

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2022



Dear Friends,

This past month has been filled with 'last things' and now I come to the last pastoral letter I will write as your minister. So much has been said and written about the last 34 years that quite simply, at this moment, I wish only to thank you.

Thank you for your faithfulness in worship which has been an enormous encouragement.

Thank you for your prayers, not least in the past three years which have seen a diminishment in my health and strength.

Thank you for your support for all the initiatives taken to make the Kingdom known locally and throughout the world.

Thank you for all the signs throughout our last few troubled years as a nation that faith in Christ is alive and therefore there is hope for the future.

The 'thanks' could go on. But ultimately, it must stop with thanks to God for the blessing of being your minister.

I was asked in a podcast interview not long ago if I would do things differently if I had it all to do again. Well, I could think of many mistakes that were made, some which, when I think of them, can still cause me some distress. The thing is, I am not confident I would do things differently. And, really, this is not a time to be fretting over lost opportunities, careless words, and ill-judged actions. That I have completed 40 years as a minister of Word and Sacrament is due to the grace of God and what He can do through the efforts of His servant.

You will never be far from the prayers of Gabrielle and myself in these uncertain times for the Church of Scotland. As Paul signed off in his second letter to the Christians in Corinth:

'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' (2 Corinthians 13: 14).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fergus' followed by a horizontal line.

## Remembrance

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 commencing at 10.50am attended by representatives of the King, the Council, the Churches and youth organisations.

The Garden of Remembrance outside the Fraser Centre will be dedicated towards the end of October and there will be a short and reflective Armistice Day Service at the War Memorial on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50am. The War Memorial in Milngavie was dedicated 100 years ago in November, 1922.

## Noah's Ark

On Thursday 6th October, Noah's Ark, our Mother and Toddler group, will celebrate its tenth birthday. Noah's Ark was the brainchild of one of our Elders, Rosemary Fraser, after our playgroup folded. It is fair to say, that it has gone from strength to strength and indeed, now has a waiting list for the first time. Well done to all the volunteers who, over this ten year period, have given so willingly of their time and talents to ensure that the young people and their carers have such a joyful experience within our church.

An invitation is extended to any of the volunteers who have moved on, to join in on Thursday 6th October and come to the Large Hall where birthday cake will be served.

Happy birthday Noah's Ark.

### Flower Donations - September

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



S. Collar, M. Ure, I.&M. McQueen

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 Card Delivery**

The Stewardship Committee are again arranging a special Christmas delivery from St Paul's to every household within our Parish boundary.

The delivery will take the form of a Christmas Card and will include an invitation to come and join us at our Christmas services.

Extra cards will be made available at the back of the church if you wish to hand these to any other households you may know, that might consider coming along to join us at St. Paul's this Christmas.

I am sure that anyone who takes up our invitation, will experience the warmth and support of a loving and caring family at St. Paul's, that will encourage them to come back to learn more.

If you are able to assist in the delivery of our Christmas Cards, please contact me by phone or email. It is anticipated the cards will be available for delivery towards the end of November.

**Gordon Fairbrother**  
Stewardship Convener

Phone – 0141 563 8698  
E Mail – gordonf62@gmail.com

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

The wonderful display of posies, plants, fruit, vegetables and other varied foods provided some cheer for our harvest thanksgiving service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who donated items, gave of their time and talents and of course decorated the church. Also thanks to those who created the beautiful posies, delivered them and the plants, gifts and cards, to members of our congregation. The food items were delivered to the Salvation Army and the Lodging House mission and were greatly appreciated.

A special thank you must be given to the Sunday Club and our Bible class not only for the donations but for designing the harvest cards which were greatly appreciated by all members at home and in care.

£510 was raised for Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels. Many thanks again to everyone.

**Elizabeth McEwan**

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP**  
**HARROGATE AND GLORIOUS YORKSHIRE**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH STRATHMORE TRAVEL**

**MONDAY, 12th - FRIDAY, 16th JUNE, 2023**  
**COST £394 per person. No single supplement.**

**MONDAY, 12th JUNE**

Depart Milngavie Railway Station. Coffee stop at Gretna and lunch with free time in Keswick. Continue to the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate for 4 nights dinner, B&B. Meals included: dinner.

**TUESDAY, 13th JUNE**

Free time in Harrogate in the morning. Lunch at the Cairn Hotel. Afternoon in RHS garden at Harlow Carr, just outside Harrogate, where there is a Betty's tearoom. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE**

Travel by coach to Whitby to visit the new Endeavour Experience where there is a full-scale model of the ship Captain Cooke sailed in to Australia. He was born in the town. Lunch on board the ship. In the afternoon we shall travel on the North Yorkshire Moor Steam Railway from Whitby to Grosmont and continue our journey by coach from there to Harrogate. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

**THURSDAY, 15th JUNE**

Free time in the morning spent in Ripon viewing the cathedral and the town. In the afternoon we continue to the privately owned Newby Hall close by, where we shall have lunch and view the house and gardens. Return to Harrogate. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**FRIDAY, 16th JUNE**

Depart to Alnwick Castle and Gardens, where we shall view the gardens only and have lunch (included). Comfort stops on the way home.

The price is based on 30 participants. Included lunches will be light.

A deposit of £50 per person will guarantee your place. Cheques should be made out to St. Paul's Parish Church, Milngavie and will be retained until we have sufficient numbers. The trip organiser is Anne Ritchie, 12 Norwood Park, Bearsden G61 2RF.

[anrit521@gmail.com](mailto:anrit521@gmail.com)

07811 973 375

Cheques should be sent to her at the above address, WITH SLIP ON NEXT PAGE AND SAE.

Name(s)
Address
Landline and mobile.
E-mail address
Single/double/twin room. Please circle.

### **Men's Association**

The Association has created a very varied and interesting programme for the coming year. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 4th October, as usual now in the Jubilee Hall, commencing at 7.15pm with tea or coffee plus a nibble before the speaker addresses us at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Dr. Robert Hamilton who is well known to us with his talks on American politics. On 4th October, he is going to tell us about President Richard Nixon. Not to be missed! Everyone will be made very welcome.

Our next meeting in October is on Tuesday 18th, and our speaker is Brian Atkinson, one of our Committee Members and a Member of Baldernock. His subject is "Glasgow's Green Spaces" Another one not to be missed! We are holding our Annual Coffee Morning (having not had one in 2020 or 2021) on Saturday 29th October in the Large Hall. Our chosen charity is Mary's Meals.

We will set up the Hall on the evening of 28th October between 6.00pm and 7.00pm and volunteers will be made welcome. Also welcome will be donations of home baking for serving to those attending but also for sale at our stall in the Hall on the day. Put your baking hats on, please!

Lastly, moving into November, our meeting will be on 1st November and our speaker is one of our Elders, Nimmi Whitelaw who will be speaking about "Guide Dogs". Definitely not to be missed!

At this time in our Church's life, it is really important for us all to support the organisations and ensure that we are true witnesses to Christ.

Blessings to you all.

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

We are organising a visit to Baldernock church on Saturday, the 8th of October at 2pm. Baldernock church has a very wide and interesting history and it is hoped on the day to meet other people from the church and share in their memories and experiences of their local Church and community.

After the visit we will all go back to St. Paul's for Afternoon Team and of course this invitation is open to all from St. Paul's and Baldernock.

There are sign up sheets at the back of the church if you are interested in going and we would also like to know if you can either provide or need transport.

This will be a great day!

**Alex McEwan**  
07514724498

## **Guild News**

We are eagerly anticipating the start of the new session on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. All our meetings this year will be held in the afternoon which has proved more suitable than the evening for most of our members. The meetings start at 2pm and normally finish by around 3pm after which we have the chance to chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

The October meetings are as follows:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Visit from the Mandolin Club from Alexandria
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ailsa Turner will talk about Scottish women painters of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 17<sup>th</sup> David Hamilton will recount his experiences in 'Pop to pulpit.'
- 24<sup>th</sup> Robert Keys will discuss the life of Saint Andrew.

Two of our speakers, Ailsa Turner and Robert Keys, are returning after greatly appreciated visits last session, and we look forward to hearing them once again.

Another notable date is Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> when our Dedication Service will be held. We are delighted that Rev. Kenneth MacDonald will be conducting the service.

We look forward to seeing all our members again, and also to welcoming new members; everyone will be made most welcome.

**Eleanor Easton**

## **The Interim Moderator, Rev Barbara O'Donnell**

Hello,

As I look forward to undertaking the role of Interim Moderator at St Paul's linked with Baldernock I thought I should introduce myself.

For the past six years I was minister of Bonhill linked with Renton Trinity Church until, with the onset of three score years and ten, I retired in April of this year. Prior to this I was Locum for both churches since July 2012, this meant that I served these churches for "10 years minus 10 weeks"!

I was ordained an Auxiliary Minister in 2007 and served the Vale of Leven Churches whilst working with the national charity, Alcohol Focus Scotland. I spent 18 years with Alcohol Focus Scotland working across different projects and finally in the role of Deputy Chief Executive.

Before entering into the third sector I trained as a secondary teacher, teaching Religious Studies and History. This led me into public education, working with the Scottish Government on the "DrinkWise Campaign" hosted by Alcohol Focus Scotland.

This sums up the past 26 years and before this family life was my focus. I have three grown up children, Paul, David and Kirsty. The family has grown with the arrival of my grandchildren, Dominic, Callan and Niamh, who ensure that life is never dull.

I look forward to working with you, as Interim Moderator, in what is a challenging time for your church and the national church in Scotland. My contact details are: Mobile 07787433903, email [revbarb1@gmail.com](mailto:revbarb1@gmail.com)

My best wishes and every blessing go with Fergus as he begins the chapter called "retirement".

**Rev Barbara O'Donnell**

### **CrossReach**

The latest edition of CrossReach News is on the stands at the back of the Church. Please take a copy and familiarize yourself with the work of CrossReach, the kirk's work in the community.

There are articles outlining the work done with those having problems of addiction, or the stigma of mental health (the Umbrella gardening project). Read about Robin's turn around after being made redundant. This issue also includes details about CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars.

**Morag Thomson**

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Preparations are going ahead for the next Christmas Tree Festival which will be held from Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. It will run from 10 a.m. till 4.00 p.m. each day except Sunday when we open at 1.00 p.m.. We have been encouraged by offers of help with stewarding, and interest in decorating a tree, from people who have not previously been involved.

We hope that many visitors will visit the festival to see the trees, enjoy the music and relax in the tea room. Apart from that, however, we really need volunteers to steward at the back of the church and to direct visitors. We also need ladies – though men would not be turned away!- to help in the tea room.

If you haven't done this before we can honestly assure you that you will enjoy the experience. The atmosphere in the church is very special with so many lovely trees, and visitors often comment on the beauty of the building. Members of other churches also help with these duties, but we feel it is always necessary to have members of St. Paul's present who are familiar with the building.

This year we plan to support local charities who help families struggling because of the current economic situation.

We will have sign up sheets at the back of the church in November and ask that you will consider being involved. If you have any queries about any aspect of the festival, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Thank you in anticipation.

**Jean Scott 956 5251**

**Eleanor Easton 943 0368**

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

I am writing to acknowledge and thank the congregation of St Paul's for the generous Harvest donations 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 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.

**Claire Herbert, Chaplain LHM**



## **Presentation to the Rev Fergus Buchanan on his retirement on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

After 34 years at St. Paul's over 350 people gathered for the final morning service of Rev Fergus Buchanan as parish minister. During the joint service with Baldernock Church, the Session Clerk, Graham Mill, presented Fergus with a cheque on behalf of the congregations of Baldernock and St Paul's.

Fergus, the size of the congregation this morning I think says more than I can. Friends, colleagues and members of your family are all here this morning to wish you well. In particular I am delighted to see Mark & Paul with us and I am sure Stephen, Mary, Busby & Roddy will be watching. So hello Cheltenham and the many others who join us online.

A few weeks ago you and I were talking about a writer in one of our national newspapers and that particular week he was reflecting that it was 40 years ago that the belt was abolished in our schools, not that you or I had to worry about that! Also 40 years ago if we had a telephone in the house it was usually in the hall and we were constantly reminded how expensive it was to use it. I would imagine that there are not many people in the congregation this morning who are not carrying a phone. How things have changed since you were ordained but there has been one constant - your strong Bible based message.

Fergus, I know the decision to retire was not made lightly and we will miss you as a friend as well as our caring pastor but I believe the time is right for you and your family to close this chapter of your life and on behalf of the congregations of Baldernock and St. Paul's it is with sadness but also with great pleasure and very best wishes that I give you this cheque.

In his welcome at the start of the service Fergus usually invites us all for further fellowship in the Large Hall where tea and biscuits are served. Well, as this is a special day there will be sandwiches and cakes and I do hope that if you can join us, you will, it is for all.

One other constant by your side in the past 34 years here in St Paul's has been Gabrielle, please come forward and accept these flowers with our thanks and every blessing.

### **Salvation Army**

Thank you for the very kind harvest donation from your church congregation, this is very much appreciated and has been given out to our service users.

### **The Salvation Army, Wallace of Campsie House**

## **Retiral of the Rev. Fergus C. Buchanan**

The Minister of Baldernock linked with St Paul's Church, Milngavie, the Rev. Fergus C. Buchanan has retired from his position as Minister of St Paul's Church after 34 years outstanding service to the Church and the wider community.

It was in 1987, when the Very Rev. John M. K. Paterson announced his retiral, that a Vacancy Committee ( as it was then called) was formed and they turned to Ayrshire where they were very impressed by the powerful preaching and vitality of the young Minister from Ardeer, the Rev. Fergus C. Buchanan. He had previously been an Assistant Minister at Glasgow Cathedral and Ardeer had been his first charge. He was inducted to St Paul's Church in April 1988, and has served faithfully and diligently for the next 34 years.

At his behest in 1990, St. Paul's became a founding member of a new Association of Milngavie Churches, which still exists today, and which was formed "to act as a witness to the Unity of Christ among the Churches in Milngavie."

Naturally, as a serving Minister, he became a Member of Dumbarton Presbytery (now part of Clyde Presbytery) and added greatly to the debates and discussions of that body. He was Moderator of the Presbytery in 1996/97 and visited a large number of the Churches in Presbytery during his year in office.

First and foremost, however, he was what the popular press would call, 'a people person', but what the Church calls an evangelist. He never missed any opportunity to speak of God's amazing work in the world and there are countless members and friends of St. Paul's who have been so well served by him during his Ministry. His dedication to detail and ensuring that any one person to whom he was speaking, realised the faith and commitment which he personally had, made his presence with that person, all the more meaningful.

He was responsible in St. Paul's for overseeing the celebrations of the Church having been on the Baldernock Road site for 100 years, which involved major structural alterations to the Halls and the creation of a Centenary Hall.

He has also had a number of Assistants over his time, too many to mention here, but to a man and a woman, they all spoke of his outstanding faith in God and for his patience in assisting them to become Ministers in their own right.

He is a devoted family man with a loving and loved wife Gabrielle, and when he arrived in 1988, there were two boys, Mark and Stephen, and, joy to the world, a Manse baby in the shape of Paul arrived thereafter. He and Gabrielle now have the pleasure of two grandsons, which became the subject of many addresses to the children on a Sunday morning.

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In the Book, "The Story of St Paul's Parish Church, Milngavie," written to record 150 years of the Parish Church in Milngavie in 1991, the author makes reference to the fact that Fergus Buchanan has warmly embraced "the new technology" confidently harnessing the computer and other sophisticated office equipment in the service of God. He leaves St. Paul's having used that technology to his advancement but also for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in Milngavie.

Well done true and valiant servant. Evangelism is at its best when our lives confirm the message we preach.

## **The Book Group**

The Book Group met recently to discuss our latest book choice "Consider the Lilies" by Iain Crichton-Smith.

Set in the 1800s at the height of the Highland Clearances, this story is not just about that. It is really a very clever look at the lives of a group of people in a small Highland community at that time.

The story starts when the Duke of Sutherland's factor turns up at Mary Scott's door and tells her that she must leave her home and go to be re-housed at the coast. She is told that she does not have an option because they want the land and intend to burn her cottage to the ground. Mary is in her 70's and has had a hard life which has left her bitter and lonely. She refuses to go and appeals to her Church and others for help but none is forthcoming. Then one family offers her comfort and help and the story moves on. As a group, we all felt saddened and angry at the way in which innocent people were treated at that time.

We all agreed that this is a book well worth reading and it is certainly one which promoted a lot of heated discussion.

## **Thank You**

Joan and the family of the late Ian Rutherford would like to thank the Reverend Fergus Buchanan for the beautiful funeral service for Ian on 9th September 2022 and in addition, much thanks to Derek Norval for the lovely music during the service. The care and love of the Duty Elders and the Church Officer, Hugh McGorm are also gratefully acknowledged by the family. Many thanks to the wider family, friends and parishioners of St Paul's for their thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers, as well as the generous donations for the family's chosen charity – Alzheimer Scotland.

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## Copy Date

The copy date for the November issue is Wednesday **26th** October.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries
2nd October	Mrs J. Mill
9th October	Mrs A. McLeod Mrs S. Angus
16th October	Mrs S. Anderson Mrs A. Gillies
23rd October	Mrs P. Barlow Mrs S. Robertson
30th October	Mrs M. Conway Mrs K. Edwards