

Life At St. Paul's Milngavie June 2023



Dear Friends,

I just love the hymn Summer Suns are glowing, over land and sea; happy light is flowing bountiful and free. I have to confess that almost every time I have included it in morning worship it has rained! It is one of four hymns written by William How in the mid 19th century, about the seasons and is by far the most popular. As we begin the season of summer, it is good to look forward, not only to better weather but also to changes that the year will bring.

We look forward to being in a position to call a minister for our church once the Mission Plan is agreed by Presbytery and the necessary permissions are given. This is exciting. It may be challenging but it is the beginning of a new chapter in the life and work of St. Paul's. We need to give prayerful thought to our mission within the community, what that looks like and how it will be carried out. This is important as we write our parish profile. Since I became Interim Moderator in October of last year, I have been amazed by all the areas of work that St. Paul's supports. Each month I have discovered another area of work – we are indeed blessed by the number of people who work tirelessly to ensure that the church is, not only open every week for everyone who uses it but that it is here for the folks of Milngavie. For all the work that is undertaken - thank you!

The theme of the 2023 General Assembly was "Remember who you Are". These words were spoken during worship and in debate many, many times. As an on-line Commissioner I found them inspiring. Remember who you are! The Moderator challenged everyone in the Church to do just that – to remember who we are - Christ's people in our community.

Wednesday's worship at the Assembly used a verse from Micah that was as equally challenging as the General Assembly's theme "Remember who you Are". It was "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Remembering who we are, acting justly, loving and walking humbly with our God is a tall order to fulfil but we are called to do just that, especially in this ever changing world. There are so many different areas of work where we can become involved. Our task is to be open to any opportunity that comes our way and allows us to fulfil that tall order.

I hope that during the summer months you find time to re-charge your batteries, to enjoy the long summer days and hopefully spend time with family and friends.

With every blessing to you and yours,

Barbara

P.S. If it rained on Sunday 4th June it may be because we sang "Summer Suns are Glowing!"

Future Services

	Morning	Evening
11th June	Family Service	Ian Whyte (in Allander Evangelical)
18th June	Communion Rev Barbara O' Donnell	Howell Jones
25th June	Rev Ken McDonald	Douglas Muirhead

The Kirk Session will consider the future of the evening services at its meeting on 7th June.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday 18th June during the morning service, lead by the Rev. Barbara O'Donnell. 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.

Milngavie Week

On Sunday 11th June there will be a joint Milngavie Churches Summer Praise gathering in the Allander Evangelical Church at 7pm.

The night is a combination of testimony and praise as Ian White shares about the work that he is doing with the Inspiration Orchestra; using music with profoundly disabled people. The orchestra will not be taking part but they will be seen through videos.

Coronation

A light buffet lunch was held after the morning service on Sunday 7th May which 130 people attended.

The Guild in all their finery, held a celebration the following afternoon which was enjoyed by over 60 members.

Thanks to all who decorated the Large Hall and to those who prepared and served the food.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club will end for this session on the 7th June. We restart on 30th August when all are welcome. A big thanks should go to the many helpers who help week by week, in different tasks and the bakers who give us delicious home baking. Also thanks to Hugh who is such a tremendous help in setting out tables and chairs.

But most of our thanks should go to the many people who come for lunch, week by week. It is our pleasure to serve you and we are glad you enjoy the food and company.

BreakAway Knitting

Those of us who enjoy the BreakAway Knitting Group each Tuesday afternoon would like to thank the many St. Paul's ladies and the Guild who have made it possible for us to send a great number of blankets, hats, cardigans, socks and scarves for a wide age range of children in Ukraine.

One of the charity workers from the Scot Baby Box Appeal visited us recently to collect the donations and was clearly delighted with the many beautiful items.

Scot Baby Box Appeal is a registered charity and now has its own truck to transport the many different items which are so badly needed in Ukraine. We are already clicking our needles in time for the next delivery!

If you too would like to knit at home for the Appeal please contact me on 0141 316 1175.

Elizabeth Bragg

The family of Alex McEwan would like to sincerely thank everyone in the St.Paul's Church family for all the support, prayers, cards, letters, calls, flowers and baking they received after Alex's sudden passing.

Thanks must also be given to the Rev. Barbara O'Donnell and the Rev. Ken MacDonald for their spiritual guidance and for conducting the services. Thanks also to Derek, Hugh, Graham and the elders on duty for the smooth running of the Church service.

A wonderful collection of £840 will be sent to Christian Aid, a Charity close to Alex's heart.

Elizabeth McEwan

Christian Aid

Many thanks to the congregation for their very generous support of Christian Aid Week this year.

The amount raised was £1,937 with an additional £250 recovered from Gift Aid. In March, £722 was raised at the Christian Aid lunch making a grand total for 2023 of £2,909.

Draft Presbytery Mission Plan

I report that the Faith Nurture Forum has sent an Extract Minute stating that Faith Nurture and the General Trustees have conditionally approved the draft Mission Plan of the Presbytery of Clyde. It is conditional because they have made a small number of amendments to the draft plan principally in the area of changing certain building designations from A to B. After intense discussions with the GTS on these matters the Presbytery Planning Committee has agreed to bring the plan, as amended, to the Presbytery meeting on the 20th June and to move that the amended plan be adopted as the Presbytery Plan for Clyde.

Thus the Presbytery of Clyde's Mission Plan will become formally approved when the Forum's extract minute is formally recorded as having been received, at that meeting.

Peter McEnhill
Clerk, Presbytery of Clyde
26th May, 2023

Thank You

Dear Friends - I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rev. Ken McDonald and all my dear friends and Church members for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and the many lovely cards and best wishes sent to me for my 100th Birthday. I will remember this day with pride.

Regards,

Mrs Cathie Nealy

Thank you all so much for all your support and prayers during the last eight months while I have been having treatment at the Beatson. I have been so grateful for all the phone calls, texts, emails, cards and flowers which have come my way during this time. I have been supported by a wall of prayer from all my friends at St Paul's and beyond. I hope it won't be too long before I can come back to worship on a Sunday and can thank you all in person.

Joyce Clark

What an unexpected surprise on a day that turned out to be very special for me and also Janie. We were both pleasantly surprised when on the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination you went the extra mile with a card, a beautiful gift, flowers and not just one cake but two. You know full well that we both cherish our connection with the congregation and Sunday's thoughtful act has cemented it. Janie joins me in expressing my heartfelt thanks for helping me mark a significant milestone.

Please thank also the congregation on our behalf.

With warm good wishes,

John Campbell

Flower Donations - May



Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the month of May

I & M McQueen , Anonymous

Please address donations to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson 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 the offering plate marked for The Flower Fund

News from the Choir

Members of the Church Choir organised an afternoon tea for six singers who have retired from the choir. The retirees were treated to tea with home-made cakes and tablet before being presented with personalised musical gifts. Derek Norval thanked them for their contribution to the choir and for their leading of Sunday morning services which, in one case, was for a period of over seventy years. The afternoon concluded with everyone joining in the singing of favourite items from the choir's repertoire including "All in the April evening". The occasion was very much enjoyed by all who were involved.

Pictured are Rosemary Fraser, Joan Rutherford, Graham Greig, Margaret McNeill and Chris MacKay. Unfortunately Bill Lee was unable to attend.



Book Club

May's book choice was *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The book was beautifully written but we did not feel that the story was as enjoyable as her others.

Although it was interesting to learn about a different culture and way of life, we felt that in dealing with these points so strongly, the author had smothered the important value of the stories of the lives and difficulties of the characters who had moved to America to study in what they hoped would be a more accepting atmosphere.

Our group had a long discussion about the way we in the West face race and culture. It is a big book but worth reading to widen our ways of these other races and cultures.

Anne Goodlet

Japan Jottings

I'm sorry it's been so long since I have written an article for the Life Magazine. A lot has happened since I was with you in February when I was back in Scotland. Our big family news is that Daniel got married on 19th May in Bangkok. He met his Thai girlfriend, Yada, at Hebron School in India and they have been dating for 11 years, most of it long distance. They are planning to have the ceremonies and receptions in Thailand and Scotland next year, but wanted to get married sooner than that. When they heard I would be in Thailand for a conference, they chose to do it while I was there. The marriage itself was 90 minutes of paperwork and bureaucracy at a local city office – not exactly the most romantic setting! – but then we enjoyed a family dinner afterwards. Daniel plans to move to London probably sometime next year, so the next thing will be to apply for a spouse visa for Yada to come to the UK.

Calum has also (almost) finished University in the US. He has 2 online courses to complete over the summer, but was allowed to attend the graduation ceremony in May. He is coming back to Japan in June and then plans to head to Scotland to see if there are any openings to join a football club.

In Japan we are holding our field conference in June. This is a conference where all of us working with OMF in Japan get together for a few days, including all the children. We usually hold these conferences every 2 years, but with the pandemic, it is actually 5 years since our last one. We have had a lot of new people join since then so it should be a good time to get to know each other.

During the conference we have a children's programme for the 70+ children on the Japan Field. Most of the children go to Japanese or international schools, and conference is a great time for them to get together with others who are having similar experiences. My boys have great memories of past conferences so we hope that the children will all enjoy this one.

One of the main things we will do at our conference is to go through our church planting review. Last year we conducted a review of our church plants, and interviewed different missionaries and Japanese church leaders to see what we can learn from their experiences. Conference will be a chance for us to discuss the report together and see what changes we want to make going forward. We would love to see many more churches planted in Japan.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. Thank you too to everyone who helped with or attended the Cherry Blossom Fair. I so appreciate it.

With love from,

Lorna, Calum and Alistair

Alex McEwan

Anyone even slightly acquainted with Alex McEwan would find it hard to forget him.

Alex, the elder son of William and Marion McEwan, was born in June 1956, to be joined by his younger brother Alan 8 years later. The family home was in Crawford Street, Partick, with a later move to Broomhill, which meant that Alex had his primary schooling at both Church Street and Thornwood schools, before going on to his secondary education at Hyndland Secondary. At age 17, he found employment as a Clerical Assistant with GPO Telephones, later to become British Telecom, and he remained with them, until, as a Call Centre Manager and after 37 years of service, he took an early retirement package in 2010.

Alex from an early age, was a person with a real, dynamic faith-connection with Jesus Christ, and that was the driving force, the great engine of his life. He was first gripped by the Christian Gospel in childhood, when the family were part of the fellowship at Partick Baptist Church he got involved as a helper with the 90th Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade which was attached to Partick Old Parish Church. A student teacher, Elizabeth Watson, was recruited as a helper with the same BB Company, by a friend who was an officer in the Junior section. Alex and Elizabeth became increasingly absorbed in Christian discipleship and service. In addition to their being leaders in the BB, there was Sunday School and Youth Fellowship. They were ordained as Elders and, impelled by a growing romance, they were married at Partick Old in 1980. Alex became a Presbytery Elder and at the prompting of their minister Rev John Jolly, Alex undertook the training course for Readership in the Church of Scotland. This was a special time for him. The Very Rev Andrew Herron had a large input into the course and many of his "hints and tips" became firmly embedded. Alex was commissioned as a Reader by the Presbytery of Glasgow in 1983.

For the first decade of their married life, Alex and Elizabeth's busy Christian involvement remained rooted in Partick but their lives, and their service for Christ, entered on a new phase in 1990, when they moved from Thornwood to Milngavie, and joined St. Paul's Church. True to his nature, Alex soon became involved in a dizzying list of activities in the congregation and as a Reader to other congregations in Dumbarton Presbytery, notably at Baldernock Church following the linkage with St. Paul's.



Guild News

Alex was no stranger to periods of poor health and physical weakness, but his energy came from the gifting of the Holy Spirit, keeping him at the task of sowing the seeds of the Kingdom. Even when confined to the house, he was still busy, providing 'Words for Life' online, and maintaining a cottage-industry designing and making greeting cards, not just to raise funds for charity, but also to carry the Word of God into other people's hearts and lives. Alex kept going until the end.

Alex was a person of memorable gifts. He was companionable and generous, He had a sparky sense of humour which he used in the service of the Gospel, though never to replace the Gospel. He enjoyed music, films and reading, and had an artistic streak, particularly in calligraphy. He and Elizabeth enjoyed the warmth of human company and interaction, and particularly relished holiday-times, shared with close friends, in different parts of Scotland.

Alex has shown us that even in days of challenge and indeed, weakness, the grace of God enables us to use our gifts for the strengthening of His Kingdom.

DEC Appeal

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your generous donation of £2,038.50 to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Thanks to your generosity, DEC charities and their local partners are responding, working with locally led relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Your support is helping provide emergency aid such as shelter, food, clean water, and medical care.

On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say THANK YOU once again.

Saleh Saeed
DEC Chief Executive.

General Assembly

Life and Work has once again published a FREE four page General Assembly Special Supplement for 2023 summarising some of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the week that can be viewed at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2023-special-supplement>

Although our Guild session finished officially with the AGM on March 27th, we had planned to hold an Afternoon Tea to mark the coronation as soon as the date of the ceremony was announced. This took place on Monday May 8th and was attended by well over 50 members. The hall was lavishly festooned with bunting and balloons, and the tables were beautifully decorated with flowers and colourful plates and napkins. As well as marking the occasion it was a wonderful chance to catch up with friends' news and views. We all enjoyed the fine fare and were very grateful to our catering experts, Norma and Lilian, who exerted their usual skill in making it all seem to happen effortlessly.

Dunbartonshire Guilds Together held their Summer Gathering in Lomond Parish Church on May 9th and, despite its close proximity to the Afternoon Tea, St. Paul's was well represented at the event. The Guest Speaker was the Very Rev. Susan Brown who gave a stimulating address including memories of influences as she grew up, of her year as Moderator of the General Assembly and of the value of the Guild in the life of the Church.

Members of the Guild will continue to get together occasionally during the summer at a series of Afternoon Teas which Kate has organised once again. These will be held at Caulders at Mugdock as before, and will cost £12.50. They are all on a Monday at 2pm and the dates are June 12th, July 24th and September 4th. If any member would like to join us she should contact Kate on 463 0857 or 07901 862086. It should be possible to arrange a lift, so please don't hesitate to ask if this is necessary.

Guild meetings will start again on Monday October 2nd at 2pm in the Large Hall where everyone will be given a warm welcome. In the meantime we wish you much blessing over the summer.

Eleanor Easton

Youth At St. Paul's News

Sunday Club/Bible Class Promotion Service 11th June 2023.

The Sunday Club and Bible Class have reduced in numbers since the Covid lockdown. However, we are delighted to be promoting six young people from the Senior Sunday Club to the Bible Class, as they progress from primary to secondary school, and two from the Junior Sunday Club to the Senior Sunday Club.

At the point of writing, there will be no members in the Junior Sunday Club after the summer. However, we pray earnestly that some of the youngsters that attend Noah's Ark currently, may join us. A provision will continue to be made for 3 to 5 year olds on a Sunday to accommodate any visitors or potential members.

The Sunday Club and Bible Class will finish on the day of the promotion service and will reopen after the summer on Sunday 27th August 2023. There will be provision of a holiday club on a Sunday morning for all pre-school and primary aged children over the summer break.

Sunkids restarted in April after our enforced break due to Covid. Sunkids is held once a month on a Saturday from 16:30 – 18:15 for P1 – P5. It is lots of fun and there are games, crafts Christian teaching and food provided, all for £1. The next Sunkids will be on 17th June. If you know of any youngsters that may like to come along please let them know.

The Ark Youth group restarted in March 2023. This group is held on the third Saturday of the month and is for S1 and up. It runs from 19:30 – 22:00. The Ark, unlike the rest of the activities, will continue over the summer. The next one will be on 17th June, followed by 15th July and 19th August. The Ark is just a chill space for young people to hang out. We have snacks, games and a lot of fun and chat.

The Bible Class/Ark are looking forward to their restarted annual trip to Teen Ranch from 1st – 3rd September. There will be no Bible Class on 3rd September as we'll all be away.

Should you like any further information about any of our youth activities, please contact the Youth Coordinator Janice Maclean, by email at janice.maclean2@outlook.com or via messenger on the Facebook page Youth at St Paul's Milngavie <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064438579424>

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Copy Date

Copy date for the February edition is Wednesday **23rd** August.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Enjoy the summer!

Date	Flower Deliveries
4th June	M. Conway K. Edwards
11th June	A. Galloway F. Ireland
18th June	A. McNellan K. Hagart
25th June	J. Mill N. Coll