

# Life At St. Paul's Milngavie April 2023



Dear Friends,

Our journey through the Season of Lent, towards the agony of the cross and to the joy of Easter Sunday, has almost reached its conclusion. On Sunday 2nd April it will be Palm Sunday, when we will come together to recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. During Holy Week, we will have the opportunity to be together in fellowship at the Allander Evangelical Church, taking us from the day of celebration to the darkness of Good Friday.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always loved Easter and I still do! Reflecting on this, I wondered, was it because I got a lovely new hat to wear on Easter Sunday and a chocolate egg or was it something more than that. It was indeed the beginning of my journey of faith, albeit limited in its understanding. Easter in the O'Donnell household is a very special event. It begins with the making of our Easter Tree that has to be in the dining room window before Palm Sunday. In the past years it was a family activity. Branches were brought in from the garden, blown eggs were decorated and hung on the branches. As the tradition grew, ceramic eggs, rabbits and chickens were gathered from all over the world to be hung on the tree. Now our tree has to be quite a size. Since the family have left home it is now up to me to put up the tree, with the help of two little grandsons!

As the branches on my Easter Tree burst forth with their leaves I am reminded of the new life of the season of spring and the new life that we have in the risen Lord. The dawn of Easter Day, the recalling of the events of that morning, never fail to put joy into my heart.

On Easter Sunday we will read John's account of the resurrection, the only gospel writer who brings Peter and another male companion to the empty tomb. Mary has called them to come and see that the Lord's body has gone. They come, they see but do not stay. It is Mary who remains, who meets the risen Christ and who comes to the good news of the resurrection. It is Mary who sees, believes and understands.

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## Copy Date

Copy date for the May edition is Wednesday **26th** April

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

The annual Good Friday **Walk of Witness** through Milngavie will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> April starting at Gavin's Mill at 11am.  
Refreshments will be available in St Paul's Church afterwards.

Date	Flower Deliveries
26th March	A. McLeod S. Angus
2nd April	S. Anderson A. Gillies
9th April	P. Barlow S. Robertson
16th April	M. Conway K. Edwards
23rd April	A. Galloway F. Ireland
30th April	A. McNellan K. Hagart

The words “He is risen” always give me hope. Jesus defeated death itself because he denied his own will to do His Father’s will, the ultimate expression of love that Jesus showed through his grace and compassion. Easter celebrates Jesus’ rising from the dead, three days after his crucifixion, granting eternal life to all who believe in Him.

I hope and pray that this Easter, you feel the joy of the risen Lord.

With Easter blessing to you and yours,

**Barbara**

### **Easter Festival**

There will be an Easter Festival in St Paul’s from Wednesday to Friday during Holy Week. Various organisations will have displays telling the story from Palm Sunday through to the empty tomb, in Fabric and Flora. A tearoom and craft area for children will be available in the Large Hall.

The Festival will be open  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10am until 4pm  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10am until 6pm  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10am until 4pm

**All welcome**

<b>Future Services</b>		<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
2nd April	Palm Sunday	Rev. David Hamilton	Peter Buchan
9th April	Easter	Rev. Barbara O’ Donnell	Easter Praise
16th April	Communion	Rev. Barbara O’ Donnell	Claire Herbert, LHM
23rd April		Robin Easton	The Men’s Association
30th April		Rev. Ken McDonald	Rev. John Wilson
7th May		Rev. Barbara O’ Donnell	Rev. Ramsay Shields

## Flower Donations - March



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

### **S Speedie, C Tanner, M White**

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

The family of Bill Marshall would like to sincerely thank friends & family for all the support, cards, letters, calls & flowers they received after Bills sudden passing.

Thanks to the St Paul's family for their spiritual guidance and special thanks to Rev Barbara O'Donnell & Rev Ken Macdonald for conducting the service. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the smooth running of the service.

A tremendous collection of £1035 was split between Diabetes Scotland & The Beatson Cancer Charity

### **Eva Marshall**

## Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week this year is 14th - 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.

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**

## Guild News

It is hard to believe that the AGM, our last meeting of the session, is almost here. It will take place on Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> and, after the business is concluded, Marilyn Ure will give a demonstration of flower arranging.

Meetings since the end of February have been wide-ranging and stimulating. On February 27<sup>th</sup> Roy Prentice came to the rescue when one of our speakers was unable to come; he gave a fascinating talk about a trip to Crimea and the Sebastopol area. Of special note were his photos of the Sebastopol Panorama which was unlike anything most of us had seen before. On March 6<sup>th</sup> we had another problem with a speaker failing to come ; this time David Turner provided music for a most enjoyable sing-along. We really appreciate his willingness to help out!

On March 13<sup>th</sup> Roger Sturrock gave a very interesting talk about the history of medicine and its evolution through the centuries. He then recounted his journey into the ministry in the Church of Scotland after retirement from the Royal Infirmary. Our final meeting to date was a talk about the Antonine Wall; most of us have seen the local sites but Rebecca Jones widened our horizons in a most enjoyable and interesting presentation which encouraged us to explore more widely.

A highlight of the month of March was our Coffee Morning on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, three years since the last one which took place just before the first lockdown. It was good to experience another part of the return to normality and we were delighted that so many members and friends of the congregation joined us. They participated with their usual enthusiasm and generosity, and the amazing total of £1174.20 was raised.

Though our meetings end with the AGM, we have planned another get-together for the weekend of the Coronation when we will hold an Afternoon Tea on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope to meet up occasionally during the summer months, and regular meetings will resume on Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This has been a busy session with the usual wonderful support from our members. It has been encouraging to welcome several new members and we look forward to adding to our numbers again next year.

We are very grateful to God for much blessing this session and wish a good summer to you all.

**The Lunch Club will be closed on Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April.**

**The Association of Milngavie Churches  
Holy Week 2023**

**The evening services will be held in  
Allander Evangelical Church at 7.30pm**

**Guest Preacher – Rev Dr Sandy Roger  
“*The Cross Through Peter’s Eyes*”**

**All welcome**

Monday 3 April *Christ our Perfect Example*

Tuesday 4 April *Christ our Penal Substitute*

Wednesday 5 April *Christ our Righteous Representative*

Thursday 6 April *Christ our Liberating Redeemer*

Friday 7 April *Christ our Blood Sacrifice*

The annual Good Friday ***Walk of Witness*** through Milngavie will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> April starting at Gavin’s Mill at 11am.

Refreshments will be available in St Paul’s Church afterwards.

**All welcome to all or any of the above**

**Clyde Presbytery met on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March and approved the Draft Mission Plan.** The plan will now be considered by The Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPIG) which is part of the General Assembly Faith Nurture Forum, and also by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. Once both parties have agreed to the Plan it will be brought back to Clyde Presbytery to note their agreement.

## **Stated Annual Meeting 22nd March, 2023 from the Session Clerk**

2022 was a year of rebuilding following the gradual lifting of the various covid restrictions and a return to the “new” normal. With the exception of the Girls’ Brigade, all of the organisations resumed during the year.

The Sunday morning services continued to be well attended with many watching the recording online. Evening services resumed in mid-August.

A highlight of the year was on Sunday 8th May when a special service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. David J Graham to mark Fergus’ 40 years as a Parish Minister.

At the end of September, the Rev. Fergus Buchanan retired after 34 years as Minister of this Parish. Clyde Presbytery appointed the Rev Barbara O’Donnell as Interim Moderator. We are not permitted to call a new Minister until the Presbytery Mission Plan is approved by The Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group (PMPiG) which is part of the General Assembly Faith Nurture Forum, and also by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. Once both parties have agreed to the Plan it will be brought back to Clyde Presbytery to note their agreement. At that point Presbytery will permit us to call a Minister to the linked charge with Baldernock Parish Church. Following Fergus’ retirement, we have been blessed that a number of “friends” of St. Paul’s have been willing to lead our morning services and our thanks is due to them all. The Kirk Session agreed to continue the evening services which have been led by a number of different people, including members of the congregation and have been much appreciated. The Saturday morning Lent and Advent services were held and led by members.

*Life* magazine continued to be produced each month. Pastoral issues and communicating with the congregation were a major concern throughout the year and continue to be so. Our thanks are due to the District Elders and Church Visitors for their phone calls and practical help, particularly to those not connected to the internet.

The biggest thanks are due to you the members, for ensuring the life of the congregation has continued in these challenging times. Thanks also to our dedicated employees, Derek, Hugh and Sandra who willingly contribute so much to the life and smooth running of St. Paul’s; thanks to the many people who put in considerable hours voluntarily, to keep the Congregation running from finance, insurance, fabric, furnishings, communications, health & safety, food hygiene, safeguarding, data protection, the roll, *Life* magazine and many others whose contributions are often unseen but essential to keep St. Paul’s running smoothly and legally. We thank you.

A special thanks to Barbara Lawson and Ann O'Hagan for their hard work throughout the year and in particular their work on the Annual Accounts which does not get easier with the passing of the years.

Finally, to our Interim Moderator who unfortunately cannot be with us this evening as she is in remotest Canada visiting her family and a new Grandson born last month. Barbara, we thank you for accepting the appointment and your commitment to St. Paul's during our period of transition. Your leadership and support to me personally and the congregation in general, is much appreciated.

## **Men's Association**

The Association has now completed its programme of speakers for 2022/23 and will be returning with a fresh programme for 2023/24 at the beginning of October.

During March, we heard from our very own Scott Adair, telling us about strange and unusual legal cases which he had been researching. He was at pains to point out that he had not appeared in Court in any of these cases.

At the end of March we held our AGM and the existing Committee were all re-elected unanimously, much to their delight. After the business, our Secretary, Brian Adair, (father of the aforesaid Scott) attempted to describe a miscarriage of justice, or not depending on your viewpoint, with which he personally had been involved. To lighten the mood thereafter, Chris Scott showed some out-takes from his filmings of the Services never seen before and never to be shown again. You just had to be there!

Blessings from the Association to all our Members, families, and supporters.

## **Evening Service Sunday 23rd April 2023**

The Men's Association was extremely pleased to be asked by the Session Clerk to participate in the worship on a Sunday evening and to be responsible for the service.

On 23rd April, we will conduct the worship of our evening service. Brian Adair will lead us into worship, Arthur Wylie will read the Word, Jamie Marr will do the Reflection and Malcolm Boyd will conclude the service.

We hope that many of our members will attend but also many members of our Church will attend, as we need to praise the Lord in these difficult times.

As an Association within the Church, we feel privileged to be able to spread the gospel.