

St Paul's Milngavie

Life Magazine

March 2008



Dear Friends,

The worst thing about bereavement is the absence. It's hard to come to terms with the fact that someone is now beyond, our sight, our touch and our call. That might seem like an obvious thing to say but so many people discover that the actual experience is more painful than anything they ever imagined. It would not be over-stating the case to say that it is like an amputation of the spirit. Something has gone which cannot be replaced.

For Christians, though, there is the hope that the life and teaching of Jesus brings to us. With Easter coming I am sure there will be the usual controversy in the media over the resurrection of Jesus. Did He physically rise from the dead? Perhaps He lived on in the minds and hearts of His followers in the same way that all great men and women live on. You will have heard all of this before and perhaps found the arguments, which sometimes come from Church leaders, to be persuasive.

I don't want to launch into a detailed defence of the resurrection of Jesus except to say that it has always been of supreme importance to me. In the end, the resurrection of Jesus is the only historical evidence that there is life beyond death. Paul said that it is 'the guarantee that all those who sleep in death will also be raised.' So when I proclaim the hope of a life beyond this life it is not wishful thinking or a leap into the dark. It is something which has already taken place in time and space and which the Son of God has promised to all those who love Him.

I hope that this Easter, in the midst of the inevitable controversy and scepticism, that the Church throughout the world will be united in a wholehearted celebration of Jesus triumph over death and the hope that this brings to so many people in pain.

Happy Easter!

The Guild

On **Monday 3rd March**, there will be 'Laughter in the Kirk' by Rev. Ian Miller. Visitors from St. Luke's will be joining us that evening.

Saturday 8th March is our annual **Coffee Morning**. Tickets will be on sale from members of the Committee or at the door on the day – Price £1.50 Adults, 50p Children.

Monday 10th March is our final evening of the session beginning with our A.G.M., followed by entertainment from the Committee.

Molly Pollock

Molly retires from her Guild Committee post this year after serving for the last 3 years and we thank her for her contributions to the magazine over this time.



Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts

Start time 8am for
Breakfast, 8.45am Prayer

1 st Mar	United Free Church
5 th Apr	St Luke's
3 rd May	St Paul's

Jesus on the BBC

This Easter, Jesus is going to be broadcast into 10 million homes.

'**The Passion**' is a dramatic BBC series retelling the death and resurrection of Christ. It's scheduled to go out at peak time, in 6 half hour slots between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Filmed in Morocco and starring actors such as Joseph Mawle, James Nesbitt (Cold Feet) and David Oyelow (Spooks and The Last King of Scotland), the production is 'an extremely vivid piece of drama'.

Andrew Graystone, Director of the Churches' Media Council, goes on to say that 'this Easter the whole country will be talking about Jesus. Not about church politics or the finer points of theology, but about Jesus.'

As an opportunity for evangelism, we think that this is pretty exciting!

"We've been praying hard that quality Christian programmes would be given airtime on the mainstream media this year in order for the Church to engage in public discussion about Jesus.

Having seen some of the passion series which is to be broadcast at prime time on BBC this Easter we believe this challenging and fresh account of Jesus' last week on earth, presents The Church in the UK with a golden opportunity and would want to encourage every Hope08 church and partner to consider how they might sensitively use this opportunity to the full." **The Hope 2008 Board**

Evangelism is something we are all called to do. Family, friends, colleagues and neighbours will be watching these programs ARE WE READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Graham Mill, Stewardship Convener



Dear Friends

We are now into our last few weeks in Otaru – this will be a time of business as we pack up, say farewells and get round to the thousand and one administrative matters that need to be attended to. We will aim to write something for the next issue of Life too – but if we don't, you'll understand that we are submerged somewhere in boxes and bubble wrap!

We hope that our time in Otaru will end on a high note as Mrs Yoshida is baptised. We are planning that for 9th March. Although the numbers of believers in Japan are not large, one by one people come to faith – and the angels in heaven too rejoice over one who repents and believes in Jesus. We thank you for your prayers with us over these years and look forward to sharing with you many stories of what God has been doing in Japan and among the people here. We may not see much tangible fruit – but God is at work and we trust that in the years to come, there will be a great harvest in Otaru and many other places in Japan.

Daniel and Matthew are safely back in India and getting into the pace of school and dorm life once again. We will visit them for two weeks early April on our way back to Scotland, arriving back in the UK on 22nd April. For Calum and Alistair it will be a big transition – both are very much used to life here, and for Calum in particular (our only Japan-born boy!) it won't be easy as his friends and activities are all very much Otaru-centred.

We still don't have a place to stay. We are keeping an eye out and many others are looking too. We trust that God will provide just the right place for us – it would be great if this were before we leave Japan at the end of March so we know where we will return to and so that we can be in touch with the local school. Please keep praying!

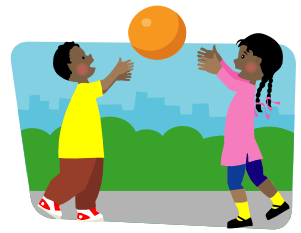
Looking forward to seeing you all soon

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Flower Donations - March



Child Protection



As Child Protection Co-ordinator, I am often asked questions by people in the congregation about aspects of working with children. I am pleased that people do take the time to ask questions as it shows that our congregation have a genuine concern for the well-being of the church and its young people. I might not be able to answer the question straightaway and often I will need to check the Church of Scotland's Child Protection Manual or seek advice from the Safeguarding Unit, but I will endeavour to reply to queries that are raised. Please keep the questions coming.

The Church of Scotland's Safeguarding Office produce, in addition to the Manual mentioned above, a handbook for volunteers working with children and young people. Most of our church volunteers will, by now, have been given a copy of the handbook although I know there are a few people yet to get theirs. Apologies to you if you are one of the people still to get a copy, but I am gradually working my way around everyone.

The Safeguarding Office also produces a newsletter on a regular basis. I can give anyone who wishes a copy of this should they want to see it. The Office has also started producing a series of advisory notes called "Myth Busters". As the name suggests, these are commonly held beliefs about child protection that are not true. Over the next few months, I hope to give you some information about "Myth Busters": hopefully these might answer some of the questions that people have about child protection. One popularly held myth was that you always needed to have two adults take a child to the toilet. Thankfully, as the Safeguarding Office point out, that is not the case!

Douglas Martin
Child Protection Co-ordinator

Traidcraft



The new spring catalogue is now available, with some delightful items. We do, of course, stock many of the perishable goods on the stall every Sunday after the morning service, but we would be delighted to order anything for you from the catalogue.

One of our newer items is Olive Oil, from the olive groves of Palestine. It is not cheap, but is proving popular because of its quality.

Another new venture is pickles, jams, marmalade, curries etc. from Swaziland. Hitherto these products were sold through Oxfam which has now pulled out of the distribution chain. We bought a selection of these (through the Balmore Trust) as an experiment & they have proved to be so popular that we have gone ahead & ordered a complete consignment, so come & sample them for yourself,

Also on the stall is a lovely Easter Cake recipe using many of our Fairtrade ingredients.

Rosemary Fraser

St Paul's Overseas Mission Vision

Over the past months, the Overseas Committee has been considering Overseas Mission Projects that we could support.

We agreed that we should continue supporting the work of IMF (India Ministries Fellowship), also another four Mission projects were chosen, to meet our aim of Mission with a spiritual/ practical input.



VineTrust

Vine Trust

The Vine Trust work in Peru to bring opportunity, health and hope to disadvantaged communities and marginalized people, with a particular concern for vulnerable children. Enterprise volunteers/skilled work parties work in the three areas of support – Street Children/Medical projects/Micro Enterprise. We see great potential in promoting this work to our Congregation. Eleanor Easton has just returned from a visit to Peru with the Trust and this will be a great opportunity to learn firsthand of the work they are undertaking.

www.vinetrust.org



Church of Scotland World Mission working in HIV/Aids

The Church of Scotland continues its essential work of raising urgently needed funds for its HIV/AIDS Project begun in 2002.

The project has a mandate from the general Assembly up to the end of 2010. This recognises that HIV and AIDS continue to be both a cause and consequence of not just of ill health and death, but also of poverty and lack of development around the world. With 10 people infected with HIV and six dying of AIDS every minute, every day, the need is obvious.



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP UK

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) – SOS (Scotland's Operation Sudan)

We highlighted the appeal at our Christmas Eve Services and over £1500 was raised for this appeal. MAF are working towards this project raising £40000 per year – 360,000 miles of compassionate aid for this area. We will continue to work closely with MAF and Andy Martin their Volunteer Manager was invited to talk at the Men's Association Meeting on Tuesday 12th February. It was exciting and humbling to hear of the vast work they undertake, sometimes in difficult and dangerous circumstances. We were delighted to present Andy with our cheque for £2500 towards the SOS Project (see acknowledgement from MAF).

www.maf-uk.org



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

www.csw.org.uk

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Rev Fiona Gardner outlined the work of this organisation at the Elders' Day Conference.

CSW is a human rights organisation specialising in religious freedom. CSW works on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promotes religious liberty for all.

They stand with those who are suffering; they have a team of advocates producing regular expert briefs on current situations of persecution and these are used to inform and lobby parliamentarians.

They campaign on specific cases of abuse or injustice. Urgent action campaigns are rapidly sent by email to over 2500 supporters.

With Session approval, we have contributed £2500 from our overseas funds to each of these four, very worthwhile Missions, meeting the aims of our vision of supporting Mission with a spiritual and practical input.

To promote these nominated Projects we will draw regular attention of the work they undertake and will use the weekly intimation sheet and Life Magazine to communicate this. We would ask for your prayerful and financial support in this work.

As a Committee, we feel thankful to God for the provision He has made for us as a Congregation, to be able to support Mission causes and their needs,

If you would wish to discuss any of these Mission projects, please speak to any member of the Overseas Committee

John Macpherson
Convener, Overseas Committee

World Mission Diary

This month let us remember our World Mission partners as they try to make a difference to people's lives during very troubled times.

Elections in Kenya have sparked violence there and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa who are our partners have been affected deeply, not just as result of the violence but in a role of compassion as they seek to provide for the needs of the displaced. An emergency grant of £40,000 has been allocated to them by the Church of Scotland.

Please pray for

- The work of the WCC and in particular their support to their colleagues in Kenya.
- The church of north India have asked for us to remember the plight of Christians in Orissa where religious tensions have caused homes, businesses and churches to be destroyed by fire. Many folk have been displaced and others injured or killed in the violence
- The continued unrest in Orissa and the Churches as they seek to find a peaceful solution to the violence.
- Please pray for our partner churches around the world who face conflict on a daily basis .

St Paul's Children and Youth Page



Every time I switch on the TV in the last few weeks I seem to come across another awards ceremony. First it was the BAFTA's that took up a whole Sunday night and then last night it was the Brits!



Watching all these people getting awards got me thinking about a passage in the Bible. It talks about the prize that is in store for Christians. It says this:

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." **1Corinthians 9:25**

The prize which we will get is much better than a BAFTA or a Brit. So we must live our lives the way God wants and put in just as much effort as film stars and rock bands!

Enjoy the race.....

Gem

What's on in MARCH?

Children:

Sunday club & Holiday Club – Primary age
During Sunday morning service
All Halls

Sunkids – Primary one to Primary
Saturday 15th – 4.30pm till 6.30pm
Large Hall

Girls Brigade – Primary and Seco
Thursday – 7 till 9pm

Young People:

JT Social – S1-S6
Saturday 15th March – 7 – 9pm
Pizza and Movie Night
Allander Evangelical Church

Jump – Primary six to Secondary
Saturday 15th – 4.30 till 6.30pm
Jubilee Hall

Bible Class – S1-S5
Sunday morning – 10 till 11am
Centenary Room

Joining Together – S1-S6
Sunday – 8.15pm till 9.30pm
Centenary Room

Kids Bible Wordsearch

Animals in the Bible Puzzle # 1

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

BEAR
CAMEL
DONKEY
GAZELLE
GOAT
HART
HORSE
IBEX
JACKAL



LEOPARD
LION
MOLE
MOUSE
NIGHTHAWK
OSTRICH
SHEEP
UNICORN
WOLF



<http://biblewordgames.com>

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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.

Brigade Blethers

You always hope for a "nice day" when you are holding a jumble sale. Well, weatherwise, February 2nd threw the lot at us; high winds, bitter cold and sleety rain! But our staunch supporters still turned out and with one or two donations we ended up with the grand total of £545. Thank you all so very much. That means that all of the awards etc for the Display are already paid for.

We have been doing a bit of fund-raising for Riding for the Disabled this year and last Thursday the Explorers and Brigaders went down to the stables at Summerston to watch a lesson taking place. The girls loved it and they asked loads of questions. It means so much more to them when they can see the horses and riders in action. A couple of the older girls are talking about volunteering to help as the Service section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The R.D. Group needs lots of help so if anyone in the congregation has a few hours to spare Louise Horne, the manager, would be delighted to hear from you.

I have another appeal for you! Our display will take the form of a circus this year (we hope) but none of us can juggle. So if we have any jugglers willing to come and show the girls how - please just give me a call.

Yours, Anne Goodlet



Lenten Lunch

The Christian Aid Lenten Lunch will be held in the Main Hall after the morning service on **Sunday 9th March.**

Come along and enjoy filled rolls and a choice of soups.

Holy Week Services

This year the Holy Week Services will take place in **Milngavie United Free Church** from Monday 17th of March until Friday 21st March 7.30pm. The guest preacher will be Alex Bedford who is the Evangelist on the Ministry team at St. George's Tron.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness will set out from the Clock in the village at 11am. Afterwards coffee and hot cross buns will be served in the Allander Evangelical Church. There will be a half hour service on Saturday morning the 22nd of March at 9.30am in Milngavie United Free Church which will be led by our Minister, Mr. Buchanan.



RIVER CRUISE ON THE VLTAVA AND THE ELBE

Sat 25th October - Sat 1st November, 2008

From Prague to Berlin, visiting Prague, Litomerice, Bad Schandau, Dresden, Meissen, Wittenberg, Magdeburg and Potsdam. This is an interesting trip sailing mainly through the former East Germany on board the Katharina von Bora, a Peter Deilmann hotel ship. Direct flights from Edinburgh to Prague, returning to Edinburgh from Berlin. Coach travel from Milngavie to Edinburgh.

Ship bookings, flights and coach travel to Edinburgh will be organised by Mr Harry Hynds of Hynds Travel, Milngavie, although Anne Ritchie will still be co-ordinating everything.

Cabins have been booked provisionally for 24 passengers : 8 double/twin cabins and 8 singles. All cabins are on the MEISSEN deck and have picture windows. All Peter Deilmann ships have a doctor on board. There is also a hairdressing salon and boutique. THERE IS NO LIFT. Our cabins are on the same deck as the restaurant with the lounge above the restaurant. This is not a charter only for British guests. This mixture of European nationalities adds greatly to the ambience. Go to www.deilmann.co.uk for further details.

An Elbe cruise is normally an expensive trip, with starting costs often well over £1300. Peter Deilmann is offering cruise only for :
TWIN/DOUBLE CABIN at £795 each
DOUBLE CABIN FOR SINGLE USE at £1219
Flight prices are not yet available but Mr Hynds judges they should be between £125 and £150 return.



The cost of the coach to Edinburgh will depend on the numbers using it.

If you are interested in joining the trip, please give Anne Ritchie a cheque for a deposit of £100 each, made out to HYNDS TRAVEL and a note of your name, address and telephone number as soon as possible in order to retain the cabins.

Anne will keep the cheques until it is apparent that we have a viable group.

Anne Ritchie
18 Castlemains Road
Milngavie G62 7QQ
956 5027



In January I had the privilege of spending two weeks in Peru on a trip organised by the Vine Trust. It is a charity founded in Bo'ness which works in developing countries; in Peru this is in close cooperation with Scripture Union.

Although most of our time was spent seeing the work of SU and the Vine Trust we did also have some "time off" doing more usual tourist things: we went to an oasis in the desert south of Lima where we experienced the thrills and spills of dune buggies and sandboarding, we visited the Ballestas Islands which are home to thousands of seabirds including pelicans and humble penguins (which are about 18 inches tall), and some of us made the special journey to Cusco and Machu Picchu just before returning home.

Otherwise we were fully occupied finding out about the marvellous work which the Vine Trust and Scripture Union combine to do. Many people in Scotland have heard of the Vine Trust because of the STV programmes about the Amazon Hope, a ship which brings medical help to the people of the Amazon jungle who would otherwise have no such facilities. This ship has now been joined by a sister ship, the Amazon Hope 2. We spent most of our time finding out about other projects which are not so widely publicised.



In Lima we visited a school for deaf children where marvellous work is being carried out with minimal resources and largely with volunteer teachers who are really dedicated. In Iquitos, on the Amazon, we saw a clinic where doctors work among some of the poorest people who live in unimaginable conditions with raw sewage in their only source of water.

Most of our time was spent seeing the work of Scripture Union among the street boys in the slums of various cities. Lima, the capital, has a population of 8 million, 4 million of whom live in shanty towns with no running water. Fathers are often absent and mothers cannot cope with large numbers of children so boys are often "lost" or put out. We heard heart-rending stories of individual boys, for instance Wilmer, whose mother died when he was born. On his fourth birthday his father sat him down and said that he was now old enough to hear what he had to say:

" You killed my wife! "

His older brothers said, "You killed our mother!" With that he was put out into the street because at the age of four he was considered old enough to fend for himself. He was rescued by SU at the age of twelve but we can only imagine the horrors of his existence in the intervening years.



The heartwarming part of his story is that he became a Christian in his teens and is now on the staff of SU, doing a variety of jobs. A crucial role is in the night shelter which is in a tough part of Lima. Boys (and sometimes teenaged girls with their babies) come off the streets at night once

they feel they can trust the staff who run the centre. They have to leave during the day but at least they are safe at night and can have a hot meal and a wash before they go out on to the streets again.

From there some boys go to the “halfway house” of the residential home in Lima, at the SU headquarters. These boys can be quite difficult to handle and discipline may have to be stricter than in the other homes. Later on some go to the home beside the Pacific, south of Lima, which must seem like a different world from the concrete jungle which had been all they knew. SU has homes in other parts of the country – in the Amazon jungle, high in the Andes, and in the desert south of Lima, in the area devastated by the earthquake last summer. We were present at the opening ceremony of that last home which was funded and built by the people of Cupar over the last 3 years. In March another home is to be opened in Cusco, famous for its Incan history. SU dreams of opening several more homes in the next few years, and also of expanding its work among girls, which is largely undeveloped.

I found it a very moving and humbling experience to see these people who have so little yet who remain dignified and even cheerful. Life has treated them very badly and we were challenged to show them something of the love of Jesus and to try to make a difference in some of their lives.

Eleanor Easton

Long Service Certificates

At the Kirk Session meeting on 6th February 2008 the Rev Fergus Buchanan presented Church of Scotland long service certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly to Mrs Margaret G Hamilton and Mr Wm Gordon Fairbrother in grateful appreciation of thirty years' dedicated service as elders.

Letters

Dear Friends,

It was a privilege to be with you at your Christmas Gift Service again and on behalf of the Open Door Trust Glasgow I am writing to thank everyone involved at St Paul's for the gifts collected and donated to the work we are involved in at Christmas time.

Your generosity – and that of our other supporters – has resulted in the Trust being able to provide an abundance of toys, groceries, clithers and toiletries to many, many disadvantaged children and adults in Glasgow. Indeed it's been really good to see the faces of needy children light up when presented with a gift and adults, who could go hungry over the festive period smiling as they receive food parcels to help them through!

May God bless you richly during 2008 and every good wish from the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers at the Trust.

Hugh McKenna, Director

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

'In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8

Julia Hannah and Katey Isla Law,
58 Southmains Road, Milngavie 28

Angus Kenneth Campbell,
14 North Grange Road, Bearsden 48

New Members

Joined by Certificate

Mrs Morag Nall, 3 Finlay Rise, Milngavie 50a

Deaths

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

28.1.08 Mrs Janet Gordon, Canniesburn Nursing Home,
Bearsden 40

April Life Publication date: Sunday 5th April

Copy date – Sunday 23rd March if using pigeon hole or Wed 26th March if emailing. Rona.dawson@go.uk.com

The editor apologises for misleading contributors in February and causing panic in the ranks.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
2nd Mar	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Richell Mackinnon Martin	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Marlyn MacKay
9th Mar	M Thomson E Izatt	Kerr, Whitelaw Wallis	A Begg J McLean	Team 9 Ken MacIver(EC)
16th Mar	A Gibson A MacLeod	Berry, Baxter Wilson	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Graham Mill
23rd Mar	M Abbott T Douglas	Smith, McAuley, Reid	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Michael Lang
30th Mar	L Hughes R Buchanan	Bolton, Lawrie J Deuchar,	C MacKay R Fraser	Team 4 Anne Goodlet
6th Apr	M McLean R Cameron	Sillars, Chapman K Deuchar,	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Graham Greig