



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine September 2011

Dear Friends,

I recently read a newspaper described as 'that daily report on the idiocy and the brilliance of the species'. It made me think that quite possibly a newspaper gives the most balanced view of humanity that you will find on a regular basis. Great achievements are reported in politics, science, sport and the arts as well as the moral failure which is the constant shame of the human story.

Recently the newspapers have necessarily been tilting towards the 'idiocy'. By this time you probably feel saturated by the coverage of the riots in England and the comment that has arisen in their wake. There comes a time when you want to turn your face away or at least to ask if anything more can be said. But when we are at the stage when we have had enough there are others who are just beginning in the task of responding to these disturbing events. It is vital for us to remember them in our prayers: the politicians, the senior police officers, community leaders and any others who can make decisions which can change things for the better. Not forgetting those who have been directly affected by the riots: the bereaved, the injured and those who have lost property or jobs.

We should also remember those directly involved in the 'idiocy'. It is normally said as an afterthought whenever prayer is called for at times like this but our priority has to be to remember those who brought misery into the lives of others. We rightly condemn their actions but as Christians we have to be concerned about human beings created in the image of God who feel the need to express themselves in such a dark way.

Over the years I have known many people with lawless and sometimes violent pasts, who were given up by others as hopeless cases. They came into contact with Christian people and found that a new beginning could be made and that they could build rather than destroy. Often it took time but they discovered the truth that those who are in Christ are a 'new creation'. The man who first described himself in those terms also said:

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1: 13-14).

*Yours,
Fergus C Buchanan*

Book Club



We have been reading **The Long Song** by Andrea Levy which is the follow up to *Small Island*. The book is set in early 19th century Jamaica on a sugar cane plantation in the years before, and just after, the abolition of slavery. The story is told by July, who was a slave on the Amity Plantation, with a view to publication of her story by her son, Thomas. Thomas was brought up in Britain after his mother abandoned him when he was a baby on a minister's doorstep, and he is now a printer to trade. We were a bit disappointed with this book.

Most of us had read and enjoyed *Small Island* and were looking forward to reading this next book by Andrea Levy. The subject of slavery however is never trivialised in the telling of the story. The main characters in the book are July, her mistress Caroline and Caroline's English abolitionist husband Robert. Various emotions surface when you look at the character of Caroline and in turn you despise, pity and almost sympathise with her. One of the group has listened to the book, read by Andrea Levy, and perhaps this is the best way to approach it.

We met again over the summer and discussed **The Crying Tree** by Naseem Rakha. The book tells the story of Irene Stanley and her family as they come to terms with the murder of their son, the imminent execution of the man convicted of his murder after 19 years on death row, and the subsequent consequences for the family. Full of surprises, twists and turns, this book is something of a page turner.

The story gathers pace when Irene Stanley reveals a secret she has been hiding from her family and the secrets surrounding her son's death are eventually revealed with devastating consequences. There were so many strands to this book that we had a long and varied discussion on a variety of the points raised. We all thought the characters were particularly well drawn and would highly recommend this page turner of a book which the majority of us read in a matter of days.

We next time we are reading *And the Land Lay Still* by James Robertson. We are meeting on Tuesday 27 September at 7.45pm.

Joyce Clark



Mission Aviation Fellowship

Sponsored 10k Run

On Saturday 17th September MAF are organising a Sponsored 10k run in Strathclyde Country Park from 12.30pm - 3.30pm. All the money raised will be divided between 5 different charities bringing hope to Africa. If you want to know more about it please visit their website

www.maf-uk.org/runningtherace11



The People's Bible

As most people must be aware by now, it's 400 years since the King James Bible was published.

These days the Bible is freely available in our culture, but not widely read. This summer, the *People's Bible*, a joint venture between the Bible Society in England and Wales and the Scottish Bible Society, will be bringing the Bible back to Britain's high streets. A national tour will take place offering everyone the opportunity to use one of the scribe pods to hand-write a couple of verses and make their mark in history.

The tour began at Edinburgh Castle on 19th June, the anniversary of James VI & I's birth and will be in **Milngavie on Tuesday 20th September from 10am—5pm.**



There are still opportunities for volunteers to help in scribe pods so find out more at www.thepeoplesbible.org

HOLIDAY CLUB

A big 'thank you' is due once again to the folks who ran the Holiday Club during the summer. The children obviously appreciated the activities from week to week. We know that visiting parents as well as our own families are very grateful for the fact that there is always provision for their children during the service. Thank you for making it possible!

Eleanor Easton

BLYTHSWOOD BOXES

Once again we are asking the members of the Sunday Club and Bible Class to fill shoe boxes which will be taken to Blythwood Care and then distributed to needy families in several parts of the world. As before, we would be delighted if other members of the congregation would like to be involved too. Leaflets are available at the back of the Church with all necessary details and information. The date for bringing the boxes is Sunday October 23rd and there will be reminders as the date approaches.

Japan Jottings

The Fergusons are on a well deserved holiday after a very busy summer ,so we are featuring extracts from their blog to give readers an idea of the work they have been doing since the last issue. Necessarily this is a much shortened version - the full story can be found at www.churchplantersdiary.blogspot.com/

Sat 11th June

One of our Japanese Facebook friends added a simple comment to his wall today - 'just three months passed'. We knew immediately what he meant. Three months have indeed passed since the devastating earthquake and tsunami of 11th March.

The huge relief effort goes on. Many thousands remain unaccounted for. Many more continue to live out their lives in the evacuation centres. The nuclear crisis is not in the headlines as it once was, but that does not mean it is over.

OMF has decided to start a work in one of the cities called Miyako in Iwate Prefecture. A couple has been appointed to lead that work and a building rented. It is hoped that this will be a base for others to come short-term to help in the ongoing relief work. Already it is being used.

Sun 3rd July

It's great to be together again as a family of six. Matthew got home just over a week ago and Daniel followed two days later having been away in the Himalayas for two weeks.

The first week back always sees them indulge in plenty of sleeping plus plenty of trips to the fridge to see what might be there for consumption. The younger two of course are very happy to have their older brothers on hand, not least to

go and play football! We really do live quite an unusual lifestyle with all the continual coming and going. But in an odd kind of way that becomes usual to us. Daniel and Matthew are looking forward to joining David as we go as a team of six people to Miyako in Iwate prefecture from the day after tomorrow.



Wed 6th July

Last night six of us headed off from Sapporo bound for the ferry terminal at Tomakomai and the overnight crossing to Aomori. We were destined for Miyako, the large town where OMF now has a base for future work. Everything looks quite normal as you enter the town. You pass a Mr Donuts and even a new McDonalds. People go about their daily business.

Then we headed down into the areas nearer the coast. While much clearing up has been done, the devastation was still shockingly apparent. Mangled buildings. Large areas where houses had been swept away in an instant. Piles of scrapped cars. Some areas survived unscathed. Others continue to live on the second floor of their houses. Still others have houses that are totally intact. Everywhere you see buildings with what looks like red graffiti - a condemned building to be knocked down. Later we met the pastor of the local church and it was great just to observe him in action. He has got to know people. He is earning trust. He is building bridges.

This evening a mobile cafe was set up there (run by the son of an OMF missionary) where people could come and

gather, chat, and enjoy free drinks and cakes.

We didn't quite know what to expect when we came here but our eyes have been opened - to the sheer scale of the devastation (and we have not been to the worst areas yet). But they have also been opened to see a pastor and other Christians sharing the love of Jesus in word and deed. And also to see people, from young children to the elderly, who have been through so much but who are moving on with life as best they can.

Thur 7th July

This morning we loaded up the car with bags of vegetables and fruit. Many people in the temporary housing or in less accessible areas simply cannot get hold of such things. Our first stop was a temporary housing area outside the town of Taro. There was vast destruction in that town and many lost their lives. People there had also had to endure television crews and people who came for so-called 'disaster tourism'. We drove through the area of Taro which bore the brunt of the tsunami. Mist was gently rolling in from the sea. It was an eerie sight. Just a vast area where houses had been washed away. Many were new-built houses. People thought the thick tsunami-proof wall would protect them - but no one reckoned on a 40m high wave. The whole area looked like a war zone - tidied up to some extent but just the remains of buildings razed to the ground, other buildings standing wrecked, fences mangled, piles of wreckage everywhere, the sea wall crumbled.

Later we were able to linger some more with a few people. One man spoke movingly about all he had lost and how people here need 'kokoro no kea' - liter-

ally care of the heart. When David asked what people wanted most, he simply said community, people to talk to, people to be with. What a need there is. What an opportunity there is for people who love Jesus to follow his example and just go to where hurting people are.

Tuesday 12th July

Now we are back to daily life in Sapporo. But now is also the time to reflect. What have we learned? What can we do now? How does OMF move forward



in these coming weeks and months? Other teams will go. A couple are in Miyako over the coming few weeks. A more permanent presence will be established from September. The needs are vast. The potential is great. Funds have been donated in abundance. Supplies are continually needed and those needs will change as time goes on. The challenge - to provide the resources, both human and material, so that the work of reaching out in word and deed, the work of listening, of being alongside, encouraging, of being the hands, feet and ears of Jesus can continue in these hugely needy areas. The OMF July team's visit is over. But the work of rebuilding broken communities and lives goes on and will go on for many weeks, months and years to come.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This year Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on 18th September. Donations can be delivered to the Church on Saturday 17th September between 10am and 12 o'clock or on Harvest Thanksgiving morning. As usual donations of flowers, plants, posies etc. will be delivered by elders to the elderly, housebound and sick in our congregation and foodstuffs will be delivered to the Lodging House Mission and Salvation Army.

Any donations are most welcome. Fresh vegetables, tinned goods, dried goods such as rice, pasta, soup mixes are always welcomed by the Lodging House Mission and Salvation Army.

Envelopes will be in the pews for those members wishing to contribute to the work of the India Ministries Fellowship.

Thank you
Elizabeth McEwan
Harvest Thanksgiving Convener.



LUNCH CLUB



September has come and along with the autumnal weather you will find a warm welcome at the Lunch Club which starts after the summer break on Wednesday 7th September at 12-00pm.

We are a friendly group with a wide variety of people sharing a lovely lunch of homemade soup, a selection of filled rolls and delicious home baking. Due to rising prices we are sorry that we have to increase the cost of this pleasant lunch to £2-50 which is still very modest.

We eat out of bowls and plates not plastic; one wonders where these rumours start. You are served by some lovely, mainly, lady waitresses, who can keep you up to date with church news and views. We are open most Wednesdays during term time and

everyone is welcome.

Following Lunch for those who wish, there is a short service at 1-15 taken by either one of our ministers or elders. This is a time for peace and reflection in our busy lives.

Hope you can join us on Wednesday either as a regular or occasional visitor.

If anyone would like to help either on the Wednesday or by donating baking occasionally, please contact Ann MacLeod 942 8339 or ASMacLeod@aol.com

**Milngavie Churches Ceilidh Saturday
12th November in Town Hall.**

Always a good night. Note the date now.
Bring friends and family.

Full details next month

Badminton Club

The Club will meet for the new season on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm in the large hall.

Looking forward to seeing all members and welcoming new players on that evening.

Cath Buchanan
Secretary



The Tuesday Bible study Group

is restarting on the 6th Sept. We meet every 2nd Tuesday morning at 10.00am. Our first four studies will be in the book of Psalms.

If you are interested in joining us please phone **Morag Thomson** 956 2801 or **Rosemary Fraser** 956 3222 for more details.



Scottish Bible Society

The annual sponsored walk will take place in Mugdock Country Park on Saturday 1st October at 10am. This is a pleasant 6 mile circular route which takes in part of the West Highland Way and passes Craigallion Loch. Sponsorship forms will be available at the back of the church from 11th September. If you would prefer not to be sponsored please feel free to join us for exercise and fellowship – it's a great way to spend a Saturday morning and you can treat yourself to lunch at the café afterwards! Meet at Mugdock Visitor Centre at 9.45 am.

Frances Ireland



Friendship House

The AGM will be on Friday 16th September in St. Andrews Church at 7pm.

After the business part there will be a talk by Allan Logan from '**Crossreach**' following which refreshments will be served in the hall.

All workers will be made most welcome

Friendship House will be open from 10.00 'til 4.00 pm on **Sat 17th Sept** in conjunction with the Book & Arts festival for tea coffee & home baking.

The new Autumn/Christmas

Traidcraft catalogue is now available, and orders can be placed from now.

We have new products on the stall-- including 'fruit pots' at 60p & pickles & jams from the Eswatini range highlighted by our Bible class in June. The new shipment of Kilombero rice from Swaziland has now arrived in Paisley, and we will gladly order more if there is a demand for it: (remember the 90K Rice challenge?)

Thanks to the magnificent response from the congregation our sales were instrumental in giving secondary education to 4 students and self belief to the growers. Please contact Janice MacLean (Bible Class) or the stall helpers for any orders, or phone Babs Frame at 956 2585



Church Transport

St Paul's has for many years operated a transport system to bring people to church who might have difficulties coming under their own steam

In recent times an increase in requests for assistance has meant that I now have no spare drivers and a short waiting list of those needing help.

The system uses teams of about four drivers who work together in a flexible rota to bring one or two of their fellow parishioners to church every Sunday morning. This of course means that one new client often requires four drivers to form a team.

If you feel that you might be able to help in this important work please give me a call or see me on a Sunday morning. Please remember that if we do not get sufficient volunteers some of our members may be unable to join with us in worship.

Steven McFarlane
0141 563 8454

Milngavie Book & Arts Festival

6th-10th September

Programmes widely available in Milngavie - pick up yours now!

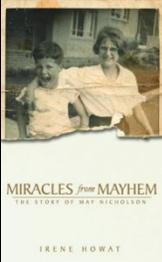
Highlights include:



Tuesday 6th Sept.

James Robertson St Andrew's Church 3pm
James Robertson, author of *The Testament of Gideon Mack*, reads

from his epic novel *And the Land Lay Still*, (winner of the Saltire Prize 2010) which charts 60 years of political, social and cultural change in Scotland from the end of the Second World War to the present day.



Wednesday 7th Sept

May Nicholson
Allander Church 8pm
"Miracles from Mayhem"
May Nicholson was a notorious fighting drunk in Ferguslie Park, Paisley, until her life changed when she was 34. An incredible story, told first

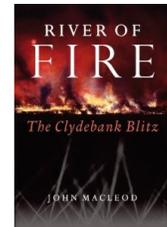
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Friday 9th Sept John MacLeod

Allander Church 7.30pm
"Banner in the West." A spiritual history of Lewis and Harris.

Saturday 10th Sept

John MacLeod
Allander Church 11am
"River of Fire" – the story of the Clydebank Blitz.



Our famous Fish, Chip & Champagne crime night with

Christopher Brookmyre and Mark Billingham
Cairns Church 8.00pm
£15.

Saturday 10th Sept

St Andrew's Church garden from 11am
Public reading of Mark's Gospel

Rev. Kenneth MacDonald - Farewell Lunch Sunday 16th October 2011

The Rev. Kenneth MacDonald retires from St. Paul's at the end of September. It has been agreed by the Kirk Session that there will be a Farewell Lunch in the Large Hall after the morning service on Sunday 16 October. All members of the congregation are invited to attend when there will be an opportunity to personally thank Ken for his dedicated ministry here in St. Paul's.

Mrs Ann MacLeod has agreed to make the necessary arrangements for the lunch and will be seeking assistance from members of the congregation to provide cakes or tray bakes or help to serve on the day. Look out for the sign-up sheets at the back the Church in the near future.

World Mission Diary for May

At the beginning of the Church year let us remember all our Missionary Partners and their families.

Let us remember David and Rebecca Morton in Malawi with all the increasing problems that they are having to cope with as many riots have been taking place in different towns. There is an economic crisis caused by scarcity of diesel and petrol. Please pray for our partners and also friends and colleagues in the Church of Africa Presbyterian, especially for their safety and security.

Dr David Morton asks for our prayers for his concern about securing vital supplies for the hospital so as they can continue their work and also that justice and peace will prevail in Malawi

Thanks

Many thanks for the huge bouquet of church flowers I received. I cannot tell you how lovely it is to be remembered by church friends after my fall. I am so grateful for all the help I have had from so many people. Broken bones in both hands is not to be recommended!

Anne Ritchie

Flower donations—September

Dr Conn, Mrs Brown.

July: Mrs E Easton, Mrs J Getty, Miss E Traill, Miss F Ireland

August: Mrs C Allison Mrs M McNeill, Mrs Taggart.



Please put donations in Flower rota pigeon hole at back of church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave. Milngavie G62 6LJ. Phone 956 2630

Finance



First of all I'd like to thank everyone who returned the Stewardship Card. The Stewardship Committee will be in touch with those who indicated their willingness to help in various areas of the church. I also wish to thank everyone who prayerfully reviewed their giving.

For the first 6 months of this year our income from offerings has shown a slight increase of about £300 over last year but for the same period our expenditure has increased by £ 3,300 to the extent that **we are showing a deficit of £4,470**. The increase in VAT and high costs of energy (which we are all affected by) are the main reason. Taking all of the figures into account and including the forecast tax recovery, we are still on target to maintain our budget.

Our 3 year commitment to the Kimo Peru Project was completed in June and the amount sent to the Vine Trust over this period was £77,967. This amazing sum will improve the life, in a practical way, of the boys who will live in the home at Kimo.

Our commitment to the Fergusons in Japan continues as before with donations specifically for their support.

The donations received for the East Africa Crisis Appeal totalled £2,919 and Gift Aid of £500.50 will be added to the total. Thank you to everyone for your support for this appeal.

If anyone wishes to speak to me on matters of finance then please do not hesitate to contact me in church or phone me at 956 5251.

Chris Scott
Congregational Treasurer.



Congratulations

To Robert (Bobby) Campbell who celebrated 50 years' service as an elder in St Paul's. Bobby was ordained on 4th June 1961 and is already in receipt of the Church of Scotland Long Service Award for thirty years' dedicated service. In recognition of Bobby's faithful and committed service to the congregation of St Paul's for over half a century, a presentation of a book was made to him by Rev Fergus Buchanan at the June meeting of the Kirk Session.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk.

St Paul's Book Café

This month's Book café choice by Fergus is "The Reason For God" by Timothy Keller.

In the last few years, there have been several apologetics books by Christians, each of whom has put his own 'spin' on the Christian message. Timothy Keller joins their ranks with *The Reason for God*, a book based on some of the most common objections that he has heard to the Christian faith during his years as a pastor at a Manhattan church that he planted himself. Keller answers the critics as well as the standard questions such as "why would a good God allow death and suffering?" He delivers this in a straightforward way that is understandable to lay people and sometimes delivered in an over simplified way where necessary.

If you are interested in reading this book, please see the order sheet at the back of the church. The sheet will be available from Sunday September 4th and around that time we will be announcing the meeting to discuss the book.

Any questions on this please speak to Alex McEwan.



Brigade Blethers

At the time of writing this we are just preparing to enrol for the new session and we are looking forward to having the girls back again. As always we welcome girls aged 5 to 17 years old and you do not have to attend St Paul's to come along. Our programme includes arts and crafts, dancing, games, baking and (if reasonable) whatever else the girls request. However the Brigade motto is "Seek, serve and follow Christ" and this is always at the centre of our work.



Just in case you are new to St Paul's, Brigade meets on a Thursday evening. The 5 to 7 year olds, who are called Explorers, meet from 6.30pm till 8.00pm; Juniors who are aged 8 to 11 years meet at the same time and our Brigaders who are 12 to 17 years old meet from 7.00pm till 9.00pm.

If there are girls out there who would like to join us just come along on a Thursday evening and see what we get up to.

You can also 'phone me at 956 1715 or speak to me in Church on a Sunday.

Anne Goodlet

Copy date for October Life is Sunday 18th September if using church pigeon-hole or Wednesday 21st if emailing. **(Please remember Fri 23rd is September weekend holiday so no extension is possible.)** Email to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or post 123 Garscadden Rd, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

