

ST PAUL'S MILNGAVIE

LIFE



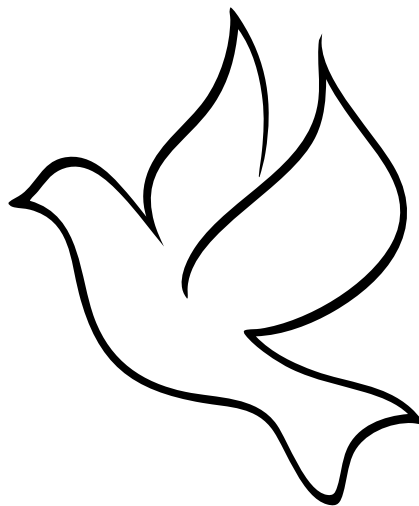
03 MAY 2026

MAY EDITION

10TH ISSUE

*"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL
JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO
THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"*

ROMANS - 15:13



Contents

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Editor's Note | 04 |
| Lynsey's Letter | 05 |
| Pastoral Letter | 08 |
| Hello from Sakata | 10 |
| Recipe of the Month | 12 |
| Thank You | 13 |
| A Long Life | 14 |
| Men's Association | 15 |
| Book Review | 16 |
| At Ease With ASD | 17 |
| Floral Art Workshop | 18 |
| Bible Society Letter | 19 |
| Prayer Meetings | 20 |
| Weekly Diary | 21 |
| The Noticeboard | 22 |

Editor's Note

CARLA MACALLISTER

As we step into May, this new edition of *Life* invites us to reflect on a simple but profound truth: God has made Himself known. In Lynsey's recent sermon, we were reminded that faith is not just about knowing about God, but about responding to Him with our whole lives.

This month, may we look for signs of God's presence all around us - and consider how we can reflect His love more deeply in our everyday lives.

As always, thank you to everyone who has contributed this month.

With love,

Carla

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Lynsey's Letter

REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Who is God?

Dear friends,

This is the question that will shape our new sermon series as we explore what is often called the *Doctrine of God*. Please don't be put off by that phrase - it simply means that together we are seeking to understand what the Bible reveals to us about who God is. This isn't about gaining knowledge for its own sake. It is about encounter. It is about transformation. It is about allowing what we know of God to shape every part of who we are.



Because the truth is this: **our understanding of God will always shape the direction of our lives.**

If we see God clearly - if we grasp even a glimpse of His holiness, His love, His power, His grace - it cannot help but change us. It will shape our priorities, our decisions, our relationships, and our witness. But if our knowledge of God remains only in our heads and never reaches our hearts or our lives, then we must gently but honestly ask: have we truly understood Him at all?

Scripture reminds us that a lukewarm faith is ineffective. God calls us to something far greater than a half-hearted faith. We are not called simply to attend church - we are called to be people who are alive in Christ, people who are on fire with the love and truth of God

I'm reminded of the words of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, when they realised they had encountered the risen Jesus:

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

(Luke 24:32)

What would it look like for us to be that kind of community - a people whose hearts burn for Jesus?

A community rooted deeply in God's Word, where it shapes everything we do. A community so alive in faith that when people meet us, they encounter something of God Himself.

As we begin this series, The God Revealed, we are reminded that God has not hidden Himself away. He has made Himself known - in creation, in our hearts, and most fully in Jesus Christ. The question is not whether God is there. The question is: **will we respond to Him?**

I am genuinely excited about what God has in store for us in this next season. I believe He is calling us deeper - not only into Him, but further out into our community - to be an even greater blessing to those around us, especially those who are searching, questioning, and hungry to know this amazing God we follow.

My prayer is that as you journey through this series, you will not only enjoy it but be challenged in the best possible way - that you will grow in your knowledge of God, and that this knowledge will ignite something fresh within you. To help you with this, please do use the devotional guide that will complement each service.

Please continue to pray for the ministry and mission of our church. Serve where you can, and encourage those who lead and care - our elders, office bearers, and ministry teams. Keeping in step with God's mission takes courage, commitment, and a willingness to try new things when old ways no longer bear fruit. As your minister, my longing is that in this next season we would see real growth: more people coming to faith in Jesus, more baptisms, more life groups forming, and more lives deeply rooted in Him. And alongside all of this, may we always remain a church that cares well. If you know of anyone in need of support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, to John, or to the pastoral care team.

May we be a people who are anything but lukewarm - a people who burn brightly with the love of God, and who reflect His glory in all that we do.

With every blessing,

Lynsey x



Pastoral Letter

REV JOHN MACGREGOR
- PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

Thirty-eight of us from our church family recently travelled to Durham for a five-day holiday to explore its beautiful cathedral and university city - well worth a visit! On the fourth day, we discovered a real hidden gem: Bideawee Garden (“stay a while garden”) - and that’s exactly what we did. You can find out more about it at bideawee.co.uk.

Our bus holiday was wonderfully organised through Anne Ritchie’s careful planning and guidance. Although Anne wasn’t able to travel with us this time, we all continue to wish her well as she recovers. She kindly passed the baton to Janice Maclean, whose capable leadership ensured everything went smoothly.

Anne first visited Bideawee Garden several years ago and was so taken with it that she added it to our itinerary - and what a blessing that proved to be! This serene garden, lovingly developed from a former quarry by a mother and her son, captured the hearts of many in our group. One member told me it was “the pinnacle of the whole trip”, and I couldn’t help but agree - though there were many other memorable holiday moments which I hope to share with you in future Life magazines like Jedburgh, Bamburgh Castle and, of course, Durham Cathedral.

At the end of our visit, we gathered beneath a beautiful cherry blossom tree for a short time of prayer. As we stood together in the warmth of the spring sunshine, I was reminded that life itself began in a garden - Paradise - and that Jesus' dying words also spoke of it: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

We thanked God for His creation - for the trees, plants, and birds whose cheerful songs filled that sacred place. We praised Him for His design and creativity, rejoicing that all things were made for His glory and for our pleasure.

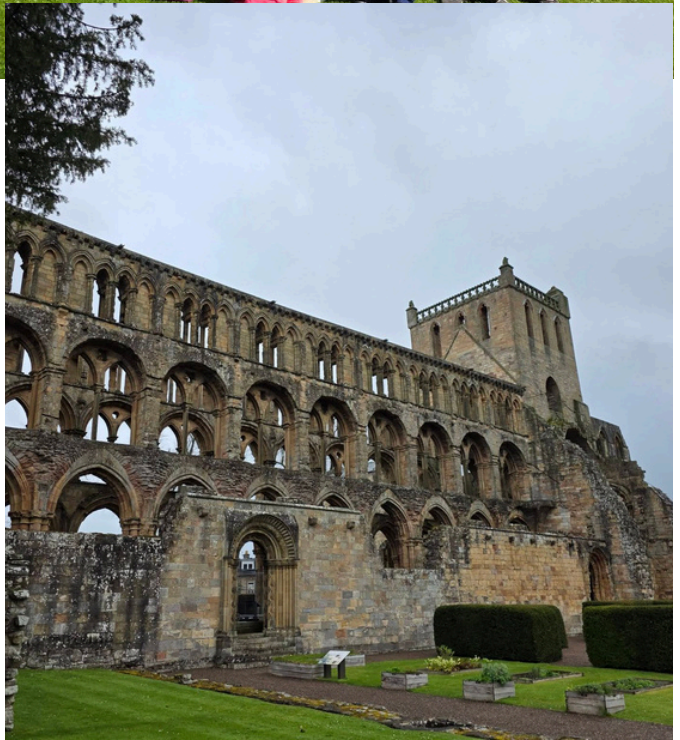
Some of our group left carrying jars of honey and plants from the garden, but all of us left with hearts full of peace and a deep sense of God's presence. Bideawee Garden was more than a garden - it felt like a sanctuary, a place of divine stillness, where each of us experienced something of God's healing and love.

One member shared with me that she would have loved to stay and work there - a fitting thought indeed. God invites us all to bideawee - to "stay a while" - in His presence. As in the words of the old gospel song "In the Garden" reminds us, there is great joy in those moments when we take time to walk and talk with Him and bideawee with Jesus our Saviour.

Every blessing,

Rev John





Pictures from the Holiday Fellowship trip to Durham

Hello from Sakata

LORNA FERGUSON

I hope you had a good Easter. We were encouraged by the children who came to our outreach event and by those who attended our Easter service, including one lady from my cooking course last November. For many Japanese people without a church background, it often takes many small steps like this before they are ready to read the Bible or attend church regularly. We need patience.

I was delighted to discover that the trees lining the river outside my apartment are cherry blossoms. For about a week, I enjoyed a beautiful view of pink from my window. A local park held a cherry blossom festival with lots of food stalls. Since Sakata is such a windy city, the season is even shorter than elsewhere in Japan, since the petals are blown off so quickly. Then we have to wait patiently for another year to enjoy them again.



At church, we want to build more connections with local children and their parents. So from May I am starting two weekly English classes. At the end of each class, I will tell a short Bible story, usually split over two weeks. For example, I leave Daniel in the lions' den one week and ask the children what they think will happen next. As most of them have never heard Bible stories before, I enjoy seeing their reactions.

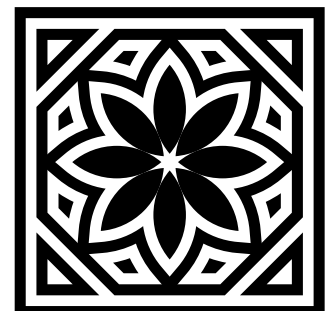
We are also planning a five-day children’s event in the summer with a short-term team. We have met several obstacles, but are hopeful that things will come together. The minister I work with has five daughters, aged 8 months to 11 years, and we hope the older two girls can invite their friends. It is quite lonely for them, as there are no other children their age at church. Children’s work requires patience too as we gradually sow the seeds of God’s Word, praying that one day they will bear fruit.



Living in a city with so few Christians, and where progress feels very slow, can be challenging. But I am reminded of what Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9: “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” Whether in Japan or in Scotland, may we have patience and not give up doing good.

With love and prayers,

Lorna



Thank You

JEAN MACINTYRE

I would like to thank everyone at St Paul's for the support, prayers, telephone calls, visits, cards and flowers, which I received when Jack died.

All your kind actions and words were and are most appreciated.

ROXANNE, ALAN AND HECTOR BOYD

Many thanks to our wonderful St Paul's family for all your prayers and good wishes, messages of encouragement, and beautiful flowers, gifts and cards before and following Roxanne's hip replacement. As ever, your love, support and prayers have been an immeasurable source of strength.



Light in the Darkness
Celebrating 200 years of global impact

Glasgow City Mission 200 Year Conference
Hear how lives are being changed in Glasgow — and how you and your church can be part of it

15 - 16 May 2026
Queen's Park Baptist Church
£30



More information



A Long Life

ROSEMARY FRASER

I am Rosemary. I am very old, and quite often I now muse to myself and wonder what God has still in the way of plans for this old lady! I have lots of shelves of memories in my head, which I pull out one by one when I am reminded of something significant!

Most often the past grips me -

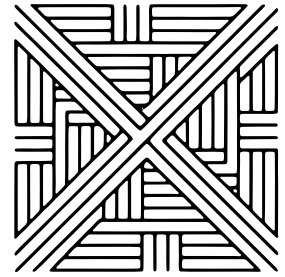
- 1939-1945 World War 2 and evacuation.
- Wonderful fellowship at teacher training college where I fully accepted a Christ-led life.
- Continued gratitude for a Christian upbringing in a wonderful family of 5 siblings – (only one now).
- Wonderful Spirit-filled teaching in the past from Rev Peat and Rev Fergus Buchanan at St Paul's, and now I can watch Rev Lynsey online on days when I can't get a lift to Campsie Parish, or I can enjoy both. I have also enjoyed several visits from John MacGregor

None of us knows what influence we may have in another's life, so my message is – actually it's the whole of 2 Timothy:

***“keep true to the Word, in season
and out of season.”***

Take it from me, it's a life worth living.

Men's Association



BRIAN ADAIR

On 9th March, the Guild very kindly invited us to have a joint meeting with them at 2pm. The speaker was Ruth Johnston, who is a member of the Friends of the Necropolis, and she explained their role in helping to ensure that such an important place in the life and death of the City of Glasgow was preserved. There was a good turnout from the Association and from the Guild and the Guild were warmly thanked for their hospitality.

On 24th March, we held our AGM. There were the usual business matters, duly approved. There was also a discussion paper about the timing and day of our meetings. After some debate, it was unanimously agreed that we should change from a Tuesday night to a Monday afternoon, meeting at 2pm on the second and fourth Mondays in the months from October to March. This conveniently aligns with Guild meetings and we are already aware of ladies coming to the Guild who will now be able to bring their men to the Association!

After the business of the AGM, Chris Scott was able to present a most entertaining clip of films which, as they say, had them rolling in the aisles! Many thanks to Chris.

This is the last report from the 25/26 season and the Association sends greetings and blessings to all.

Book Review

ANNE GOODLET

This month we have been reading “Never Let Me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro. This was not an easy read and with the main topic being the acquiring of body parts from donors, most of the group also found it disturbing.

We had a prolonged and very thought-provoking discussion about what we had learned from reading this book. This, of course, is one of the advantages of reading such a wide variety of different books.

Our next meeting is in June when we will be reading “The Women” by Kristin Hannah. If you would like to join us just get in touch with the Church Office for more details.

You will be very welcome.



At Ease With ASD

ALISON BATES



It has now been 8 months since At Ease with ASD moved into St Paul's and I can't thank everyone enough for the support and welcome we have been given, especially to Elizabeth Bragg, Hugh, Hilary and Rev Lynsey.

It is a weekly (during school term time) support group with those who have autism in their lives. We also have an active WhatsApp community with almost 200 families who support each other beautifully.

Our weekly meeting has around 10 in attendance ranging from grannies, parents, siblings or adults with autism themselves. We use the time to ask for suggestions for any problems we may be having or sharing our good news stories, all around a big mug of tea/coffee and some home baking. Being really heard can make the difference.

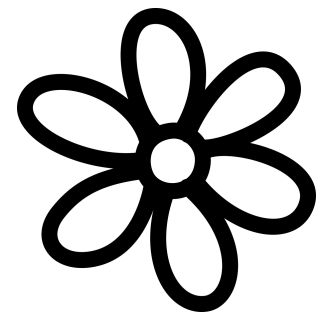
There are regular requests from carers wishing to join our meeting but cannot at the moment due to a lack of childcare. There are families where there are children not yet at school, as well as carers who have school-aged children who are unable to attend due to high anxiety.

We would love to be able to offer an under-5s room and an older-aged room with volunteers supervising/supporting the young people who attend.

We wouldn't have any teaching or forced activities but a low-demand, nurturing space where the young people can feel safe and welcomed while their carer can receive an hour of support from our meetings.

If anyone feels they would have time on a Friday afternoon between 1-2pm and would be interested in learning, and then possibly volunteering, on how to create low-demand environments for children on the autistic spectrum, then please do contact myself, Alison Bates, on 07925 380 990.

Floral Art Workshop



ROXANNE BOYD

The church flowers are such a blessing for us every Sunday in the sanctuary and also a great outreach to folk in our congregation who are going through challenging times. Flowers also play a central role in the Easter Festival, which St Paul's will host again next year.

Would you like to learn how to bring flowers to life in sharing the love of God and the beauty of His creation? If so, please join in for fun, flowers and fellowship on Saturday, May 16, at 10:30am for a floral art workshop. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church, or contact Marilyn Ure or Roxanne Boyd for more information.

Bible Society

ELAINE DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Thank you for celebrating how much God has blessed you by choosing to bless others. Your kind gift of £560.00 from St Paul's Parish Church is ensuring that someone, somewhere, can have a Bible of their own, maybe for the first time ever. Please pass on our thanks to the congregation and elders.

You are helping a brother or sister get to know God better, or helping someone who doesn't yet know God to find Him through his Word. Imagine someone like Maria who lives in a remote community in Brazil. Maria struggles to get life's everyday necessities. She explained that not everything can get to her community because of the distance or cost. She was often discouraged or sad. She visited church but never thought about getting a Bible because she could never afford one - until one day when Maria was given a Bible by the Bible Society of Brazil.

Maria said, "When I received a Bible, I was able to identify myself with the people in the biblical stories. And that's how I was able to find myself with this wonderful God! I became hopeful for the future and understood that God cares and loves me so much!"

Because of you, people like Maria can receive hope and joy from God as they meet with Him in his Word.

Prayer Meetings



Our prayer meetings take place at **7.30pm each Monday** in the Jubilee Hall (unless otherwise intimated). This month we're delighted to have two special meetings:

Monday 4th May

Carol Baird from SU Scotland will be coming to the prayer meeting to talk about how St Paul's is to become an SU prayer ministry hub for the feeder primary schools of Milngavie and Douglas Academy. This invitation has gone out more widely to Christians throughout Milngavie. We are invested in praying for the schools, teachers and pupils. Please come and learn more about what it's going to mean that St Paul's is a prayer ministry hub for the local schools.

Monday 18th May

Rita Nkemba, a friend of John MacGregor, will visit the prayer meeting to share something of her amazing ministry in Uganda. Rita formed Dwelling Places in Kampala and over the past 20 years thousands of children have been rescued from the streets and have been given a new life and a faith in Jesus. Come along and hear about Rita's story and be inspired by the transformation of these children.

WEEKLY DIARY



| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:30 | Morning Service Sunday Club/Bible Class Seedlings (preschool) |
| | 18:30 | The Way Evening Service, Last Sunday of each month |
| Monday | 19:30-20:30 | Prayer Group |
| Tuesday | 13:30 | BreakAway * |
| | 19:30 | Badminton Club |
| Wednesday | 10:00-12:00 | Vestry Hours - Come along and speak to our minister, Lynsey Brennan |
| | 12:00 | The Beacon (Lunch Club) |
| Thursday | 9:30 | Noah's Ark Toddler Group |
| | 19:45 | Choir Practice |
| Friday | 13:00 - 14:00 | At Ease with ASD Term-time only |
| Saturday | Evening Events for S1-S6 | The Ark Contact office for more info |

BreakAway* - By referral only

For more information on any of the activities, please get in touch with the office: 0141 956 4405

The Noticeboard

1

SAFEGUARDING

Volunteers need only attend one training session:

New and current volunteers

Friday 8th May 2-4pm

-Large Hall

New and current volunteers

Wednesday 13th May 7-9pm

-Jubilee Hall

Trustees

Friday 22nd May

-Large Hall

Trustees

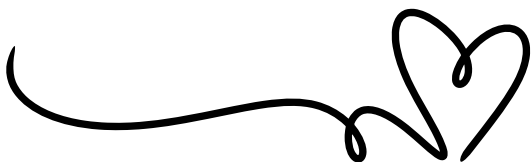
Wednesday 27th May 7-9pm

-Jubilee Hall

2

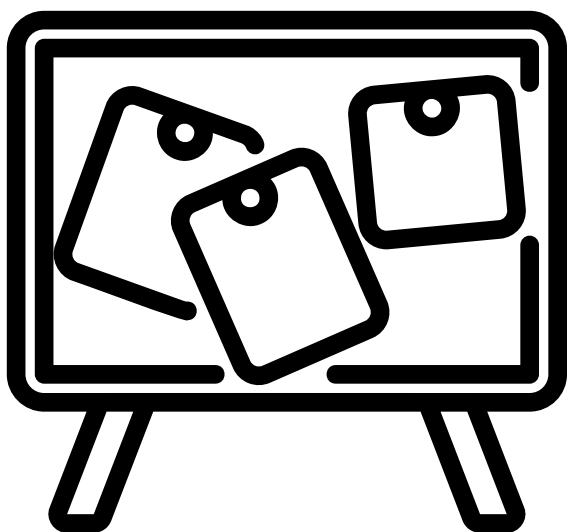
FLORAL ART WORKSHOP

Join in for fun, flowers and fellowship on Saturday 16th May, at 10.30am for a floral art workshop.



3 FLOWER DONATIONS

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”.

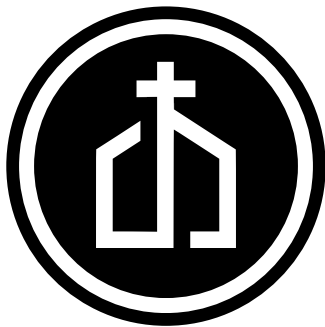


4 ST PAUL'S SERVICES

Our Sunday morning services continue to take place at the regular time of 11am. As always, we invite you to stay for tea and a chat after the service. On 31st May, we join together for *The Way*. This is a contemporary service encountering the Spirit of God. We meet at 6.30pm for hot drinks and doughnuts, before the service at 7pm.

5 LIFE DEADLINES

The next issue of St Paul's Life will be published on Sunday, 7th June. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 31st May. All submissions and suggestions are welcome. Thank you for all your continued support.



1 BALDERNOCK ROAD
MILNGAVIE, G62 8DP

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