



# St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine October 2009

Dear Friends,

Some time in the mid-1980s I heard a sermon in St George's Tron delivered by an American preacher called Ronald Dunn. It was an exposition of the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son but the preacher was given grace that day to make it throb with meaning and relevance. I can still remember the points which were driven home and illuminated with helpful illustrations.

What I did not know that day – and I only found this out two years ago – was that Ronald Dunn was in the midst of a deep depression which had been brought about by the death of his son who had taken his own life. This was to last with varying degrees of darkness for about ten years. He writes about this experience in his book *When Heaven Is Silent* along with other challenging personal circumstances which brought him to the edge of his personal resources.

What keeps coming through in the book is that although he continues to ask the question 'Why?' he understands that he will never get an answer this side of eternity. He quotes another Christian writer Philip Yancey: 'The emphasis I see in the Bible is not to look backward and find out if God is responsible in order to accuse him ... The emphasis is rather on looking ahead to what God can make of seeming tragedy.' In his own words Dunn writes: "Why me?" is a useless question, for in the end it solves nothing. Only when we face up to the inadequacy of this question will we be free to ask the right one.' The right question, according to Dunn, is 'What now?' This acknowledges that despite the depth and the pain of our personal tragedy God is present, He is working out His good and loving purpose, and we can be part of that.

There is a chapter in Dunn's book entitled: 'What Now?' The final words are: 'As for myself, I confess I'm still trying to get an answer to my 'why?' And I'm still getting the silent treatment. But it's all right. I trust Him. For the present I'll settle for a 'what now?'

I like this because it helps me to understand that I can live with my own personal 'whys' and yet still find purpose in God's 'What now?'

*Yours in Christ*

*Fergus C Buchanan*



*Dear Friends*

Just under six months since we returned to Japan to start the new church in Hiragishi, it was a joy to have our first worship service on 20th September. We have started off small and low-key so that we can find our feet as a fledgling church. There were eight of us with our two younger boys and it was a moving and simple service as we praised God, listened to his Word and shared communion together. Calum and Alistair enjoyed helping, one operating the Powerpoint and one collecting the offering. Later that same day quite a number of the OMF missionaries who are studying at the language school joined us for a special time of prayer for the area.

In recent weeks we have had all sorts of interesting contacts with different people. We hope we can begin to be in touch with them more and in time see these people become part of our young church. It's exciting to go out and about each day and just see who God might bring into our path.

This month we will have a special service of dedication of Hiragishi Izumi Church when we invite folks from other churches to join us in celebrating the birth of our church and asking the Lord to bless its future. Before that Lorna fits in a visit to India for half-term to see Daniel and Matthew. They both seem to be doing well so far this term.

Another interesting task we have this month (on 1st October) is to give a lecture at the Sapporo Bible College on Scottish Christianity – we have both realised how lacking our knowledge is!



Life is busy, but full of opportunities, whether in the community, through the local school or just bumping into people in unexpected places. There will be many challenges which lie ahead but it's a joy to be in the place where the Lord would have us. Do keep praying for the many in Hiragishi who need to hear about Jesus.

*With our love and thanks*

*David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## Brigade Bletchers

Well the girls are back ! We have lost one or two girls to other interests but gained five lovely new Explorers so our numbers are the same as last year.

We tend not to settle down to badgework till after the September weekend so the past three weeks have been spent playing games, making sweets, decorating biscuits and, of course, producing 50 posies for harvest Sunday.

Everyone seems very enthusiastic about making this year a "gold" one. Trying to get away from the hallowe'en image we asked the girls to think up yellow or gold things they can wear for the fancy dress party at the end of October. One girl's face lit up and she asked "Can I be a yellow Dracula?"

There's always one ! We'll let you know how we got on next time~

Anne Goodlet.



Milngavie Juvenile Pipe Band is looking for new members, particularly drummers (or learner drummers) aged 10 or above to join the band next season. Practices are on Monday and Thursday nights in Corbie Ha', Ashfield Road, Milngavie.

Phone Peter Maxwell if you are interested. 0141 563 8333.

## Harvest Thanksgiving

As usual the Harvest thanksgiving was a great success this year . We distributed approx 20 food gifts, 25 posies and 28 plants. Each gift was accompanied by a beautiful card made by the Sunday Club. (We are grateful to them for that). All of these gifts were distributed to the elderly, sick and housebound in our parish. Some gifts were also delivered to care homes.

I would like to make a special mention of the Girls' Brigade who made such professional and beautiful posies this year which really enhanced the look of the sanctuary. Alongside the Girls' Brigade, Betty Watson also provided beautiful pink posies, those too we greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank each and every one of you who donated tins, flowers, plants, pulses and vegetables all of which made our distribution so much easier. A big thanks too to the people who helped decorate the church on the Saturday and then helped to box and bag the goods for distribution to the elderly, sick and housebound. We also delivered goods to the Salvation Army and to the Lodging House Mission, both in East Campbell Street. And finally to all of the children who make Harvest such a meaningful time and alongside their parents are so generous.

Alec McEwan



## John MK Paterson

My first contact with John Paterson was my first General Assembly in 1984 when he was Moderator. It was probably one of the most dramatic and controversial of Assemblies of the twentieth century and required the person in the Chair to have a clear head, a firm grasp of procedure and a willingness to let all sides of a debate to be clearly expressed.

John showed all of these qualities and was less dependant on the guidance of the Principal Clerk than many of the people who have followed him in the Moderator's Chair.

Not that his conduct of the business was merely efficient. It was done with a warm-heartedness and frequent humour which endeared him to many of us. As an example of this, when he was installed as Moderator on the first day of the Assembly he expressed thanks to all those whose influence had led him to that day, not least his wife Jill who he said was 'one of those women who married a gentleman and then discovered that she had married a minister'.

That was a reference to the fact that John entered the ministry only after his war service in the RAF and then a career in insurance. It was in East Africa that he came under the influence of Rev David Steele and the conviction began to form that he was being called to the ministry.

After study at Edinburgh University he was inducted St John's Parish Church in Bathgate in 1964 and then St Paul's in 1970.

When John addressed the General Assembly for the first time as Moderator he said he was there as 'an ordinary parish minister, engaged like all other ordinary parish ministers in the privilege of preaching week by week, celebrating the Sacraments and undertaking the daily round which goes on from a thousand manses up and down the land.'

For all John's achievements as a Convener of important General Assembly Committees and as Moderator it is as a parish minister that he will be remembered best in Milngavie. For the inspiration of his preaching, his care of the sick and the bereaved, his influence on a significant number of young men who entered the ministry, the time he took with people who were struggling with difficult issues – we are grateful that he was given the heart and the opportunity to do all of this.

While that should be considered sufficient for good and faithful service we must also remember how John expanded the vision of the work here in St Paul's. Under his direction there were regular Summer Mission teams that gave young people an experience of Christian outreach; there was the establishment of Friendship House which was ahead of its time in establishing an ecumenical witness in the community; and there was the setting up of a trust for a technical college in Sagalla Kenya. All of these areas of work have benefited people beyond the walls of St Paul's where the Gospel needs to be proclaimed.

On a personal note. I know colleagues who followed long and distinguished ministries who felt that they were constantly overshadowed by their predecessors and, indeed in some cases, their continuing influence on the congregation. That was never the intention of John and in fact he did everything to prepare the way for whoever would follow him. He made it clear that his successor should be given every opportunity to be his own man and that the congregation should expect changes.

I will always be grateful for that along with the too few contacts I had with him over the years and the many letters of encouragement which I will treasure.

Our prayers are with Jill and the rest of the family in the hope that they will find the comforts of the Gospel that John so faithfully preached.

## Friendship House

Friendship House celebrated its 25th anniversary on Friday 18th Sept. with a thanksgiving service led by Rev. Ramsey Shields & attended by more than 100 helpers past & present. The main theme was remembering the great blessings of the past & looking forward to the future. Some great hymns were sung finishing with 'To God be the glory' After the service, we all adjourned to the Allander Church Church hall.

At the end of the very short AGM Janet Charles was presented with a silver medal for 25 years' service as card convener! She was then invited to cut the anniversary cake, after which everyone partook of the delicious finger buffet which had been prepared by the hard working back room team. Everyone voted the evening a great success, we were reminded that for F.H. to continue in Milngavie. as a Christian outreach it will need a fresh injection of staff & vision.

Please give this thought & prayer. So we look forward to the next 25 years.

Rosemary Fraser



## Flower Donations : October

Mrs F. Collar, Mrs R. Fraser,  
Miss M. Hamilton, Mrs Morrison,  
Mrs D. Stark, Mrs E. Watson.

Please send donations to  
Mrs Wilma. Douglas, 34 Braeside  
Ave. Milngavie, G62 6LJ or phone  
956 2630



## Ceilidh

### Ceilidh

The Milngavie Churches are holding a ceilidh in the Town Hall on Saturday 21st November. Make up a table of neighbours, family and friends!

This is a social event and all are welcome.

Tickets £10 - includes a fish or chicken supper are available from Graham Mill 956 5155 or [g.mill@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.mill@ntlworld.com)



## New Leaf

This is an opportunity for people who are working their way through an experience of bereavement and feel that the support of others who have been there before them might be helpful.

The publicity material says:  
"New Leaf is not about counselling nor is it an advice group. It is purely an offer of friendship and support which may help you to find a way forward from this difficult time." Meetings are at Cairns Church Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm.

If you would like further information phone Val on 07772030408.

'Thank you to all my friends who showed great kindness and helped me celebrate my recent birthday. I very much appreciated all the love and support shown.

Jean Sinclair'

# Sun Kids

Dates for Your Diary – Sun Kids will be happening on the following Saturdays this session.

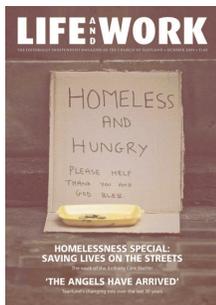
**November 14 2009, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010, March 20 2010 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010.**

Sun Kids starts at 4.30 pm and finish at 6.30 pm on each of these Saturdays and is open to all children of primary school age.

Sun Kids has been a great opportunity both to meet with our own St Paul's young people and to reach out into the wider community. Please make Sun Kids as widely known as possible. It has been tremendous on some evenings to see as many as 70 children filling our church halls and hearing something of the Christian Gospel. Volunteers are always needed to help run the event. You could be 'front of house' working with the children helping with crafts, singing, Bible teaching and games; or 'back of house' assisting with food and registration.

Please contact **Douglas Martin on 0141-942-7184** or **Ross Deuchar on 0141-955-0429** if you would like further details about how you could support Sun Kids. There are many different ways in which people could be involved.

More details about the November Sun Kids will appear in next month's magazine.



## **Saving Lives on the Streets**

Jackie Macadam is allowed exclusive access to the Bethany Care Shelter; and looks at the work House, a CrossReach project for the homeless.

## **“The Angels Have Arrived!”**

The outgoing regional manager of Tearfund, Peter Chirnside, reflects on 30 years with the organisation.

## **An Oasis of Calm**

Continuing the series of special reports from Malawi, Thomas Baldwin meets Helen Scott, deputy head of Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School.

## **Turning Full Circle**

Philip Halford-MacLeod marks the 300th anniversary and relaunch of The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Plus anniversary competition – write a hymn or a prayer on the theme of the Parable of the Sower.

## **‘As Christ Has Loved Us’**

The Moderator reflects on his recent trip to South Africa.

## Kimo Work Party July 2009

On Monday 29th June at 5.00a.m. a bleary-eyed group of sixteen of us assembled at Glasgow airport for the start of our adventure, our trip to the Peruvian jungle. Three others were travelling separately and we would be joined in Lima by Calum Munro from the Vine Trust office who was coordinating our trip and accompanying us throughout the visit. Three flights and almost twenty-four hours later we landed at Lima with most, but not all, of our luggage.

The next day we were shown something of the work in Lima of the Vine Trust and Scripture Union Peru and we began to appreciate some of their normal problems : a workers' strike had prevented any pupils from reaching the School for the Deaf which is run by S.U.. We met the staff and heard about their work and their hopes for new and improved facilities. Afterwards we visited the S.U. headquarters which also house the Lima home for street boys. We had lunch with them and tried out our Spanish with varying degrees of success! A number of the staff shared some insights into the work and highlighted the appalling conditions in which the boys live before coming to the home.

On Wednesday we had a ten-hour bus journey which took us to 16,000 feet in the Andes before dropping down again and finally reaching the river bank opposite Kimo. There we had an early encounter with one of the locals when, in the gloaming, a snake slithered across the boot of one of our party. We had been looking forward to our journey across the river in a cage which is operated by a pulley system – it was fun! Unfortunately it was already dark so we could not see the amazing view which we had been anticipating eagerly. The next morning, however, we were thrilled by the beauty of our jungle surroundings as we awoke in the campsite which is near the site of the boys' home which St. Paul's is funding.

After breakfast we climbed the steep track up to the site of the home to be confronted with our main task, clearing dense weeds and many scattered stones from the ground around the buildings and preparing internal surfaces for cement floors.

Another group spent the first morning trying vainly to move two enormous boulders which blocked the road up to the home – eventually the army moved in with a bulldozer to do the job! Some people spent hours digging sand from the river bed which was then taken up to the site and used to make cement. Later on we also fitted some of the wooden panels which form the walls of the home. With their thatched roofs and wooden walls the finished buildings will look most attractive.

We had to remember to have plenty of breaks for water because of the heat and of course we needed to top up our suntan cream and insect repellent regularly. We enjoyed working together and shared lots of laughs, especially as we got to know one another better! It was good to have members of the group from outwith St. Paul's and to enjoy fellowship with them

In the evenings at Kimo we were privileged to hear from Paul Clark, the General Director of S.U. Peru about the history of the work among street children and the amazing experiences of Christians of God's love and power during the reign of terror of the Shining Path, a Communist group which tried to take control of the country and considered Christians as amongst its principal enemies.

We also learnt that Kimo has been an important Christian centre for over thirty years.

Unfortunately our time at the Kimo site was curtailed because of more strikes. It seems to be the custom in Peru to block roads with large rocks during strikes and had we not left for Lima two days early we would have been trapped there for some time. A compensation was that we had more time to explore Lima –and the markets ( especially Chris )! We then flew to Cusco, the old Inca capital high in the Andes and travelled by coach to the Sacred Valley where we spent three nights. We worked for a day at the newest of the boys' homes, made possible by a generous Scottish benefactor. It was good to meet the boys and share in the life of the home, which gave us an insight into what our home in Kimo will be like. Another highlight of our

time in the Sacred Valley was our visit to Machu Picchu, the abandoned city of the Incas lost in the mountains. It was easy to see why it is considered one of the wonders of the modern world.

Then it was back to Lima for our flights home to Glasgow via Miami and London. For us all it was an unforgettable experience and we are looking forward to getting together to renew our friendships and share our memories. It is exciting to think that early in the New Year the first boys will be living in the home.

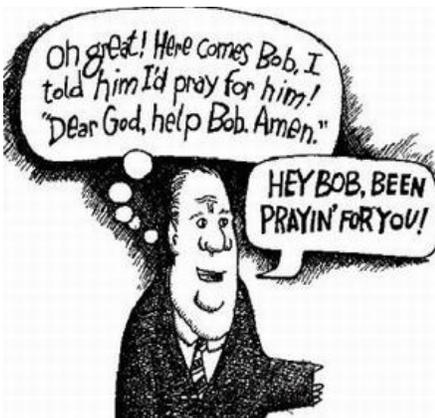
We are very grateful to all of you who have supported, and continue to support, the Kimo Peru Project through your prayers and your generous giving. We were very conscious of this support during our time in Peru.

### Mission Partners for Malawi

David and Rebecca Morton have been appointed by the World Mission Council to work at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi remember them as they prepare for this work.

David's roles in Malawi will be helping to staff Nkhoma Hospital with an emphasis on medicine and pediatrics, helping to supervise the primary health care and HIV programs, finance and administration, and mentoring national medical staff. Rebecca's roles will be to keep David sane, establish a warm, hospitable home, work with AIDS orphans, help with chaplaincy care, and, she says "singing and praying!"

The Mortons will be in training in Scotland for the next few months before moving to Nkhoma.



### Mugdock Walk

A group of intrepid walkers braved the elements on Saturday September 19th. The weather improved markedly and the sun came out so we had a most enjoyable time. It was especially good to have the opportunity to talk to people whom we normally only see in the distance at church. Thank you to everyone who took part! the walk on Sat. raised £170 with Gift Aid to be added on.

### Diary Dates

**Workparty Presentations** will be held on Wednesday October 21st at 7.30 p.m. and Saturday November 7th at 10.30 a.m., both in the Large Hall. Please come to see what we got up to! Members of the group from other parts of the country also hope to be there.

### Christmas Tree Festival

After last year's successful Festival we plan to hold another this year from Tuesday December 1st - Monday 7th. We hope that this will be well supported again and also that many members of the congregation will volunteer to help with stewarding and serving teas. More details next month.

### Concert

A concert will be held during the Festival, on Saturday 5th at 7.00p.m. in the Church. Taking part will be Sally Magnusson, the Jordanhill Handbell Ringers, the Westertones, string players with Esther McColl on piano and Magnus Maharg, a young baritone from Douglas Academy. It should be a great evening so put the date in your diary! Tickets will be available soon.



**Recycling your old mobile phones and ink cartridges is a green way to raise money for Christian Aid's work around the world.**

### How does it work?

We'll receive £4 for every mobile phone and £1 for each recyclable ink cartridge you return. As well as worsening landfill problems when they are dumped, both mobile phones and ink cartridges contain chemicals that are harmful to the environment.

### Start recycling now!

Order a freepost envelope at [www.recyclingappeal.com/christianaid](http://www.recyclingappeal.com/christianaid) or call 08451 302010 and quote 'Christian Aid'. Free collections can be arranged for bulk recycling, so why not get your office, school or church involved too?

## Traidcraft

The new autumn/Christmas catalogue is now to hand. It includes new items as well as some old favourites.

There are many lovely 'gift' ideas that we should be delighted to order for you. The catalogues are available in the large hall after the morning service, where also there is a large selection of goods on display & for sale

These include newly marketed 'snack packs', high quality olive oil from Palestine, & jams, pickles & curry sauces from Swaziland.

Come & see for yourself, & encourage us in the work we do as Traidcraft's Christian response to poverty.

RMF

## Folk Night

### Folk Night

A concert by the Heelster Gowdie Folk Band will be held in the Large Hall at St Paul's on Friday 30th October at 7.30pm in aid of the Maxi Richards Foundation.

All welcome and tickets will be available at the door.

## Christianity Explored

**Christianity Explored** A new course is starting on Monday 19th October again in the Fraser Centre from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Please carefully consider inviting family, friends and/or neighbors to this course for those who wish to learn more about Christ in an informal environment.

The Kirk Session have decided that this course would be a suitable preparation for Church membership. Anyone who is considering joining St. Paul's as a Communicant Member should consider attending.

## Spreading the Gospel in Japan

### Team Ferguson-Financial Support

The congregation will remember that within St Paul's Overseas Mission Fund there now exists the Japan Mission Sub-fund. All sums entering the Japan Mission Sub-fund (with Gift Aid recovery) are dedicated to be remitted to Overseas Missionary Fellowship for support of Team Ferguson's work in spreading the Gospel in Sapporo.

Any member taking out a new Mission Fund standing order can specifically dedicate it for the Japan Mission Sub-fund by signing a simple notification to that effect when arranging the standing order with our Treasurer, Chris Scott.

Single donations specifically intended for the Japan Mission Sub-fund can be made by cheque made payable to "St Paul's Parish Church, Milngavie" and passed either to Chris Scott or to me with a note to the effect that it is specifically intended for the Japan Mission Sub-fund.

General Gift Aid declarations already signed cover both forms of contribution.

Both St Paul's and Overseas Missionary Fellowship follow the calendar year. New standing orders taken out or single donations made during September-November will both increase the support remitted during 2009 and assist in projection of the minimum level of support that can confidently be anticipated in 2010.

Lachie McNeill

for (Overseas) Japan Mission Sub-Committee

## The Guild



The 2009-10 season of the Guild commences on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Our opening meeting is a musical evening with the A La Carte Singers.

President Elizabeth McEwan and her committee warmly welcome old and new members and any friends who care to join them for what we are sure will be an enjoyable start to an interesting and varied season. Tea will be served following the meeting.

Isabel Lyle.

We apologise for omitting the Guild intimation last month, owing to the early copy date.

## CHURCH REGISTER

### BAPTISM

Andrew Ross McKean, 39 Roselea Drive, Milngavie 7

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Fiona McNab, (Nee Anderson) 21 North Dumgoyne Ave., 27  
now 132 Prestonfield, Milngavie 31  
Dr Sheila Harrison, 19 Strathblane Road, now 4  
82 South Mains Road, Milngavie 28  
Mrs Elizabeth Thomson 48 Braehead Ave., Milngavie now 30a  
Nasmyth Ave., Bearsden 67

### WEDDINGS

29.8.09 Annika Simpson 5b Killermont View and  
Stuart Tulloch, 5b Killermont View Glasgow  
5.9.09 Fiona Bradley, flat 0/2 Dalsholm Place and  
Graeme Miller, flat 0/2 Dalsholm Place Glasgow  
19.9.09 Dawn Durie, 29 Dougalston Gardens South and  
Justin Moir, 29 Dougalston Gardens south

### DEATHS

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

13.7.09 Miss Margaret McKechnie, 67 Crossvegate, Milngavie 56  
6.9.09 Mr J J B Wilson, 28 Glasgow Road, Milngavie

Copy date for November issue Sunday 18th Oct if using the church pigeon hole or Wed 21st Nov if emailing. Send to [Rona.dawson@go.uk.com](mailto:Rona.dawson@go.uk.com) or post to 123 Garscadden Road, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
4 Oct	Barlow, Buchanan	Whitelaw, Richell, McKinnon	No stall	Team 1 (c) Rod Barlow
11 Oct	Anderson, Fraser	Bates, Wallis, Berry	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Frances Ireland
18 Oct	Conway, MacPherson	Baxter, Chapman, MacAuley	R Raeburn, H Reid	Team 6 Elizabeth Watson
25 Oct	Galloway, Townson	McCreadie, Reid, Wilson	B Watson, M Conway	Team 7 Malcolm Boyd
1 Nov	McIntyre, Spencer	Bolton, Sillar, J Deuchar	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Marlyn McKay