

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

May 2024



Dear Friends

I sometimes find it hard to keep up to date with my reading and only last week I managed to sit down and read the March edition of *Life and Work!* It had been lying on a chair in my study and every time I looked at it, I said to myself "I must read it". I was struck by a book review entitled *The Power of Thank You*. In her book, the author Joyce Meyer encourages readers to reflect and consider the importance of thankfulness and gratitude. She states, everyone appreciates the value of a simple "thank you" – and understands its value. As we enjoy the changes that Spring brings and we get out into our gardens or perhaps for a walk, it is a good time to give thanks to our Lord for all His gifts to us and for how He is at work in our lives. A moment of quietness spent out of doors can do wonders for the soul.

Lent and Easter are behind us and as we enter into the month of May we look forward to Pentecost . A special day in our Christian year when we turn to the book of Acts of the Apostles (chapter 2 verses 1-21) to read of this event. In the Gospel according to John we read that Jesus breathed on them (the disciples) and said "Receive the Holy Spirit". In Acts we read that the Spirit descends upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Although they are different accounts, both come after the resurrection and record how the disciples are given a new inward power that quite literally transformed them. No longer were they fearful and hiding - they become enlightened, bold and speak with authority. Now they are ready to go out and fulfil the great commission from the Gospel according to Matthew. Pentecost is a time of inspiration and regeneration. We have a wonderful opportunity to examine how God might want to use us and how the Spirit might enable us.

May is also the month when the General Assembly of our Church meets (18th to 23rd of May). The Church over past years has been facing difficult and challenging times. In our prayers we should remember the Commissioners who go to debate and discuss the issues that face the Church today, praying for an active and positive way forward.

Over the past two months the Nominating Committee has been meeting and the task of calling a new minister is progressing well. We hold them in our prayers as they seek to fulfil this task.

Enjoy the changing season and the lighter evenings.
Every Blessing to you and yours,

Barbara

Future Services

	MORNING	EVENING
05 May	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Janice Maclean
12 May	Robin Easton	Rev. Alan Wells
19 May	Rev. Paul Read	Rev. Marnie Johnston
26 May	Rev. Barbara O'Donnell	Grace Rogerson
02 June	Rev. John Campbell	Milngavie Churches

Holy Week

Thanks to all who took part in the events during Holy Week.

The Milngavie Churches evening services in the Allander Evangelical Church were well attended and the preaching on The Word was much appreciated. Offerings raised £648 which was donated to Navigators.



The Walk of Witness on Good Friday attracted a good crowd and again was a positive witness to the community. The weather was kind and thanks to St Joseph's for the refreshments.

Vacancy Update

The Nominating Committee has advertised the vacancy and received some expressions of interest.

The work of the committee is strictly confidential and they will report back to the congregation when they have selected a sole nominee.

Please remember the committee in our prayers as they seek a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the Large Hall on Wednesday, 8th May 2024 at 7:45 pm. At this meeting the Accounts for year ended 31st December, 2023 will be received and members will be elected to the Congregational Board.

There are currently 5 vacancies on the Board. If you or any member you know, would like to serve in this way please contact Lachie McNeill, Clerk to the Board, for further information.

Prayer Group

We are pleased to welcome Graham Inglis of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to the Prayer Group on **Thursday 9th May at 8.00 pm.**



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years, it has been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts. MAF enables more than 1,400 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long-term development. The pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air. MAF's faithful supporters give and pray to make this all possible.

If you are able and would like to know more, please come along to pray about this challenging and worthwhile outreach.

Linda Muirhead



The Church of Scotland

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be held in Edinburgh from Saturday 18th May until Thursday 23rd May. Full details are available on the Church of Scotland web-site and live proceedings will be available online.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

Thank you as always for all your prayers and support.

This week marks seven years since David died (where does the time go?), so I thought I would share something a little different this month.

As I have reflected back over these years, I realise that one of the biggest challenges I faced was being a single parent to four boys, now four men, especially being a single parent on the mission field. Single parents are rare in missions, for good reason. Not only are you responsible for all that goes with being a missionary (ministry, prayer letters, corresponding with supporters, finances), but you also have responsibility for your children without a partner to share the load, and far from family for support. You don't fit in with your single colleagues because you have children, and you don't fit in with other missionary families because you don't have a spouse. It can be a very lonely experience.

And yet as I look back on the past seven years, I can see many things I have learnt, and am continuing to learn. I'd like to share three things here.

Firstly, David's strengths helped cover my weaknesses in ministry, life and parenting, and so his death left me feeling exposed and vulnerable, which was quite scary at times. But I can see that this has driven me to rely on God's strength in ways I never had before.

Secondly, David and I also had the privilege of working together very closely, whether in church planting or in leadership and so I felt his absence very keenly, especially at first. However, missing his presence has actually helped me become so much more aware that Jesus is always with me by His Spirit.

cont...

Japan Jottings cont.



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Finally, those of you who know me will know that I am an extrovert, ideas person and verbal processor. So losing the person I could talk to and share things with (especially concerns about the boys), and who (almost!) always listened was very hard. However, I can say that God has now become my primary confidant, the one I bounce ideas off, talk with, and complain to - and He always listens! Like all of us, I am still a work in progress.

There is a lot for me still to learn and ways for me to grow. And I still miss David a lot. But to quote Jerry Sittser in his book *A Grace Disguised*, "I have lost, but I have also gained. I lost the world I loved, but I gained a deeper awareness of grace."

May all of us continue to grow in that awareness of God's amazing grace.

With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair



Milngavie Churches Summer Praise

St. Paul's is hosting a Praise Night
led by Ruth Campbell

on
Sunday 2nd June, 2024 at 7pm



Ruth is a Scottish Christian singer/songwriter who was born in Inverness and who studied music in Aberdeen. Ruth will sing some of her own original songs and some more familiar songs for congregational singing.

Aline Nibogora: The person behind the photo . . .



**CHRISTIAN AID
WEEK
12-18 MAY**

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world financially. More than 70% of the population live in poverty. Most people get their living through farming. Farmers have been significantly affected by the climate crisis, facing droughts, floods and landslides. Many families eat just one meal a day. Philip Galgalo, Country Director of Christian Aid Burundi tells us: 'I think the biggest worry for most Burundian mothers is how they'll feed their children.'

On top of all this Aline Nibogora faced extra challenges. She was abused by her husband and forced out of her home, becoming separated from her children. With nowhere to live and worrying daily about her children's safety, Aline was pushed into the most extreme poverty.

Aline told Christian Aid about life when she was homeless: 'I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.' Aline never gave up. Pushed to the brink of survival, she pushed back.

Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers. She learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations and was determined to form her own to help herself and others around her. Village Savings and Loans Associations offer a way for community groups to manage, save and lend money. Aline was able to get a start-up loan and began trading avocados and peanuts. She was also able to buy a bicycle so that she could transport her goods.



Aline's business was successful and she was able to rent a house. At last she was reunited with her three eldest sons who came to live with her. She is hopeful that one day she will be together with all of her children. Aline can now afford food for herself and her family.



Aline has bought solar panels so that her children can have light to help them study. Now Aline is baking her own bricks and building a stronger home for her family, in every sense. Aline told Christian Aid: 'We pray together as we are still alive thanks to God's grace. ... We have been through difficult times, but now we make plans for the future.'

Burundi continues to be one of the toughest places on earth to live and Aline and her family still face challenges. When a ferocious storm destroyed Aline's home, almost killing her and her children, she was able to recover by selling the cows she'd been keeping. Now when crisis threatens her family's survival, Aline has options. Even a small business can provide just enough resilience to weather the most brutal of storms in Burundi.

Aline's now the chairperson of a Village Savings and Loans Association that she founded. She's using her experience to help transform the lives of 25 families who are building their own brighter future together. Aline says, 'If anyone has a problem, we help them find a solution. ... The members thank me for the training and the positive impact it has had on their daily lives. People come to me as they trust me. Here in Burundi, a neighbour is considered a member of the family.'

St. Paul's no longer carries out door to door collections for Christian Aid week which is 12th -18th May this year.

Instead the congregation will have found an envelope in this *Life* magazine. Offering boxes will be at the back of the church for three Sundays from 12th May.

Gift Aid slips are attached to the envelopes and, if appropriate, when completed make a considerable increase to the donation.



Marylyn Taggart

Congratulations

to

MORAG THORNHILL

who will be 100
at the beginning of May.



St. Paul's Church Society Cards

At present £350 has been raised for CHAS.

The sale of cards will continue for this charity until £500 has been raised.



A variety of cards is on display outside the Church office as well as some examples of special occasion cards, available on request. All still priced at £1.

Please contact Elizabeth McEwan for any particular cards.

Phone : 0141 384 0274

Email-elizabethmcewan1957@gmail.com

Elizabeth McEwan

Safeguarding

Any volunteers no longer wishing to participate in any Church organisations or groups please contact me in order to process the removal from the Congregational Register.

Also, a reminder to any member of the Congregation wishing to volunteer in any Church organisations or groups that the P.V.G process must be carried out before being able to do so.

Elizabeth McEwan
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Phone-01413840274
Email-safeguarding@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk



New Manse

The work on the manse
at 41 Braefoot Avenue is almost
complete!



It is intended to open for viewing in mid-May.
Exact times will be advised through the weekly intimations.



An Update From Marjorie

Dear Everyone!

At the time of publication of the *May Life Magazine*, Stephen and I will (hopefully!) be half way through our 107miles trek through the Yorkshire Dales to Robin Hood's Bay.

To date, £720 + gift aid, has been raised for the support of Carers Link. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of St. Paul's Choir and the Congregation who have supported my effort to raise funds for Carers Link.

Apparently some parts of the walk are rather a quagmire at this time of the year, so we do hope for a dry spell, and will leave walking boots at home before entering the Church!

With many thanks,

Marjorie Thoms



Flower Donations

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory:



S. Speedie

Anonymous Donation.



Please address donations to:

Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson & 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".

Open Doors



Open Doors

Meet the risk-takers of the persecuted church

Join us for a unique and uplifting time with our persecuted family

STANDING STRONG

SCOTLAND | 11TH MAY · 10AM-3PM
FINDLAY CHURCH, GLASGOW

Book today at: opendoorsuk.org/standingstrong

TO MAKE YOU STRONG - MAY 25 - THAT YOU AND I MAY



This year our speaker Suleiman is coming from Western Africa, where he grew up experiencing persecution first-hand, and continues to live and work in that context as an Open Doors field worker. Suleiman will share with us what life is like for believers in the region, and how we can be praying with them. His wife will also share insights into their ministry out there.

A recent interview Suleiman did:

[All Things Considered - The Price of Faith - BBC Sounds](#)

(from the 22 minute mark) gives more insight into his work and context.

Flower Delivery Rota

The Flower Delivery Rota
for
09 June - 27th October
is now in pigeon holes
ready for collection

Kate Edwards

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Copy Date

The copy date for the June issue is
Wednesday, 29 May.

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