

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

August 2022



Dear Friends,

The book of Ecclesiastes warns us: 'Of making many books there is no end . . .' I'm beginning to feel the weight of this as I prepare for retirement and face up to the painful reality that I will have to unload the bulk of my library. Some of my colleagues have operated the principle of 'one in, one out' regarding their books. I've never been able to do that. For me, every book is a prisoner and now the time has come not just for parole but permanent release.

It's good to know, however, that some younger ministers are going to benefit. Quite a few have been descending on the manse to see what treasures they may be able to unearth. And there are a number of organisations that gather theological books for distribution in Third World countries. They will go with the prayer that they will benefit others as they have me.

Not that I have read every single one from cover to cover. The thing is, not every book is meant to be. There are those that you dip into when you need to. Bible commentaries are an example. They are there as an acknowledgment that sometimes you need help to understand more fully. They are not to be read like a novel but as a resource of wisdom that brings you nearer to truth.

My grandson, Busby, wandered into the study one morning and with that sense of wonder only children have, asked, "Where did all these books come from?" A good question. I told him about bookshops and kind people who gave me presents but ultimately many books are part of one person's search for truth and their impulse to share that with others. A personal library then is not a declaration of what we know but what we aspire to know.

Inevitably retirement will bring to an end many things that have been important to me since my ordination in 1982. I hope, however, that despite the diminishment of my library that the search for truth will continue and that there will be opportunities to share what is gathered with God's people. That is what has driven my preaching ministry through the years. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8: 32)

Wishing you God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley'.

**Evening Services will resume on Sunday 14 August at 7pm. More information will appear in the weekly intimations.**

## **Presbytery Mission Plan**

A consultation document was received at the meeting of Clyde Presbytery at the end of June.

In the document Milngavie is allocated 1.5 Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

The Planning Committee will meet with “clusters” ie churches in the same area, throughout Presbytery in the next few weeks to discuss how these allocations can facilitate and encourage mission going forward in each area. Presbytery hopes that the results of the discussions in conjunction with the mission audits will inform the Planning Committee and help them prepare a Mission Plan that each and every congregation has had the opportunity to shape and influence.

The Asset Management Building Audits (AMBA) data has not been factored into the allocations in this consultation document.

## **Graham Mill**

Session Clerk

## **Lunch Club**

St. Paul's Lunch Club has been running for more than 30 years and is very popular with members of our church, other local churches and non members. It is a super outreach to our area. Visitors all come to enjoy a light lunch at a very moderate cost and especially the lovely home baking supplied by many people. Thanks is due to our bakers and helpers who ensure the success of the Lunch Club and all do a great job.

But we have a problem as some of our helpers have had to retire and we are desperately short of ladies to help in the kitchen and serve food. Extra men would also be useful to help set up and clear the hall. We are so grateful to Hugh who helps so much in setting out tables before we even arrive.

If you can help either on a rota or just occasionally. Please get in touch with Ann MacLeod at 07803 934688 or 0141 942 8339. Many Thanks

## **Harvest Thanksgiving a date for your diary.**

This year the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on 18th September. Information on both food and monetary donations will be found in the September copy of Life and forthcoming September weekly intimations.

**Elizabeth McEwan**

### **St. Paul's Church Society News**

As you know, we are currently selling the cards for The Beatson Wellbeing Centre in Glasgow. We have almost reached the £300 mark and will continue to raise money for The Beatson until the end of September.

You may remember, we collected all the toiletries for the QEUH which were needed for homeless patients, as well as those who had been flown in from around Scotland. Cathy Macleod, one of the nurses, came to collect all the toiletries. Although it's quite difficult to measure what we collected, Cathy took away around five boxes, as well as around six large 'bags for life' full of toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant etc. A big thank you to two people from local businesses for their help, Elaine at Foils (one of the hairdressers in the village) and Evelyn in Tesco who is involved in the charitable donations from the supermarket. We might contact Cathy at the QEUH another time to see if we can help again.

### **Traidcraft**

With the closure of the Traidcraft stall in St. Paul's, a final cheque was sent and the account closed. The following letter was received in reply.

**Babs Frame**

Thank you for your letter and cheque for £335.03 for our charity Traidcraft Exchange.

Please may I take this opportunity to say a huge thanks for all you and your church have done for Traidcraft over the years in helping us realize our mission in fighting poverty through trade. Without people like you we would not have achieved what we have. Very best wishes to you all. Helen and the Traidcraft Team.



## Christian Aid

Thanks to further donations, the amount collected for Christian Aid from the envelopes handed in at St. Paul's, amounts to £1,932 including gift aid. This is almost £1,000 down on last year. Given that we had such a successful collection for the Ukraine Appeal, this is still a tremendous amount of money from our congregation. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and for making this year's campaign still a successful one.

Thanks to all who contributed.

**Alex McEwan**

## Rev Fergus Buchanan

Fergus has intimated his intention to retire after over 40 years as a parish minister, 34 of which have been with us here in St. Paul's.

A monetary gift on behalf of the congregations of Baldernock and St. Paul's will be made to Fergus at the end of September and, if you wish to contribute, special envelopes will be available for donations along with the collection boxes at the back of the church until the middle of August. Cheques should be payable to **St Paul's Parish Church** and if you wish to contribute electronically please contact Barbara Lawson at [treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk).

**Graham Mill**  
Session Clerk

## Easter Festival Project

I know Easter seems a long way off but when looking to an exciting project it is rather close.

I am appealing to the whole congregation and organisations of St Paul's Church and Baldernock Church to work together in telling the Easter story through crafts and flowers during Holy Week (perhaps over three days ,Wednesday ,Thursday and Friday).

Thoughts and suggestions have come to me and others as I have shared my ideas but I need support to take this forward.

Please get in touch with me or Graham Mill if you believe you could help with this opportunity to share the Easter Story.

**Marilyn Ure**

## **Thank You**

Joyce, Bob and Lynda would like to thank everyone in the Church family who have been in touch following Graeme's sudden death. We have been overwhelmed by all the cards, flowers, telephone calls and visits from you all and thank you most of all for your prayers which have sustained us at this sad time. Thanks also go to Fergus for his pastoral care and Graeme's funeral service which brought us all comfort.

### **The Clark Family**

Diane and Gordon Hamilton wish to thank all for the cards, flowers and kind good wishes sent to us on our recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary. All were very much appreciated.

With many thanks,

**Diane and Gordon**

## **World Mission Stamp Project 2022**

The 2022 used stamp appeal is now underway. This year, the proceeds raised, aim to support a Pastor in The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon Church which is a partner of The Church of Scotland.

Due to the economic situation in these countries, the churches are having difficulty in paying the salaries of the Pastors which range between £100 and £150 per month. This is leading to many having to leave to take up other work to support their families.

This year, the stamp appeal aims to raise enough funds to support a full year's salary for a Pastor.

The Stamp Collection Box is in the Strathblane Road entrance all year for used stamps .

Thank you for all the stamps that were donated last year.

**Irene Strang**

## **Thank You Letter received from Disasters Emergency Committee**

### **DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal**

£3071.00 on 23/05/2022

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for donating to the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, DEC charities and their local partners are able to provide vital relief to people in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. The first £25 million in donations from the British public were match funded by the UK government through its Aid Match scheme, doubling the impact.

Your support is helping us meet the needs of refugees and displaced people by providing food, water health assistance and trauma care.

You can stay updated with all the vital work DEC charities and their local partner are doing in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries with your support by following us on Facebook or Twitter.

Like us on Facebook -

[Wwww. Facebook.com/DisastersEmergencyCommittee](http://www.facebook.com/DisastersEmergencyCommittee)

Follow us on Twitter - [www.twitter.com/DECappeal](http://www.twitter.com/DECappeal)

Your gift will make a real difference in helping families fleeing conflict.

The need is great and the response needed is likely to run into months and years.

On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

**Saleh Saeed**

DEC Chief Executive

## GUILD NEWS

Our last meeting of the session was the Afternoon Tea at the end of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in a festooned hall. Our guest speaker was Rev. Roger Sturrock, one of the ministers at Wellington Church, who had recently received the Royal Maundy money at Windsor Castle. He gave us a very interesting account of his visit with details about the history of the ceremony. Bob Keys, one of our speakers during the session, sent us a photographic display, with a commentary, about the Garter ceremony which takes place at Windsor Castle; both were very fitting for the Jubilee weekend.

David Turner joined us once again, to lead our singing of songs the Queen would have known at various stages of her reign. One she would not have known, however, was a favourite of Gabrielle who, with Fergus, was a guest of honour. This was The Midgie Song, composed by Kenneth McKellar, which we all sang with great gusto, such is our feeling about this peculiarly Scottish creature! We then presented Fergus and Gabrielle with a planter for the garden at their new house. The final item in our programme was the actual afternoon tea, carefully prepared by Norma and Lilian. It included a small serving of the competition-winning dessert, Jubilee Trifle, which Ann had made for us. We all enjoyed the delicious food and the chance to sit and chat. It was a wonderful end to a session which had started out with so much uncertainty yet proved very successful in many ways, despite the restrictions we had to experience.

Since then our members have been meeting informally, as usual. At the end of July, Kate organised another of her famous Afternoon Teas at Caulders, and one is planned for the beginning of September. These continue to be a welcome opportunity to keep in touch with a wider group of people than we would normally meet, and are greatly appreciated.

During the break from Guild meetings the committee has been busy planning next year's meetings and activities. Our new members are finding out what is involved in their roles and are coping admirably. The lion's share of the work has fallen on Ann, our syllabus secretary, who has succeeded in creating a varied programme which should have something for everyone; included in our list of visitors are some who have already proved fascinating speakers, and others who come highly recommended. We will continue to find out about the projects which the national Guild has chosen to support and are looking forward eagerly to our Coffee Morning in March which has been absent from our activities for too long.

Our new session begins at the start of October; we will meet every Monday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. in the Large Hall and hope to see many new members coming to join us. Everyone will be made most welcome!

**Eleanor Easton**

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## Copy Date

The copy date for the September issue is Wednesday **24th** August.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries
7th August	J Mill
14th August	A. McLeod S. Angus
21st August	S. Anderson A. Gillies
28th August	P. Barlow S. Robertson