

# St Paul's Church Life Magazine May 2007



[www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

It used to take Bishop Joseph Devine of Motherwell, speaking on Radio Scotland's 'Thought for the Day', to remind me each year that Ascension Day had come round again. To even up the ecclesiastical scales, Professor Tom Torrance, the Kirk's leading theologian of recent times, has remarked that the Ascension is one of the most neglected doctrines of the faith. The ascension of Jesus to Heaven, remembered in the Christian calendar on the Thursday ten days before Pentecost, has a number of important implications for all Christians:

*Power.* The risen, ascended Lord has been given all power in Heaven and on earth. This means that his presence and his saving activity are no longer confined to one place – they are as accessible in Jedburgh as in Jerusalem, as accessible in Milngavie as in Macedonia. And from that place of power, he equips his Church with power through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Prayer.* The risen, ascended Lord ever lives to make intercession for us. There are times when our minds are so perplexed, or our hearts so bruised, that we find it difficult to articulate any kind of prayer. At such times we can appeal to, and rely on, the perfect praying of our Saviour.

*Preparation.* Jesus said to his first disciples, and still says to all his people: 'I am going to prepare a place for you'. We cannot yet understand what such preparation involves, but if we have ever known the warmth and welcome of a homecoming to a place prepared for us, we can be assured that the place prepared by Jesus will be infinitely better.

*Promise.* Jesus said: 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am'. Do we need anything beyond that?

May our ascended, exalted Lord give purpose and strength to all of our lives in the coming days.

Kenneth D. MacDonald



# NEXUS Scotland 2007

## A Dynamic New Christian Event for Scotland 23-25 August, SECC

**NEXUS Scotland 2007** is a new event for Scotland organized by a partnership between Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition and Clyde Presbyteries. Both groups have experience of putting on successful large scale events.

The purpose for **NEXUS Scotland 2007** is to provide a time and space for church members and leaders of all denominations to be inspired and resourced in their faith, ministry and mission.

To achieve this end, **NEXUS Scotland 2007** will take over Hall 3 of the SECC for three days to provide a huge exhibition filled with exhibitors providing a vast range of resources. There will also be a large number of 'local stories' from churches and church-based organisations. There will be plenty of opportunity to stop and chat with people about the work they are doing.

**NEXUS Scotland 2007** will be themed in two ways. Firstly the hall itself is built around three themes:

- Reach UP* – where there will be a particular emphasis on worship and our relationship with God
- Reach IN* – where the emphasis will be on resources and stories encouraging church members in their faith and service
- Reach OUT* – where the exhibitors and local stories will particularly help in outreach, social action and mission

Additionally **NEXUS Scotland 2007** will have a different focus for each day. Thursday will focus on Church Without Walls, Friday on Education and the final Saturday will focus on Youth. These different themes will be represented in the seminar programme for each day giving visitors an opportunity to hear from people who are actually doing what many churches aspire to do.

### **But that is not all!**

On the final day, the Clyde Auditorium (Armadillo) will host two events. The first a children's event aimed at primary-aged children and their families or leaders. It will be a time of music, dancing and lots of noise!

In the evening **NEXUS Scotland 2007** will close with a powerful time of worship, again in the Armadillo. This is not to be missed.

More information about **NEXUS Scotland 2007** can be found on the website along with travel information and ticket information. [www.nexusScotland.org](http://www.nexusScotland.org)

For more information please contact the NEXUS Communications Coordinator:  
2 Peter Johnston 01698 828633 [peter@nexusScotland.org](mailto:peter@nexusScotland.org)

## Dear Friends



Here the cherry blossoms have come and gone. But on that topic, we want to say a big thank you to all those who supported the recent Cherry Blossom Fair. It's always a great encouragement to us that this event takes place each year.

This month Daniel will return from India for the summer holidays. His big brothers (and Mum and Dad) are looking forward to that. When he goes back at the beginning of August, Matthew will join him too.

At the church, it has been great to see lots of children coming to Sun Kids. This month on the 23rd we have our annual Sun Kids Festival which always attracts many from the community. On Sundays there have been quite a few new faces. Mrs Kudo is a young mum who has started to come with her four young children. She is very open. We also have contact with two or three men who are recovering addicts (alcohol and drugs). Two are coming on Sundays. One, who hasn't been on Sundays yet, is also a member of an underworld gang – that's definitely a new experience for us!

Last month we held a special anniversary service for Akio Sasaki, the young man who died from cancer last year. Around 15 relatives and friends came to the service too – a great opportunity to share with them the hope that there is in the gospel.

Our prayer is that more and more through this last year in Otaru we would come into contact with those who are seeking and then trust God to open their hearts to the gospel and to faith in Jesus. We value your prayers for us as we look to God to draw many to himself in this spiritually dry land.

**With our love and thanks for all your support  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

## Stewardship

As the summer months approach many of the organisations are running down for a well earned break and we also will be able to have a holiday, relax and attend to things that may have been neglected.

Recent editions of this magazine have included a very interesting mini series on the work of the Congregational Board. As explained in January, the Board look after the business aspects of St Paul's e.g. the money, buildings, fabric etc and the Kirk Session look after the spiritual activity. The Sanctuary was 100 years old in 2006 and with two halls added and various alterations over the years, plus the Church garden and two manses, maintaining the complex is a major undertaking. The convenors of the various sub committees have had tremendous support over the years from members of the congregation but as reported in May "There should be plenty of people to call on to help...but when you look at those who actively contribute, it's a pretty small band".

Appeals for help appear regularly in the magazine from providing transport to/from Church, donating or delivering Church flowers, helping in the garden or with the sound system. Many members help out with our own Congregation at Friendship House, with Christian Aid, Open Doors Trust and many more.

The Treasurer reported last month that our income was below the budget in the first quarter and this has continued through April and May. Traditionally giving drops during the summer months and we will fall further behind budget. **Please give regularly.**

As members of the Church when we joined, we undertook to give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money to the Church. We are all blessed with different talents therefore we can all contribute to the life of the Church.

This summer I would ask you to review your contribution to the life of the Church.

*If you are unsure who to contact regarding any of the above do not hesitate to contact Graham Mill (tel 956 5155) or the Church Office who will gladly assist.*

## **Brigade Blethers**

A Brigade company display is a big event in our calendar. The girls perform keep-fit routines and other items which give parents and friends an insight into our badgework programme and they receive awards that have taken a whole session's work to achieve. This year we were delighted to have Kirsty MacKay back with us to present the girls with their prizes.

Our best Explorer squad this year was: Isla MacKinnon, Chloe Simpson, Morven Sinclair and Sophie Wallis.

In the Junior section Donna Gilmour won the drill shield, Alanna McArdle won the keep-fit trophy; Chaplain's cup for best Sunday attendance went to Alison Cockburn; best girl P4/5 was Lindsay Macleod and the best girl P6/7 was Lily Morris.

In the Brigader section Sarah Graham, Laura MacKay; Lauren Macleod, Alix Mathieson and Eleanor Thomson gained brigader brooches; the drill shield went to Alix Mathieson; best girl S1/2 was Catriona Rankine; best girl S3+ was Eleanor Thomson and Millennium Volunteer Awards for 100 hours' special service were presented to Sarah Graham, Laura MacKay and Eleanor Thomson. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard week by week.

Kirsty also presented Jane Morley with an award for 10 years' service as an officer. Keep going Jane!

The sad note of the evening was saying farewell to Susan Berry who has served as an officer for 21 years. She will be much missed by everyone and we wish her and her family God's peace in the future.

As always we say a big thank you to all the folks who share their time and their talents to help the Company "seek, serve and follow Christ."

**Anne Goodlet.**

As this is the last magazine before the summer, please find below the duty rotas.

## **Traidcraft Rota**

June 3rd	C Mackay, R Fraser
June 10th	L Cowie, C McKinnon
June 17th	Communion
June 24th	B Barr, H Reid
July 1st	B Watson, M Conway
July 8th	M Thomson, M Ure
July 15th	A Begg, J MacLean
July 22nd	J MacIntyre, M Fewell
July 29th	G Buchanan, A Martin
Aug.5th.	C Mackay, R Fraser
Aug.12th	L Cowie, C McKinnon
Aug.19th	B Barr, H Reid
Aug.26th	B Watson, M Conway

## **Flower Delivery Rota**

July 08	Mrs A Mclean	956 4971	Mrs R Cameron	585 5231
July 15	Mrs J Ford	956 5178	Mrs C Tanner	956 3087
July 22	Mrs J Clark	942 8266	Ms M Taggart	584 9993
July 29	Mrs I Torbet	956 2164	Mrs P Barlow	563 7226
Aug 05	Mrs S Anderson	563 7961	Mrs R Fraser	956 3222
Aug 12	Mrs M Conway	956 4700	Mrs M Mcpherson	942 4550
Aug 19	Mrs A Galloway	570 2659	Mrs J Townson	956 3440
Aug 26	Mrs M Mcintyre	942 8935	Mrs M Spencer	563 9532
Sept 02	Mrs P Dudgeon	956 3853	Mrs S Lindsay	956 1735
Sept 09	Miss M Thomson	956 2801	Miss E Izatt	956 1575
Sept 16	Mrs A Gibson	956 2770		
Sept 23	Mrs M Abbot	956 2074	Mrs T Douglas	586 5751
Sept 30	Mrs L Hughes	585 5001	Mrs R Buchanan	956 2995

Mrs M McDowell 956 4880 (convener)

**God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.**

## Flower Donations for June

Mrs Carlin, Mrs Barr, Mrs Bain, Mrs J Getty, Mrs N Henderson, Mrs W Douglas, Mrs McColgan, Mrs M Phillips.

## Vestibule Rota

June 3	Team 4	Alex Watson
June 10	Team 5	Gordon Fairbrother
June 17	Team 2	Gayle Cattanach (communion)
June 24	Team 6	Gordon Blackadder
July 1	Team 7	Marjory Kennedy
July 8	Team 8	Lachlan MacNeill
July 15	Team 9	Helen Arnold
July 22	Team 10	Douglas Martin
July 29	Team 3	Duncan White
August 5	Team 4	Robert Bone
August 12	Team 5	Brian Adair
August 19	Team 6	Alex McEwan
August 26	Team 7	Jim More
Sept 2	Team 8	Jim McQueen

## Book Group

We have been reading *The Stream* by Brian Clarke which deals with the effect on the environment of a development in a rural area and the consequences on the wild life of that area. All this author's previous books have been on the subject of fishing and there was a mixed response to this book. Some people liked the book as it dealt with environmental issues and evolution and somebody thought it would have been an ideal biology lesson! Unfortunately the majority of the group did not like it as they found the style of writing irritating and repetitive.

Next time we are reading *The Testimony of Gideon Mack* by James Robertson. Our meeting is on 26 June @ 7.45pm and if you would like to come along, please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue.

# **Life and Work – Contents for June issue**

## **GAMBLING WITH THE FUTURE**

The rise of the game of chance and the growth of online gambling is the focus of a major feature in this month's Life and Work.

Whilst the Church of Scotland maintains its historic opposition to all gambling on both theological and pastoral grounds, of larger concern is challenging the growth of the gambling culture and attempting to minimise its impact.

## **NO QUICK FIX**

Editor Lynne McNeil suggests that improved financial education and money management should be offered by High Street banks rather than simply promoting financial products. She also suggests that simple micro credit schemes would be more beneficial to poor communities in need of regeneration rather than the 'get rich quick' fixes offered by the bright lights of super casinos.

## **FINDING THE LIGHT**

Perthshire poet Kenneth Steven explains how he believes it is the job of writers to make readers see the world anew work He explains how he draws inspiration from the Celtic Christian world in his work.

## **A 'STILL SMALL VOICE'**

In a rare interview, Jean Vanier, founder of the worldwide L'Arche community, says he believes the future lies in community, not competition.

"The whole question for humanity is how to help the strong and the weak to live together. It's about people coming together and each one finding their place."

## **THE POWER OF KINDNESS**

The Very Rev James Simpson reflects on the Book of Ruth and the impact of kindness. "When I was at university it was clever people I admired most. Now it is kind people" he concludes.

## **DRAMATIC CHRISTIANS**

Elizabeth McKay questions how Christians are portrayed in TV soaps and dramas."Ministers of the Kirk are dour and unyielding while English vicars are jolly good sorts but rarely have anything to say that is worth taking seriously." she comments.

## **LAST WORD**

Muriel Armstrong questions the Kirk's obsession with membership and suggests a regular audit of church attendance would give a more realistic picture of church life.

**And more.... monthly columns for elders and young people; book reviews; travel, lively letters; news from far and near; monthly prayer; prize crosswords etc**

# The Prayer Page

**Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.**

## **World Mission Diary for June**

This month let us remember the people of Pakistan in our prayers.

Authorities in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province have ordered law enforcement agencies to provide security to Christians living in Charsadda town after they received anonymous letters asking them to convert to Islam.

Ali Haider, a senior police official in Charsadda, some 30 kilometres from the Provincial capital Peshawar, confirmed that Christian families and churches in the area had received unsigned letters telling them to convert to Islam and destroy their places of worship by May 18. "The letters are on plain paper and carry no threat. But the Christian community is naturally troubled by them and some have thought about moving out of the area to safer locations. Pray that members of the Christian community living in North West Frontier Province may be protected from persecution at the hands of Islamic extremists and may instead enjoy mutual tolerance between different religious communities.

Pray for our new government in Scotland, may they seize the opportunity to make real changes benefiting the poor both at home and abroad.

Alan Johnston the BBC journalist is still missing in Gaza – pray for his release.

Madeleine McCann is still missing, pray for all involved in the search for her in Portugal and throughout Europe and for her family – may they find strength in their faith.

Open Door Trust have started an adult literacy class on a Monday – pray that it gives a new perspective and opens up new opportunities to the people attending.

David Cartledge, former minister at the UF congregation in Milngavie, is soon to be established as the Moderator of the UF Church General Assembly. Pray for wisdom in guiding their affairs over the next year.

Douglas Martin is leading an Impact (Scripture Union) team this summer – pray for the team to work effectively and touch many lives with the love of God.

During June Maryhill Parish Church are having a four week series on exploring prayer – pray that this will be the start of a strong supportive group within the congregation leading to renewal and revival in this area of Glasgow.

Friendship House still needs more staff. Pray for volunteers to come forward.

## **COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH**

What a response we had from the friends of Evelyn who turned out in large numbers to the Coffee Morning on 12th May. Firstly can we say how grateful we were to the Kirk Session for granting the use of the church halls on the day. As it turned out we needed all the space to accommodate the number of people who attended and to display the contents of the stalls so freely donated by many people. The home baking stall for example was so full at the beginning you could not find a space for a doughnut! This in itself was an indication of the number of people who wanted to help mark the event a success.

The atmosphere in the halls was one of enjoyment at meeting friends who were there to support a worthwhile cause in memory of Evelyn. The number of friends from St Paul's and beyond who wanted to help and attend was almost overwhelming and showed again the affection for Evelyn we as a family experienced during her long illness.

It is not possible to thank individuals for their support at this time but a very big thank you to all who helped, those who donated items for the stalls and those who attended. Please understand the gratitude we felt and still feel for the willing support given by so many on the day.

The total sum raised for Leukaemia Research has now reached £3043. During the coffee morning the opportunity was given to those present to sponsor Alex (12) and Scott (11) for their bikeathon on 3rd June from Bishopbriggs to the Falkirk Wheel, this being the boys own contribution to the Leukaemia Research fund raising effort. Approximately £500 has been donated so far to the bikeathon. After this event, we will be able to announce, through the Life magazine, the total amount raised from both the coffee morning and bikeathon.

Thank you all once again for your support and encouragement.

**Bill and Maureen**

## **Christian Aid Week 2007**

In Milngavie we raised approximately £12,300, an increase of £400 on last year, with a further £1,300 expected from reclaimed tax on the Gift Aid forms.

Once again thank you to everyone who collected or helped at the count.

Prior to the event this year local ministers conducted a dedication service for Christian Aid Week in the United Free Church and publicity was given in the local newspaper.

Gordon Campbell.

## **St. Paul's Church Society Outing Saturday 16 June 2007**

A Committee Member will be in the large hall following the morning service on Sunday 3 and 10 June in order to take payments and enable members to indicate their choice of meal.

**Heelster Gowdie**  
are holding a concert in aid of the  
**Maxie Richard's Foundation**  
on  
**Saturday 30th June 2007**  
at 7.30pm in the  
**United Free Church**  
Tickets £5 from Sue Brough 956 6814,  
Graham Mill  
or the Church Office

## CHURCH REGISTER

### New Members Joined by Certificate

Mrs Margaret Adair, 84 Galbraith Drive, Milngavie 37

### BAPTISM

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

Lexi Martha Febers, 6 Braehead Ave., Milngavie

### Change of Address

Miss Margaret McKechnie, 19 Dunlop Place, Milngavie now 21

67 Crossveggate, Milngavie 56

Mrs Jean Morrison, Flat 5, 146 Milngavie Road now 47

41 Duncan Ave., Glasgow G14 70

Mr & Mrs David Ogilvie, 37 Strathblane Road now 4

36 Lennox Ave., Milngavie 17

### Deaths

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

25.4.07 Mrs Marie Lamb, 48 Strathblane Road, Milngavie

30.4.07 Mrs Catherine Donald, Buchanan House, Bearsden 49

14.5.07 Mrs Catherine Crighton, 18 Lennox Ave., Milngavie

17.5.07 Mr Archibald McKenzie, 36 Roselea Drive, Milngavie 7

17.5.07 Mr Alexander Cowan, 45 Keystone Quadrant 42

## Editor's Note

This is the last Life magazine before the summer break – we resume normal service again for the September issue. Thanks to everyone who has contributed this year – especially those of you who managed to meet the copy dates each month.

The magazine should be ready for distribution on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, which means getting it to the office for copying by 26<sup>th</sup> August – so please make sure I have your material no later than **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Aug** if using the church pigeon hole or by EMAIL by **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> August** – the September issue is likely to be a busy one so please don't be late.

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