

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2024



Dear Friends

February is a month when love can be in the air – or so they say! We celebrate Valentine's Day, or as it used to be called 'St Valentine's Day', on Wednesday 14th of February. This Christian feast day honours Valentine, whom tradition has it, performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman Emperor. From then on traditions grew. It is a day when love comes to the fore, cards from secret admirers are traditionally sent and many, many single and bouquets of red roses will be given or delivered. Romantic dinners and presents all add up to a special day.

Leaving aside the commercialism, it is good to have a special day to celebrate in the middle of the winter months.

Love – Jesus had a great deal to say about love. Love for God, for our neighbours and our enemies. In the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus speaks of love for our enemies. He says 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' (Luke 6 verse 27).

Jesus' words on love are not about the love of Valentine's Day – not the love of someone close to you or someone who you want to tell that you love them. Jesus' words are about loving those who are different from us; to love those who disagree with us; to love those who are difficult and demanding or those who can delight in putting us down. It's a tall order to love our enemies but one that we are called to do.

This year, the Season of Lent begins on St Valentine's Day. It is the time when we commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring the temptation of Satan. According to the synoptic Gospels, this happened just before Jesus embarked upon his public ministry.

Lent can be a time of giving something up or doing something for others. This year, I am supporting Water Aid. I am giving up chocolate and putting the money I would have spent into my 'Jar of Change' www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/fundraising/lent-appeal-jars-of-change . This is a great way to help provide fresh water to those who desperately need it. 40 days is a long time without chocolate but I am up for the challenge!

Every blessings to you and yours.

Barbara

Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place in March, 2024. At this meeting the Accounts for year ended 31st December, 2023 will be received and members will be elected to the Congregational Board. There are currently 5 vacancies on the Board and if you or any member you know, would like to serve in this way please contact Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Board, for further information.

Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Board

Future Services

	MORNING	EVENING (resume on 18 February)
11 February	Rev. Paul Read	
18 February	Rev. John Campbell	Rev. Paul Read
25 February	Dr. Robin Easton	Rev. Ramsay Shields
03 March	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Julian Pombo
10 March	Rev. Robbie Hamilton	Dr. Grace Rogerson

Lent

The Saturday morning half-hour Services starting at 9.30am will be held from 2nd to 23rd March.

Holy Week

The Holy Week services will be held in the Allander Evangelical Church from Monday 25th March to Friday 29th March. More details next month.



Donations of Tinned and Dry Food Items

For a number of years members of St Paul's have been donating tinned and dry food items to the Preshal Trust in Govan. These donations have been gratefully received and much appreciated.

Towards the end of last year we became very conscious of the wider need in the community and therefore it is proposed that in future, donations are spread over a number of local charities.

This will be discussed at the Kirk Session meeting in February and if approved will start in March. See weekly intimations for details.

Urgent - Flower Delivery

Due to a number of our helpers being unable to deliver the flowers on a Sunday morning after the service, we are desperately in need of some additional helpers. As you can imagine, the recipients of the flowers are very grateful to get them.



Please could you consider joining our flower delivery team? Our rota allows us to share out this worthwhile task and you would not have to do it very often throughout the year.

If you would like more information or would be happy to help, please get in touch.

Many thanks

Kate Edwards

St. Paul's Church Society

The AGM of St. Paul's Church Society will be held in the Large Hall on Saturday, 02 March 2024. Tea/coffee and hot cross buns will be served at 10:00 with the meeting starting at 10:30. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend and as always, new members will be made most welcome.

Marylyn Taggart

CrossReach

Donation to Daisy Chain Early Years Project

A huge thank you for the recent donation of £250 made by Noah's Ark to our service. We are very grateful that you thought of us in this way and your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. The monies donated by Noah's Ark will go directly towards the activities we provide for our mothers and toddlers, and are a welcome and valuable boost to our funds, particularly in the current funding climate.

CrossReach News

The latest edition of *CrossReach News* is now available from the stands at the back of the church. This edition provides information on the continuing work of CrossReach as well as details of the *Winter of Light* short film series which is available on the CrossReach YouTube channel.

Thank you

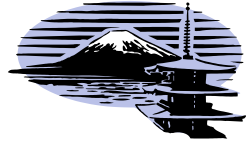
Andrew and I would like to thank you for all your love, concern and prayers for us at this time.

We have been very appreciative for all the cards, visits, flowers and food which we have received - all signs of your support and care for us.

And your generosity to the Beatson Cancer Charity raised the magnificent total of £1206.50. They were most appreciative of this gift which will go towards much needed resources and equipment. I was able to present the cheque to them on 29 January 2024.

Thanks again

Linda and Andrew Muirhead



Dear Friends

You may have seen on the news that there was a large earthquake on New Year's Day in the Noto Peninsula on the west coast of Japan. Matthew and I visited that area in spring 2021. It is a beautiful part of the country with a real sense of history, an amazing coastline and very friendly people. The area is nearly 300 miles from my house in Chiba, but we felt the earthquake even there. Since the 1980s, Japanese houses have had to comply with earthquake-resistant regulations. In the Noto Peninsula, however, there are still many traditional wooden houses, many of which were not able to withstand the severe shaking. Many buildings collapsed, and some also caught fire. To date, 238 people are known to have died and nearly 20 are still missing. Relief efforts were hampered due to the remoteness of the area, and the fact that many roads and bridges were also damaged so as to be unpassable.

The government has been working hard to create ways for relief supplies to get to those in need, and for electricity, gas and water supplies to be restored. Many people have been moved to hotels outside of the area, including secondary school children who have been moved to schools in other places.

Japanese Christians and churches have come together to form a network to see what is needed on the ground and many people have volunteered to help. The government is usually good at providing immediate relief supplies, so the churches are focussing more on longer-term volunteer plans.

Please pray that the volunteers can show Jesus' love in practical ways to those who are suffering. In particular the network plans to run camps for the children in the spring break in late March and again in the summer, to do some fun activities but also to provide trained volunteers who can help the children start to process what they have been through.

We often do not know why things happen and it can be difficult to understand. However, what we do know, as Isaiah wrote, is that "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Isaiah 34:18). Perhaps some of you are feeling crushed or broken-hearted because of something you are going through. May you too know that the Lord is close to you, and may He give you hope and comfort in the midst of suffering.

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair



Guild News

Our recent speaker from CHAS mentioned that the Hospices are sometimes short of toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste and tooth brushes for both children and adults. Guild members will be donating these items over the next few weeks.

By the time the magazine has been distributed we will have heard from the Rev. Ian Miller and will finally know what his talk - *Habbie-Jeellie-Eater* is all about!!

Topics for this month are:

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| 5th February: | Bible Study - Peter Buchan |
| 12th February: | Low Moss Prison Chaplin - Fiona Morrison |
| 19th February: | Milngavie in Bloom - Douglas Cameron |
| 26th February: | Milngavie First Responders - Andy Boyd |

Future dates for your diary

9th March: Coffee Morning

17th March: The Guild Committee has been asked to lead the evening service.

As always everyone is most welcome to join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Large Hall for fellowship and of course a cuppa.

Elizabeth McEwan

Men's Association

During January, we were delighted to hear from Sheila Farquharson (Faifley Parish Church Upcycling Project) about the superb work being done in her local area, which has been so well supported by members of St Paul's. Clearly, she and her team of supporters are fulfilling Christ's instructions to help your neighbour.

The Association joined the Guild on 29 January to hear the Rev. Ian Miller speak about Habbie-Jeelie Eater. Also, on that date, as requested, the Guild, the Association and members of the congregation donated plates (any size, any shape) plus mugs for the benefit of Upcycling at Faifley, as they had identified a real need for these items. Thank you to all who contributed and we will continue to support local churches in this way. In other words, love your neighbour.

In February, our speakers (both elders) are:

06th: Steven McFarlane who will be explaining Sulman's Glasgow Panorama 1864.

20th: Malcolm Boyd, who will be reminding us of his experiences on the Panama Canal.

We look forward to hearing both speakers and welcome any members or friends to join us on these evenings.

Brian Adair

Safeguarding

In order to keep the Safeguarding Congregational Register updated, it is necessary for any member no longer volunteering in any Church organisation to complete a removal form to be returned to the Church of Scotland.

Any member of the Church wishing to volunteer in any Church organisation please note that all volunteering positions must firstly be verified by the Kirk Session before the PVG registration can commence. Please also note that this registration is now completed on-line.

Any volunteer who has not completed the mandatory initial training must do so as soon as possible. For further information on these matters please contact Elizabeth McEwan (Safeguarding Co-ordinator).

Elizabeth McEwan (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)

Douglas Muirhead

Douglas Reid Muirhead was born in Govanhill, Glasgow in 1954, the second son of Stewart and Jean Muirhead, 4 years junior to his brother Raymond. He was only 2 when tragedy struck the family with the death of his Dad. When he was 10, Jean re-married, and with the arrival of baby sister Janet the family re-located to Mansewood.

On leaving school Douglas completed an apprenticeship at Skelly's and Appleyards and trained as a panel beater. At that time, he was a paid-up member of the Communist Party of Great Britain and believed that politics was the only way that things could change for the better. The person who would tell him differently was his older brother Raymond who became a Christian and said there was another way. Douglas wanted to meet the folk that he talked about. He did meet them, but the outcome was not what he expected – and much to his surprise, he too came to faith in the Grove Christian Fellowship. But he was to discover that life was not all plain sailing.

At the church, Douglas met Grace and they married and set up home together. Tragedy was to strike when she suffered a brain aneurysm and, despite a number of operations and procedures to heal her, she died 11 months after their marriage.

Douglas was with the Fire Service for 30 years. He was an operational fire-fighter in Glasgow city centre for 27 years, during which time he saw and dealt with many unpleasant and distressing situations but was also privileged to be involved in rescuing many people. Three years before he retired, he retrained and transferred to the training section and became a High Reach Instructor - teaching the fire-fighters all aspects of high reach appliances which are deployed in the Fire Service.

In 1981 Douglas married Linda, another member of the Grove Christian Fellowship, who remained his steadfast and stalwart partner for the rest of his life.

Douglas and Linda settled in Milngavie in 1984 and joined St Paul's in 1989. They very soon made an impact on the congregation as faithful attenders at worship morning and evening, and stalwarts of the weekly Prayer Meeting. Douglas's skill on the guitar often enriched times of praise. Later he would link up with Robert Rutherford to provide entertainment for the BreakAway Group, the Tree Festival and on many other social occasions.

In the Grove Christian Fellowship, Douglas was often given the opportunity to preach, and he was happy to be included in the Lent and Advent services and the occasional evening service at St Paul's. There was no doubt that Douglas experienced the privilege of sharing the faith that he was convinced was true with his brothers and sisters. Douglas became an Elder in 1993.

1993 was a significant year for another reason because Andrew was born that year. For Douglas, his family was complete. As Douglas worked shifts, he had frequent periods of time that he could spend with Andrew and a strong bond developed between father and son.

Although not particularly academic, Douglas loved to learn – about science, about how things worked – he was very practical and everything that he made or attempted to do had to be done right. No second best for him. Douglas loved hill walking and was a member of the Glasgow Canoe Club

A cheerful and open man, Douglas nevertheless experienced many of the bumps and bruises of life. Like many of us he was faced with the challenge of holding the promises of Jesus alongside dark and difficult experiences. He was called to live out his faith whatever the circumstances. Life was as difficult at the beginning as it was at the end, but whatever he had to go through, the promises of the Kingdom were ever before him, the Kingdom where there would be no more cause for tears, where the darkness would be consumed by Jesus the Light of the world.

Book Group



A short history of St Paul's was compiled and published in 1991. We have been looking at this fascinating booklet, and some of us have also been re-reading the story of St Paul's from 1841 to 1991.

We all found the story to be fascinating and informative particularly the early years when the present church was built. For those of us who have been members for some time it was particularly interesting to be reminded of the office bearers and ministers who have served the congregation over the years. Fergus had written an Afterword which we thought was still relevant today.

Does anybody remember Easter morning services at the Preaching Braes and breakfast afterwards at Cairns or St Paul's?

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5 March 2024 when we will be discussing *Washington Black* by Esi Ebugyan.

If you would like to join us please contact the Church office for more details. If anybody would like a copy of the St. Paul's booklet, there are copies available in the Church office.

Joyce Clark

SATURDAY, 17 February 2024

Sunkids

P1-P5 from 4:15-6:00 in the Large Hall

The Ark

S1 and up from 7:30-10:00 in the Large Hall

LARGE PRINT



**Large Print versions are available
for the following:**

- **Morning & Evening Orders of Service**
- **Weekly intimations**
- **the *Life* magazine.**

Please get in touch with the Office if you would like a Large Print version of any of the above.

Thinking Allowed at Cairns

Thursday 8 February 2024, 7:30 for 8:00pm, Cairns Church

Speaker: Ailsa Turner, BA (Hons), PGCE.

Lecture: Painted Parables: The Prodigal Son in Western European Art

Ailsa will explore the parable of the Prodigal Son as represented by a range of artists over the centuries who were inspired by the emotional narrative of the central characters. Their responses reflect a fascinating diversity of styles and interpretations which resonate with pertinence and poignancy. The focus will be on key examples from western European art in a variety of media but mainly painting, taking us on a visual journey from 13th through to early 21st centuries.



Ailsa Turner has recently retired as a tutor in Art History for the University of Glasgow's Short Courses (Lifelong Learning) programme. Ailsa is a graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art and before moving to Glasgow with her family was a full-time lecturer for ten years in the education department of the National Gallery in London. Over the last seventeen years working for the University of Glasgow, Ailsa has provided courses and specialist study days on Renaissance Art and Architecture, 17th Century Dutch and Flemish Painting, Spanish and Scottish Painting and study visits to Kelvingrove and to the National Galleries of Scotland.



A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

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Flower Donations



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

Mrs F Dorrall

Please address donations to Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson & 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.

Copy Date

The copy date for the March issue is **Wednesday, 28 February**.

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