

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie December 2022



Dear Friends,

This year Advent begins on Sunday 27th November when the Candle of Hope is lit. We look forward to this season when we focus on the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that it brings. In lighting the first candle of Advent we pray that darkness will never overcome the light. It reminds us that we are the light. Jesus said in the Gospel according to Matthew, "We can shine a light in dark places in all sorts of ways." As followers of Christ we choose hope. Hope for the future. As we journey through Advent we pray for peace in our world and for joy in our hearts as we celebrate the love of the Christ child.

The busyness of the Christmas season can sometimes overtake us and the baby of the manger can be pushed out to the periphery. Christmas is a time for everyone – it is a time for celebrating the love of God that came down to earth. It is a hectic time but we should allow ourselves a few minutes out of our day to pray and to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

I look forward to the Season of Advent and to the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 3rd December 2022.

Our Christmas Day Service will be a joint service with our friends from Baldernock here at St. Paul's at 10.30 am. Our New Year's Day Service will be at Baldernock at 11am.

My prayer is that you and all whom you love have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

With every blessing.

Barbara



Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's 2022



Saturday	3rd	Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday	4th	Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Saturday	10th	Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday	11th	Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Saturday	17th	Dec	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday	18th	Dec	10.30am 7.00pm	Family Gift Service Readings and Music
Saturday	24th	Dec	9.30am 7.00pm	Advent Service Christmas Eve Family Service
Sunday	25th	Dec	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Worship

**There will be no Watchnight Service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.
There will be no evening service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.
On Sunday 1st January, 2023 there will be a joint service in Baldernock
Church at 11am**

**As always, all are welcome to join us at any or all of
the services**

Future Services

	<u>Morning 10.30am</u>	<u>Evening 7pm</u>
4 Dec (Baptism)	Rev Barbara O'Donnell	Tree Festival Praise
11 Dec (Gift Service)	Rev Ken Macdonald	Rev John Wilson
18 Dec (Family Service)	Rev David Hamilton	Readings & Carols
24 Dec (Family Service)	No Service	Sunday Club
25 Dec (Family Service)	Dr. Robin Easton	No Service
1 Jan (Joint Service 11am) At Baldernock	Rev Barbara O'Donnell	No Service
8 January	Lorna Ferguson	TBC
15 January (Sacrament of Lord's Supper)	Rev Barbara O'Donnell	TBC

During Advent there will be a half-hour service on Saturday mornings starting at 9.30am

3 December	Rev Barbara O'Donnell
10 December	Robin Easton
17 December	Stephen Thoms
24 December	Douglas Muirhead

Gift Service

East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid provides refuge, information and support services for women, children and young people in the East Dunbartonshire area who have experienced, or who are currently experiencing, domestic abuse. This may take the form of emotional, physical, sexual or financial abuse.

There is a particular need for toiletries, gloves and scarves for teenagers. Gifts for younger children will be donated to Elmcroft Nursery in Glasgow. Gifts should advise if the present is suitable for a boy or girl and the age range.

Monetary gifts will also be welcome and will be donated to Women's Aid.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

'How does it feel to be retired?' I'm being asked this a lot and really don't know how to respond. We've had a lot to do and only now are beginning to settle into a new home and a new community. But we've been deeply moved and enormously encouraged by all the goodwill messages we have received from members of St Paul's and Baldernock, not to mention members of other churches in Milngavie. And you have all been very much in our prayers as like other congregations in the Church of Scotland you face a future that promises much change.

For myself, I have retained my seat on the Presbytery of Clyde which will keep me in touch with developments locally and nationally. I am hoping that eventually I will be available to contribute in some way, health and treatment allowing. I miss the day to day involvement and the privilege of leading worship on the Lord's Day. But I am grateful that in the providence of God I was given forty years in His service and pray for grace to trust Him for what lies ahead.

Gabrielle and I were overwhelmed by the generosity of your gift to us on my final Lord's Day as your minister. A token of the love that surrounded us through all our time with you. Much appreciation has been expressed as we took our leave of you but we are conscious that whatever we have been given grace to give, you have given us more.

Praying that you will be kept in the love and peace of our God,

Fergus.

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to you for all the messages of support I received on the recent death of my mother. She was 97 years of age and had been quite poorly for some time but as many of you know the final parting is hard. It's always good to be reminded of the faith that sustains us in these times and your cards and other messages were a great help. A reminder of the love that has been a blessing to our whole family through the years.

Wishing you God's blessings,

Gabrielle.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday 15th January during the morning service. The elements will be served in a Covid-safe way. District Elders will not be distributing cards for this service.

Flower Donations - November

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

Mrs M Hutchison
Mrs E Easton
Mrs R McGowan



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

Dear Friends,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your most kind and generous donations of foodstuff throughout the year for the people and work of the Preshal Trust as it has been a terrific help in maintaining the stock in our foodbank.

Our centre continues to be a welcoming haven to many as people are struggling with the very basics of living – keeping warm and making meals. They have a warm place to sit in during the day with the offer of tea and toast every morning and, on three of the days, able to have a tasty lunch. We have also recommenced the choir on a Tuesday where several clients thoroughly enjoy blasting out some tunes and come away feeling so much the better for it.

We would like to thank you all once again for your continued support for the Preshal Trust and we wish you a time of peace and good health at Christmastime and beyond.

Kindest regards

Alan Nicholson

Church of Scotland Used Stamp Appeal

As Christmas draws near please remember to collect all used stamps from cards and parcels. There is a collection box in the Strathblane Road porch along with details of the charity that is being supported by World Mission this year. The collection box is there all year so please remember that this is not just at Christmas .

Thank you to everyone for their donations during the past year.

Irene Strang



Men's Association

We were delighted to hold our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th October after a three year gap. It was a most successful and happy occasion when members of St Paul's and family and friends enjoyed an exceedingly convivial atmosphere in the Large Hall.

We raised £826.00 for our chosen Charity Mary's Meals.

We are pleased to attach a letter (see next page) from our Treasurer to Mary's Meals and copy of their reply, confirming that as a result of " Double the Love", the amount we raised has been doubled to £1652.00 which is just fantastic.

Thanks to all who supported and particularly to all the makers and bakers for the enormous amount of home baking which was so well received and even enjoyed after the Service on the Sunday. Well done to everyone.

Dear Mary,

The Association has held their first Coffee Morning in 3 Years. It was our usual practice to hold it for the benefit of a worthy cause, with all funds collected being passed on.

The event was very well attended and the amount of £826.00 was collected. I therefore enclose a cheque for the said amount, for the benefit of Mary's Meals.

Yours Sincerely

Arthur C Wylie

Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your precious gift of £826.00, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school.

Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future.

As part of our Double The Love appeal, your donation will be matched – all thanks to a group of generous donors who are doubling donations, up to £1.5 million, at this time. This means your gift will feed even more hungry children with Mary's Meals.

Our meals make a huge difference to children like Rima who lives with her family in the city of Aleppo in Syria. She says: "The food in school supported by Mary's Meals is making it easier for our families to send us to school because it's healthy, makes us full and gives us energy."

Today, more than two million hungry children in 20 of the world's poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, India and Yemen – are sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you.

Together, we are bringing the hope of a brighter future to so many little ones who depend on the promise of a daily meal in school. I thank you, with all my heart, on behalf of the children who eat Mary's Meals.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Adams

Executive Director, Mary's Meals

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 3rd – FRIDAY 9th

First of all a big 'thank you' is due to the many people who have volunteered to help in stewarding or serving in the tearoom. We must also announce that, due to a public outcry, it has been decided that the Festival would not be the same without home baking! Thus bakers have also been pressed into offering their services, so you can all look forward to the traditional spread with your cuppa after admiring the trees.

We are expecting a magnificent display of trees, as usual. There will be 31 trees decorated by a wide range of local groups, several for the first time. Of course we are also delighted that many firm favourites will be back, and we are intrigued as to how they will decorate their trees this year. Likewise, in the music programme we will have many 'old friends', but also several new groups and individuals will entertain us.

Apart from all the fun which we enjoy at the festival, we have a serious purpose, namely to raise money for good causes. This year, more than ever before, the purpose is very serious. We are raising funds for East Dunbartonshire Community Support and will give them vouchers for food and clothing for families in need in this area. We will also support Babes in the Wood, a shop in Bishopbriggs which sells good-quality second-hand clothes and toys for children, and in addition gives bags of clothes and other essentials to families in need. In the current economic climate these organisations are being given huge numbers of referrals by health professionals and social workers.

Most days we are open from 10am till 4pm; on Sunday, obviously, we cannot open till 1pm, and will continue till 4pm. On Thursday we will stay open till 5pm so that school pupils have more chance to come.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Festival - and please feel free to come more than once! Please also tell your friends who might not have heard about it. It is a wonderful way to start the season of Advent, and to begin to think about the real meaning of Christmas.

For more information please contact Jean Scott (956 5251) or Eleanor Easton (943 0368)

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL MUSIC PROGRAMME 2022



Saturday 3rd December

- 10.15 St. Paul's church choir
- 11.30 Rachel Rutherford and Julian Pombo
Clarsach and Guitar
- 1.30 David Crooks and Mia Howie—Guitar and Cello and Guitar pupils
- 2.30 Ryan Corbett — Accordion

Sunday 4th

- 2.00 Flute Phonics
- 3.00 Rannoch String Trio

Monday 5th

- 11.00 Fraser MacCallum—Guitar and Singing
- 2.00 Milngavie Primary School P.6 choir
- 3.00 Gaudeamus—Singing

Tuesday 6th

- 10.00 Maxholme Nursery School—Singing
- 11.00 Close Shave chorus
- 2.00 Group from Milngavie Choir
- 2.30 Christine Furnish—Organ

Wednesday 7th

- 11.00 9 Sing
- 2.30 Derek Norval—Organ

Thursday 8th

- 10.30 Noah's Ark— Singing
- 11.00 New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band
- 2.30 Capriccio String Quartet

Friday 9th

- 11.00 Douglas Muirhead and Robert Rutherford—Guitar and Singing
- 2.00 Jordanhill Handbell Ringers

GUILD NEWS

We have continued to have very interesting and varied meetings, with large attendances which show that the move to afternoon meetings was the right one for most of our members.

Our last October meeting featured a representative from BEAT, an organisation which helps people with eating disorders; we all learned a lot about what is being done in this difficult area. This is one of the projects which the National Guild is supporting over a three-year period so it was really helpful to find out about it. On our visit to the Men's Association our speaker, Nimmi Whitelaw, gave a fascinating talk about the work of Guide Dogs for the Blind with which she has been working for several years. We enjoy seeing her dogs in church, part of their training to help them adjust to a variety of social situations.

The speaker for our next meeting, the first in November, was taken to hospital the preceding week so we needed to adopt Plan B! Graham Mill stepped gallantly into the breach and initiated us into some of the mysteries of philately. We were very grateful to have such an interesting and informative talk at such short notice. A representative from Christians against Poverty - known as CAP- was our next speaker. Martin Lewis, the respected broadcaster, has a high regard for this organisation which gives free help and strategies to people struggling with debt. Hundreds of lives have been transformed through their efforts.

At the time of writing, our next speaker will be Maggie McArthur who will tell us about the life of Frances Ridley Havergal, the well-known nineteenth-century hymn writer. At our meeting on November 30th we look forward to welcoming the members of the Men's Association when our speaker will be a member of the Magic Circle, the first-such visitor to St. Paul's, we think! He has occupied our pulpit in another capacity, however, as a minister of the Church of Scotland, and his talk will encompass other facets of his life – an interesting afternoon awaits.

Our final meeting before Christmas will be our Finance Meeting; after the business we will welcome Nairn Young who will lead us in singing carols. The following week, on Monday 12th, we will welcome members of other guilds in Dunbartonshire as we host the Guilds Together Carol Service in the church.

Our last get-together before the Christmas break will be at our Christmas lunch on Monday 19th. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on January 9th when a representative from CHAS will be our speaker.

We wish all our members and the whole St. Paul's family a very happy Christmas and hope that we will all experience the reality of Immanuel – God with us.

World Mission News

Congratulations to the Moderator Designate

The Faith Impact Forum is delighted to welcome the news that Rev Sally Foster-Fulton has been announced as Moderator Designate. As past Convener of Kirk's Church and Society Council and as Head of Christian Aid Scotland, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the role of the issues related to the Church nationally and internationally.

We look forward to working closely with her when she takes up her new role.

“Sri Lankans need justice”

We have received messages from our partner churches in Sri Lanka, asking for our prayers as the country navigates a distressing economic and political crisis.

"At the heart of this crisis is the unjust way a country has been saddled with unpayable debt. Sri Lanka is only one of a number of countries that are already, or are on the brink of, defaulting on debt payments and so suffering further penalties while the citizens of those countries struggle to make ends meet", the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, said. "Sri Lankans need justice."

Rev Saman Perera, Moderator of Presbytery of Lanka asks that we “pray for political and economic stability, and for God's miraculous provision so that people such as the poor in Sri Lanka will not have to starve. That there will be a unity seen among churches, in this distress that we will not mirror the political system, but that we will be an alternative ideal for what leadership looks like, what community looks like, what love looks like, what care and love look like.

"In all these ways we have a unique opportunity to embody the God we serve."

Find out more at: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events>

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Copy Date

The copy date for the January issue is Wednesday **4th** January.

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout the year.

Date	Flower Deliveries
4th December	Mrs A. McLeod Mrs S. Angus
11th December	Mrs S. Anderson Mrs A. Gillies
18th December	Mrs P. Barlow Mrs S. Robertson
25th December	Mrs M. Conway Mrs K. Edwards
8th January	Miss F. Ireland