

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2024



Dear Friends

## **A Very Happy and Peaceful New Year!**

When it comes to January I very often get quite ahead of myself. When I think on the new year, 2024, I think of lighter nights and a change of season, even though I have to wait until 1<sup>st</sup> March for the first day of meteorological spring and until 20<sup>th</sup> March for astronomical spring. At this time of year I am always looking forward – a bit of an optimist.

Paul in his letter to the Philippians spoke about looking forward. He said “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3 verses 12-14). When Paul wrote this he was facing trying times. Most scholars agree that Paul, at the time of writing, was in prison facing an uncertain future and yet, in his writings, he was pressing forward with the call of God in Christ Jesus.

We live in uncertain times. The year just gone has been a troubled one. The continuing conflicts and wars have been devastating for hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. The plight of those fleeing the wars comes to us daily as we watch and listen to news reports. It is heartbreaking. Each day my prayer is for peace, reconciliation and resolution. The peace of the infant king we have just celebrated.

As we step into the new year we press forward as a church with our focus on our mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel within Milngavie. We are still cisted in the calling of our new minister. This does not mean that we stop pressing forward, looking for different ways to engage within the fellowship of the church and our community.

We come together on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. A time for us to gather together in communion with one another, sharing bread and drinking wine in remembrance of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a time when we can praise, pray and reflect on the glory of God through the Son - “the call of God in Christ Jesus”.

We stand at the gate of another year – let us go forward in faith. Like St Paul we look back at what is behind us, straining forward to what lies ahead,

With every blessing for 2024 to you and to yours.

**Barbara**

## Thank You

2023 was a bit like Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. We had expected to have a new minister by the end of the year but due to circumstances beyond our control that hasn't happened. We are very grateful for the leadership, support and encouragement of the Rev. Barbara O'Donnell, our Interim Moderator throughout the year.

Thanks also to our dedicated employees, Derek, Hugh and Sandra who willingly contribute so much to the life and smooth running of St. Paul's. Sandra is leaving in January and we wish her well. Hilary Rutherford began work in the church office in August settling in quickly and has been of great help as the organisations returned to normal after Covid.

Particular thanks to Barbara and Jackie, the finance team and to the many people who put in considerable hours voluntarily, to keep the Congregation running. From finance, insurance, fabric, furnishings, communications, health & safety, food hygiene, safeguarding, data protection, the roll and many others, these contributions are often unseen but essential to keep St. Paul's running smoothly and legally.

Thank you to Chris and the team for the much appreciated recorded services. Particular thanks to Christine Forsyth not forgetting husband Jim, for all their additional work with the sale and purchase of the manses and to Carla MacAllister who has edited the *Life* magazine for almost 10 years and has decided to stepped down.

Special mention to Derek Norval and the Choir for their contribution to the Advent services and leading the congregation in worship throughout the year. To those who put up the tree and decorated the church for Advent. To the visiting preachers who have brought us the Word each week. To those who operate the sound desk and those who tend the needs of our buildings and garden.

It is impossible to mention everyone but I thank you all.

**Graham Mill, Session Clerk**

## Editor

Carla MacAllister has been Editor of *Life* magazine for almost 10 years and she has now decided to step down. Our thanks are due to Carla for her work preparing the magazine each month for publication.

Hilary Rutherford has agreed to take on the role and we thank her for agreeing to undertake this important position. Articles should continue to be sent to the same email address by the copy deadline each month.

## **Christmas Card Delivery**

The Stewardship Committee would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers in the congregation who gave so willingly of their time and talents in the run up to Christmas.

As a result, around 1800 households in our Parish received a Christmas Card with a message from our Interim Moderator and information with regard to our church services over the Christmas Season.

Thanks again to the volunteers, who hopefully also benefited from the considerable exercise of climbing stairs, walking the streets and getting to know all the nooks and crannies of our Parish.

**Gordon Fairbrother, Stewardship Convener**

## **Dalmuir Barclay Church Community Pantry & Drop in Café**

I am writing to thank you and the congregation of St. Paul's & Baldernock Parish Church for your very kind and generous donation of Christmas Gifts and food. Your donation enabled us to give 100 families with 100 children Christmas Gifts and gifts to another 100 children in the community.

We would love to have some of you visit and have coffee/lunch with us and let you see our Pantry and meet our volunteers.

Love, Hope and Joy came at Christmas, may your congregation be blessed with these gifts.

**Liz Stewart**

## **Morning Coffee Fellowship**

We would like to thank you all for supporting and joining in the fellowship for coffee after the morning services throughout the year. We are being able to send the amazing sum of £1,780 to Edinburgh Direct Aid for Ukraine. Copies of a letter about their ongoing work are available at the back of the Church and on request.

**Jackie Pirie & Maggie Conway**

## **Bible Sunday**

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Bible Sunday appeal on 26 November.

The total sum collected was £865.70 and when Gift Aid has been claimed, this should add a further £97.40 to the amount donated.



## **Frances Ireland**

### **Heartfelt Thanks from the Lodging House Mission**

I am writing to acknowledge and thank you and the congregation at St. Paul's Milngavie for the fantastic Christmas Card sales of £720 to assist us in our work with people who have lived experience of homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion and are guests of our centre at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow.

We are very aware that we can only carry out the work we do at LHM thanks to the generosity of supporters such as yourselves. On behalf of everyone at LHM, please pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed and continues to support our work through prayer and awareness raising.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team at LHM360.

## **Salvation Army**

£622.50 was raised for the Salvation Army in Clydebank at our Mince Pie Sunday on 17 December. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank everyone for the flowers, support, advice and prayers over the last few months. Jack is now settled in Blanefield House Care Home and is doing well.

**Jean MacIntyre**



Dear Friends

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. This year, each of the five of us spent Christmas day in a different place, in four different countries. Alistair managed to get back home in the evening, though, which was nice.

Now in Japan we are in 2024, Year 6 of the Reiwa (current Emperor's era) and the Year of the Dragon following the Chinese animal years. It's a lot to remember! The Year of the Dragon is said to be auspicious.

On 1-3 January, many Japanese people will visit a Shinto shrine to pray for good luck and health in the coming year. For me, 2024 will mark the end of my leadership term in OMF Japan, so it is a year of transition.

By the end of the year, I will have handed over my current role to the person who has been appointed to succeed me, packed up and moved out of my house, said goodbye to the people in my local church, and come back to Scotland for about 8 months of what is called Home Assignment. I plan to return to Japan again in the summer of 2025 and am hoping to get back into Japanese ministry. So during 2024, I am looking to visit possible places for my next term so that it can be decided before I leave.

In Proverbs 16:9 it says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps". We probably all have different plans, aspirations and hopes for 2024. It is good to think ahead and make plans, but it is God who will guide our steps. And there are great words of encouragement in verse 4 of that same chapter, "The LORD works out everything to its proper end...".

Whatever our situation as we look into 2024, may we have that comfort and assurance that God is working everything out, whether in Japan or in Scotland, and that He will guide us through the year.

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair.

## Book Group

We have been reading *The Fair Botanists* by Sara Sheridan. This book was Waterson's book of the year in 2021. It tells the story of the creation of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh through the eyes of the two main characters and the head gardener Mr McNab.

The majority of the group enjoyed the book with some of them happy to read it again. It gave us an insight into the class division at the time and especially the place of women in society. Some of us expected more about botany and the botanical illustrations one of the main characters was commissioned to do for the new garden. There were many references to the important people of the time including the King, George IV, David Hume and Sir Walter Scott. A list of characters at the beginning of the book was very helpful.

Our next book is *The Story of St Paul's Parish Church from 1841-1991*, compiled by the Rev John T Peat and Bill Gilchrist who was one of our Elders. We are meeting on Tuesday 23 January and the office will be able to tell you the venue if you would like to come along and join us.

**Joyce Clark**

### **St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship Strathpeffer, 22-26th July, 2024.**

All places have been taken and the waiting list is now open. If you wish to be included in it, please return the form WITHOUT A DEPOSIT CHEQUE to Anne Ritchie. Details are on the forms which you will find at the back of the church. Anne can also e-mail it to you if you contact her at [anrit521@gmail.com](mailto:anrit521@gmail.com)

### **Flower Donations - December and January**

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory for the Month of December and January.



Mrs E Easton, Mrs E McGowan, Mrs E Marshall, Mr W Gibson & The Guild.

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.

## Margaret McDowell

Margaret Martha McDowell was a Milngavie lady, born and bred. The daughter of Bill and May Smith, Margaret was born in 1934 in a flat above the drill hall on Strathblane Road next to St. Paul's and grew up in Milngavie with her sister Jean.

After school, Margaret worked in the office of Treron's Department store in Glasgow and while on holiday in Donaghadee in Northern Ireland, she met Eric. A native of Donaghadee, Eric was home on leave from the Navy. Eric and Margaret were married in St. Paul's Church in 1957. Married life started out in Douglas Street, then Tambowie Avenue followed by Dumgoyne Avenue and finally in Craigielea Crescent.

When John, Laura and Maureen came along, Margaret was a full-time wife and mother. Later Margaret worked in various shops, but is best remembered for her time in Gardiner's the Chemist where she made many connections with local people. After retiring, Margaret worked in the café at the CE centre.

The family enjoyed holidays in Northern Ireland with Eric's family when they were young. Margaret's sister Jean moved to Canada with her husband Ian and their family. Margaret loved her holidays to visit Jean and many of Eric's family who had also moved to Canada. Every year, Margaret visited daughter Maureen and her family when they lived in Lanzarote. Margaret loved to play golf and was a member at Clobber Golf Club.

Very much a part of the church family at St. Paul's, Margaret was over the years involved in the Young Woman's Group, the Sunday School, the Guild (receiving a Long Service Certificate for 40 years membership in 2021) and serving for almost 40 years as an elder. Margaret organised the flower delivery rota for as long as anyone can remember and was a church courier keeping the minister informed of members in hospital. Margaret also helped at Friendship House for many, many years. She was very much a people person, serving others and looking out for people, which was a big part of Margaret's life. We remember Margaret as a sociable outgoing lady. She had a great sense of humour and enjoyed a good laugh.

Margaret was a family lady. Although there were difficult times with the loss of daughter-in-law Catherine and son-in-law Ronnie, Margaret was always there for them.

Margaret was a determined lady. She had a strong character and lived a long, happy life to the full. Margaret had been unwell for the last few weeks, but she managed to bounce back for grand-daughter Sarah's wedding and had one last lovely memory with the family.

Margaret was a guiding light to many, a wonderful example of faith in action. She will be forever remembered with love, gratitude, a tear and a smile.

## **Future Services:**

14 January	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell
21 January	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell - Communion
28 January	Dr. Robin Easton
4 February	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell

The evening services have been suspended and will resume on Sunday, 18th February.

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday 21st January during the morning service lead by the Rev. Barbara O'Donnell. The white linen cloths will be on alternate pews and we would ask you to sit only in these pews. This will allow an elder to serve you with bread and wine from the pew in front. There will be stewards to assist you and we hope that this will not distract from the meaning of the celebration. District Elders will not be distributing cards for this service.

## **Guild News**

December was a very busy time for Guild members. On the 4th, we held our Allocation of Funds followed by a Beetle Drive which turned into quite a hilarious afternoon. On the 11th, we were entertained by David Sturgeon which involved much toe-tapping and singing. Our final meeting for the year was our Christmas Lunch which was a time of fellowship and laughter.

We meet again on Monday, 8th of January when our speaker is Scott Adair who will speak to us on the subject - Lawyers' Tales. We will be joined by some ladies from Cairns Church.

Topics for the remainder of January are –

15th: CHAS-Rachel Guade

22nd: Men's Shed

29th: Habbie-Jeellie-Eater-Rev.Ian Miller  
[we're all wondering what this is about] when we will be joined by members of the Men's Association.

Everyone is most welcome to join in the fellowship and have a cuppa on a Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Large Hall.

**Elizabeth McEwan**



## Men's Association

The Association concluded 2023 with a Christmas Lunch held in Andiamo, when 19 of our members attended and enjoyed a most convivial lunch. A surprise visit was paid - and, no, all you readers jumping to the wrong conclusion - not Santa Claus! but our Honorary Member Fergus Buchanan who had been unable to accept our invitation to lunch as he and Gabrielle were visiting the Breakaway Christmas Party, where it was understood the said Santa Claus was attending! Before the end of this year, the Association has made a payment to St. Paul's of £250.00 to assist in the running costs. Also, a payment has been made to Dalmuir Barclay Café and Pantry of £250.00 as a charitable donation to help one of our neighbouring churches with their outreach and mission in their area. Also delivered were the presents and products brought to Church on Sunday 10th December by the children and members of the congregation.

Our meetings in January are, firstly, on **9th January**, when Sheila Farquharson from Faifley Parish Church, another local church which we support, will speak about the Faifley Upcycling Project, which helps people in that area. The other meeting in January, is a joint meeting with the Guild, note on a Monday afternoon **29th January**, not our usual Tuesday night, when the speaker will be Rev. Ian Miller, retired Minister from Bonhill, who will be speaking about Habbie-Jeelie Eater! As has been said, it must be worth attending just to know what his title means!

Lastly, Neil Rankine, one of our members, is keen to organise a Quiz night, as he used to for the Girls Brigade, where funds could be raised for a local charity. Keep your eyes on the intimations for more details.

### Brian Adair

#### Lunch Club

A big thank you is due to the many helpers who week by week make the Lunch Club possible. Thanks also to our bakers who provide such tempting goodies for us to enjoy.

If you were able to help about 2 or 3 times a year that would be great. We are so thankful for the help of Hugh who gives much assistance regularly.



Due to the generosity of so many people we are able to give donations to several charities both local and abroad, this year. Among them are St. Paul's, SU Scotland, the Lodging House Mission, Tear Fund, and MAF Scotland .

All this would not be possible without the loyal support of the many who enjoy lunch most Wednesdays at 12pm. If you have not been, come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

### Ann MacLeod

## **Noah's Ark**

Our Toddlers' Group has been meeting every Thursday since the end of August (with the exception of the school holiday week in October) and there are 80 young children, all under 3 years of age, on the roll. These children attend with their mothers or fathers or grannies or grandpas or carers. Now fortunately they don't all attend at the one time, and the normal attendance is between 50 and 55 each Thursday. We charge £1.50 for one child, £2.50 for 2 and £3.50 for 3, which entitles the child to receive a snack meal and the adult a tea or coffee plus a biscuit, and occasionally home baking.

The children have free range play in the Large Hall with plenty of toys and games to play. The session starts at 9.30 and concludes at 11.15. The last part of the morning from 11.00 to 11.15 comprises a sing song led by our volunteers, which always concludes with the wonderful singing of "Jesus love is very wonderful".

There are 4 helpers in the kitchen who work on a rota basis and there are 8 helpers, again on a rota basis, who assist on the floor of the Hall with various tasks including speaking with those attending.

Any additional volunteers will always be made very welcome and anyone can visit on a Thursday, without committing to help, to see what good fun everyone is having.

From the funds raised this year, Noah's Ark has made a contribution to the Church of £250.00 to assist in the heating and lighting bills. Also, the Charity in Dalmeir, *Bags Full of Love*, has received £250.00 to assist with their work with children in their area. And, finally, Daisy Chain Early Years Project has been given £250.00 to assist their finances in their work helping parents and children in Govanhill.

Noah's Ark feels privileged to be able to make these payments which is helping show that our mission and outreach in running Noah's Ark also allows further outreach to the two charities.

Please remember all who attend Noah's Ark in your prayers, the children, those who accompany them and the church volunteers who give so willingly of their time.

**Jackie Sillars & Brian Adair**

# LOST & FOUND

In our lost property box there are:

3 pairs of black gloves

5 single black gloves

1 pair of dark red gloves

1 pair of brown/cream gloves

1 black/white scarf

1 light blue scarf

1 Harris Tweed cap

1 pair of spectacles - red legs and tortoiseshell rims

1 hearing aid

1 photograph of two people and a child

and

19 umbrellas of assorted colours and patterns!

Please come and see if any of the above belong to you!!  
Our lost property box is located under one of the pews at  
the back of the church.

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**Copy Date**

The copy date for the February issue is **Monday, 29 January.**

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