

ST PAUL'S MILNGAVIE

LIFE



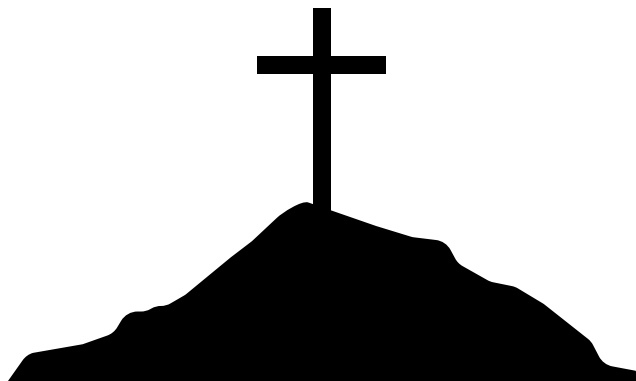
07 JUNE 2026

JUNE EDITION

11TH ISSUE

“BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID OR TERRIFIED BECAUSE OF THEM, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:6



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Editor's Note

CARLA MACALLISTER

Another month seems to have flown by! The June edition is our last before the Summer break.

It's been a real joy to hear about the new things happening across our Church family – from the expanded outreach of At Ease with ASD to the Summer Nights walks. These are all signs of a living, growing community, seeking to share God's love in practical ways.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Life this month, and to all who give their time, energy and gifts throughout the year.

Have a blessed summer,

Carla

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Lynsey's Letter

REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Dear friends,

I have a confession to make! It was the day before this article needed to be submitted, and I had completely forgotten to write my letter. Thankfully, our wonderful Communications Assistant, Carla, came to the rescue. When I asked her what she thought I should write about, she replied almost instantly: “Encourage participation.”

And she was absolutely right.

Over these past months, we have seen so many encouraging new initiatives taking shape at St Paul's. The Way, our monthly evening outreach service, and 'At Ease' with ASD, our support group for those affected by autism, are just two of these. There is a real desire to share the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, beyond the walls of the church and into our community. We want to be a church that not only gathers on Sundays but also shines the light of Christ throughout the week. Yet for that to happen, we all need to play our part.

Sometimes people quietly begin to believe that because of age, illness, changing circumstances, or limited energy, they are no longer useful in the life of the church or the Kingdom of God.



But that is neither biblical nor how we value one another at St Paul's. Every single person matters. Every person has a place. Every person has something to offer.

Not everyone can serve in the same way, but everyone can participate.

You may not be able to lift chairs, lead a group, or volunteer every week - but perhaps you can pray faithfully for our ministries and outreach. Prayer is not the "least" we can do; it is one of the greatest gifts we can offer. You might phone someone who is carrying responsibility and encourage them. You might send a note, an email, or simply say "thank you" to those quietly giving their time and energy behind the scenes. You can show up on a Sunday morning and/or evening and add your voice to the worship, encouraging those around you as together we praise God.

These things matter more than you know.

As your minister, I'll be honest and say that leadership can sometimes feel heavy. People naturally bring concerns and frustrations, and often that is entirely appropriate. But what strengthens the heart of a church - and its leaders - is encouragement, grace, and a shared commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ.

Following in the footsteps of a faithful minister, Fergus, who served this church for 34 years, was never going to be easy. It's been wonderful to have such a firm foundation on which to build as your minister. But both you and I know that churches cannot simply stand still. Growth requires change. Jesus Himself speaks about fruitfulness, pruning, and new life. A healthy tree grows and bears fruit. And while comfort often tempts us to keep everything exactly as it has always been, that

is not where abundant life is found. My prayer is that we will become disciples who look upward to Christ, outward to others, and forward with hope - disciples who want the light of Jesus to shine, not for our own benefit, but so others may come to know Him too.

One of the elders at Baldernock once shared these words with me, and they have stayed close to my heart:

“Humility is lifting others up and wanting the glory of God to shine in them more than we want His glory to shine on ourselves.” *Stephanie Fraser*

What a beautiful picture of the church.

Recently, when I particularly needed encouragement and a fresh filling of God’s Spirit, Rev John sent me these words:

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being... and that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

(Ephesians 3:16–18)

I pray this becomes our prayer as a congregation; that rooted in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and filled with His love, we would encourage, uplift, and support one another faithfully.

We honour the past with gratitude, but we cannot live in the past. Sometimes we need to set aside personal preferences so that together we can serve others and follow where God is leading us next. Church is not about having all our own needs met; it is about becoming the people of Christ for the sake of the world.

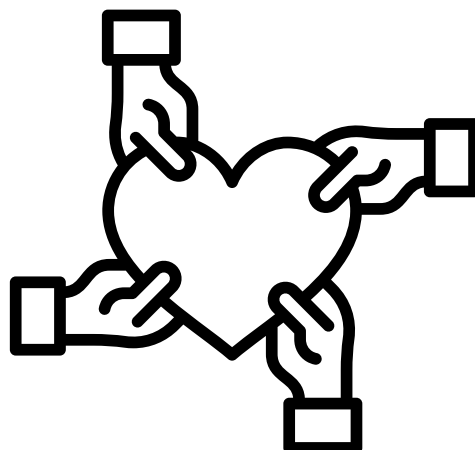
This month also brings exciting news as we welcome Matthew Todd as our new Youth and Children's Assistant. Please take time to get to know Matthew, to hear his heart for sharing Jesus with young people, and to show him through your prayers and encouragement that he is part of this church family from the very beginning.

Thank you, Carla, for the reminder that participation matters.

And thank you, church family, for every prayer prayed, every quiet act of service, every word of encouragement, and every step of faith. Together, in Christ, we are His body - and every part matters.

With love and blessings,

Lynsey



Pastoral Letter

REV JOHN MACGREGOR
- PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

Researcher and neuroscientist Dr Joseph Jebelli, in his fascinating book *Why Doing Nothing Can Change Your Life*, introduces us to a Dutch word from the Jordaan district of Amsterdam: nixsen. It simply means “doing nothing” - allowing yourself to pause, daydream, and rest without feeling the need to be constantly productive. Dr Jebelli suggests that this kind of rest is not laziness at all, but something deeply beneficial for our minds, our wellbeing, and even our creativity. Rested minds, he argues, are healthier and more fruitful minds.

At first glance, nixsen may sound rather strange in our busy and hurried world. Many of us feel guilty for slowing down. Yet when we turn to Scripture, perhaps we discover that God has been encouraging us to “nixsen” all along. God placed Adam and Eve in the garden to enjoy and care for creation. Jesus invited his followers to look at the birds of the air and the flowers of the field and simply learn from them. The psalmist writes, “Be still, and know that I am God.” David speaks of lifting his eyes to the hills and meeting with his Creator there. And Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:8:

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”

Perhaps nixen is really about creating space in our lives to notice these excellent and praiseworthy things - allowing our hearts and minds to rest in God's goodness.

Our recent church trip to Durham gave many of us exactly that opportunity. The 38 of us who travelled together for four nights away enjoyed a wonderful time of slowing down, sharing fellowship, and simply enjoying life together. We wandered through cafés, smiled and laughed beside the riverbank, cruised gently along the River Wear, explored ancient streets, admired boutique shop windows, and soaked in the beauty around us. In many ways, we were practising a little holy nixen.



Durham Cathedral was truly magnificent. Standing within such an ancient and sacred place, steeped in centuries of Christian worship, was both moving and inspiring. Sharing together in a short communion service there was a special blessing. Afterwards, our leisurely river cruise around the cathedral brought a wonderful sense of peace and calm.

Our visit to Beamish Museum was another delight - like stepping back through the centuries into another world. One of the highlights for me was sitting in the village square beside the bandstand, listening to a local silver band playing Crimond as families strolled past with ice creams and fish suppers in hand. Clouds drifted overhead while the sun broke through in bursts of warmth and light. High above, two buzzards circled gracefully in the blue sky. Then the band began to play Wild Mountain Thyme, and you could see people quietly mouthing the words, "Will ye go, lassie, go?" It was one of those simple and beautiful moments that lingers long afterwards.

On our journey home, we travelled even further back in time with a visit to Vindolanda, the fascinating Roman settlement near Hadrian's Wall. These ancient forts once guarded the frontier of the Roman Empire against the northern tribes - the Scots! But as the song wisely says, "in the past it must remain." Before returning home, we stopped in the lovely town of Brampton for lunch and one final chance to enjoy each other's company.

And so, all good things eventually come to an end, and we arrived back at Milngavie station, still smiling and full of happy memories, refreshed in body, mind, and spirit. We returned home with renewed friendships and perhaps a fresh appreciation for the importance of slowing down from time to time.

Anne, Janice, and Graham are already planning the next adventure, so perhaps there will be more nixen ahead in the Welsh valleys! In the meantime, I hope each of us can find small opportunities over the summer months for moments of stillness - whether in the garden, over a quiet coffee, during a gentle walk, or simply by sitting and watching the world go by. And as we do, may Paul's words remain in our hearts:

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable ... think about such things.”

Every blessing,

John

Hello from Sakata

LORNA FERGUSON

The name “Sakata” in Japanese literally means “rice wine field”. The city is surrounded by rice fields and in recent weeks the rice farmers have been busy preparing and flooding the fields and then planting the rice seedlings.

As I have been watching the planting of the rice fields, I have been thinking about Paul’s words in I Corinthians 3:6 – “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” It often “takes a village” for seeds to be planted and finally brought to harvest. This is certainly the case in Japan

Perhaps a Japanese person knows a Christian and watches how they behave, how they talk. At some point, they may be invited to an outreach event at church where they hear someone share from the Bible or share their testimony. Maybe they also read a book by Ayako Miura, a famous author who was also a Christian. After some time they might be willing to read the Bible with a church member or the pastor. After a while (often many years) they may decide to believe in Jesus for themselves.

When we hear the testimonies of people who have come to faith, it is usually notable to see how many different people



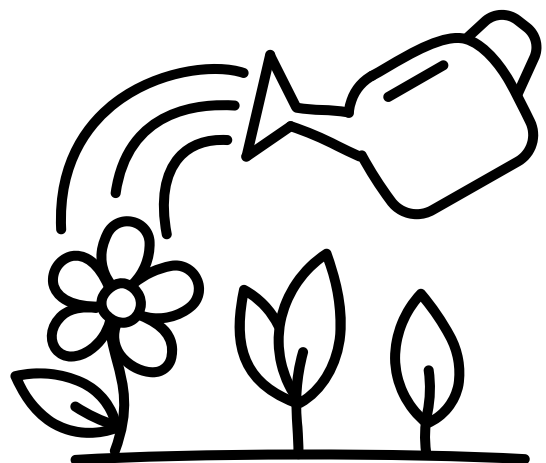
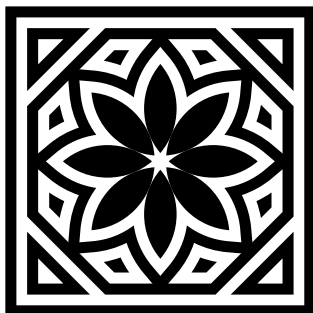
and circumstances God has used to enable them to come to that point. It is also not uncommon for people to share that their first introduction to Jesus was when they were a child. Perhaps they went to a Christian kindergarten, or a missionary's English class, or maybe they lived next door to a family who went to church and who invited them to come to events from time to time.

As I have started teaching English classes at the church here in Sakata, one of the things I am doing is planting seeds in the hearts of the children who come. Each week they hear a short Bible message. Each week they interact with people who know and love Jesus. And so we pray that as we sow the seed, in time others will water it, and at some point God will bring the harvest. It is often a long work and we need faith and patience.

Please pray for all the seeds that have been sown over the years in Sakata, and for the seeds being sown now. May they find good soil and result in amazing harvest.

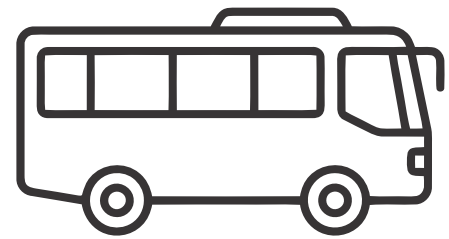
With love and prayers for you all at St Paul's as you sow and water the seeds there too.

Lorna



St Paul's On Tour 2027

ANNE RITCHIE, JANICE MACLEAN,
GRAHAM MILL



Planning began in January to secure dates, the hotel and coach bookings. The 2027 trip will be a team effort, with Graham and Julia Mill taking over the recce, Janice Maclean kindly offering to lead the holiday, while Anne Ritchie will be doing what she enjoys most, the planning and choice of excursions, in discussion with the team.

PLACE: Caernarfon in North Wales, whose castle forecourt saw the investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969.

HOTEL: the Celtic Royal Hotel

DATES: 21st-25th June, 2027

CHOICE OF EXCURSIONS: dependent on recce, from the following: Free time in Caernarfon, Railway up Mount Snowdon, Anglesey with Beaumaris, Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens, NT Plas Newydd, Portmeirion village, Welsh Highland Railway, Betwis-y-Coed, Chapel Gwydir, NT Bodnant Garden.

COST: not yet established.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

GRAHAM MILL

As intimated, the meeting was held after the morning service on Sunday 3rd May, 2026. Following a review of the year, the treasurer, Graham Mill, presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2025, and the budget for 2026.

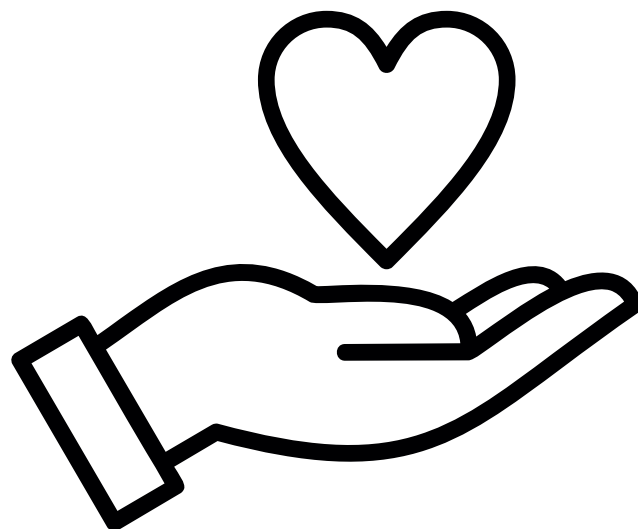
The trustees are responsible for the annual accounts which were approved at their meeting on 25th March, 2026, having been independently examined. Clyde Presbytery attested the accounts in April and they will be submitted to OSCR this month.

Although giving had increased in 2025 so had expenditure. There was a deficit in the General Fund of £7,875 for the year. The Church of Scotland had agreed to fund our Growing Together Project with £47,000 over three years. This is being used to part fund the Pastoral Assistant who started in June 2025. Clyde Presbytery granted £10,000 from their Mission Fund which is being used to fund the monthly evening services, The Way.

The budget for 2026 was accepted by the trustees on 21st December, 2025 and presents a General Fund deficit for the year of £63,000. Costs are increasing and while the income is expected to rise with increasing numbers attending, this has not been anticipated in the budget.

The balance sheet is strong and can cover short/medium term deficits. Graham reminded members to review their giving, up or down, as circumstances change and to give where possible, by monthly standing order with Gift Aid where appropriate.

Copies of the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2025 are available on request from the church office or the Treasurer.



Thank You

ROY PRENTICE

Iwould like to thank the church family of St Paul's for the support I have received since my operation. The gifts of cards, flowers and offers of support have all been greatly appreciated.

THE BLACKADDER FAMILY

Gordon and family wish to thank the people of St Paul's Church, close friends and family to them throughout many years, for all the kind messages, cards and comfort they have provided them in response to the passing of their beloved Edith.

They would like to say a special thank you to Derek and the church choir for their wonderful support and uplifting music during Edith's funeral and huge thanks to all that attended to say farewell and help them celebrate Edith's wonderful life. Thanks also to Reverend John for a beautiful service and to Hugh for making everything run smoothly on the day.

They are forever grateful for the all the love, strength and faith their church family give them and they will cherish it always.

Bequest from the late Mrs Margaret McNeill

At the Service in Church on Sunday 10th May, Brian Adair, Convenor of the Finance Team and an Elder in the Kirk Session, gave the following information to the congregation: “I have pleasure of bringing you news that the Lord God has blessed us through one of His dear servants, sadly now deceased. Mrs Margaret McNeil, who lived in Craigton Road in Milngavie and who was a faithful and regular attender and sang in the choir, in her will left half of her estate to St Paul’s, without restrictions, and we have received a payment to account of this bequest in the sum of £200,000.

“The Kirk Session have, for more than 10 years, been hoping to employ a Youth and Children’s Worker and have agreed that part of this bequest should be used for this purpose. Hallelujah and may the Lord be praised and we can all celebrate the generosity of the late Mrs McNeill.”

Thereafter, in her talk to the children, Rev Lynsey introduced Matthew Todd as the person approved by the Kirk Session to be appointed and, subject to his signing the contract of employment, he will commence duties on 1st June. He is the son of a minister who is married to Lisa and they have two daughters, Christiana and Evangeline. He expressed his

heart for sharing the good news about Jesus with children and young people and he very much felt called to apply for this post at St Paul's in Milngavie.

In conclusion, Rev Lynsey in an email thanked Brian, saying: "Praise God indeed for how He has provided. May we continue to be faithful stewards of all with which God has blessed us. All for God's glory and grace."

Amen to that!

Summer Nights

F I O N A S H A W

The Mission & Outreach team are delighted to introduce a new summer walking group from the 17th June, every Wednesday night at 7pm. All ages are welcome; feel free to bring dogs/buggies/scooters as we walk in faith together. Meeting point is at the drinking fountain at the waterworks.



Team Reports

Mission & Outreach

F I O N A S H A W

After the fun of carol singing in the village at the end of November 2025 for the Christmas Lights Switch On, the Mission & Outreach Team have been busy working away at our next outreach opportunities.

We are excited to engage with our village as it comes together to celebrate Milngavie Week. Bubbles, car decorations, sweets, gospel books and flyers will be handed out from our stall at Classic Car Day on 6th June. The flyer will inform people of St Paul's Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 14th June at 11am (a service to thank all the wonderful volunteers that make Milngavie such a great place to live) and of our next The Way service.

We have a few other ideas up our sleeves so watch this space.

The team is massively grateful to our St Paul's family for their support as we aim to help bridge our community to our wonderful church. We pray that many would come to know God's love through these outreach opportunities.

With love, Mission & Outreach Team

PS: Please also be reminded of the wonderful outreach happening at the start of the West Highland Way on the last Saturday morning of the month. Walkers are sent off on their way with prayer, shortbread and a small gospel book.

Pastoral Care

ROBIN EASTON

One of the challenges facing the pastoral care team (PCT) was to discover where pastoral support was required and to what extent needs were being met.

Many visits are paid regularly to people in our church community with a variety of needs. In addition to the minister and to the pastoral care assistant, those visiting include elders, church visitors, visitors from the Guild and other members of the congregation. A pastoral care list which comprises the housebound, the frail and those in nursing and care homes is updated regularly.

Elizabeth McEwan, the vice-convenor of our team, and Hilary Rutherford, the church secretary, undertake this important task and the pastoral care list is essential to the providing of good pastoral care. If church members are taken into hospital, this news is shared at once, so that they may be visited as soon as possible. Each week in the intimations the congregation is invited to contact Lynsey, John or Hilary at the church office if they know of anyone in the church community in need of support.

The pastoral needs in a large congregation with many older members are considerable and Lynsey's decision to ask the Kirk Session to support the appointment of a pastoral care assistant was inspired. Since John's arrival, pastoral care in the congregation has received a new focus. John's dedication to meeting the pastoral needs of the congregation has been a great support to Lynsey in her pastoral work and a great encouragement and example to the PCT.

Supported by members of the team, John conducted a remembrance service in December for those grieving for loved ones. Many people found comfort and help from this service and it is proposed to repeat this in 2026. Assisted by one of the PCT, John provided a GriefShare Course for a member of the congregation. This is a Christ-centred course which considers the challenges of grief and ways to cope. It is planned to offer the course to a group of bereaved people in the future.

At Christmas and Easter members of the PCT delivered cards and gifts to those on the pastoral care list. This was much appreciated and will be repeated. Members of the PCT provide a weekly presence at the Beacon Lunch Club. Arrangements for the delivery of church flowers come under the auspices of the team.

Several members of the congregation, who have not yet been involved in pastoral visiting, have expressed a wish to do so. Arrangements will be made to provide them with the required training and then to support them in undertaking visiting.

The PCT is very conscious of the scale of the task faced and that there can be no end to the sharing of God's love. We pray that St Paul's may be a community where we love one another as Jesus has loved us.

Worship & Discipleship

ALISON BATES

At the very heart of St Paul's is the worship of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our Creator, Saviour and Redeemer. Worship is not ultimately about our own preferences or comforts, but about glorifying God together as His people. As Christians, we are also called to faithfully live out the Great Commission: to be disciples who make disciples. Because every person matters deeply to God, we seek to create spaces of worship and discipleship that are welcoming, accessible and meaningful for all.

Every member of our congregation connects with God in different ways, and one of the key roles of the Worship & Discipleship Team is to prayerfully consider the many expressions of worship within the life of St Paul's. Our hope is to provide opportunities where people of all ages, backgrounds and traditions can encounter God, grow in faith and worship together as one church family.

Many of us treasure our Sunday morning worship, where we gather to hear God's Word, share in prayer both spoken and silent, and be led in music so beautifully offered by Derek Norval and the choir. We also give thanks for the growth of The Way, held on the last Sunday evening of each month, which has become a joyful and welcoming space of praise and worship not only for members of St Paul's, but also for Christians from neighbouring churches and communities.

At the same time, we recognise that different styles of worship speak to different people. While many have appreciated the relaxed and contemporary atmosphere of The Way, we also understand that some feel more at home in quieter, more reflective forms of worship. In response, we are prayerfully exploring the possibility of introducing an additional service centred on stillness, reflection and contemplative worship.

Throughout the year, the Worship & Discipleship Team helps shape and support the rich variety of services that mark the seasons of the Church: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Harvest and many community celebrations, as well as communion services and all-age worship.

Discipleship is equally central to the life of St Paul's. Whether someone is new to faith, newly joined to the church family, or has walked with Christ for many years, we believe we are all continually growing as disciples together. Our discussions and planning therefore include house groups, prayer gatherings, the Bield retreat, new members' classes, Alpha courses, ACORN training, the choir and other opportunities that encourage spiritual growth, fellowship and service.

We would love everyone at St Paul's to feel encouraged and involved in the life of the church. If you would like to become more connected, explore new opportunities to serve, or share ideas for worship and discipleship, we warmly invite you to speak with either Rev Lynsey or Alison Bates. Your voice, gifts and presence are valued, because together we seek to glorify God and share His love with all.

Finance

BRIAN ADAIR

The team has met twice this year and has another meeting on 1st June. Our role is to oversee all financial matters affecting our Church and assist the Treasurer with advice, if necessary. We started the year with eight members and the Treasurer is an ex-officio member. Barbara Lawson had been a member and remained for a year after her retirement as Treasurer but has now retired from the team. She was warmly thanked for her outstanding service and was presented with a card and flowers.

The Vice Convenor is Gordon Fairbrother and he additionally takes responsibility for all insurance matters, and has been very helpful in keeping our insurance premiums as low as these can be.

Jill Wallis is our Minute Secretary and produces a perfect record almost before the meeting has concluded. We have funds invested in The Church of Scotland Investor's Trust, which obviously needs someone with financial acumen to supervise and Arthur Wylie, our in-house chartered accountant, is that guru.

Three ladies in the church make up the remaining members, namely Sheila Prentice, Kate Seller and Jackie Pirie, and all provide very useful guidance during our business sessions.

Graham Mill, as Treasurer, reports to the team and produces draft accounts quarterly together with payments made by him for approval by the team, and also answers any questions raised by the team.

To give an example of just one matter which arose, we were asked to look at fees paid for weddings and funerals to the church, to the organist or deputising organist and to the Church Officer, by those asking for the use of the sanctuary.

Another area which we will examine later in the year, is charitable donations and the salaries of employees.

Lastly, all our meetings start with a welcome, a Bible reading and prayer to constitute the meeting and conclude with us all saying the Grace.

May the Lord and our congregation be pleased with our work.

Fabric

ROY PRENTICE

The Fabric Team has a number of subgroups each responsible for different aspects of the church property. The repairs and renewals and the general maintenance of the sanctuary, the halls and the surrounding gardens, walls etc are looked after by myself

as Convenor, Lachie McNeill as Vice Convenor, Rod Barlow, Mark Mcilpatrick and Hugh McGorm. In addition to this small group, the manse fabric is looked after by Christine Forsyth with the assistance of her husband Jim, while Lachie takes to do with all matters of health and safety. The interior fabrics and furnishings are well maintained by Sheila Beck with support and assistance from Fiona Dorall and Sharon Gillespie. Frances Ireland, assisted by Ann MacLeod, attends to matters arising in the kitchens and food hygiene.

The first six months of this year were a bit quieter than usual but only after the long-running problem with our heating system was finally solved. Our new boilers have proved to be very reliable. They are, however, very intolerant of leaks or debris in the system - they just protect themselves by shutting down. For this reason, they could not be connected to our old cast-iron pipes. Instead they have their own circulation of clean water from which heat is transferred to our old system via heat exchangers. This was the source of months of recurring problems with the hot supply to the Large and Jubilee Halls.

After a long series of investigations and modifications our heating engineers finally identified the source of the problem and the system has worked normally for the last few months.

The group does have a few quite big projects lined up for the next six months. The high-level gutters on the Strathblane Road side need to be replaced. The intention is to complete this work in late summer/early autumn after our two forthcoming weddings have taken place. In preparation for the weddings, repairs to the Strathblane Road steps have been completed. Two exterior floodlights have failed and the rest are in poor condition and will all need to be replaced by LEDs.

Some of the uplighters in the sanctuary are judged by Robert Hill to be failing. The fittings are obsolete and cannot be replaced. They also will eventually need to be changed to LED fittings. Hills have been keeping the situation under review and are due to issue a further report on them soon.

The results of the first year of laser surveying of the boundary wall will be made available to us later this summer, at which point we will again be in discussion with the consultant engineer as to what measures, if any, are required.

Finally, on 7th May, we met with a senior consultant at Bureau Veritas, a firm recommended by our insurers Aviva, to carry out a full professional Fire Risk Assessment and General Risk Assessment. This was a lengthy process taking most of the day. His report is awaited but from discussion with him it is expected that, although he was generally impressed by our current systems, we will be required to implement a number of changes to bring our risk protocols into line with current legislation.

Manse Fabric Group: The pathway in the rear garden to the garden office was completed in January. The Manse external masonry repainting will be carried out during the summer months. The order was placed for this last year. The cost will be £3,512.

Furnishings: The group is planning to clean the hall chairs on Friday 10th July from 10am, and would like to warmly invite any members of the congregation who are able to join the big clean then.

Food Hygiene Group: The Food Hygiene Guidelines have been updated and will be issued to all groups using the kitchen at the beginning of the 2026 – 2027 season. Several people who

help in the kitchen have updated their Food Hygiene Certificates and others have obtained a certificate for the first time. Anyone helping in the kitchen is encouraged to do this.

Communications

CARLA MACALLISTER

The team has continued to develop and improve the ways we communicate both within the congregation and to the wider community.

Over the first half of the year, we have embedded ChurchSuite as a key communication tool for weekly intimations, devotional guides and rota management. We have also improved our digital presence through the introduction of YouTube sermon playlists and regular podcast content.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken to develop a new vision for Life magazine, helping it become more than simply a source of notices by including content that informs, encourages faith and reflects the life of our church. Plans for a refreshed church website have also progressed, with discussions focusing on a more welcoming and modern design.

Looking ahead, our priorities include developing the church website, improving outdoor signage and banners, producing updated visitor information leaflets, and encouraging wider use of ChurchSuite. We also hope to continue enhancing both

our printed and digital communications to help us connect more effectively with members, visitors and the wider community.

We recognise that clear, thoughtful and engaging communication is increasingly important in a world where people are constantly bombarded with information. By communicating well, we can ensure that the message of the good news is heard clearly, helping us to connect with our congregation, welcome newcomers and share Christ's love with our wider community.

Youth & Children

NIMMI WHITE LAW

It's been slow progress for the Youth and Children's team this past six months.

Youth Fellowship continued once a month and it was agreed that we continue with the relaxed approach at the start of the year, but we did recognise that it needed a designated organiser. At the March committee meeting we decided that with the talk of an intended youth pastor/leader we would stop any further sessions and regroup once we get the right person for that job. We are obviously pleased to now have Matthew Todd who will come with new (and improved) ideas and we will hopefully be up and running again by the start of the new academic year.

Sunday Club and Bible Class groups run smoothly albeit with just a few but faithful children. Crèche runs well with the two to three regular babies.

Noah's Ark has always been well attended and does now have regular visits from Rev Lynsey and others from the Mission & Outreach team.

We had hoped to run a holiday club this summer but again the idea was parked in the hope that with the help of our new youth leader we will have one in the near future.

We want to warmly welcome Matthew, our new Youth and Children's Assistant, into the fold and look forward to working with him in building the futures of budding young Christians.

Finally, we want to say a big thank-you to Janice Maclean who after many years (15 if I'm correct) has decided to step away from the youth and children's work at St Paul's. It wasn't an easy decision for her but she knows that now is the right time for her to do this. We wish Janice all the very best in whatever she does and we are very grateful for all that she has done for the children and youth at St Paul's over all these years. This doesn't mean that Janice is stepping away from the runnings at St Paul's. She's got various ideas up her sleeve so just be warned (I'm joking). Watch this space ...

Every blessing.

At Ease – Coffee Morning

ALISON BATES



Our support group, At Ease with ASD, are preparing to start offering childcare during the hour of the support group, 1-2pm every Friday during school term time. We have a small, but mighty, team of volunteers but would gladly welcome anyone else who feels they would like to give time to support these families.

We are planning to invite the families involved with At Ease into our church for a joint coffee morning with the St Paul's congregation at 10am-12 noon on Saturday 27th June. The coffee morning will be a chance to reduce anxieties in both communities. We would love to raise as much money as possible through the coffee morning to buy some sensory play equipment for the children to help support them weekly. The equipment could be used throughout the busy church week and will help St Paul's become inclusive and welcoming for anyone who walks in through our doors.

If you are able, could we ask for donations of any home baking for the coffee morning. And please do come along and find out more about how St Paul's is supporting families with autism in their lives.

Floral Art

ROXANNE BOYD



Friends joined together at St Paul's last month to celebrate the beauty of God's creation through the joy of floral art.

Many thanks to Marilyn Ure, who procured some wonderful greenery and blooms and gave a demonstration of how the flowers come together to bless our Sunday services in so many ways.

We also had a wee bash at creating some masterpieces of our own! It was such a lovely morning of fun, fellowship and collaboration in sharing God's love.

Our church flowers are not just beautiful to enjoy in the sanctuary; they are an opportunity to remember loved-ones lost and also offer an outreach to people of our congregation who are experiencing ill health, anxiety, family concerns or bereavement.



We are indebted to our flower guild who work so hard.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards providing the flowers can place a donation in the church collection marked for the flower fund.

The Noticeboard

1

NEW LIFE GROUP

9th June - for parents/carers of pre-school children. Contact Rev Lynsey/Carol Gibson for more information.

2

SUMMER PRAISE

14th June, 7pm. New Scottish Hymns will be leading a concert and praise night - entry free but donations will be welcome for the Dwelling Places charity.

3

GUILD AFTERNOON TEA

15th June, 2.30pm. Meeting at Caulders, Mugdock. Cost £16.50. If you would like to come to this, please contact Kate Seller.

4

AT EASE COFFEE MORNING

27th June, 10-12am. Help fundraise for this fantastic outreach.

5 THE BIG CLEAN

Friday 10th July, from 10 am.
Come along and help clean
the chairs! All welcome to
lend a hand.

6 OUT OF THIS WORLD

Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd
July. 10am-12.30pm. Holiday
club for P1-P7 at the Allander
Evangelical Church.

7 ANNUAL LEAVE

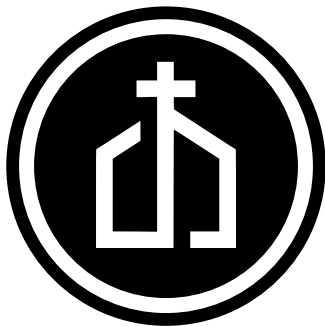
Rev Lynsey will be on annual
leave from 6th-20th July and
Monday 3rd-10th August.
Rev John will lead the
services and be available for
any pastoral concerns.

6 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 28th
June, 31st July and 30th
August, we will 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.
This is a growing,
ecumenical service - please
come along and support this
witness in the community.

8 LIFE DEADLINES

The next issue of St Paul's Life
will be published on Sunday
5th September. Deadline for
submissions is Sunday 30th
August. All submissions and
suggestions are welcome.
Thank you for all your
continued support.



1 BALDERNOCK ROAD
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