flower Fund'. Donations can be left in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the church, or in offering plate marked, again, for 'For the Flower Fund'.

Thanks

Joyce Clark and Hilary Rutherford, Rollkeeper and Editor of Life magazine, respectively, have both stepped down from their positions. We wish to thank them for their contribution to the congregation over the years.

A large, handwritten-style 'Thank you!' in black ink, positioned to the right of the 'Thanks' section. The word 'Thank' is written in a tall, elegant cursive font, and 'you!' is written below it in a similar but slightly more relaxed cursive style.

Roll changes

Sorry, this section isn't available online.

Contributors

This issue of Life is the first to be edited by me, Samuel Brennan, and I will be taking on the role of editor going forward. Many thanks to Graham Mill and Carla MacAllister for their help in organising this issue and helping me get to grips with the whole process, and of course, many thanks to this month's many contributors. If you have any feedback or concerns about the magazine, please do get in touch! I am really looking forward to getting the most out of this brilliant resource and trying out new formats and features.