

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2022



Dear Friends

Thank you for the very warm welcome that I have received here in St Paul's as I take over as the Interim Moderator for the coming months. A time of vacancy for the church is always challenging but none more so than at the present time, when we await the outcome of the radical change that is happening within the Church of Scotland and its Presbyteries.

On 2nd October 2022 I had the task of preaching St Paul's vacant following on from the celebrations of Fergus' very successful ministry of some 34 years. It was a time, not only for reminiscing on all that had happened over the years, but a time for looking forward.

This is a time of change, a time of transition – some things will be done differently as we welcome different preachers into our pulpit each week. Indeed some weeks it will be elders or members of the congregation who will lead worship. As we look to the future it is important that we all play our part in the life of the church.

St. Paul in his letter to the people of Rome spoke about being one body in Christ. He said, "In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body." We all have a part in the church family whether it is to encourage, to serve, to teach or to lead worship. Paraphrasing Socrates, I believe that the future may look different but all our energies should go towards the building of that future.

At any time of change in my life I have always fallen back upon the words of the prophet Jeremiah at Chapter 29 Verse 11 - "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for." Words of wisdom!

I look forward to sharing in the mission and witness of St. Paul's over the coming months and to getting to know everyone.

With every blessing to you and yours,

Barbara

Future Services

	Morning 10.30am	Evening 7pm
6 Nov	Rev. Ken Macdonald	Grace Rogerson
13 Nov(Remembrance Sunday)	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Douglas Muirhead
20 November	Robin Easton	Stephen Thoms
27 November	Rev. Margaret Nutter	Rev Roger Sturrock
4 December (Baptism)	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Tree Festival Praise

The Session Clerk will represent St. Paul's at the War Memorial service on 13th November at 10.50am

Rev Barbara O'Donnell will lead the Saturday morning Advent service on 3rd December at 9.30am

Remembrance

On Sunday 13th November, Remembrance Sunday, the service in St. Paul's will start as usual, at 10.30am with a time of Remembrance at 11am.

There will also be a service, conducted by the Rev. John MacLeod of the Allander Evangelical Church, at the War Memorial in the precinct. This will commence at 10.50am and be attended by representatives of the King, the Council, the Churches and youth organisations.

There will be a short and reflective Armistice Day Service at the War Memorial on Friday 11th November at 10.50am and the Garden of Remembrance outside the Fraser Centre will be open. The War Memorial in Milngavie was dedicated 100 years ago in November, 1922.

Flower Donations - October

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



The Guild, K Edwards, D Stark

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



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd – FRIDAY 9th

Plans for the Christmas Tree Festival are taking shape and we are really looking forward to this year's event after a gap of four years. Several new groups will be decorating trees and an interesting music programme is developing, also with some new faces though with established favourites too. After enjoying the stunning display of trees, you will be able to enjoy a cuppa in the tearoom which will be in the Jubilee Hall as usual.

We will be following our normal practice of donating the proceeds to charities. This year we have chosen local organisations which support families who are struggling in the current economic conditions; one of these is 'Babes in the Woods', a shop in Bishopbriggs which sells, at very low prices, clothes and toys which have been donated, and they also give bags of clothes to families who have been referred to them by social workers and health visitors.

As usual we will be very dependent on the help of members of St. Paul's, and we know we can rely on your kindness. We will be looking for volunteers to steward at the back of the church where we always need a member of St. Paul's who is familiar with the building, and can advise members of other churches who will be helping too. The tearoom will need people to serve, but not to provide home baking this year because of all the health issues.

Sign-up lists will be at the back of the church from the beginning of the month and we would be most grateful if you could check your diaries to find a time (or times!) when you are free to help. The atmosphere at the Christmas Tree Festival is always very special and directs our thinking in a really helpful way to the very special season which is approaching. We look forward to welcoming you all!

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact us.

Jean Scott 956 5251 Eleanor Easton 943 0368

Church Garden



Two planters have been placed in the Church garden behind the Church noticeboard. The planter with the blue Hydrangea is to mark the retirement of our Minister Fergus after 34 years dedicated service to St Paul's. The planter with the pink Hydrangea is to thank Gabrielle for all she has contributed to the work of the Church.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the garden team in managing to keep the garden in good order despite the trying weather conditions we had this past year. I would also like to express my thanks to Hugh for all the work he does in keeping the grass and hedge neat and tidy.

Sheila Dickson

Garden Convener



Book Group

We have been reading *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. There was a mixed reaction to this book with some of us being disappointed that it didn't come up to the standard of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage* of Harold Fry, which is by the same author.

The story concerned the friendship of two women who set out to capture the golden beetle for the Natural History Museum. Seemingly this story began as a radio drama and we thought that it would have been more believable in this format. Some of the descriptions were good and the ending perhaps opened the door to a sequel.

Next time we are reading *The Rebel's Mark* by S W Perry.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 7pm.

Joyce Clark

Men's Association

The Association are pleased to have resumed meetings and during October were entertained by Dr. Robert Hamilton speaking about the late President Richard Nixon which was a fascinating insight into his life. Brian Atkinson, one of our Committee Members and a Member of Baldernock, then told us about Glasgow's Dear Green Places, where he selected a number of these Green Places (never call them Parks!) and explained and showed the majesty of these places on our very doorstep.

During November, our first meeting is on Tuesday 1st November and the Speaker is one of our Elders, Nimmi Whitelaw who will be speaking about Guide Dogs and as some will know, she and her husband Stuart assist in training these dogs so she has insider knowledge. On 15th November our speaker is Mary Moran from Mary's Meals which was the Charity chosen to be receiving the funds raised at our Coffee Morning in October and she will tell us about the work of the Charity.

Our final meeting in November is a joint meeting with the Guild, on Monday 28th November at 2pm in the Large Hall when the speaker is the Rev. John Campbell who many will recall doing supply preaching and performing magic tricks! Members please note the time and date.

In December, there will be a Christmas Lunch in Milngavie Bowling Club on 6th December to allow our members to relax in convivial company and enjoy excellent fare.

St Paul's Society

I am sure that everyone will agree that the visit to Baldernock Church, and the Afternoon Tea which followed in St. Pauls, was a great success. Everything on the day was perfect.

Big Thank you to Isobel from Baldernock and her team, for the great welcome. Thanks also to Marylyn and her team in St. Paul's for the scrumptious afternoon tea.

Watch this space for future plans!

Safeguarding

Several training sessions will be taking place over the next few months, particularly for those volunteers who have not yet attended a training session.

Dates are as follows:

Monday	7th November	7pm by zoom
Wednesday	9th November	7pm by zoom
Wednesday	16th November	7pm by zoom
Sunday	20th November	1pm at Cardross
Wednesday	14th December	7pm by zoom

Please contact Elizabeth McEwan for details
elizabethmcewan1957@gmail.com or 384 0274



Church Choir

We've started rehearsing the Christmas seasonal music and we would welcome extra singers to help us with the Christmas music. Choir members will take part in the Christmas Tree Festival during the morning of Saturday, 3rd December. We will also provide appropriate items throughout December with a "Lessons and Carols" service at 7pm on Sunday, 18th

December. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in joining us for the next few weeks, please come along to the church at 8.30pm on any Thursday in the first few weeks of November and then at 7.45pm from Thursday 24th November. Further information from Derek Norval (0781 4389262).

Praise Group

At the 7pm service on Christmas Eve we are planning to have a praise band for the first time in a couple of years. If possible, we will also contribute to the 10.30am service on Sunday, 18th December. If you, or anyone you would like to invite along, wish to take part, please contact Derek Norval for further details. (0781 4389262) (Derek.Norval@ntlworld.com). For those who wish to rehearse their music before our first performance, music for (almost) any instrument will be provided in the week leading to 18th December. We look forward to seeing and hearing as many players as possible, hopefully equalling the record number of 25 players who joined us for our last Christmas event.

Guild News



This session started in exuberant fashion with the visit of the Alexandra Mandolin Club who entertained us with their playing and singing. Our second meeting provided a very welcome return of one of last year's speakers, Ailsa Turner, who gave a stimulating presentation about the Glasgow Girls, following on from last year's talk about the Glasgow Boys. The next speaker, Rev. David Hamilton, described in a most entertaining way his unusual career, moving from being a member of a jazz band to becoming a minister. Next we had another of last year's speakers in the person of Bob Keys who gave a wide-ranging talk about our patron saint, Andrew; he included highlights about modern Scottish personalities and icons. At the time of writing we look forward to the visit of a representative from one of the national Guild projects, BEAT, which helps people struggling with eating disorders. We are invited by the Men's Association to one of their meetings where St. Paul's elder, Nimmi Whitelaw, will describe the work she and her family undertake for Guide Dogs for the Blind; she will be accompanied by their current puppy who will be a charming visual aid!

The meetings for November are as follows:

- 7th Dr. Marjorie Allison will describe the life of a GP in 1824 – a much earlier version of Dr. Finlay's Casebook.
- 14th A representative from Christians against Poverty will talk about this work which is becoming increasingly necessary today.
- 21st Maggie McArthur will describe the life of one of our best-loved hymn writers, Frances Ridley Havergal, and we will sing two of her hymns.
- 28th John Campbell will talk about his career -Ministry, music and magic – the first time we have had a member of the Magic Circle at one of our meetings!

All our meetings start at 2pm and are held in the Large Hall. Everyone will be most welcome.

Eleanor Easton

Presbytery Plan – Update

Representatives of the Mission Planning Committee met with the Kirk Sessions of St. Paul's and Baldernock on Tuesday 20th September. The Committee gave a brief outline of the background to the draft Plan for the period 2023-2027 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The joint meeting was to consult with the Kirk Sessions and report back to the full committee who would consider any adjustments. The Committee did emphasise that Clyde Presbytery was required to reduce the number of ministries from the present 60 to 40 and any increase in one cluster would be matched with a reduction in another area.

Following this consultation, a further draft Plan was circulated and this has been presented to the full Committee. The Committee was due to produce a "final" draft in October to be presented to the November Presbytery. Aspects of the draft plan relevant to Milngavie are:-

- * The allocation of ministries to the Milngavie & Bearsden cluster is 5.5 (currently 8)
- * That the plan for Milngavie would be for 2 ministers.
- * That Milngavie St. Paul's and Baldernock be united in the St. Paul's building and allowed to call a minister
- * There would be a Union between Bearsden, Baljaffray and Milngavie, St Luke's on the retirement or demission of one of the ministers
- * That, during this plan, the churches in Milngavie work towards a vision of a single church in Milngavie. This is a longer term goal which we would envisage taking place after the demission or retirement of the minister in Milngavie Cairns Parish Church.

Note this is a draft Plan which may well change.

Graham Mill, Session Clerk

World Mission News

"Once a sanctuary" flooding devastates Pakistan

Our partners in Pakistan have sent an update on the continuous flooding. A family gives a tour of their community and their home, showing the extent of the flood damage.

"While proudly walking us through her house, Tejan stopped at a door; a door that once led to her backyard blooming with fresh vegetables. With tears in her eyes, she showed us how it was all under eight to 10 feet of water. This house was once her sanctuary, a place she was proud of and where all her happy memories were lived. If given a choice, she would never leave this house but living in the current conditions was challenging. They were without clean water, food, clean clothes, a secure house and a livelihood. The walls of their house were leaking and most of their outer walls were totally damaged. The only thing still intact was their dignity and that they will not let go of."

Read more at: <https://communityworldservice.asia/once-a-sanctuary/>

St. Paul's Society Cards

We have just handed £500 to the Beatson through the sale of the cards and our next project is The Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, so please keep the orders rolling in and keep an eye on the stall outside the office window. Remember, I can do any card for any occasion and you will not be disappointed.

Alex McEwan

Church Of Scotland News

Mama Mia - church launches mental health support service in Italian restaurant

The Wellbeing Group is spearheaded by Alex MacCallum, a probationer minister at New Kilpatrick Parish Church in Bearsden, who said it was important to go out into the community and engage with people where they are. More than 50 people of all ages gathered in a private room at Massimo's Restaurant on Kirk Road on Monday evening to discuss how to deal with anxiety.

The guest speaker was Mr MacCallum's wife Adele, a cognitive behavioural therapist who specialises in treating anxiety and promoting overall wellbeing.

The group will focus on different topics every month and the November meeting will examine dementia and the positive impact of music on those who live with the condition which affects memory and the ability to think clearly.

Mr MacCallum, who lives in nearby Milngavie, said he was "completely overwhelmed" by the community response to the informal group's first meeting.

"It showed us that there is a real need for this type of group and the feedback received has been absolutely fantastic. We have been seeing people come into the church office to ask to come along to future meetings which is so encouraging." The next meeting is being held at Massimo's Restaurant on Monday the 21st November from 7.30pm until 9pm. Anyone interested in attending should email AMacCallum@churchofscotland.org.uk

CrossReach, the operating name of the Church's Social Care Council, provides [mental health support services](#) across the country.

Church of Scotland News, Continued

Talking Ministry: “Step forwards and look for God’s enabling power”

Rev Calum Stark, minister of Avendale and Drumclug Church in Strathaven, was speaking as part of the Talking Ministry series looking at the work and inspiration of those involved in the Church.

Married to Liz and with two sons, Douglas and Fergus, he became a committed Christian as a teenager after seeing the famous American evangelist Billy Graham on a visit to Mr Stark’s home city of Edinburgh. Just a few years later, seeing how his older brother’s Christian beliefs helped him face a terminal cancer diagnosis, also had an impact on his faith.

Mr Stark said: "He became a Christian in his last years and I visibly saw the impact this had upon him as he faced death. Despite this being a painful time in which I wrestled with many tough questions, I experienced the peace of God in the midst of darkness, and this has been something that I long for others to experience too."

After completing a law degree at the University of Dundee, Mr Stark began working in human resource management where he increasingly found himself working with people who needed support he was unable to give, without crossing professional boundaries.

"It was this feeling of tension combined with my increased sense of faith and involvement in church that led me to inquire about ministry within the Church of Scotland," he said.

After studying theology at New College, Edinburgh, Mr Stark was ordained at Macduff Parish Church in Aberdeenshire in 2010, followed by six years as minister of Bellshill West Parish Church in North Lanarkshire before taking up his current post last December. Mr Stark has also challenged himself by participating in the Church of Scotland’s Path of Renewal initiative, bringing together mission-minded Christians to encourage each other and help develop new church leaders.

The work of a parish minister can be challenging, especially when conducting funerals for congregation members who have died suddenly or tragically, Mr Stark acknowledges, but it has its rewards, especially seeing how lives are changed by God. He added: "I would encourage others who feel a sense of call but have questions relating to their own abilities, to step forwards and look for God’s enabling power."

You can read Rev Calum Stark’s full interview at: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/vocations/talking-ministry>

Charity chief named as Moderator of the 2023-24 General Assembly

Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton, 58, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, will take a year's sabbatical to become the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for 12 months from next May.

She said she is looking forward to meeting and encouraging people involved in church work at local, national and international levels at a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity.

A minister with experience working in parishes, hospital chaplaincy and as convener of the former Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, the Moderator Designate said:

"I'm excited about what the year will bring.

"I genuinely love and am inspired by the Church of Scotland and its people."

"Over the past years of the pandemic in the face of a global climate emergency and now a cost-of-living crisis, people across the Church have been stepping up and doing their very best to make an extraordinary impact in communities, locally, across our nation and in the world."

The married mother of two recently became a grandmother and she said her new role has "shifted her perspective and given new meaning" to her commitment to try and make the world a better place.

Christian Aid works with local partners in 29 countries across the world to fight extreme poverty by providing immediate humanitarian aid, developing long-term sustainable development projects, and advocating for long-lasting change.

The international charity's work is sponsored by 41 Christian denominations. Church leaders and volunteers from many backgrounds sit on its board and raise millions to support its mission. The churches are the mainstay of its support network.

Mrs Foster-Fulton said: "Partnership work is what I love to do.

"Christian Aid works with people of all faiths and none to eradicate poverty in every part of the world."

Born and raised in South Carolina in the USA, Mrs Foster-Fulton is married to Rev. Stuart Fulton, a fellow Church of Scotland minister who serves the parish of Newlands South Church in Glasgow. You can read more about her at: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events>

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Copy Date

Please note, earlier copy date of 19th November
Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries
6th November	M. Conway K. Edwards
13th November	A. Galloway L. Cowie
20th November	F. Ireland
27th November	A. McNellan K. Hagart