

# St Paul's Milngavie



## Life Magazine

October 2007

Dear Friends,

I remember saying that I could not see how email would ever be any use to me.

I remember laughing out loud at the suggestion that newspapers would become obsolete as more and more people gathered their news from the internet.

Now I find email almost indispensable and amazingly I am buying fewer newspapers as I seem to get all the news and comment I need online.

It is truly breathtaking how communication has developed over the last ten years or so because of the internet. In the past I kept in touch with a number of colleagues and what they were preaching Sunday by Sunday so that I could pray for them. Now I can actually hear what they are preaching by logging on to their Church websites and listening to their latest efforts. I value that greatly because there are not too many opportunities for me to hear preaching.

Our own website has been doing well since it was established almost three years ago. In that time there have been almost 16,000 'hits' and many favourable comments left in the 'Visitors Book', especially for the 'Dewdrops', the daily thoughts from the Bible which are put together by members of the congregation.

The Church always has to be aware of new forms of communication because our central obligation is to share a message with the world about Jesus and His great work for the whole of humanity. Any medium which makes possible a greater flow of the message is always to be welcomed. Pray for our website that it might continue not only to be a source of information but that it might touch the hearts of those who are seeking a Saviour.

Wishing you Gods Bless,

*John Z. Buchanan*

## Get online...

Have you checked out the St Paul's website yet? We modestly think it's one of the best around and can be found at

[www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

- Missed a Sunday sermon?
- Listen again on MP3 format
- Dewdrops – take a few minutes at the beginning of the day for a reading and meditation.
- Find out more about the history of the Church in the heritage section.
- Download copies of the magazine
- Keep up to date with the Ferguson File
- Find useful contact details for all organisations, office bearers...and much more. .

The congregation is encouraged to contribute by contacting John MacArthur

[webmaster@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

## In this edition...

- Minister's letter
  - Church website
  - Japan Jottings
  - Get Organised
  - Youth stuff
  - What are they doing now?
  - Harvest Service
  - Members' contributions
  - The Prayer Page
  - Church Register and Rotas
- Copy date for November issue - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October if using the pigeon hole or Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Oct if emailing.



By the time you read this the annual 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk will have taken place on 6th October. A report of this event will be given later.

Below is an update on projects overseas which the Scottish Bible Society is supporting.

### Lebanon

Following on from last year's distribution of thousands of relief packages to families in the Lebanon is the Bible for Kids programme in which 1,000 youngsters in need are receiving a package containing a Children's Bible, a DVD of the Miracle Maker, and indoor board game, and an outdoor racquet game – the contents will serve body, mind, and soul.

### Peru

Elaine Duncan (Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society) visited Peru after the earthquake. Her report is on the Society's website. The Bible Society of Peru has sent blankets and Bible booklets to the earthquake zone.

Other agencies such as Tear Fund and the Scouts asked for and received Bible booklets and Bible colouring books for inclusion in their aid packages.

The Bible Society has focussed on Huancavelica, a remote, inland, mountainous region. Food and medicines will be taken in, along with Bible materials to help people with the spiritual needs and questions that inevitably arise during such tragic circumstances. The Scottish Bible Society has arranged for an immediate grant of £10,000 to assist in this relief work.

[www.scottishbiblesociety.org](http://www.scottishbiblesociety.org)



Dear Friends,

We've had a great time in Otaru in recent weeks as we planned and prayed for the event with Trey Hillman, the Christian baseball coach of the only professional team in Hokkaido. There were over 400 there and he spoke and sang very powerfully. It was a great encouragement to many as they invited friends and family and saw God at work. We pray on for fruit and for God to continue to work out his purposes in Otaru.

This month David goes to India to visit Daniel and Matthew at Hebron. They seem to be doing well but David can find out more when he goes. During the first week the school Drama Festival is held, and this time both Daniel and Matthew have parts in their respective plays (Hamlet and The Emperor's New Clothes!) The second week sees many of the children and parents head down to the beach for a week of relaxation and surfing.

Now we are heading into our last six months in Otaru. We will pass over more responsibility to Pastor Ishihara and our thoughts also need to turn gradually towards our home assignment (and all the packing and storing!) We hope this time once again that a suitable home will be provided for us in Milngavie – do let us know if you hear of anything.

These coming months too will be a time of preparation and dialogue about the work in which we will be involved when we return to Japan in spring 2009. It is likely that we will head up a new church start in Sapporo – it is exciting to be able to think through and develop the vision for this new start right from the outset. David hopes to use part of his time in India to reflect and pray more.

Please pray on for Japan. There are deep-rooted social problems simmering beneath the surface. Only the gospel can bring real hope and real change.

With our love and thanks for all your support  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair



On stage at the Trey Hillman event in Otaru

## Fabric Fund – Church Maintenance

So many members have recently asked about the scaffolding erected on the Baldernock Road frontage of our Church, I felt that I should explain.

The Fabric Committee and the Congregational Board have an agreed policy, subject to finance being available, to progressively carry out repairs to the external stonework. You may recall that in 2004 extensive repairs and renewal of stones were required to the inside of the West Transept, due to defective pointing on the outside.

The contract recently completed was the third phase of this type of work and included re-pointing the tops and the rear of the skew copes, the walling down to the spring course of the south windows and the arches, tracery and sills of the windows. This aspect of the church building bears the worst of the prevailing winds and rain from the south/west and much of the existing pointing was either very soft or non-existent. This type of maintenance is expensive and this last contract totalled £16,940 + VAT, of which £3,175 + VAT was required for scaffolding.

Further repairs of this nature will be necessary in future years and I am sure that the Treasurer would welcome any additional contributions to the Fabric Fund to assist with it.

**Bill Dudgeon**  
**Fabric Convenor**

## Brigade Blethers



We have only had two company nights since the girls came along to enrol (by the time of writing). The first real night back was a games night and the second was spent making around 35 posies for the Harvest Thanksgiving service. If anyone reading this happened to receive one of our posies then I hope you felt the good wishes (and concentration) that the girls put into the making of them. We do think and pray for you. As always we must thank Sheila Morley for coming along and spending the night “sorting” the arrangements.

Badgework and band practice start in earnest after the September weekend and we have another project on our horizon. The team at GB National are trying to get Brigade into the Guinness Book of Records by holding Chocolate events throughout the country. The money raised at the events will go to the Children in Need Appeal. So it looks like we may be holding a chocolate event on 8<sup>th</sup> November – check out the weekly intimations for more information. My teeth are watering already!

**Ann Goodlet**



## The Book Club

This month we have been reading *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh. Although this book is fairly lengthy and spans three generations, it was enjoyed by everyone. A real family saga, some of us thought it read more like a history book than a novel and the characters were a bit flat but the majority enjoyed this story of love, war and family in Burma, Malaya and India. The book gave a fascinating insight into the days of the British Empire up to 1996 and the map at the front was especially useful in identifying exactly where you were at any given time! The only addition which we thought would have been helpful was a family tree as a easy reference to the three generations involved in the story.

Next time we will be reading *Tender is the Night* by F Scott Fitzgerald – back to the classics!

The next meeting is on Tuesday 30 October 2007 at 7.45pm. Please contact Helen in the Church Office for the venue. If you have been thinking of joining us why not come along at the start of a new session and read and enjoy coffee and chat with us.

**Joyce Clark**



Lynn McChlery, now minister of Eaglesham Parish Church



## Where are they now?

At the prompting of members of the congregation, we intend to catch up with a few ministers who have served in St Paul's over the years and this month we talk to Lynn McChlery.

**Perhaps you could remind us when you were at St Paul's and what stage in your training that was, first of all.**

*I came to St Paul's for the academic year 2001-02, which was the second year of my ministry training. It was very different from anything I'd done before – bigger and more formal, but still friendly. I loved working on a team with Fergus and Emily, and particularly benefited from input from Fergus on my preaching – a daunting task at St Paul's with such a big congregation and a high standard to follow! I really enjoyed my time with you, but was frustrated that with the heavy demands of an Honours course at University, I was unable to do much pastoral visiting. I felt that I was only just getting to know people when it was time to leave.*

**And bring us up to date: we're always hearing about the shortage of ministers these days, did you apply to a number of vacancies? Did you choose Eaglesham or did it choose you?**

*That's a very long story!! I only applied to 2 churches & found the process very searching, with lots of hard and deep questions to address. I had all but decided not to go to Eaglesham when a number of circumstances intervened & I learned a lot about myself and about God's guidance in the process. Eaglesham definitely chose me – the sense of call from them was overwhelming – and I am very grateful for their insight as it has turned out, after all, to be the right place for me.*

**There's quite a detailed history of the village and the church on your website at [www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk) but perhaps you could give us a general feel for what kind of place it is and what kind of congregation you have?**

*It's a large suburban village with a long history and close community, but an increasing number of "incomers" so it doesn't feel claustrophobic. We are the only church (apart from a small Catholic congregation) & this is a really privileged position as we have unique & privileged access to the school and community organisations, and indeed to every home in the village – I have never been turned away by anyone, member or not. Many people feel that it's "their" church even though they never come, & I am recognised as "our" minister by people I've never met – a very public role, which can be a mixed blessing!*

*We have about 650 members and about 200 in the congregation each week. It's a mixed age group but predominantly older, with a real "gap" in the 15-35 age bracket. One of the biggest challenges is that we have about 200 children and young people associated with the church through our very healthy organisations, but bringing them to faith and to church is harder.*

**Your congregation is going through a big change in its constitutional structure just now - was that at your instigation? Perhaps you could tell us a bit about the reasons behind the changes and how the new structure will make a difference.**

*Eaglesham had a very traditional church structure which had continued for decades without change. It worked, but we wanted to ask if there were better ways of doing things. When I arrived, they were very keen for change – churches don't usually have a reputation for this! We changed a few things but it soon became clear that piecemeal changes to the existing structure were only going to make things worse. We appointed a Restructuring team which took 6 months to carefully examine what other churches were doing and to seek under God a model which would work for us. You can read about the new model in the magazine on the website, but basically the whole church is now organised by 7 teams which are composed of both elders and non-elders. The new structure officially started last week, and the church is still standing – so far, so good!!*

*For me, the greatest strength is that any member of the congregation can use their gifts and be part of decision-making in any area of the Church's life, without having to become an elder. The biggest encouragement was that everyone, Session, Board and congregation, approved the change unanimously – even though the Board were voting for their own demise - a phenomenal & quite unexpected affirmation that this is God's will for us. No doubt we'll spend a lot of this year ironing out the kinks, but we are very excited by the potential ahead.*

**I got lots of information from your online magazine - you seem to have a big selection of active clubs and organisations - would you like to pick out any for special mention?**

*Not an organisation, but I'd like to tell you about "Second Sitting", our monthly evening service. We started this only 6 months after I arrived, in an attempt to provide a more relaxed and contemporary form of worship particularly, but not exclusively, for younger people. It meets in the church hall with music provided by our all-age orchestra and a variety of formats for the Bible teaching, usually interactive and fast-moving. It feels very different from "church"!*

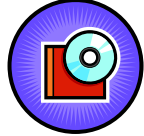
*From the start it was clear that this was the right thing at the right time for Eaglesham & many people appreciated it – one lady in her 80's told me "I haven't enjoyed anything so much since my Scripture Union days!" (a giggle for me, as I used to work for SU and the whole thing is very much an SU-type format).*

*We now have a regular Second Sitting congregation of about 100 people, a few of whom are adults who have no other church connection and about half of whom are teenagers brought by the organisations – the beginnings, perhaps, of addressing the challenge of youth which I mentioned above. We're also trying to start a youth group after the service but progress is patchy. Do pray for us particularly in our outreach to these youngsters.*

**Plans for the future that you want to tell us about?**

*I don't really have any – I feel as if I've taken the brakes off a cart and discovered that it's at the top of a very long hill, & I only hope that the wheels are still on when we get to the bottom!*

*I suppose I'm aware that in all the busyness and apparent "success" of much of what's happening, I need to keep clearly in mind the question "where is God in all this?". In the end, it's not about structures or even about services, but about people coming to faith and growing in discipleship and service – much harder to define, and a longer and deeper goal. If what I've described above serves that end, then it will produce something real and lasting. Thank God there are signs that He is at work, and thank you for your interest and prayers!*



## LIFE AT ST. PAUL'S 2006 : DVD NIGHT

A DVD showing highlights from our Centenary year celebrations will be held in the Large Hall on Wednesday 10th October at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.30pm) Tickets are in limited supply and are available either at the back of the Church after the services or from the Church Office. Tea, Coffee, Shortbread and Tablet will be served.

You will also be given the opportunity to order a copy of the DVD - what a good Christmas present it would make!!!

## Flower donations



Flower donations in October were received with thanks from

Mrs R Fraser, Mrs M Clark, Mrs J Townson, Mrs Collar, Mrs M Hamilton, Mrs G W Morrison, The Guild, Mrs D Stark.

## Thank you

I would like to convey my thanks to St Paul's Church family for all the kindness and concern shown to me and my family at the time of our sad bereavement. Thank you especially for your prayers.

May Phillips.

## Fifty Not Out – Extract from Christian Aid News

For the 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, more than 300,000 people took to the streets to raise money for Christian Aid. Paul Langely of CA reflects on this annual tradition: He says "Crazy or not, I love going from house to house in Christian Aid week You can't beat that feeling standing on a doorstep not knowing if you'll be greeted with a smile or a sigh." Fortunately the evidence shows that people responded as positively in 2007 as they did in 1957 when the first door was knocked upon.

Just because people respond, doesn't mean it's easy money – going to the door takes commitment and courage and not all people are as polite as you'd like! Yet in all these situations something important has happened. In that brief moment we have offered someone the chance to make a difference. The doorstep encounter is what makes Christian Aid unique – no other charity comes near to this intimate challenge.

Strip away everything else, and CA week is simple: poverty exists and we can make a difference by collecting money to help eradicate it. Nothing complicated.

Over the past 50 years a generation of faithful people have reached out to their community and used this week to express their love for one another. Although the world has changed a lot in that time, the commitment to eradicating poverty hasn't and CA is still deeply relevant. In a world of mass communication, no one can honestly say they didn't have an opportunity to make a positive difference.

Whatever the future holds, the truth is that people give money to people – the success of the door to door encounter needs to be replicated in all future activities.



# Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest was a great success again this year with over 75 plants, posies and bouquets going out to members of the church. Again this year approx 14 gifts were distributed and 12 church members currently in hospitals and nursing homes received flowers and a visit.

The food collected was divided and delivered to the Lodging House Mission and the Salvation Army Hostel, both in East Campbell Street. Monies raised amounting to approx £1,159.16 was again donated to India Ministries Fellowship.

I would like to add a big thank you to everyone who made this such a special day, from the children who made the cards and brought the food, the many people who helped distribute the flowers and the parcels to all the homes, hospitals and nursing homes and of course to the members of the church for their generous donations on the day.

Thank you.  
Alex McEwan



# Men's Association

The first meeting of the Men's Association will be on Tuesday 9th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Centenary Room. Our speaker will be Mr. Scott Adair who will be talking on Life in the Courts. A very warm welcome is extended to all our members and we would be delighted to meet any men in the Congregation would like to join us on alternate Tuesdays. Age is NO barrier!!!

## COFFEE MORNING

The Men's Association Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 27th October from 10.00 - 12 noon. Tickets priced £1.50 can be had from any of the members. There will be our usual Cake & Candy Stall and Bookstall and donations for these would be most welcome.



# Choir

Thursday practices (at 7.45pm) have resumed, and the choir is looking for new members.

Please consider joining – in addition to learning the music that is part of Sunday morning services, you will be helped to read music and improve your singing along the way. There's no audition!

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact the organist, Derek Norval on 586 5455



# St Paul's Children and Youth Page

I love autumn! The colder days, the way the trees are constantly changing, the new TV series starting and being able to appreciate the countryside. A few years ago, I made a decision to take up something new in autumn, so I thought of different hobbies which interested me and I decided that I would buy a new pair of walking boots and go on some walks. I have to tell you the truth and I only went on about two but they were good walks.

I love walks and autumn as I can't fail to be reminded of how awesome God is. He made the whole world for us to enjoy!

I hope when you walk to school or around Milngavie you stop and enjoy what God has created...and you can ask me in church how I am getting on with my walking!

With love and blessings,  
Gem



'We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.'  
*Luke 15:32*

Over the past few weeks Sunday Club has been reading and learning about some interesting things Jesus said about the lost. Not the ones in the TV series, as interesting as these people's lives are, but some other people who are lost. Jesus says that there are two kinds of people in this world: people who are found and people who are lost. This is not that people have taken the wrong turn on their way home, but that some people have not accepted Jesus invitation of a relationship with him. Jesus also says that He is looking for these people, and going out of His way to show them how much He loves them.

**Have you accepted Jesus's invitation of a relationship with Him?**

## Challenge of the Month

Can you count how many letter r are on this page?

*If you have the answer then email it to me on [gemmalstoddart@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gemmalstoddart@yahoo.co.uk)*

*There is a prize involved!!!!!!*

## What's on in OCTOBER?

### Children:

**Sunday club** – Primary age  
Church halls

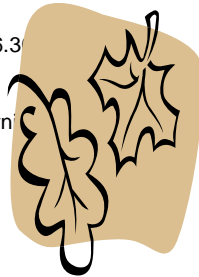
**Sunkids** – primary age  
Saturday 6th October – 4.30pm till 6.30pm  
Church halls

**Girls Brigade** – primary During morning  
Thursday – 7 till 9pm  
Church halls

Young People:  
**Bible Class** – S1-S5  
Sunday morning – 10 - 11am  
Centenary Room

**Joining Together (Social)** – S1-S6  
Friday 12th October – 7 - 9.30pm  
Going to Xscape, Breahead (sign up necessary)

**Milngavie and Bearsden S.U Bible Study** – S4-S6  
Monday 29th October – 8-9.30pm  
6 Balfleur Street, Milngavie



**For information about anything to do with the Children or Youth Work in St Paul's please don't hesitate to contact me (Gemma Stoddart) on 07751477583.**



## World Mission Diary for October

Please pray for All those affected by the floods in northern Africa, and in particular our partners in **Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan and Kenya** as they work to help communities devastated by the flooding.

The staff and students of St Paul's University, formerly St Paul's Theological College in **Kenya**, that they may help meet the need for more ministers in the country.

The University of Livingstonia in **Malawi**, that it may continue to produce high-quality graduates and enjoy the full support of the government

## ***Places of worship not safe in Sri Lanka conflict, say churches***

Christian groups have joined with non-governmental organisations to warn about the killing of religious leaders and attacks on places of worship during a resurgence of fighting between government and rebel forces in **Sri Lanka**. "We call on the government as well as all armed groups, to respect places of religious worship as places of refuge and 'zones of peace'," urged 18 action groups in a statement sent to the UN Human Rights Council which is now meeting in Geneva.

Please pray that

Respect be given by both sides in the conflict in Sri Lanka to the sanctity of places of worship, and that these may provide respite from the fighting for those in need.

Local concerns

Pray for ministers who have a special connection with St Paul's – Lynn McClery, George Vidits, Emily and Doug Campbell, Fiona Gardner, Stewart Matthews, Peter White, David Graham, Alex MacPherson to name but a few of the more recent ones.

Pray for our own ministers Fergus and Ken for energy and commitment, for strength and wisdom as they seek to lead us in the faith. Also for the office bearers and convenors of our various committees, our new treasurer Chris Scott and all who have shouldered the responsibility of keeping the fabric of the buildings together.

Pray for the Fergusons as they come towards the end of their time in Otaru, for guidance and security in whatever life holds for them over the coming months. Pray that they will see some of their work bearing fruit in the changed lives of their congregation.

In Milngavie Friendship House is closed – pray for those regular attenders who will miss what it has to offer.

### Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts

Start time 8am for Breakfast, 8.45am Prayer

7<sup>th</sup> Oct St Luke's

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov Allander Evangelical

1<sup>st</sup> Dec St Paul's

**CHURCH REGISTER**New Members Joined by Certificate

Mr &amp; Mrs D Turner, 32 Milverton Ave., Bearsden G61 62

Disjunctions

Mrs J M Murray, 8 St. Andrews Drive, Bearsden 62

Change of Address

Mr Scott Govan, 39 Campsie Drive, Bearsden now 48

6 Temple Lock Place, Anniesland 70

Mr & Mrs W MacFeat, 83 Main Street, Milngavie now  
Campsie View Nursing Home 51Weddings

25.8.07 Tracy Ann Buchanan, 15 Allan Place, Dumbarton and David Black

01.9.07 Lynne Fairbrother, 68 Keystone Quadrant and Stuart Renfrew

14.9.07 Ruth Ann Cunningham 8 Iain Road Bearsden and Peter Alexander,  
2 Woodside Gardens, WesthillDeaths*Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'*

21.8.07 Mr Robert Macmillan, 117 Clober Road, Milngavie 20

25.8.07 Mr Clifford Fisher, 39 Keystone Quadrant, Milngavie 42

25.8.07 Mrs Mary McLean, Quayside Nursing Home

29.8.07 Mrs Niven 17A Mugdock Road, Milngavie 13

10.9.07 Mrs Enid Smith, 7 Mannofield, Bearsden 62a

Copy date for November issue Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October if  
using the Church pigeon hole or Wed 24<sup>th</sup> if emailing  
[Rona.dawson@scotent.co.uk](mailto:Rona.dawson@scotent.co.uk) 944 4198

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	A McLean R Cameron	Sillars, McAuley, Lawrie	Team 1 Sheila Dickson (Communion)
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	J Ford C Tanner	K Deuchar, Chapman, Goodlet	Team 5 Ramsay Vallance
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	J Clark M Taggart	Cockburn, Richell, MacKinnon	Team 6 Robin Easton
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	I Torbet P Barlow	Martin, Wallis, Kerr	Team 7 Barbara Lawson
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	S Anderson R Fraser	Whitelaw, Baxter, Reid	Team 8 Bobby Campbell