

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

September 2022



Dear Friends,

In the big clear-out, I came across the notes I made for the first sermon I preached in a service. I think I was seventeen at the time. The Youth Fellowship had been given the opportunity to lead evening worship. Afterwards, people were encouraging and there then began a dawning that this was what I was meant to do. Shadows were to fall in the years ahead. Uncertainty, disillusionment, doubt, perhaps even resistance. But the call was strong and eventually I came to the place where I could not imagine a fulfilled life apart from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

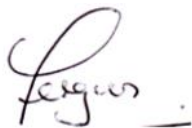
People around me expressed doubts. Was this really what I wanted to do? But I had enough insight and experience to know that God did not call a 'type'. In fact, in the early 1970's, when I entered a fuller Christian commitment, people were emerging as preachers and evangelists who in style and presentation were a long way from what had come to be seen as the norm. When I saw Nigel Goodwin standing in the pulpit of St. George's Tron in his floral shirt and knee length purple suede boots, I began to think that maybe I could fit in! In the end you accept that God knew what he was doing when He put this pressure on your will.

It has never been anything less than challenging. When I was inducted to Stevenston: Ardeer, a senior minister gave the 'charges' at the Service of Induction. He was generally encouraging but he said that in the end there was one thing I could be sure of: 'You'll never win!' I had enough experience of Church life to know what he meant but as I face the prospect of retirement the sense of incompleteness, even failure, is far outweighed by the privilege of having the opportunity to serve as a parish minister. To be with people in their most heart-breaking and vulnerable times is never easy but it has been an inspiration to see God's people finding a way forward in the promises of Christ. This is not to mention days of celebration when Gabrielle and I have been included as part of the family. Baptisms and marriages come with a sense of new hope and ministers experience this more than most.

It all comes together to make a final parting very hard. Especially at this time in the Church of Scotland when the future of many congregations is in doubt. It would be less than honest to say this does not weigh heavily on me. But as there was a sense of beginning all those years ago so there comes a sense of major change. I can't bring myself to say, 'the end'. I am not convinced that 25th September will see the end of ministry for me. I continue to hope and pray that I will have the health and strength to be available to serve in some capacity however limited. Whatever else has to be set aside I'll be holding on to a couple of clerical collars.

'You'll never win,' he said. Well, we don't in this life. Not completely. But Paul said: 'I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3: 14). Whatever the future holds for us, we are united in this faith that we are part of the Great Project to bring heaven and earth together, a renewed creation in which God's people see the fulfilment of all His promises. Nothing more to cry over and greater opportunities for service.

Yours pressing on,



### Future Services

Sunday 4th September	Admission of New Members
Sunday 11th September	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 18th September	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 25th September	Presentation to the Rev Fergus Buchanan.

There will be an Evening Service each week at 7pm.

### Flower Arranging

The flower arranging team would like extra support, due to the retirement of two of our members. None of us have any prior experience but have found arranging the flowers for each Sunday, very satisfying. If you would like to join the team of six, please contact one of the team, or Marjorie Thoms, on 0141 956 5372.

Thank you,

Marjorie Thoms

### Flower Donations - August

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the Month of August



M. Reid, F. Ireland, E. Trail, M. McNeil, 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

## **Thank You**

Irene, Gordon, Kenneth, their spouses and the grandchildren give heartfelt thanks to their St. Paul's family for all the love and care shown to them after Jimmy's death. The large number of cards, letters, telephone calls and visits were very much appreciated. Most of all, they were very conscious of the many prayers and blessings which the congregation was offering for them. Special thanks go to Fergus for his conducting the private cremation, for the uplifting Thanksgiving Service and for his pastoral care. Also special thanks to Andiamo and Jackie Pirie for organising the refreshments, held in the Large Hall, which made for a homely atmosphere, which again was much appreciated. Your generosity raised £563.00 to help Marie Curie continue with their valuable work.

God bless you all.

## **The More Family**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our minister and the many friends in St. Paul's who phoned, sent cards, flowers, home baking and attended Duncan's funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium on Friday 29th July, 2022. Neil, Jayne and myself were upheld by your prayers and kind wishes.

Of course a special thank you to Fergus who has supported us throughout this sad time with his numerous visits to the hospital to see Duncan and then to me at home.

We were privileged to have him conduct the service.

## **Marylyn Taggart**

## **Men's Association**

The first meeting of the new session is on Tuesday 4th October when we welcome back Dr. Robert Hamilton who will speak on America's President Nixon. Meetings are held in the Jubilee Hall starting with a get together with tea/coffee at 7.15pm followed by the speaker at 7.30pm.

All members and friends of St Paul's, and for the avoidance of doubt, including ladies, will be made very welcome at all or any of the meetings.

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP**  
**HARROGATE AND GLORIOUS YORKSHIRE**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH STRATHMORE TRAVEL**

**MONDAY, 12th - FRIDAY, 16th JUNE, 2023**  
**COST £394 per person. No single supplement.**

**MONDAY, 12th JUNE**

Depart Milngavie Railway Station. Coffee stop at Gretna and lunch with free time in Keswick. Continue to the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate for 4 nights dinner, B&B. Meals included: dinner.

**TUESDAY, 13th JUNE**

Free time in Harrogate in the morning. Lunch at the Cairn Hotel. Afternoon in RHS garden at Harlow Carr, just outside Harrogate, where there is a Betty's tearoom. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE**

Travel by coach to Whitby to visit the new Endeavour Experience where there is a full-scale model of the ship Captain Cooke sailed in to Australia. He was born in the town. Lunch on board the ship. In the afternoon we shall travel on the North Yorkshire Moor Steam Railway from Whitby to Grosmont and continue our journey by coach from there to Harrogate. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

**THURSDAY, 15th JUNE**

Free time in the morning spent in Ripon viewing the cathedral and the town. In the afternoon we continue to the privately owned Newby Hall close by, where we shall have lunch and view the house and gardens. Return to Harrogate. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**FRIDAY, 16th JUNE**

Depart to Alnwick Castle and Gardens, where we shall view the gardens only and have lunch (included). Comfort stops on the way home.

The price is based on 30 participants. Included lunches will be light.

A deposit of £50 per person will guarantee your place. Cheques should be made out to St. Paul's Parish Church, Milngavie and will be retained until we have sufficient numbers. The trip organiser is Anne Ritchie, 12 Norwood Park, Bearsden G61 2RF.

[anrit521@gmail.com](mailto:anrit521@gmail.com)

07811 973 375

Cheques should be sent to her at the above address, WITH SLIP ON NEXT PAGE AND SAE.

Name(s)

Address

Landline and mobile.

E-mail address

Single/double/twin room. Please circle.

## FOOD HYGIENE

With organisations preparing to start the 2022 – 23 season may I remind you of the article below which first appeared in May 'Life'. It would be encouraging if as many people as possible could undertake this course.

F. C. I.

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Following on from the pandemic The Church of Scotland General Trustees are offering free access to the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene course by e-learning. The course is interactive and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. There are no tests or exams during or after the course and everyone who completes it will receive an approved REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene certificate.

This course is suitable for **anyone** who handles and prepares food and drink and will be especially useful for anyone who bakes at home on behalf of their congregation.

For information on registering for the course please contact Frances Ireland (956 1030)

(REHIS – The Royal Environmental Health Institute Of Scotland)

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Yes! We hope to hold our tenth Christmas Tree Festival this December, the first since 2018. Obviously it was impossible to contemplate it taking place during the pandemic, but we have decided to go ahead with plans for this year in the hope that conditions will be favourable.

As ever, we are very dependent on the work of many people in all the churches, and the cooperation of everyone to make it the success it has always been. Therefore we would encourage you to mark the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in your diary, and also to include Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> if you would like to help in erecting or decorating the trees which is always great fun!

Once again the donations of visitors will be given to worthwhile causes, and an enjoyable programme of music from talented friends will play a part in the Festival. More information will be available next month with more specific information about how you can help. Please plan to come along and take part in this much-loved event.

If you would like more information now please contact Jean Scott (956 5251) or Eleanor Easton (943 0368)

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

As previously intimated, this years Harvest Thanksgiving is on the 18th of September. Donations can be delivered to the church on Saturday the 17th of September between 10am and 11.30am or on Thanksgiving morning. As usual flowers, plants and posies will be delivered to the elderly, sick and housebound and also to those in care homes. These gifts will be delivered by the elders and the pastoral care team.

Food items will be delivered, as in previous years, to the Salvation Army. This project provides food for single men living in hostel accommodation with access to limited cooking facilities. Individual sized portions are especially welcome as well as tea coffee and little treats (especially chocolate biscuits). We also deliver to the Lodging House Mission who have particularly requested breakfast cereals, tinned fruit, pasta sauces and curry sauces, coffee, biscuits, stock mix as well as broth mix.

Thanks,

**Elizabeth McEwan**  
Harvest coordinator

## **Guild News**

We are continuing to plan for the new session, and final details are being arranged.

Our opening meeting will be on Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2p.m. in the Large Hall. Our visitors will be the Alexandria Mandolin Club who come highly recommended. This should be an entertaining meeting and we look forward to seeing many friends. On the following Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Guild Dedication Service will be held; we are delighted that Rev. Kenneth MacDonald will be in the pulpit.

Our final Afternoon Tea at Caulders will be held this month, rounding off a series of very enjoyable get-togethers which were especially valuable during the pandemic when it was more difficult to meet friends.

Full details of our meetings will be available during September and we hope that many ladies will come and see what happens at our meetings. You will be most welcome at any or all of them.

### **Eleanor Easton**

### **St. Paul's Society and St. Paul's Society Cards**

As you may well know, we are currently selling the cards in aid of The Beatson Wellbeing Services Glasgow and at the time of submitting this article we are about to exceed £425. It would be great to reach our target of £500 before the end of September so please dig in and buy your favourite cards or even place an order for a personalised card.

Also watch out for an announcement about a Sunday visit locally for the Church Society and will include a church of interest as well as an afternoon tea. Watch this space!.



### Dear Friends

I hope you have all had a lovely summer. I have seen some photos of beautiful blue Scottish skies on Facebook. Here we have had a longer hot summer than usual. It's hard to sleep well when temperatures at night are in the upper 20s so we are looking forward to some cooler temperatures soon. This week we had some new members joining from Singapore, and they were saying it is too hot in Tokyo for them!

Up until now, Japan has largely avoided a large wave of COVID cases. However, since July we have had our seventh wave, which is seeing about a quarter of a million recorded cases each day, with many more going undetected. There are still many Japanese people who are fearful of catching COVID. Some churches have moved to online services in this latest wave, and others are continuing to offer hybrid shorter services, but no fellowship time. It is now nearly two and a half years since my church has had anything in person other than a short Sunday morning service with people going home straight afterwards.

As Christians, we want to care for other people, and that includes caring for those who are fearful. There are many times in the Bible when God tells us to "fear not". We all find ourselves fearful at times, either about our present circumstances or about the future. As we read the national and world news at the moment, we may well feel afraid about where things are heading or what is going to happen.

Yet God's word to us, repeated many times over in the Bible, is "fear not". And the Bible verses that tell us to "fear not" are often accompanied with a word of encouragement, for example that God is with us, that He goes with us, that He is our help and our strength. God is always bigger than the thing that we fear. He is always more powerful. We can also trust Him as our heavenly Father that He will always be with us. This is the amazing hope that we have in the gospel and a hope that so many around us, whether in Scotland or Japan, need to hear.

*"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." (Isaiah 41:13)*

Thank you for all your prayers, love and support as we seek to share this hope with people in Japan.

*Lorna, Calum and Alistair*



## Church Choir

Practices for the Church Choir resume on Thursday 8th September in the church from 7.45pm until 9.15pm. New members will be made most welcome for all sections of the choir. We really need extra voices for all parts, sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. We have a healthy number of members who will always be pleased to encourage any volunteers to get used to the wide range of music we learn. There is no audition! If you enjoy singing (in tune) and you would like to help us lead the musical praise on a Sunday morning, please come along. Further details from the Choirmaster, Derek Norval (07814389262), or from members of the choir.

## Badminton Club

Club nights resume on Tuesday 6th September in the large hall. Matches start from 7.30pm and we will try to cater for a wide range of playing abilities. New members will be most welcome so do come along and give it a try, even if it's years since you last held a badminton racket.



## A Prayer for Fergus and Gabrielle

The Very Rev John Christie when leading the morning service in St. Paul's on 31<sup>st</sup> July, offered the following prayer and encouraged the congregation to include Fergus and Gabrielle in our prayers in the coming weeks.

*God of all grace, we bless you for your love shown to us in Christ.  
Today we remember with gratitude our minister Fergus and his wife Gabrielle.  
We thank you for their long commitment to our Congregational life and pray that  
you will sustain them by your Spirit as they prepare for retirement.  
In Christ's name.  
Amen*

## Clyde Presbytery Update

Following the Kirk Session in June the Session Clerk wrote to Peter McEnhill, Presbytery Clerk. *The Kirk Session unanimously agreed that we would wish to seek Presbytery's permission to call a new minister of word and sacrament to replace our Minister Rev Fergus Buchanan who has intimated his intention to retire at the end of September, 2022.*

*The Kirk Session also noted that all Presbyteries including Clyde, are currently preparing a Presbytery Plan which may reduce the number of ministers in the community of Milngavie. However we, as the largest congregation, consider it essential that a minister is called to the linked charge this year and any reduction in the number of ministers is, if necessary, implemented when one of the remaining ministers in Milngavie leaves or retires.*

A reply was received from Rev Jonathan Fleming Convener of the Mission Plan Task Group.

*We are meeting as a committee next week to start the creation of Presbytery's consultation document, which will be circulated by the end of June. This will be followed by a time of facilitated discussion with parish clusters, where Ministry allocations will be discussed with all parties concerned and a path for the future, sought.*

On behalf of the Mission Planning Committee, Rev Ken Gray and Elma Farr (Anne Robertson was unable to attend) met the three Ministers in the Milngavie cluster on Monday 22nd August. Meetings with the four Kirk Sessions have now been arranged and a joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions of St. Paul's and Baldernock will take place in St. Paul's on Tuesday 20th September.

A follow-up email was sent to Rev Peter McEnhill on Monday 25th August and the following reply received.

*Thank you for your query. The current position re vacancies is that they are effectively sisted until Presbytery has a new Mission plan agreed by Faith Nurture Forum. That is a General Assembly decision rather than one of Presbytery alone. Consequently, there will not be a vacancy process immediately upon Fergus's retirement and any adjustments envisaged will form part of the conversations that the planning group will have with the Kirk Session and cluster over the next few weeks. Once we have a plan agreed, that will indicate the next stage for Baldernock linked with Milngavie St Paul's.*

Clyde Presbytery has intimated that Rev. Barbara O'Donnell has been appointed as Interim Moderator to the linked charge of Milngavie, St. Paul's and Baldernock on the retiral of the Rev Fergus Buchanan.

The above will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 7th September.

## **World Mission**

### **Church of Scotland continues refugee work across Scotland**

Our team is growing and we're absolutely thrilled to welcome David Moodie, our new Churches Support Officer for the Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees team. If your local church would like to start working with New Scots, or respond to the situation in Ukraine, please get in touch with David Moodie:

david.moodie@churchofscotland.org.uk.

We are grateful to Action of Churches Together in Scotland for funding this post.

An East Renfrewshire church is hosting a unique welcome hub to support people fleeing the Russian-Ukrainian war and their new host families. Around 50 people attend Park Parish Church in Giffnock every Saturday to make new connections and share their experiences as they settle into their new communities. Please email David Moodie if you'd like to learn more about how your church can offer a faithful welcome to Ukrainians in your community.

### **Church of Scotland urges government to act on cost of living crisis**

As living costs skyrocket, millions of families in the UK are struggling to make ends meet. A new report launched on 7th August by Professor Donald Hirsch from Loughborough University reveals the gap between the support the government is currently offering to households and the anticipated rise in living costs. It concludes that millions of families are at risk of going without because the support they've been given simply doesn't stretch far enough.

Endorsed by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown and over 55 faith groups (including the Church of Scotland), charities and political leaders, the report calls on the government to take urgent action to bridge the cost of living gap faced by the lowest income families in our communities.

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## Copy Date

The copy date for the October issue is Wednesday **21st** September.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries
4th September	M. Conway K. Edwards
11th September	A. Galloway L. Cowie
18th September	F. Ireland
25th September	A. McNellan K. Hagart