

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

September 2021



Dear Friends,

In recent weeks we have seen the pandemic restrictions being eased to the point where we can now return to something like normal in our Sunday worship. From Sunday 5th September worship at St. Paul's will continue with a 10.30 am start with worship at Baldernock at 12 noon. This has been agreed by the appropriate Kirk Session.

There will be no evening service at St. Paul's for the time being but it is hoped that this will begin again sometime in October.

Along with this our various organisations are planning to open up. Details of this can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

I hope to continue the online worship in some form. This will possibly be shorter than what is presently on offer but will be available for those who for any reason find it difficult to attend worship. It has been one of the blessings in even the worst of the pandemic that we have been able to access worship online and by DVD. I will always be grateful for the efforts of all those who made this possible. There has been much to learn and I am sure this will not be lost as we go into the future.

It has been good to see people gradually returning to worship on the Lord's Day. I don't think I fully appreciated what we all contribute to worship. We encourage one another in the singing of 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs'; we are united in the prayers of the faithful; we are built up in our faith through the reading and preaching of the Scriptures. The priority will always be to express what God means to us and to seek a deeper encounter with Him. But together, by His grace, we help one another towards this.

It's my prayer that our worship will be the heart of everything that we seek to do for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in our community.

Wishing you and yours the peace of Christ,

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

Church Office

Following a review of the work undertaken it has been decided not to reopen the Office which has been closed since March 2020.

The requirement for a secretary has substantially reduced in recent years with the increased use of email and home computers. As life returns to some form of normality in the coming weeks arrangements are being made to cover some of the duties previously undertaken by the Secretary. Non-urgent notifications should continue to be sent by phone or email via the St Paul's contact details. Communications to the Office Bearers should be sent direct.

Please do not hesitate to contact Graham Mill, Session Clerk or Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Congregational Board for further information or assistance.

As a result of the above the Secretary, Aileen McColl, will be leaving our employment at the end of August. We are grateful for her past contribution to the life of the Congregation through the Office and wish her well.

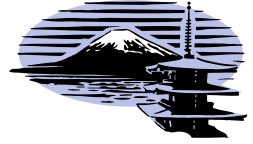
Covid-19 Update

The Scottish Government moved Scotland beyond level 0 on 9th August therefore it is now possible to open church halls. We have not beaten the virus which continues to circulate in our community and some public health measures may be in place for a while. The recommendations on cleaning and disinfecting regimes, hand hygiene, good ventilation, maintaining risk assessments and complying with Test & Protect all remain in place. Face coverings must continue to be worn in all indoor settings unless eating or drinking.

Although the law does not stipulate physical distancing, the Scottish Government continue to advise the public that - especially indoors - keeping a safe distance from people in other households and avoiding crowded places will minimise risk. The Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland continue to review and revise their guidance for congregations with both emphasizing the need for caution. Some of our organizations plan to restart in September others in October however approval has yet to be given and the organizations will be informed of the measures they will require to undertake.

Please note that at anytime the guidance may change and restrictions, including closure may be reintroduced. The latest guidance will be available on the website.

Please do not hesitate to contact Graham Mill, Session Clerk or Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Congregational Board for further information or assistance.



Dear Friends,

How did you spend your summer this year? With COVID restrictions relaxing, I hope that you were able to get some sort of break. I certainly enjoyed seeing friends' photos of various amazing parts of Scotland where they spent their holidays this year. Some were even blessed with great weather.

I decided this summer to do a short trip to a different part of Japan – to Wakayama, a beautiful mountainous prefecture to the west, near Osaka. In the year 816, a Buddhist monk went to the primeval forest of Mount Koya in Wakayama and established a Buddhist monastic centre in a valley more than 800 metres above sea level. In this area, now called Koyasan, there are some 117 temples and a network of ancient pilgrimage routes.

In 2004 Koyasan, together with other parts of the prefecture, was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, called “Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range.” These mountains are considered to be a sacred area where gods dwell, and Koyasan is one of three sacred sites. These sites contain not only Buddhist temples but also Shinto shrines. Shinto is the indigenous religion of Japan, known as the “way of the gods”. There are said to be 8 million “kami” (gods), some of which can be found in things in nature such as trees, rocks, mountains, rivers and oceans.

During my trip I was struck again by the Japanese appreciation of nature and their belief that it is connected with the divine. In the Bible Paul writes: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20). God has gifted the country of Japan with amazing natural beauty. As I enjoyed the oceans, rivers, caves, mountains, rocks and trees of Wakayama, I was moved to pray that many more people here would come to know God as the one who created all these amazing things, and created each of them too – “fearfully and wonderfully” as it says in Psalm 139:14.

If you are ever able to come to Japan, I would highly recommend a visit to Wakayama. In the meantime, please join me in praying for many more Japanese people to come to know and enjoy their Creator, and not just his wonderful creation.

Thank you for all your love, prayers and support.

Lorna, Calum and Alistair

Flower Donations

Thank you for the Donations given in Memory for the Months of June, July and August.



C. Inglis, K. Edwards, Dr A & Mrs C Tanner,
S. Speedie, F. Ireland, L. Trail M. McNeill

Please send any donations with "The Flower Fund, Mrs Barbara Lawson" marked on an envelope and place in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's Church.

Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 19th September

Our celebration of Harvest will be different this year.

There will be a display of Food items donated at the Sunday morning service. These items will be delivered to the Preshal Trust for their lunch provision and Food Bank.

Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals, rice, pasta, tinned goods, tea, coffee etc. can be delivered to the Church between 10am and 12 noon on Thursday 16th September.

The Sunday club are making posters and perhaps cards which can be delivered to members of the congregation. The Sunday Club and Bible Class will be at the service which is great news!

Thanks in advance

Elizabeth McEwan

Harvest Thanksgiving Coordinator.

Guild News

It is with great delight and relief that we can announce that we expect Guild meetings to resume at the beginning of October! Of course this is dependent on restrictions at the time, but it seems that, along with other church organisations, we can plan with a high degree of confidence.

Our opening meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday October 4th. Our guest that evening will be Kirsty Duncan, a highly talented young lady whom some of us heard singing over two years ago. A major change in our programme for next session is that about half our meetings will be held in the afternoon. We think that, after recent experience, many of our members will appreciate not going out so much in the evenings. In the syllabus the afternoon meetings will be printed in red, which hopefully will prevent confusion.

The programme for the first month is as follows:

October 4 th	7.30	Kirsty Duncan – singer
October 11 th	2.00	The Glasgow Boys – Ailsa Duncan
October 18 th	7.30	Fish and Chips evening - Rev. Fergus Buchanan
October 25 th	2.00	Bethany Trust.

Every three years the National Guild Council chooses a strategy for all groups to follow, and within that framework each year has a separate theme. The new strategy for the next three years could not be more apt: 'Look Forward in Faith' and the theme for this first year is 'Lights and Bushels'.

Although we have not met officially since March last year, Guild members have been in regular communication with one another. Initially this was solely by telephone, and we know that members have really appreciated the contact during what has been a challenging period. From time to time, when conditions permitted, some members met for lunch in Andiamo and also for afternoon tea in Caulders at Mugdock. We are all very grateful to Kate, our hard-working treasurer, who has masterminded these get-togethers which were always most enjoyable.

In the same way that a new strategy is chosen every three years, six widely varying charities or projects are selected by Guild HQ which are supported by branches countrywide. They include three Scottish organisations and three which are based abroad. This summer we repeated a very successful Afternoon Tea in our own gardens when some of us invited a number of friends, not necessarily all Guild members. Once again we suggested that a donation might be made to the six current projects and we are delighted to report that the substantial sum of £523.40 was raised. We are very grateful to everyone who gave so generously, and also to the hostesses.

The members of the committee join with me in sending our best wishes to all our members and also to the whole congregation. We are looking forward to what we believe is an interesting and stimulating programme, and to times of fun and fellowship when we remember our motto, 'Whose we are and Whom we serve.' Please come along and join us, you will be very welcome!

Eleanor Easton

Thank you

I would like to thank St Paul's for the lovely flowers, prayers, and cards following the recent death of my mum. They were very much appreciated.

Vivienne McGuinness

Both Eva and I wish to thank our church family at St. Paul's for the recent delivery of flowers and cards. It is very much appreciated. Hopefully the pandemic situation continues to improve and allows our return very soon to the fellowship of the church.

Thank You,

Bill & Eva Marshall

We would like to thank the Congregation for the cards, letters and messages of condolence and support received recently after the death of our lovely Mum, Margaret Laws.

Thank you also to Mum's friends for the kind cards, letters, phone calls and post-cards as well as gifts of flowers and home baking received during the past year. Mum loved keeping in touch, and to know she was in her St. Paul's family's thoughts and prayers was a source of comfort to her.

It was very much appreciated by us all.

Aileen and Gordon Laws and families.

World Mission News

Pray with Cuba

Our partners in the USA, Global Ministries – the common missional witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ – have called on President Biden to “take a new path forward in USA-Cuban relations,” and “to follow a path of sensibility, respect, dialogue, and reconciliation” in relation to Cuba.

Cuba is experiencing a scarcity of food and medicine, with rising discontent and protests amongst the people protesting dire economic conditions and a dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases. The Covid-19 pandemic has been especially challenging for a small island under the heavy weight of an economic blockade. They note that, on 23 June, most of the United Nations member states voted to ask the USA to end the blockade. The letter asks President Biden to “begin the process of ending the blockade and fully normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba.”

Carlos E Ham, a pastor in the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba and President of the ecumenical Matanzas Seminary, explained that the seminary had been approached by the government to serve as an annex for the children’s hospital, which had run out of space to accommodate children who were suspected of having contracted Covid-19. We ask that you keep the people of Cuba and this difficult situation in your prayers.

Moderator joins coalition urging Scottish Government to double the Scottish Child Payment

The Moderator, Lord Jim Wallace, has joined more than 120 organisations across Scotland in a letter calling for the First Minister to “do the right thing” and double the Scottish Child Payment in this year’s budget.

Child poverty is rising in every local authority in Scotland, with 1 in 4 children in Scotland growing up in poverty – even prior to the pandemic.

A coalition of over 120 anti-poverty organisations, children’s charities, community groups, think tanks, trade unions, faith leaders and academics have joined the call, outlining in their letter to the First Minister that doubling the payment would “signal that ending child poverty will be a defining priority for this Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament.”

Read the letter in full by following the link below.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/moderator-joins-coalition-urging-scottish-government-to-double-the-scottish-child-payment?utm_source=Church+of+Scotland&utm_campaign=7243120431-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_07_04_54_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_t

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Copy Date

The copy date for the October issue is Wednesday 29th September via email.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com