

Life At St. Paul's Milngavie May 2023



Dear Friends,

We will remember 6th May 2023 – the Coronation of King Charles III. I was only 21 months old when, on 2nd June 1953 Elizabeth was crowned Queen, so I do not really remember much about the actual event. However, I am told that my parents bought a black and white television to watch the Coronation along with our neighbours in High Street, Lower Methil! It was very special because it was the first British Coronation to be fully televised, television cameras were not allowed inside the Abbey during Queen Elizabeth's parents' Coronation. How things have changed – there will be many cameras from around the world along with social media that will commemorate this event and make it memorable.

The month of May is also important in terms of our church life. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is held during May and this year it will begin on 20th May when the Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton will be installed as Moderator and will close on the afternoon of Thursday 25th May. In view of the radical changes that are being proposed within the church, I am sure the discussions and deliberations will be very lively and interesting. I will not be going through to Edinburgh but look forward to joining the Assembly on-line.

May is also the month when we work together for Christian Aid. This year the theme is 'Give, Act and Pray this Christian Aid Week.' Our gifts will help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build a happier future for their children, especially after the recent Cyclone Freddy. Let us join together in our giving and help our neighbours who live far away!

Jesus met his disciples on the road to Emmaus and reminded them that it is God's mission to heal, mend and transform the world. Until that time Jesus had led and directed His followers, but now they were the ones to take up the baton, to proclaim the Good News and to seek the justice and peace of the kingdom. In this busy month of May may we take time to reflect and take up that baton in our church, our community, our country and in the world, sharing the love of Lord and the peace of the kingdom.

With every blessing to you and yours,

Barbara

Future Services

7 May
14 May
21 May
28 May

Morning

Rev Barbara O' Donnell
Rev John Campbell
Robin Easton
Rev David Hamilton

Evening

Rev Ramsay Shields
Norman Liddle (SBS)
Rev Paul Read
Charles Maasz (GCM)

Holy Week

Thanks to all who took part in the very successful events during Holy Week. The Milngavie Churches evening services in the Allander Evangelical Church attracted an almost full house each evening and the preaching *The Cross Through Peter's Eyes* by the Rev Dr Sandy Roger was much appreciated. The Walk of Witness on Good Friday attracted a good crowd and was a positive witness to the community. The weather was kind and all enjoyed the Easter Festival and refreshments afterwards.

The Easter Festival was a new venture which attracted members and visitors from Wednesday to Friday. A lot of thought and work went into the displays by several organisations and a special thanks is due to Marilyn Ure for the inspiration and co-ordination of the event. £1,234.60 was raised and split between Mary's Meals and the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

The Lodging House Mission greatly appreciated the donation of Easter Eggs from the congregation.

Coronation Celebration

To celebrate King Charles's coronation many people are having street parties on the 7th May but in St. Paul's we are having a church party after the morning service.

We will have a light buffet lunch with many tasty items for you to choose. There will be gluten free and fat free items but if you have other allergies please let Ann MacLeod know.

Come and join other church members for fellowship and cheer as we rejoice in the coronation of our new King.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week this year is from 14th to 21st May and St. Paul's will celebrate this by doing exactly the same as last year. Envelopes will be available leading up to Christian Aid week and Collection Boxes will be available to collect the donations.

At a recent Christian Lunch, £722 was raised which has now been passed onto our Treasurer and banked. St. Paul's is committed to Christian Aid and is a major contributor within the Churches in Milngavie.

As you know soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world. Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months and hard-working famers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather. We won't stop until everyone has the chance to live a full life, free from poverty. We are united in hope that, with your help, more young people will be able to transform their lives.

Any enquiries contact Alex McEwan or Marylyn Taggart

Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal 2023-2024

This years stamp appeal has just been launched and the proceeds will be going to the following project. FIRMLY PLANTED MALAWI. This is a project by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian to improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. The project aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

The collection box is in the Strathblane Road entrance. Thank you for your continued support.

Irene Strang



Book Club

In March, the Book Group read "*The Kindness of Enemies*" by Leila Aboulela. This book presented a real challenge to all of us because it concerned people of a different culture and faith during a period of time with which we were not familiar.

The story begins in Scotland in 2010 where Natasha, a history Professor, is researching Iman Shamil, a Muslim leader who headed anti-Russian resistance in the Caucasian War of 1834. The author moves her story between the struggles of Shamil's war which holds a tale of Faith, History, Nationality and politics, and the fascinating similarities which Natasha is finding in present day Scotland.

Our Reading Group felt that it would have been less complicated if the author had split the book into two stories but she had certainly provided us with plenty of information for lively discussion. I think we will be doing a bit of research ourselves into this period of history!

Anne Goodlet

World Mission News

From Kilmarnock to Formosa, Taiwan: Visit of Dr David Liu

On the evening of Thursday 1st June at 7pm, Kay Park Parish Church, Kilmarnock will be hosting a gathering to meet Dr David Yaojen Liu who is visiting from Taiwan.

This will be an opportunity to hear the remarkable story of the missionaries who left Scotland and travelled to Formosa in Taiwan.

One of those missionaries was Dr David Landsborough III (of Kilmarnock) who founded the Changhua Christian Hospital in 1896. His father was Rev David Landsborough II who served as minister of Henderson Free Church (now Kay Park Parish Church) for 61 years. Dr Landsborough's grandfather was Rev Dr David Landsborough whose son William from Stevenson was one of Australia's greatest explorers. [Contact Fiona at Kay Park Parish Church for more details](mailto:fmaxwell@churchofscotland.org.uk)

World Mission Continued...

Cyclone Freddy causes Havoc in Malawi

On Monday 13th March Cyclone Freddy struck southern Malawi, predominately affecting Blantyre and the surrounding townships. This has caused severe landslides and floods and already over 200 deaths have been reported. A rescue operation is underway, but at present it is still raining. Many people are missing with some buried under the mud, and more deaths are expected. Houses were engulfed or washed away along with vehicles and animals. Crops have been destroyed.

We have been in touch with our partner Church, CCAP Blantyre Synod and its General Secretary stated that they were doing all they could to support those who have lost loved ones and homes. He asked that we pray for the people affected and the country as it seeks to assess the situation and needs of the communities. Ken Ross, Mission Partner in Zomba reported that he was 'hunkered down' as the severe rains continued in the region where he lives.

Although there have always been cyclones, the effects of climate change are continuing to make each season more difficult. Climate change is also causing drought further north in Malawi in the Karonga district this year. It is hoped that the cyclone, the longest on record, has now passed and will not return to the country. The Scotland Malawi Partnership is providing up-to-date reports.

Could you support Ukrainians learning English?

The Scottish Refugee Council and the Ukrainian Association in Glasgow are starting an Online Conversation Club. They are looking for volunteer English speakers and have reached out to church members to ask if they would be interested in helping Ukrainians learn English. The sessions will be in small groups of three or four for around one hour a week. They are conversations not lessons so no qualifications are needed, just a willingness to offer your time and a listening ear.

If you are interested you can [contact Ruby at Scottish Refugee Council](mailto:ruby.seber@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) (ruby.seber@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk), or for more information about supporting Ukrainians as a church [contact David Moodie, our Churches Support Officer](mailto:david.moodie@churchofscotland.org.uk) (david.moodie@churchofscotland.org.uk) for Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees.

World Mission Continued...

Melrose and Peebles musician makes musical memories in Malawi

Helen Taylor, member and organist of Heriot Church, visited Malawi as part of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles twinning with the Presbytery of Zomba, and particularly the Luwatala congregation who are the twinned congregation of Stow and Heriot Church.

Having been the organist in Heriot for over 30 years, as well as playing regularly at Stow, Helen had a keen interest in the role of music in worship. The opportunity to visit Luwatala and be part of their church and choir communities was an important aspect of the visit for her and it did not disappoint. She was also able to use music to enhance a new link with the schools.

“Very recently, through a class teacher at Heriot Primary School, a real interest arose in creating a link between the schools in Heriot and Luwatala (‘Mpata School’). This was the first time our community had tried to make links beyond the established worship partnership. A school WhatsApp group was set up prior to my visit, which was enthusiastically welcomed by the teachers in Mpata, plus their Village Chief and minister, and also teachers and others at the Scottish end.

"I took out nearly 30 donated recorders, and had the chance to deliver a lesson to a group of 10-12 children plus teachers, at Luwatala. I managed to teach a group of pupils some basic recorder skills – challenging when none of them had ever seen a recorder before – but managed to achieve a recognisable rendering of ‘Hot Cross Buns’, an apt tune in the lead-up to Easter.

"I will return to Heriot Primary School to tell them about Mpata School. The class teacher is also planning to teach her pupils to play some basic recorder tunes, including ‘Hot Cross Buns’ so that a sound file can be sent to Mpata School to mirror my recorder activities there.”



Guild Coronation Afternoon Tea

A reminder for members

The Guild Coronation afternoon tea will take place on Monday, 8th May at 2pm
in the large hall.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in their best Bib and Tucker!

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Copy Date

The copy date for the June edition is Wednesday 31st May. Please note that *Life* will not be produced in July or August. The copy date for the September edition is Wednesday 23rd August.

Any articles should be sent to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries
7th May	J. Mill N. Coll
14th May	A. McLeod S. Angus
21st May	S. Anderson A. Gillies
28th May	P. Barlow S. Robertson