

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2022



Dear Friends,

I am writing to you as every report from Ukraine seems to be worse than the last.

It was just a couple of days ago when I opened the curtains to see heavy snow falling and I thought of the disturbance there would be on the roads at least for a short time. But that was put into perspective when I switched on the radio and heard that the Russian invasion had begun in earnest.

Once the tangle of thoughts and emotions had settled down, I realised that something would need to be said that coming Lord's Day. Like in the aftermath of Lockerbie, Piper Alpha, Dunblane. People would be expecting something to be said. So, what is the word for a time like this?

In the week when the 'Dunblane Massacre' occurred someone wrote that preachers would be 'theologically disorientated'. What can be said when we are faced with the worst of humanity while still holding our belief in a good, loving and just God?

We struggle with that question but if we orientate ourselves to the Cross believing that God was in Christ then God stands with His people at every level of their suffering and His good and loving purpose for humanity and creation still moves forward. But our response does not stop with that belief. Times like this when faced with the worst in humanity are opportunities for us to commit ourselves more firmly to the values and priorities of the Kingdom. To paraphrase Michelle Obama, when people go low we must go high. Everything in us might revolt against Vladimir Putin and everything he stands for but are there values, attitudes, priorities in our lives that do not contribute to the peace of our families, our Church, our community, our nation?

When faced with the darkness the question arises how far we are realising Jesus' vision that we should be 'the light of the world'. Surely a question we should keep in mind as we move into the season of Lent, a time when much to the fore are self-examination and commitment to the ways of Jesus.

Praying the peace of Christ for you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Ferguson'.

## Lent Services 2022

The half-hour Services will be held on Saturday mornings starting at 9.30am.  
All welcome.

**Theme: John 3: 16.**

The idea comes from the title of one of Max Lucado's books called '3: 16', an exploration of the verse in the Gospel of John.

**March 5:** Alex McEwan: '*God so loved the world ...*'

Theme: 'The Love of God.' Romans 5: 1-8

**March 12:** Fergus Buchanan: '*....that he gave.....*'

Theme: 'The Sacrifice Of God'. Romans 8: 32.

**March 19:** Douglas Muirhead: '*...his one and only Son.....*'

Theme: 'The One Who Was Given.' Matthew 16: 13-20.

**March 26:** Robin Easton:

*'....that whoever believes in him should shall not perish.....'*

Theme: 'Our Response To Him.' John 7: 37-39.

**April 2:** Stephen Thoms: '*.....but have eternal life.*'

Theme: 'The Outcome of Faith.' John 10: 1-10.

**April 9:** Fergus Buchanan:

'The Whole Story!' John 3: 16.

## Safeguarding

If there are any members of the congregation who are registered and no longer wish to volunteer in any of the church organisations please contact me (Safeguarding Coordinator)

Disclosure Scotland has indicated that all new PVG applications to become volunteers in a church organisation, have to complete their application online. Also, anyone wishing to be a volunteer should contact the Safeguarding Coordinator as soon as possible.

**Thank You**

**Elizabeth McEwan**

0141 384 0274

elizabethmcewan1957@gmail.com

## Guild News

We were pleased and relieved to finally hold our first meeting of the year on February 7<sup>th</sup> at which we welcomed Helen Eckford, one of the Guild National Vice-Conveners. She gave a fascinating presentation about the Clyde, which included many new insights into various aspects of life around this mighty river.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we were delighted to be greeted by Graham Mill, resplendent in his kilt, bearing a red rose for each of the ladies on St. Valentine's Day! Our speaker was Robert Keys, a guide at Glasgow Cathedral, who showed many pictures and gave intriguing pieces of information about the cathedral.

Our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> was a challenging picture of the work of the Lodging House Mission by its chaplain, Clare Herbert. The team there aim to bring hope to their clients – whose life expectancy is 43. She encouraged us to pray for the work and the many men who face multiple problems of which a lack of relationships is key.

Our next meeting will be in the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> when we look forward to hearing about the career in journalism of Roxanne Boyd, a member of St. Paul's.

Our March meetings begin on the 7<sup>th</sup>, in the evening, with a visit by Rev. Ramsay Shields who needs no introduction. Members of the Men's Association plan to join us to hear about Ramsay's visit to the Holy Land. On the 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon, our speaker is William Kean, a photographer who will show us some of his wide-ranging work including animals and scenery.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening we look forward to hearing Linda Ormiston, a former singer with Scottish Opera and other musical groups; she will sing, and talk about her life in music. Our final meeting in March is our AGM, in the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Normally our meetings end with the AGM, but this year we plan to continue after Easter. Some of our cancelled January speakers will be with us, and more details will be outlined later. As ever we extend a warm invitation to everyone to any of our meetings.

**Eleanor Easton**

**Date For Your Diary**  
**Musical Morning                      SATURDAY MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

Derek Norval, organ, Rachel Pombo, clarsach, and Julian Pombo, guitar, will entertain us in the Church. The proceeds will go to the Guild Projects we are supporting this year.

Full details in next month's magazine. Please keep the date free!



### Dear Friends

The plum tree in my garden is sprouting tiny pink buds – spring must be coming! I hope it won't be too long before it comes to Scotland too.

I thought I would give a more personal update this time. It's now two years since I came back to Japan – just as the pandemic was starting. I don't know how you feel, but in many ways it seems ages ago.

I haven't seen Daniel since then. Last October he moved from London to work for a law firm in Bangkok. Growing up in Japan, he feels quite “at home” in East Asia. He is trying to learn some Thai in his spare time.

Matthew on the other hand, feels much more at home in Scotland. He got a kilt for his 21<sup>st</sup> and recently got some troos as a present from his grandmother. He has been working (from home) in Glasgow for the past year but will be moving to Edinburgh to start his law traineeship (at my old firm!) from August. He hopes to come to Japan for a couple of months from the end of March.

Calum has a football scholarship to study in the US and is currently at a University in New Jersey. Having done almost all of his education in Japanese, it was a big switch to study in English, but he seems to be getting the hang of it. His University has just joined a better league so he hopes to get some good football matches in the next season. He enjoys a lot about living in the US and I wonder if he might settle there.

Alistair has opted to go to Japanese University. He graduates from high school on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and moves to Yamanashi (about 3 hours away) a few days later. He will join the University football team (not a scholarship) and study sports science. He feels most at home in Japan.

Same 2 parents but 4 very different sons who feel at home in different places. It is a reminder that each one of us is unique – as Psalm 139:14 tells us, we are each “fearfully and wonderfully made”. As a mother I often hold on to Psalm 121:8 where God promises that He will “watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore”. And both of these verses are true of all of us. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and God is always watching over us. May many Japanese people come to know these truths too.

With love and prayers,

*Lorna, Calum and Alistair*



## **Bible Sunday**

During the pandemic Bible Societies around the world have been translating and distributing Bibles, both written and audio versions, to people who have never had a Bible in their native tongue.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March will be Bible Sunday in St. Paul's when there will be an opportunity to hear about and to support the work of the Scottish Bible Society both in Scotland and overseas.

### **Stated Annual Meeting**

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held towards the end of March for the purpose of electing members to the Congregational Board. At the meeting a statement of accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 will be submitted. The date of the meeting will be intimated at two Sunday services prior to the meeting and on the website.

All members of the Congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **Thank You**

Margaret Ingram would like to thank all those who sent cards and presents for her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 19<sup>th</sup> February. The regular cards and letters received are also very much appreciated.

Jaqueline and the family of the late Bobby Campbell would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to Reverend Fergus Buchanan for the beautiful funeral service for Bobby on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. Grateful thanks also to wider family, friends and parishioners of St Paul's for their attendance and generous donations in lieu of flowers, which raised £474 for Alzheimer's Scotland and will be handed to the Dementia Resource Centre in Bearsden. Many thanks again.

## **Book Group**

After two years of solitary reading (or not reading sometimes) we have actually been able to meet face to face. Eight of us gathered to discuss books and of course have tea and biscuits.



We thought it would be a good idea to tell the Group about the worst book we had read and the best book we had read and the various topics were really interesting. A couple of us admitted that we had found it very difficult to concentrate on reading during lockdown but most of the group had read everything from books about Covid to murder mysteries.

We all enjoyed meeting up again so much, we are doing it again. This time we have been able to choose a book to discuss and it is Rizzio by Denise Mina.

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Tuesday 5 April 2022 – 1.45 for 2.00pm.

Happy reading!

**Joyce Clark**

## **Lunch Club**

Thanks to the generosity of all our guests and the fact that we were closed and did not send donations last year, we were able, at the end of 2021, to give donations to: St. Paul's in thanks for the use of church halls, Tear Fund, Lorna Ferguson at OMF, SU Scotland, and Bethany Trust. All have thanked us for these donations and we hope and pray that this will assist in their wonderful work.

The Lunch Club is back up and running but we are desperately short of ladies for the kitchen and serving work. We served 37 lunches last week with only 4 ladies helping. So, if you can assist even just once a month, you will find it fun with great company and many laughs, as we serve both St. Paul's members and the wider community. The Lunch Club is much appreciated as folk enjoy home made soup, a selection of rolls and delicious home baking. The company of others after our many restrictions is a boon to those who live alone. So why not come along and help for just a few hours on most Wednesdays.

Thanks in appreciation.

**Ann MacLeod**

## **World Mission News**

### **Partner churches ask for our prayers amid Cyclone Ana devastation**

We have been in touch with our partners in Mozambique and Malawi who have both seen devastating effects on homes, schools, clinics and farmland following Cyclone Ana recently.

Rev Dinis Antônio João, General Secretary of the Evangelical Church of Christ in Mozambique, asks that we prayerfully remember the church — already stretched as it attempts to reach out to those affected over a number of its presbyteries.

The General Secretary of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod, Rev Dr Billy Gama, says:

"Climate change affects everyone, there are lessons to be learned and COP26 clarified that we are all doing an injustice to nature, for example, through deforestation which allows flooding when rains are heavy. The trees give shelter to the roofs of buildings when the wind comes — one problem causes another."

We ask that you keep our partners and their communities in your prayers at this time.

### **Fresh calls for diplomatic solution on one year anniversary of Myanmar military coup**

One year on from the military coup which overthrew the elected government and imprisoned political leaders of Myanmar, church leaders say they are profoundly concerned for civilians, and have renewed their calls on the UK Government to use diplomacy to ensure that democracy is restored in Myanmar.

The Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, which has around 30,000 members in 224 congregations located in a region close to the border with India, are longstanding partners.

The Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland, the United Reformed Church, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Baptists Together have called on Foreign Secretary Liz Truss MP to urge Tatmadaw, the armed forces of Myanmar, to immediately cease attacks and return to barracks.

The letter to the Foreign Secretary signed by Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, reads: "Throughout the past twelve months our church partners in Myanmar have reported to us the abuses and atrocities unleashed by the Min Aung Hlaing administration and Tatmadaw forces against their own people... we would be pleased to learn of the UK Government's current thinking on the application of further sanctions in relation to Myanmar for as long as the military regime continues its attacks and ignores appeals to negotiate or to step down."

## Milngavie Scouts 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1931- 2021)

Are you a former Scout or Leader or know someone who was involved with Scouting in Milngavie, then we would like to hear from you. We are collecting stories, photographs and artefacts and need your help.

If you think you might have something to contribute, or a story to tell, then please go to our website [20thglasgowmilngaviescouts.org/ScoutGroupHistory](https://20thglasgowmilngaviescouts.org/ScoutGroupHistory) or contact Graham Mill

### Flower Donations - February

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the Month of February.



M Spencer  
Mr & Mrs Tanner

T Knaggs  
Mrs M Whyte

J Pirie  
C Inglis

Please mark any donations for The Flower Fund addressed to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson.

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

### Traidcraft

St Paul's Church has been supporting Traidcraft for more than 12 years but sadly because of "lockdown" this has now come to an end. We have been able to send considerable sums to Traidcraft Exchange, which supports many projects abroad in the name of Jesus. Many of the goods are available at Gavin's Mill where we hope you will continue to find some of your favourites.

**Rosemary Fraser and Babs Frame.**

### Freewill Offering

New envelopes (white in colour) for April 2022-April 2023 will be available for collection at the back of the church during the month of March.

Any members who still wish to contribute using this method and have not already intimated this, please email the Church Treasurer to advise.

[treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

Many thanks

**Jill Wallis**



## **Elder's Tributes—written by FCB**

### **William N. Gilchrist**

Most people will remember Bill Gilchrist as essentially a quiet man, not given to pushing himself forward, always courteous and mindful of other peoples views and feelings. Along with this, however, he had a tremendous enthusiasm for the things that mattered to him. That struck me from our earliest contact. He was one of the first people I came to know when I began my ministry in St Paul's. He was the Editor of the church magazine and was keen that I took full advantage of it in those early days of finding my feet.

There were times when we had to get our heads together on various things that had to be communicated to the congregation and I always felt I was in the presence of a quiet wisdom honed by experience.

That wasn't the end of Bill's creative endeavours for the Church. As the 150th. Anniversary of the Church approached it was suggested that we update a history of the Church which had been written by a former minister Rev John Peat. Bill took that on and with his characteristic clarity and warmth produced an account of the Church's mission through the years which has stood the test of time. In his introduction to the book he mentions that he was following in the footsteps of his father, Jimmy Gilchrist, also a journalist, who had written a history of Ferryhill Parish Church in Aberdeen.

Bill was born in Aberdeen and his early days in journalism were spent on the Press and Journal. In the course of time he felt the pull of broadcast news and in 1965 moved to the BBC newsroom in Glasgow. By this time he was married to Betty with two daughters Sarah and Julie. As family life flourished Bill moved on in his career eventually becoming Forward Planner for BBC Reporting Scotland.

Bill's time at the BBC saw changes not only in the times but in broadcast news. Whatever the circumstances, however, you somehow imagine Bill being a dependable and steadying influence. That came through in his personal life not least on the death of his daughter Julie. I will always remember his words at Julie's funeral when he conveyed his sense of loss but also his thanksgiving for Julie's life and his hope for the days ahead. At his funeral service on 11 January we gave thanks for his faith and held Betty and the family in our prayers for their future strength and peace.

## **Robert A. L. Campbell**

Bobby Campbell was faithful in every task he took on; he was blessed with an irrepressible cheerfulness; an infectious good humour; and a willingness to do his best for people especially in their difficult days. He had a Church life which would be recognisable to many people of his generation. Sunday School, Boys Brigade, Church membership and then Ordination as an Elder. In all of this he came to know the promises of the Gospel for this life and the next which would be in his heart to the end.

Many people may be surprised to know that Bobby was not a native of Milngavie but came here with his family in his pre-school days. He never contemplated leaving but did not have a choice when in common with many young men of his generation he was called for National Service and spent two years in Egypt. With that behind him he returned to his work as a telephone Engineer with what was then the GPO eventually becoming a Foreman and Inspector In British Telecom.

Church was very much the focus of his life. After National Service his involvement with 1st Milngavie BB Company continued and began to take up more and more of his time. He was commissioned as an Officer and enjoyed overseeing the drill and teaching drumming. In his latter years he was BB Treasurer.

It would come as no surprise to anyone in St Paul's when Bobby was nominated for the Eldership and was later ordained. He brought to that role an openness to people, a willingness to respond in times of trouble and an ability to have the right word for the occasion. He was not perhaps the most vocal at meetings but when he did speak no one could doubt his passion of the right course to be taken.

I will never forget the night when at a Kirk Session meeting I presented Bobby with his Long Service Certificate. He and I traded banter that could have gone on all night but in the end there was no doubt that Bobby was the winner!

It was at a Church dance that Bobby met Jacqueline Law, an encounter that led to a marriage of over 66 years in which they were blessed with sons Douglas and Stephen, their wives Joyce and Ceat and grandchildren Fraser and Laura, Calum and Angus. At Bobby's funeral on 19 January we held Jackie in our prayers along with the family and heard a heart-warming appreciation from Ceat. We continue to pray that they will have strength for today and hope for the future.

## Robert McGowan

Roy was one of those people who made an immediate impression on you. His openness, his interest and his kindness were there for all to experience and served him well as part of any gathering. The abiding memories of Roy will always be his enjoyment of the after Church fellowship on a Sunday, his faithful membership of our Men's Association, and his long standing service at the Lunch Club. Even at the height of the pandemic it was important for Roy to stay in touch with friends and he and Ena were faithful participants in the Congregational Zoom. It was all about being with and valuing other people.

Church life began early for him. He was born in Coatbridge to parents who were involved in Gartsherry parish Church and Roy soon found himself drawn into various activities. He became a Sunday School teacher and in the course of time was ordained an Elder. He was also married in Gartsherry. Ena lived a stone's throw away from Roy in Coatbridge. A nodding acquaintance led to Roy's invitation to a local dance and that was the beginning of a relationship in which the Biblical principle of two becoming one was fulfilled.

Like many young men of his generation Roy was called to serve in the RAF as part of a communications unit. With that behind him a highly successful working life opened up for him. He trained as a Structural and Civil Engineer and served in the Burgh of Coatbridge before becoming the Director of Building Control for Glasgow.

The responsibilities would be heavy at a time of great change in Glasgow but Roy's ability to focus on a project, manage his staff and see things through to the end was much appreciated by those who worked with him. It was a high-pressured job in many ways but with everything he had to deal with he could be sure of the support of Ena. I'm sure also he drew great strength from his growing family, David, Russell, Laura and Alasdair. At the funeral service Russell shared family memories which included grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Early retirement meant time for Roy to pursue his interest in family history and history in general. He also had more time to serve in St Paul's. His early experience of Sunday school meant he was well able to take on leadership of the Adventurers Group. It was my privilege to invite him to join the Kirk Session and his enthusiastic response is something I will always remember. His time as an Elder would go on to be a blessing to our work and witness with his sympathetic heart and lively mind.

At the funeral service on 7 February we held Ena and the family in our prayers with the hope that the promises of the Gospel for this life and the next would be their strength and peace.

# INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

## Copy Date

The copy date for the April issue is Wednesday **23rd** March.

Please send any articles to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries
6th March	S. Anderson A. Gillies
13th March	P. Barlow S. Robertson
20th March	M. Conway L. Cowie
27th March	A. Galloway L. Cowie