

The monthly news from St. Paul's Church Milngavie

Life



No. 21 September 2004

Dear Friends,

Sometimes something leaps out at you from a page. Reading a book by Eugene Peterson recently I found these words:

'It's not unusual for any of us to begin something wonderful, and it's not unusual for any of us to do things that are quite good. But it *is* unusual to continue and to persevere. The difficulties aren't for the most part external but internal - finding the energy and vision to keep the effort going.'

Often you get the impression from Scripture that keeping the effort going is far more important than any kind of Immediate, spectacular success. The apostle Paul was no stranger to the miraculous in his ministry but in the end the quality which shone out from him was his ability to persevere. This comes out in words he wrote to the Church In Philippi. Writing from prison in Rome about the importance of aspiring to Christlikeness in his life he says:

'Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3: 14)

And when he was nearing the end of his life he looks back on many struggles but forward to the reward promised to all the faithful:

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day...' (2 Timothy 4:8)

I believe we have reached a stage in the history of our Church where perseverance is called for more than any other quality. The normal, smooth running of our Church life has been disrupted by the building project and unforeseen costs have brought a new financial challenge.

Our organisations have responded wonderfully well in the way they have been willing to adapt to the present circumstances. The spirit is good but in the same way that a fire needs to be tended we need to be looking for that inner strength which will give us 'the energy and vision to keep the effort going'. That means being faithful in our worship on the Lord's Day. That means being faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer. When we joined the Church we promised to do these things. The time has come for a renewal of our commitment in these areas. This is where we must begin as we prepare for the future.

Please remember the Gift Day on Saturday 11 September. More than anything else I want to be able once again to concentrate on building up the strength and quality of our Church life and witness. We will be able to do that much more effectively if we can meet the present financial challenge.

Wishing you God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Z. Suchman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday, 19th. September.

The special collection taken at the service will be for Tearfund, which is working to bring relief to those suffering from flooding and failed harvests in places like Bangladesh.

Envelopes will be available in church.

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMEBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mrs Gayle Thomson, 5 Dougalston Crescent Milngavie 52
 Mrs Isobel Lyle, 42 Keystone Road Milngavie 51

BAPTISMS

"In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit", Matt 28.2

Holly Jemima Morrison McDade, 59 South Mains Road, Milngavie

Abigail Murray, 56 St. Andrew's Drive, Bearsden

Myles Nichol Ian Douglas, 16 Bowfield Way, Howood

Benjamin Rutledge, 22 Kersland, Drive, Milngavie



WEDDINGS

2 July 04 Sharon Laird, 12 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie and
 Mark James Smith



15 July 04 Morag Bogie, 5 Dennison Road Colliers Wood London and
 Peter Jack, 25 Byers Close, Pottersbar

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr & Mrs I Dunlop, 15 Mosshead Road now 43
 8 Burnmouth Place, Bearsden 47

Mr George McGeachie, Lillyburn Nursing Home now
 Canniesburn Nursing Home 17

Mrs Louise Wilson, 6 Kildonan Drive, Partick now 70
 4 Craighton Gardens Milngavie 24

Mrs Lesley Craig, 12 The First, Millholm Road Cathcart now 70
 55 Douglasmuir Drive, Milngavie 66a

Mrs Janice Bolton, 72 Allander Road Bearsden now 13
 65 Campsie Drive, Milngavie 10

Mrs Jan Murray, 70 St. Andrew's Drive Bearsden now 62
 56 St. Andrew's Drive, Bearsden

Miss W & M Clark, Lynedoch Nursing Home now
 Blanefield House 4

Miss Nan Dunnachie, Lynedoch Nursing Home now
 Canniesburn Nursing Home 12

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

24 May 04 Mrs Isobel Govan, 39 Campsie Drive, Bearsden 48

31 May 04 Mr Russell Bonis, 17 Bredie Drive, Milngavie 41

8 June 04 Mrs Sue Rutherford, 56 Southgate, Milngavie 18

16 June 04 Mr Norman Reid, 42 South Mains Road 28

17 June 04 Mr John Stitt, 31 Braehead Ave, Milngavie

18 June 04 Mr John Clydesdale, 47 Glasgow Road, Milngavie

19 June 04 Mr John Leitch, (St. Lukes)11 Learmont Pl, Milngavie

20 June 04 Mr Stanley Lyle, 42 Keystone Rd, Milngavie

18 July 04 Miss M Forrest, Clarence Court Nursing Home 3a

8 Aug 04 Mr Ernie Shelden, Flat 1, 32 Woodland St, Milngavie 15



Norman Reid

Norman Reid was one of the first people in St Paul's to make an impression on me. He was a member of the Vacancy Committee which eventually nominated me as minister for the charge and even then I noted him down as an enthusiastic member of the congregation who was very much looking to the future. One of the questions which he asked at the interview was what I felt about the use of computers in the work of the Church. I have to confess that at that point computers for me were for playing games but, as Roll Keeper, Norman had already seen the potential for the better administration of the Church. And now, of course, 16 years later, St Paul's is on its third computer and we wonder how we survived without it.

I think that brings out some of Norman's essential qualities. Once he had taken on a task he brought to it an almost boyish enthusiasm, a commitment to see it through to the end, and to do it all to the highest of standards.

He was a man who knew his own strengths. He wasn't the most forthcoming at Kirk Session meetings but if there was a task needing done and Norman could do it then he didn't hold back. That meant him becoming involved in the sometimes complex issues surrounding our sound system. Norman had the grace to live with these and to deal with the problems as they arose.

He was also instrumental in developing the tape ministry. He took time to gather information as to how other churches were doing it, pressed the case for better equipment and gave us a system that has become a feature of our congregational life. It gave him a great deal of satisfaction to know that the housebound and friends of the congregation far away could still benefit from the worship here in St Paul's. He was particularly thrilled when he learned of tapes which had found their way to places like Ethiopia, India, Japan, Australia, America, Canada.

Norman's life touched so many areas of our community life and beyond and his death is a loss we all feel very deeply but the keenest sense of loss is amongst those who were closest to him. Our prayers are with Myra and the rest of the family that they will continue to draw strength from one another but also find that deeper sense of consolation which comes from the promises of the Gospel.

Progress Report on Alterations to Halls' Facilities

The work being undertaken by W H Kirkwood Ltd of Greenock to alter the Church's existing halls facilities is now progressing well and the elements of the contract are beginning to take shape. You will recall that the contract includes for the provision of an extension to the existing foyer at the Baldernock Road entrance with disabled access; the formation of a new office, toilets (including disabled facilities) and a new office for the Minister; adjoining the large hall a modern kitchen as required by the Environmental Health Authority; storage facilities and a new meeting room which will also be used as a Crèche having baby changing facility/toilet for the disabled adjoining. Disabled access is also being provided to the large hall.

Initially the contract encountered two quite major difficulties which restricted the Contractor's progress. One in relation to the existing drainage system which passes through and under the existing buildings. After much probing and examination by camera it was found necessary to replace most of the existing drain on a new and more direct route. The excavation of the existing drains and new drains had to be done by hand and was in some areas to a depth of 3 metres. Secondly it was found that the area below the former stage was badly affected by rising and penetrating dampness. The work in this area had not been carried out as proposed in June 1962. New dampproof membranes, additional brickwork and concrete to the sub-floor have had to be constructed to ensure that the new timber floors will not be affected by wet-rot in the future.

As a result the programme is now approximately four weeks behind schedule and regrettably additional costs of the order of £20,000 will have to be met.

Our Consultants and the Contractors are well aware of the need to restrict any further additions to our budget and have promised to endeavour to minimise if possible the current delay of our completion date.



Networking @ St Paul's

You may have heard about Networking at St Paul's over the last month and are wondering what it is all about: perhaps have a few questions? We hope you will find the questions and answers below informative and we very much look forward to welcoming you to any of our events.

Q: What is N@SP?

A: N@SP is a new initiative inspired from ten10 (www.ten10.org.uk), to network people locally, aged **18-40's**, for fellowship and fun.

Q: Why have we chosen this age range?

A: As a group we believed that this age group did not have a lot of opportunity to come together informally to get to know and support one another, on issues we all encounter in everyday life, whether at work, family, university, or in other instances! St Paul's is a large and diverse congregation and we felt that by choosing this age range: **18-40's**, it would be inclusive and relative to as many people as possible.

Q: What kind of events will N@SP be holding and how often?

A: We aim to host monthly events at the end of each month that **18-40's** will enjoy. These will also be organised by the group, listening to feedback and requests made.

Q: Do you require to be a member of St Paul's to attend?

A: No, we would be delighted to welcome guests/friends to any of our events. Some events will specifically be called 'family' events, e.g. family picnic – you do not require to have a family to attend, it is just to advise you that children will be joining in the fun on that particular occasion.

Q: What if my guest is not aged 18-40's?

A: Whilst the aim of N@SP is to network 18-40's, if you are not within this age group and wish to attend any of the events you will be made most welcome!

Q: What if I have an idea: want more information about N@SP?

A: We would be delighted to hear from you. The group contacts are:

Gayle Cattanach	956 1557	George Vidits	956 3370
Sue Rollings	956 7298	Sue Vidits	956 3370
Linda Gow	943 0150	Graeme Boyd	563 8770
Nicola Finch	587 7390	Carla Boyd	563 8770
Gemma Stoddart	577 9332		

Q: What events are planned for 2004?

A: Family Picnic Mugdock Sunday 29th August

Buffet Curry Evening Polo Club Wednesday 29th September

Family Ceilidh Milngavie Town Hall Saturday 16th October

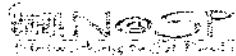
Q: What happens next?

A: Please contact anyone of the group and let them know you will be attending either in person or at the above telephone numbers. This will allow us to plan numbers etc. Or alternatively e-mail Gayle Cattanach at gayle_cattanach1@hotmail.com.

Each month we will bring you regular up-dates on past and present events, through LIFE Magazine and the Church Intimations, together with brief announcements at Sunday Services.

Thank-you for taking the time to read the above article and hear more about N@SP. We look forward to meeting with you soon.

From The Team



Gayle, Sue, George, Sue, Nicola, Linda, Graeme, Carla & Gemma

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund: -

Over the summer months there has been a fall in the Sunday Offerings, particularly in May and July. As members return from holiday I am confident the trend will be reversed. Our financial progress this year can be seen from the chart ending in a deficit at the end of June.

Fabric Fund – ‘Project 2006’: -

As reported earlier there was a problem with the former Reid Room but thankfully the tests carried out revealed it to be wet rot. Nevertheless the additional cost to rectify the problems of replacing the guttering, repairing and treating the whole roof area amounts to approximately £10883.

A further problem has arisen with the drainage system but at this time I have no information as to what the extra cost is involved will be. In view of these unforeseen costs the Gift Day on the 11th September 2004 becomes more significant. I would therefore earnestly ask for your support and generosity on the day so that we are enabled to meet the extra costs and restore our reserve to a comfortable level.

Angus Maclean

Congregational Treasurer

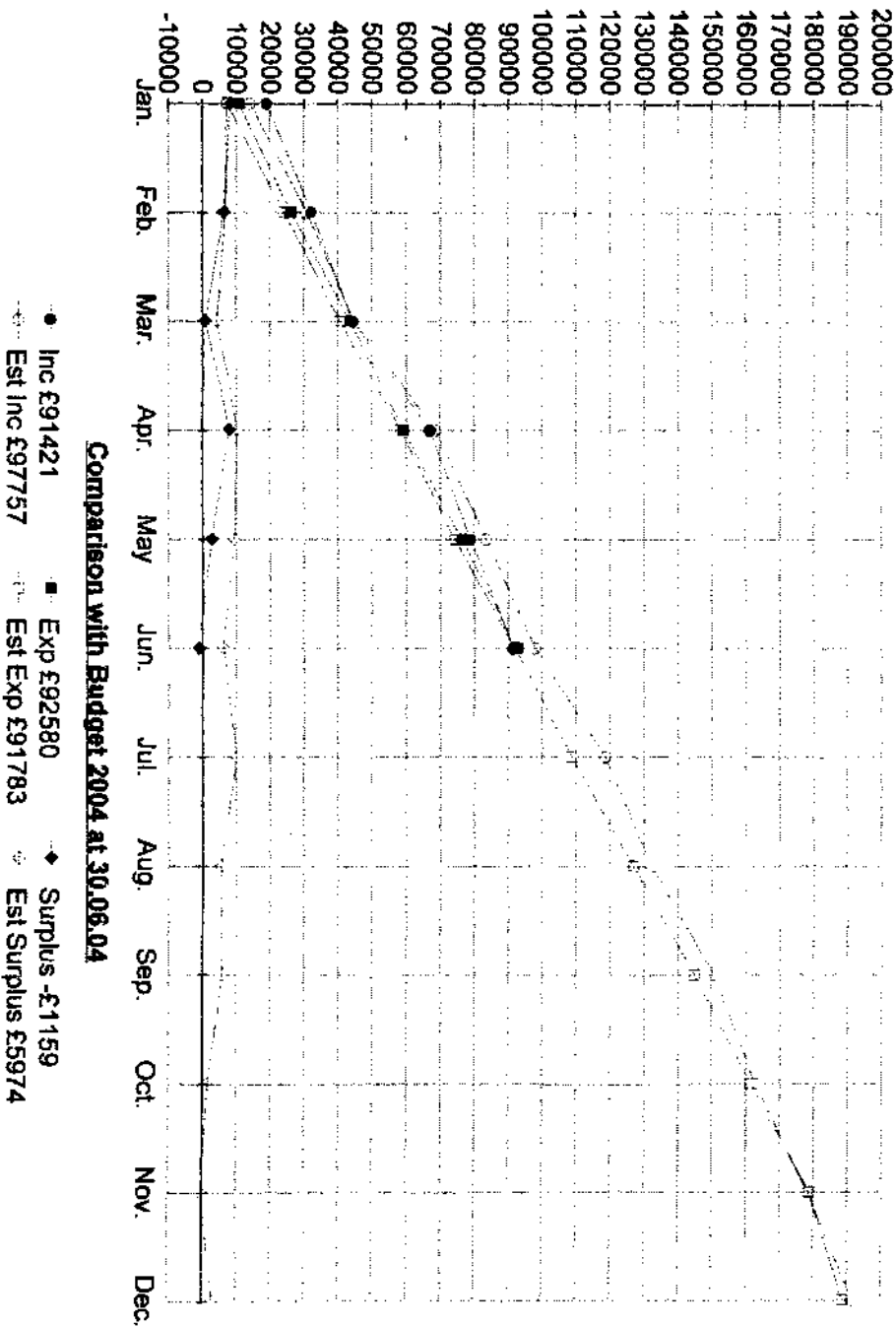
THE GUILD

The new session of the Guild starts on Monday 4th. October at 7.30 in the Church, when we will be entertained by the Milngavie Choir. We look forward to seeing old and new members who will be made very welcome.

St Paul's Parish Church - Milngavie

Income & Expenditure

Cumulative Totals



GIFT DAY - 'PROJECT 2006'



St Paul's Parish Church

Jubilee Hall

10am to 3pm

Saturday 11th September 2004

Refreshments will be served and Kirk Session/Board Members will be in attendance to give progress reports and answer questions on the Project.

LIFE & WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SEPTEMBER

The living legend of Mary Slessor

Almost 90 years after the death of the Scottish missionary, the Mary Slessor Foundation is creating skill centres in Calabar to help villagers on the path to self-sufficiency.

Letter to America

In the first of a new series, Doug Campbell, chief executive of the Scottish Bible Society, reflects on the differences between life in the U.S. and Scotland

Struggling for Survival

Irish pop star Ronan Keating explains why he has joined Christian Aid's campaign for trade justice after a recent trip to Ghana.

Nature's Gift of Food

As the harvest season approaches, natural health guru, Jan de Vries explains why God's natural gifts are the best for our daily diet.

Where there's a will

The Moderator, Dr. Alison Elliot outlines the shocking extent of world poverty and appeals to churches to help. 'If our faith is strong we could make poverty history in the next decade'.

... and much more readers' letters, news, reviews, comment and cross-words all for £1.50

Impact News

Throughout the summer teams of volunteers were involved in Church of Scotland's Impact mission teams.

Douglas Martin was leading a team of young people in the parish of Dundee Downfield South. Around 30 children attended a morning holiday club. Expedition Force, the Scripture Union material that was used by our own holiday club back in Easter, formed the basis of the activities. The evening events consisted of games, crafts and a family concert. The congregation also participated in a quiz night. The team led the congregation in worship on the final Sunday of the mission.

The congregation at Downfield once again excelled itself in the level of hospitality shown to the team over the week of mission.

Please pray for the congregation in their ongoing work of mission within the local community.

The Downfield team was also pleased to know that they were not the only team operating in Dundee. A new work was started in Barnhill church. It was encouraging to hear of the developments in another part of the community.

At the end of an exhausting week for both teams, a rest was certainly needed. However Douglas and 2 members of the Barnhill team had no sooner said their farewells than they were rushing back to Glasgow to catch a flight to London! All three were going to the first week of the major Christian youth event, Soul In The City, an occasion where thousands of people would be engaged in outreach projects in many of the poorest London boroughs. Teams of young people were involved in painting, decorating, gardening and running children's clubs, in an attempt to not only proclaim the Gospel in words but also in actions.

In addition to these social action events, the churches in London put on a variety of evangelistic events ranging from Gospel presentations at St Paul's Cathedral to a rap and hip-hop music event in Southwark Park.

Please remember the churches in London ministering in sometimes very difficult (and at times hostile) situations.

The summer of mission finishes with the Thanksgiving Service in Partick South Church on September 4 where we will give thanks for all God has done over these past weeks of outreach.

World Mission Prayer Diary for September

Sudan

Pray for the people who have been forcibly removed from their homes in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Pray that the relief agencies will be able to take the material aid to the suffering people of Sudan.

Pray for the Inter Faith Peace Group, a religious body that is working for peace in Sudan. They say " It was always assumed that only people from outside this continent could do this work. However it is we the people of this continent who have to resolve our own conflicts". May they find the way to fulfil their resolve.

Pray for Julie Woodford who works in Sudan for the Leprosy Mission.

ST PAUL'S BOOK CLUB

Our first meeting of the new session is on Tuesday 31 August 2004 @ 8 pm and this is your opportunity to come along and join us if you have been tempted by our book reviews! We will be discussing all the books we have read over the summer months which always proves to be interesting/informative. Our book for the Book Club was Penelope Lively – A House Unlocked - which we all thought was fiction but was actually to be found under autobiography!

Contact Helen in the Church Office for details of the venue.

PS The Book Festival starts in Edinburgh on 14 August – a must if you are hooked on books!

JOYCE CLARK

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

As we write this the Athens Olympics are in full flow and each morning and evening the news is dominated by how Japan's athletes have fared - pretty well over the first week! As for us, we are just back from our summer holiday having enjoyed some superb sunny weather (unlike Scotland, we hear!)

The wedding at the beginning of August went off well and now we are preparing for our next wedding in October. We have lots on over these coming weeks. The end of August sees us hold open-air worship on land next to the church followed by a barbecue. It's encouraging hearing of our people looking to invite friends and family. Our Sun Kids have their camp early in September and we have our church retreat the following month - a time for fellowship, worship and sharing together as a church family.

A number of our folk are under pressure just now. The demands of working life are tough for men; others are struggling with their health. Yet there's a good spirit among our small group of believers here in Otaru. Just now we are looking to the future and praying about our vision as a church. Do join us in praying that the Christians here would live lives which are a bright testimony to the many Japanese who are seeking some meaning in life but not finding it. We wait expectantly to see what God will do.

*Many thanks for all your support for us
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

What is fair trade?

Fair trade differs from standard trade in five principal ways.

As an organisation committed to fair trade, Traidcraft

- focuses on trading with poor and marginalised producer groups, helping them develop skills and sustainable livelihoods through the trading relationships
- pays fair prices that cover the full cost of production and enables a living wage and other fair rewards to be earned by producers.
- provides credit when needed to allow orders to be fulfilled and pays premiums to be used to provide further benefits to producer communities.
- encourages the fair treatment of all workers ensuring good conditions in the workplace.
- aims to build up long term relationships, rather than looking for short-term advantage

Some cities, towns and Presbyteries (see last month's Life & Work)

have become "Fair Trade" areas. Can we in Milngavie and the Dumbarton presbytery aspire to this? Or do we even want to?

R Fraser Traidcraft organiser

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

SPONSORED WALK

On Saturday 23rd. October 2004, the Scottish Bible Society will be organizing sponsored walks throughout Scotland to raise money to help open up the Bible for children living in the Arabian Peninsula.

Our local walk will be in Mugdock Country Park and if you wish to take part or if you would like to sponsor a walker, forms will be available at the back of the church.

'Walking for the Word' will hopefully be a fun day out and will make a difference in the lives of children uncomfortably close to Middle East conflicts

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT



FLOWER ROTAS SEPTEMBER

DONATIONS

Mrs. E. Law
Dr.N.Conn
Mrs. M. Reid
Mrs. Brown

DELIVERIES

Sep 5 Mrs.A. Galloway Mrs. J. Townson
Sep 12 Mrs.M.McIntyre Mrs.M.Spencer
Sep 19 Mrs.P. Dudgeon Mrs.S.Lindsay
Sep 26 Mrs.M.Phillips Mrs. E. Law
Oct 3 Mrs. J.Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson



CRECHE ROTA SEPTEMBER

Sep 5	Knaggs Revie Martin Paterson
Sep 12	Whitelaw Watson Wilson MacKinnon
Sep 19	Lawrie Goodlet Cockburn Moffat
Sep 26	Smith Fleming Hughes Buchanan

TRADCRAFT ROTA

Sept. 5th S Rollins/ J MacIntyre
Sept.12th G Buchanan/ A Martin
Sept 19th C Mackay/ R Fraser
Sept 26th L Cowie/ B Frame
Oct 3rd S Dunlop/ B Watson

I shall shortly be making the new Traidcraft rota for '04/05
If anyone else in the congregation would like to help please phone
the church office 956 4405 or R Fraser 956 3222

What is fair trade? See Page 15

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for the October issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by the 20th. September
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