

St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine November 2012

Dear Friends,

In the Imperial War Museum in London there is a series of photographic portraits of young men and women who have recently served in Afghanistan or are at present still serving there. They are all quite striking not least because they are all close-ups of the face with each set of eyes telling their own story. It is a reminder of the uniqueness of each human life, the courage of those whose lives are endangered in the line of duty and the tragedy when a young life with all its possibilities is extinguished.

It occurred to me as I moved from one portrait to another that this would be a meaningful way to spend part of Remembrance Sunday, just to pause in front of each portrait and to give thanks for each by name and to commend their lives to God. I came away with a deeper sense of all that is demanded by war and a new, more heartfelt prayer for peace.

I've come a long way from the day when I wrote 'Give Peace A Chance' on the front of a school jotter. It's all a lot more complicated than that, I tell myself. And yet . . . surely the plea behind these words rises from a heart that is weary of the cost of war and longs for circumstances where the best in human nature can flourish. The prophet Isaiah received a vision of a Day when God would settle all disputes between the nations, when swords would be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, when weapons of war would be completely abandoned and no one would see the need even to train for war. (Isaiah 2: 3-5)

I believe that Day will come when Christ will bring His great plan for the Universe to glorious completion and everything that makes us cry will be flushed out of Creation. Until that time those who follow Him are called to work and pray for that peace which can only be found in Him and through Him. I hope that commitment will be renewed in all of us in this season of Remembrance.

Yours in Christ,
Fergus C Buchanan

Brigade Blethers

October got off to a great start here when Ian Ferguson brought along some of his bees to meet the girls.

The bees were safely behind glass and that was to protect the bees because the girls were nearly in beside them.

The Junior section is learning about bees as part of their badge-work and I think poor Ian's head was "buzzing"

with the dozens of question which were asked of him.



From bees to teddy bears because the wee Explorers had a Teddy Bear's Picnic the following week and a couple of young friends turned up too. We still have space for a few more girls on a Thursday if anyone would like to come and join us.

We have our usual Enrolment Parade to Church on Sunday 4 November but this year it will be extra special for the Company as Alison Biggart, Sarah Graham and Sandra Kay will all be commissioned as officers during the service. They have been much valued members of our team for some time now but it is wonderful that they are now becoming commissioned officers who will help the girls to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.

Folks in Church are beginning to ask for the date of our Quiz which is very encouraging. It will be on Thursday 22 November and the letters go out to the various organisations next week. However anyone is very welcome to come along and help to form a team of six. We charge you £2.00 for the privilege of taking part and all of the money raised goes to charity. This year the money will go towards the new Children's Hospice and in particular to the Home Care Section whose members visit children unable to be moved to the hospice. So if you feel like exercising your little grey cells why not come along and join our quizzers.

We'll even give you a cup of tea and a biscuit at half time.

Anne Goodlet



A quick reminder that this year's Christmas Tree Festival will run from **Saturday 1st December till Friday 7th.**

As in previous years we hope for a large display of trees decorated by many organisations in the community. The money raised from donations will be given to Mary's Meals, a well-known Scottish charity which helps tens of thousands of children in several poor countries by giving them a meal when they go to school. The other local charity is The Way Ahead which supports stroke victims and their carers.



The Guild—125 years young

How to sum up 125 years of the Guild?

Fully 39 years before women were granted equal voting rights with men, the Rev. Archibald Charteris proposed the formation of the Woman's Guild, not always to full acclaim of the Assembly.

However from that start in 1887, the Guild grew from strength to strength, and within a year boasted 2087 members in 33 branches.

Its stated aims were 'to unite all women who were engaged in the service of Christ, engaged in Christian service in the parish, or looking forward to Christian service.'

These aims have widened out to include service in the wider world, where our projects have supported a variety of schemes, giving each of them a reliable source of income, over a period of three years.

The great thing is that Guild members themselves have a say about which projects they want to support. These have included work overseas like Mission Aviation Fellowship, Mary's Meals, Comfort Rwanda and more local schemes like the establishment and support of the visitor centre at Perth prison, which has been shown to be vitally important in helping families of prisoners and the Julius Project which tackles issues of homelessness.

The Guild keeps up its tradition of innovative ways to include and involve the

community and in the first 5 years of its strategy programme, one million pounds was raised for good causes, and since its inception in 1997 that total stands at over three million. To be chosen for a Guild project is a highly sought after honour.

One hundred and twenty five years after its formation the Guild is still playing a massive role in the Kirk, and the lives of its members, women and men. We have to thank God that we have had the resources to play our part in this vital work.

Morag Thomson

Our first meeting of this session was a celebration of 125th Anniversary of the Guild.

The programme was very varied with something for everyone. First of all approx.80 ladies shared a sit down supper and chat accompanied by a soloist in the background. After that a group of our members, elegantly attired as Victorian ladies, gave us a rendering of "old time songs." The latter part of the evening was another trip down memory lane when we were entertained by a series of sketches touching on the changing events from 1887-2012. A nostalgic, lively evening enjoyed by all.

The next meeting was much quieter event when our speaker Viv Dickinson came along to talk about the Julius Project. As this is our chosen project to support this year we appreciated having a clearer explanation of how supporting homeless people will be accomplished. Any money raised at the beginning of this project will be used towards training and befriending.

The following week Mr. Douglas Allan talked about "Angels with beards"

This was a reference to the presence of male nurses in hospital wards.

After briefly touching on his training and career in nursing from the Seventies onwards he regaled us with many amusing stories which had us laughing in our seats.

Our next meeting Sue Montgomery from Ardardan Farm Shop Tearoom and Nursery explained to us how her family progressed from the small Brown egg Farm near Glasgow Airport to the beautiful surroundings of Ardardan. We saw an inspiring selection of slides showing us the progression through the years till now their 10th anniversary.

As we go to print we have one meeting left in October. On Monday 29th October we look forward to the story of John and Peter Douglas--Part 2 .

During the month of November we will be welcoming the following speakers, if anyone wishes to join us on a Monday evening at 7.30 you will be made most welcome.

Mon. 5th Nov.

Dr. Roger Sturrock - Travels in Kenya.

Mon. 12th Nov.

Rev. F. Buchanan Bible Study.

Mon. 19th Nov.

Salvation Army Songsters Project Fund Raising Night.

£5 Donation Tickets are available from any committee member.

Mon 26th Nov.

Allocation of funds/Bring and buy
The Gibson Family--Musical Entertainment.

Margaret McFarlane

Any GA folk still around?

I enjoyed the Guild celebrations on Monday night and was looking back on celebrations remembered the Girls' Association, the Junior Guild. We met each week for talks in the vestry about fifteen of us – 17 or 18 years old.

Each winter we had a wonderful fancy dress dance with a wonderful dinner, my mother and I drying our best tights by the fire.

I won first prize a few times, once as Sandeman's Port, another as Black and White whisky. I got black grease paint from the theatre which I used on my face and neck - it was so messy I used a black glove. Di Marco's Portobello did the purvey – all kinds of meat, chicken, turkey, goose with di Marco's wonderful ice cream desserts. The centrepiece of the table was a boar's head with an orange in its mouth each time – a real show stopper!

So many folks came from town, it was that popular and my Dad acted as bouncer! I cannot remember the cost but it must have been reasonable for us to afford it.

My uncle was minister at that time, he had folks from Siberia who had escaped and I met them. He also let Lawrence of Arabia's cousin have the stable flat as he had a bad drink problem. We only saw him at a distance as we came home from school. We stayed on at the manse after my uncle died for about six months. I had the job of packing his library in tea chests with some huge books. My aunt always wore a huge hat all day long, gardening too!

Dorothy Sheret.

Book Club



Our latest book is *Before I Go to Sleep* by S J Watson. This was well received by the group and the majority thoroughly enjoyed it. The main character, Chrissie, believes she has survived a car crash and develops a form of amnesia, which has left her able to store memories for only 24 hours.

Every morning when she wakes she has forgotten the circumstances of her life and must relearn them from scratch – who her husband Ben is, where they live, whether or not they have children.

The novel takes the form of a journal she is encouraged to keep by a Dr Nash, who has, without Ben's knowledge, taken an interest in her case. It becomes a lifeline to her past although she has to be reminded every day that she is writing it, or she would never know it existed. The scene is set for a real page-turner – who is telling Chrissie the truth of her life? A real thriller from beginning to end.

The most unnerving aspect of the book is the way it is rooted in the domestic and the trivial. Highly recommended – a compelling read although we did feel the ending didn't live up to the rest of the book.

Next time we are reading *Gillespie and I* by Jane Harris and we are meeting on 27 November 2012.

JOYCE CLARK

Church Garden

Now that the garden season as at an end may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to keep the garden looking lovely. The weather could not have been worse this year and our plans to make the garden more low maintenance has had to be put on hold until next year. Again many thanks to you all.

Sheila Dickson
Garden Convener



Japan Jottings November 2012



Dear Friends

November for us always means one thing – the start of winter. Already by late October snow is falling on the higher mountains and through this month we will enjoy rain, sleet and snow in any order until it eventually gets cold enough just to snow. As we said last time, a big change for us begins this month as we take on the role of Field Director for the OMF work in Japan.

Last month we tried something a bit different. Harvest is not something which is particularly marked among churches in Japan, but we thought we would try a simple harvest service and hoped people might be interested to come. It was a good time as we gave thanks for all that we have and pointed people to the Creator God who makes and provides all things. Interestingly, one of the Japanese national holidays this month to give thanks for work is based originally on giving thanks for the harvest of rice and other crops. As always, it is good to look for ways to connect to the culture and show that the whole idea of a harvest festival has its roots in the early parts of the Bible.

We are encouraged in Hiragishi to see a number of new people coming on Sundays, including two who are now studying the Bible. Although we are not playing such a big role in the church now, we are still involved and eager to help out as we can. It is exciting to see God at work in this small (but growing!) group of believers. We look forward with anticipation to the opportunities Christmas will bring.

This month will see us easing (hopefully!) into the new responsibilities we have. It will be quite a learning curve but these are exciting times to be here in Japan as we welcome many new workers to the team and work together with the church here to see many in this land come to know Jesus. Do join us in praying for the land of Japan and its people.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Editor's note.

The magazine is uncharacteristically short this month and we suspect communication difficulties are to blame. We apologise if you tried to send something and it didn't make it to print. Please use the following email address for all communications: rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk
Also if you have any comments re the magazine content (criticism or praise) please address them to the editor rather than the minister.

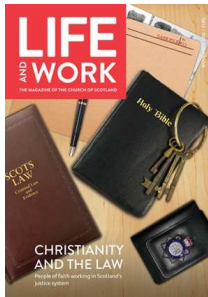
World Mission

The International Day for peace in Switzerland on September 21st gave rise to a number of prayers from all over the world to be posted on Facebook! This page is hosted by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and has links to resources and prayer for peace from all over the world. Please remember this in your prayers.

The 7th General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe was held recently in Florence and prayers were asked for the extremely difficult position facing Christians living in Beirut. Of particular concern is that Christians are no longer

free to practice their religions and matters which were previously considered secular are now subject to Islamic principle.

Tabeetha school in Jaffa is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The school was established in 1863 by Miss Jane Walker-Arnott as a school for Palestinian girls to learn many skills. It came under the remit of the Church of Scotland in 1892. It has evolved through the years and is now a school for all ages and all religions and has a excellent exam record, Rev. Dr. Andrew McLellan opened the Jane Walker-Arnott Peace Garden in front of an audience of pupils, teachers, former pupils and dignitaries.



Christianity and the Law

Jackie Macadam speaks to Scottish Christians who work in the criminal justice system.

Remembrance

The Rev Bill Shackleton reminds us that long-ago conflicts might be closer than we think. Remembrance prayer by the Principal Clerk.

Biblical Botanicals: Muriel Armstrong looks at the poppy, which has become one of our most powerful symbols.

Thank you

I have had pneumonia and not been around for the last 6 weeks or so and have been completely overwhelmed by the cards, telephone calls, flowers and visits. The doc says 2-3 months before I am back to my usual self and can think about doing my usual running around again, however I would just like to say thank you to everyone for their care and concern.

Thanks.
Joyce Clark.

Flower donations November

November Flower Donations.

Mrs. E. Gray, Mrs .M. Hossack, Mrs. M. Hutchison, Mrs. M. MacKay, Miss A. Ritchie, St. Paul's Women's Guild, Miss A. Niven.

Please make cheques payable to St. Paul's Flowers, and put in flower rota pigeon hole at the back of the Church or post to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave., Milngavie G62 6LJ. Phone 956 2630



C H U R C H R E G I S T E R

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mrs Jean McNeill, Buchanan House Care Home, 5 Grampian Way, 67

BAPTISMS

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

Joshua James Bates, 82 Castlemains Road, Milngavie

DEATHS

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

31.08.12 Mr Andrew Nall, 3 Finlay Rise, Milngavie

30.09.12 Mrs Jessie Cleary, 28 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie

3.10.12 Mrs E Granger, 31 Park Road, Milngavie 17

18.10.12 Mr Fred Best, 3 Shaw Road, Milngavie 39

Copy date for December Life: is Sunday 18th November if using the pigeon hole or Wednesday 21st if emailing.

Please note new email address: rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
11 Nov	M McIntyre M Spencer	Chapman McCreadie	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 (EC) Liz Traill
18 Nov	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Wilson Sillars	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 3 Robert Gow
25 Nov	E Izatt F Ireland	Goodlet Richell	E Izatt C MacKay	Team 4 Ian MacCalman
2 Dec	A Gibson A MacLeod	Bates Cockburn	L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 5 Bill Ponton
9 Dec	M Abbott K Hogarth	Deuchar Berry	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 6 (EC) G Blackadder