

St Paul's Church Life Magazine April 2007



www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 25 March we sang the original version of 'Amazing Grace'. This was to mark the 200th Anniversary of the day when the slave trade finally became illegal throughout what was then the British Empire.

John Newton, the writer of 'Amazing Grace', was involved in the slave-trade as a sea captain but later lent his support to the abolition movement. He was also spiritual advisor and friend to William Wilberforce whose tireless efforts over eighteen years finally outlawed that terrible trade in human misery.

After his days at sea, Newton became a Church of England minister, serving the parishes of Olney and St Mary Woolnoth, London. In each of these he would write a hymn every week which would encapsulate the theme of his preaching. These were eventually brought together in a volume entitled *Olney Hymns*.

Flicking through this two things struck me. First of all, these hymns were written for the glory of God and to enable the people of God to express their love to Him.

Secondly, each hymn was solidly based on a passage of Scripture so that when they were sung in a congregation the people were not merely engaging in personal devotion they were ministering the Word of God to one another. This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Ephesians: 'Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.' (5:19). And to the Colossians: 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts.' (3: 16.)

It goes without saying that people who write hymns have to be mindful of the responsibility they carry to reflect Biblical thought. But we who sing hymns also have a responsibility to one another. Hymn singing is not an exercise in self-indulgence. It is part of the ministry of the Word of which we are all a part.

Wishing you Good News,
Roger Z. Buchanan



Christian Aid Week
this year is from 13th to 19th May.

As usual we are looking for a good response for collectors and people to help at the count in St. Paul's on 16/17/18th. Look out soon for the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

It helps greatly with planning if you volunteer early. If you have never helped in this work before and would like some more information please contact me - Gordon Campbell, Tel. 563-0377

Church Picnic

The church picnic will be on Saturday 2nd June 2007 to Callendar Park in Falkirk. Departing Milngavie 10.30am and returning at 4.30pm. The park sits on the Antonine Wall with several woodland walks. There is a large area of grass for games and a picnic as well as a boating pond and adventure playground. Callendar House is well worth a visit as it tells stories of 1,000 years of Scottish history which is brought to life in a series of specially-constructed areas: you can glimpse into the work of a clockmaker, printer and grocer as well as sample authentic Georgian food prepared in the working kitchen dating from the early 19th century.

Booking forms and further information will be available at the back of the church towards the end of the month.

Coffee Morning in aid of Leukaemia Research

Saturday 12 May 2007, 10.00am – 12 noon In the Large Hall

With the support and encouragement of my own personal friends and many friends of my late mum, Evelyn Law, we are arranging a coffee morning as detailed above. We are very grateful to the Kirk Session for granting the use of the Large Hall for this event.

Between now and the 12th May, tickets will be on sale from the following ladies priced at £2.00 for adults and 50 pence for children: Myra Reid, May Philips, Margaret White and Helen Kelly. In addition to the coffee and cakes etc, there will be plants, books and home baking on sale.

Further information will be in the May issue of Life Magazine but in the meantime please note this particular Saturday morning in your diary.

Maureen Mackay (956 3944)

Holy Week Services

The Holy Week Services will take place in **Allander Evangelical Church** from Monday 2nd April until Friday 6th April at 7.30pm. The Guest Speaker is Rev. Richard Gibbons who is a Regional Development Officer with the Board of Mission and Discipleship of the Church of Scotland.



www.allanderchurch.org.uk

The short Service for the Saturday in Holy Week will take place at 9.30am in the **United Free Church**.

Thanks

I have found such kindness and friendship in St Paul's. I had a special birthday recently and Betty hosted a party for me after church. About 10 "girls" came and gave me the party of a life time!

Lorna.

Flower Donations for April

Mrs Sinclair, Mrs M Rae, Mrs C Mackay, Mrs Cairns, Mrs More, Mrs H Lindsay.



The regional development team:
(from front left to right) Fiona Fidgin, Richard Gibbons, Sheilah Steven, Linda Pollock, David Currie, Robin McAlpine, Andy Campbell and Phil Wray

Richard Gibbons is the Regional Development Officer for the Presbyteries of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Lewis, The Uists, Lochcarron and Skye and Lochaber. Based in Inverness, Richard is employed by the Council of Mission and Discipleship whose remit for the church is to:

- Take a lead role in developing and maintaining an overall focus for mission in Scotland.
- Take a lead role in developing strategies, resources and services in Christian education and nurture
- To offer appropriate services and support nationally, regionally and locally in the promotion of communities of faith.
- To introduce policy on behalf of the church in the following areas: adult education and elder training, church art and architecture, congregational mission and development, doctrine, resourcing youth and children's work and worship.

In the past Richard has been involved in a servicing role to both presbyteries and congregations which has enabled him to assist congregations who are seeking renewal and development with mission as their driving force. He is currently looking at the possibility of developing seminars in the following areas:

- Recognising and Responding to Cultural and Congregational Change
- Developing Leadership Skills
- Managing Conflict

World Mission Prayer Diary for April

Please pray for:

Our partners in the Presbytery of **Zimbabwe**, that they and all religious and political groups be permitted freedom of expression, and that all Zimbabweans may soon be freed from the difficult situation that currently prevails in the country.

The Moderator, Rt. Rev. Alan Macdonald, his wife Judith, Alison Twaddle and Sandy Sneddon as they visit North **India**, and for the continuation of the excellent work supported both directly by World Mission and by our partner church the Church of North India.

A highlight of the Moderator's trip will be his visit to Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, another renowned educational establishment founded by the Scottish missionary Rev Dr J.A. Graham.

Travelling throughout the region the Moderator will join in worship at the Calvary Church in Ludhiana, open the centenary celebrations at the Robertson Memorial Hostel in Kalimpong and visit the headquarters of DISHA (Deep Griha's Integrated Service for HIV/AIDS 2007) where he will meet those involved with this project that works with people living with HIV/AIDS.

Climate change

Climate change poses a threat to us all. But poor people are on the frontline because the places in which they live are already prone to drought or floods, high winds or rising sea levels. They will suffer first and worst as the climate changes.

The world's poor need you: Christian Aid is looking for volunteers to join the longest ever protest march in UK history. We're scouring churches and communities throughout the UK to look for people who will put their best foot forward for the first ever mass march for climate justice this summer.

Hundreds of marchers are needed to join parts of the eleven-week, 1000-mile 'Cut the Carbon' march, including 10 core marchers who will walk the whole route. Beginning in Northern Ireland on the 14 July 2007, it will pass through Scotland, England and Wales and arrive in London via Bournemouth and the Labour Party conference eleven weeks later.



Climate changed is Christian Aid's latest campaign.
Globe: Getty Images



Find out more at Christian Aid's campaigning website:

www.pressureworks.org



Small scale solar energy project in the village of Wawan Rafi, Jigawa State Northern Nigeria. Solar provides enough energy for water pump.
photo: Christian Aid/Sam Faulkner/NB pictures



Front cover of Coming clean: revealing UK's true carbon footprint. Poor people in developing countries are suffering the most from climate change.



**International Christian College
Monday morning classes - Summer term**

10.15am – 11.15am

How the World Will End – Reading Apocalypse today
Dr David Smith, Lecturer in Urban Ministry and World Christianity

12.00 – 1.00pm

The Charismatic Movement – the glory and the shame
A sympathetic biblical and historical inquiry into charismatic phenomena with particular reference to Scotland.
Rev DR Tony Sargent, Principal, ICC

Classes start Monday 23rd April. All welcome.
Contact the College for further information on 0141 552 4040

The Guild



On Monday February 26th, Miss Betsy Wilkie explained her work and involvement with Borderline, our Guild project this year. Colourful blankets knitted and crocheted by Guild members were presented to her that evening which will be distributed to some of the homeless Scots in London.

On Monday 12th March, Judith Bowers gave an animated talk on the Britannica Panopticon Music Hall Trust in Glasgow, on it's 'discovery' and now restored Theatre and Museum.

On Monday 19th March, our own Mrs Evelyn Williams gave a light hearted talk on "A Taste of New Zealand".

Our A.G.M. was held on Monday 26th March, followed by entertainment from Derek Norval and the Douglas Academy Choir.

The Guild was delighted to raise the sum of £630 at its coffee morning at the end of March – thanks to all the helpers.

Admission of New Members

On Sunday 8 April at the Morning Service we will be admitting new members to the Church.



Dear Friends

As you read this, we will be into our final year in Otaru. April always means the time for new starts in Japan as the financial, school and church years get underway. People are moved by their companies – often with very short notice. One of our church members only found out two weeks before they had to move!

For us it will be a year of change – and then more change will follow as we return to Scotland for a year. Lorna is in India for the first two weeks or so of April visiting Daniel. Matthew is there too to sit the entrance exam for Hebron – all being well, he will start there in August. Calum begins school at last (even though he's nearly 7) and Alistair will go on his own to kindergarten. As you will have heard, we have big changes at the church too as we welcome the Ishihara family. He will be the future pastor of the church and we will gradually hand over responsibility to him during the year. You can see their family photo in our latest Ferguson File.

We really hope that this coming year will be one of growth for the church in Otaru and that we will be able to leave a solid foundation on which God's kingdom can be built in this part of Japan. Our longing this year is to see many more come to be faith and be added to the church – there are so many hurting and needy people and so many who have still to hear the message of the gospel. Through all we do this year, and through your prayers and support for us, may we see the joy of people coming to faith and the many seeds that have been sown over the years in Otaru begin to bear fruit.

Many thanks for your partnership with us. See you in a year's time!

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair



Scottish Bible Society

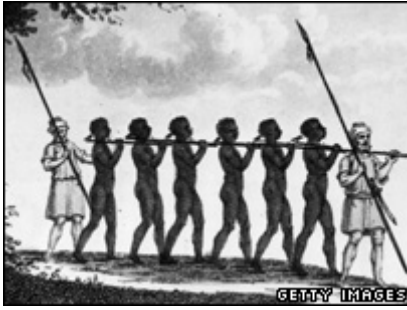
Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Bible Sunday Appeal. The total sum raised was £1035.60. When tax is recovered from the Gift Aid Declarations returned this should increase the total to over £1200. Thank you once again for your generous support.

Grace Rogerson and Frances Ireland.



Help make that vital difference in people's lives! The United Bible Societies, of which SBS is a part, work in 200 countries around the world assisting in the translation, publishing and distribution of the Scriptures. This work is vital! Especially for thousands of poor Christians who long to have a Bible but cannot afford to buy one.

See more at www.scottishbiblesociety.org



The Slave Trade

Born in High Street, Hull, in 1759 and later baptised at the Holy Trinity Church, William Wilberforce's early years were at a time when the slave trade was already an established and thriving commerce in the UK and the world.

Today, his full life story is told at the award winning Wilberforce House Museum in the city's old town.

Wilberforce became MP for Hull at the tender age of 21, the youngest person ever to be elected to the House of Commons. In his later political career, Wilberforce founded an association, and subsequently championed more than 60 reforms, one of them being the Royal Society for the Prevention of the Cruelty to Animals, more widely known today as the RSPCA.

Wilberforce is best known, however, for his untiring commitment to the abolition of both the slave trade and of slavery.

In 1807 (supported and encouraged by his mentor John Newton) Wilberforce fought to bring in the first legislation against the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. In the 1860s, Abraham Lincoln's government passed anti-slavery legislation in America. Sadly, these milestone events did not mark the end of slavery around the world. Today there are still between 12 and 27 million men, women and children who are kept as slaves.

Modern day slaves are not free to come and go. Many are chained or kept in locked rooms. They are forced to work without pay and are deprived of basic human rights. They have been kidnapped, sold or tricked into a life of suffering and deprivation. Modern day slaves are bought and sold as 'possessions' and are often abused and mistreated by their 'owners'.

Examples of modern day slavery:

- Child labourers in carpet making factories held in locked rooms
- Women and children kidnapped (or tricked with false promises) and forced into prostitution
- Black Africans bought and sold by Arab slave owners for as little as 12 Euros
- Children used to harvest cocoa beans (used to make chocolate) in the Cote D'Ivoire
- Children forced into slave labour in repayment of their parents' debts
- Construction workers whose passports are stolen and who are forced to work without pay
- Dalit peoples (untouchables) who are oppressed under the caste system and denied basic human rights.

Rageh Omar, the BBC reporter, recently presented *Slave Children* – a programme first broadcast on 26th March on BBC 2 (which can be seen again on the BBC website at www.bbc.co.uk) in which he examined modern day slavery from the point of view of children in a remarkable journey across 3 continents. He tells the moving stories of a 12 year old from Ghana sold to a fishing master; a six year old Yemeni boy forced to beg in the streets of Saudi Arabia; Indian cousins sent to work in a sweat shop and how a 12 year old survived life in a Cambodian brothel.



The BBC is commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in March 2007 with a season of broadcasts and online content. Sometimes called 'Maafa', meaning 'the great disaster' or African Holocaust, by some African communities. www.bbc.co.uk/abolition/

Treasurer's Report– Stated Annual Meeting 14.03.2007

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Congregational Board, I present you with the Annual Accounts for year ending 31st December 2006. The Accounts show a surplus of £6638 for the year but that does not reflect the whole picture. The Rev George Vidits coming of the payroll in October saved us £4000 and the Kirk Session released over £2000 pounds from the Special Bequest Fund, to pay for the new photocopier, at a time when the General Fund was in deficit. If you equate that with over £2000 of income received in December that we normally receive in January it would have left us looking at a slight deficit.

It has been an eventful and in many ways a wonderful year in the history of our Church and we have many reasons to be thankful to God for the blessings we have all experienced. A seismic change in the Financial Structures of the Church was passed by the General Assembly in May 2005. The full impact of the changes during the past year has given us cause for concern.

The General Treasurer seems to be dismissive of our case..

The method adopted for calculating the Ministries and Mission Allocations and the loss of an allowance for having an Assistant Minister have stretched our finances at their present level to the limit. Our concerns have been a matter of correspondence with all the Committees involved in Edinburgh and Dumbarton Presbytery but to date the issues remain unresolved. The General Treasurer in Edinburgh seems to be dismissive of our case and sees it as an issue between Presbytery and ourselves. The problem is '121' do not give Presbytery sufficient resources to adequately deal with the issues that have arisen.

The concerns over these matters go far beyond our Parish and there is a Commission appointed by last years General Assembly looking into the loss of autonomy of the 'Local Church'. The Commission will be reporting to the General Assembly in 2008 and a deputation from St Paul's gave evidence to them in November last year having been invited to meet with them at a meeting held in Stirling. The Ministries and Mission Allocation will increase considerably again next year unless there are any changes in the interim but be assured that we are still actively engaged trying to resolve the matters giving us concern.

The core giving in the 'Restoration in Faith' Fabric Appeal, while causing slight concern, is adequate for the time being and was boosted by a further £5000 from our surplus at the end of the year. During the year, I received Anonymous Donations of £7000, £6050 and £650 for the upgrading of the Church Exterior, the new Stained Glass Windows and an Oak Table for the back of the church – all these donations were Gift Aid making it possible to enhance them with tax recovery. The St Paul's Guild provided the New Doors at the Baldernock Road Entrance, the St Paul's Society provided the New Light at the Strathblane Road Entrance and the Girls' Brigade provided an Oak Table for the back of the Church.

The Gift Day and Treasures Auction raised, with tax recovery over £11000 and was a memorable day for the social aspects as well as the financial result. To all who gave so willingly and cheerfully we thank you again for your generosity as the work you enabled to be carried out has enhanced the Sanctuary and the Entrances.

The Overseas Mission Fund is showing a healthy surplus and is more than sufficient to meet our commitment to OMF on behalf of the Fergusons in Japan.

On a personal note, I thank –

The Ministers, the Kirk Session. The Congregational Board and the Finance Committee for their support and advice throughout the year.

The Conveners who help me throughout the year, Barbara Lawson, Jim McQueen and Liz Traill. I thank Liz this year particularly for her patience and diligence in preparing the database for the Gift Aid Computer Programme despite her own disability at the time.

Helen Arnold who carried out many duties delegated to her and particularly the role she played in automating the Gift Aid as her keyboard skills far surpassed those of either Liz or me. I also thank her for preparing the Powerpoint presentation for tonight.

Anne O'Hagan and her Staff for their help at the tax year-end 2005/2006 as we both encountered problems with the software we were using despite it being issued to facilitate year-end proceedings. Her staff also did the wages for me during the first three weeks in April until my problems were fixed and my confidence in the system restored.

On behalf of the Congregational Board, I thank –

- Anne O'Hagan, Bell Barr and Company for carrying out the audit of the Accounts.
- Cathy Buchanan and Jean Ferguson for sorting the Accounts for distribution.
- A special thanks to the Church Visitors for delivering the Accounts to each household.
- All members of the Congregation, without whose encouragement and support we would be unable to continue here as a place of worship and witness.

I am not going to say much about the Congregation's giving as I believe the Stewardship Committee are dealing with this, but at this stage I am greatly encouraged by the number of members who have increased their giving through standing orders and cheques since the beginning of the year. It is sufficient for me to say that as a people who have been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ we realise we are but stewards of all we possess. We offer our gifts as an act of worship for the love of God as He has prospered us. It is to Him at the end of all time that we are answerable for what we give and what our motives are. However, it is evident to all of us who have handled the Open Plate, from the denomination of the notes, that some members give substantial amounts by this method. There have been times when the amount in the Open Plate surpasses the amount given by Gift Aid Envelopes. **I again appeal to any member, who gives by this method, and is paying Income Tax to take advantage of the Gift Aid Scheme.** You could enhance your giving to the Church by 28p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to yourself. In this connection Mat 6: 3-4 has been quoted to me, "When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret". I do not think Jesus is telling us that what we give should be a secret he was more concerned with our motivation for doing "acts of righteousness". If I am wrong then the Minister will rebuke me and if a rebuke is not forthcoming then I hope that this is not a reason for anyone not allowing us to reclaim tax on their giving. As for confidentiality, only three people in the church have knowledge of what is given by individuals and any two out of the three only have a partial knowledge. While the Treasurer may have the most knowledge, even he is unaware of the whole picture, as he does not have access to all the envelope codes.

Angus Maclean

Editor's note

The editor would just like to thank everyone for their best wishes and kind words on the occasion of her recent marriage – which half of Milngavie seems to have turned out to watch! Thanks too to Edith, Derek, Ken and Fergus for making everything run smoothly on the day and helping make it such a happy occasion.

Prayer Meeting

At the very heart of a living congregation is prayer. At St Paul's a regular group meet on a Thursday evening to share their concerns for our own congregation, our local area and the world at large. John MacArthur produces "Prayer Pointers" a sheet highlighting issues at home and abroad which is posted every week on the website and which e-enabled members might like to make use of to direct their own prayers if you can't make it on a Thursday (www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk) Links are provided to websites of interest which makes this a rich and thought provoking spiritual resource. The last issue contained an interesting article focusing on John Newton which is very pertinent at this time, with the anniversary of the abolition of slavery being marked and the film *Amazing Grace* opening in cinemas across Glasgow from 23rd March.

Other items included in the last issue are reproduced below to give you a flavour - the list is necessarily abbreviated but perhaps it will inspire you to revitalise your own prayer life (if it needs it!) by joining the group on a Thursday, logging on to the website or signing up to receive e-prayer newsletters.

The World

Iran – deadline for complying with UN resolution re uranium enrichment approaching but signs not promising

Somalia – Heavy fighting in Mogadishu, capital of this country which has experienced anarchy for years

Zimbabwe – US ambassador outspoken in condemnation

India Ministries Fellowship –newsletter on our website!

Gaza – BBC reporter still missing

Japan – See the Ferguson File at the back of the church

The Nation

Sexual Orientation Regulations – passed in House of Lords – see website

Youth Violence – focus on knife attacks and killings now moved to England

Scripture Union – W/E events very popular – Bearsden & Milngavie W/E at Lendrick Muir in a month's time. Meanwhile, pray for Easter camp staff. (Encouraging that some schools using Alltnacriche Outdoor Centre mid-week)

Nearby

Open Door Trust – Staff and volunteers meet to review work on 31st March *latest Prayer Letter on website:* www.odtglasgow.org.uk

George Vidits (St Columba, Helensburgh) Joint Sat. a.m. Lenten Services & Joint Easter Holiday Club.

Stuart Matthews (Maryhill Parish Ch.) – church has a busy Friday 'Drop-In' for asylum seekers.

Book Group

Bill Bryson's book Notes from a small Island is a tongue in cheek look at our British way of life. His sense of humour appealed to the majority of the group but there were a couple of murmurs of "grumpy old man!" However we all agreed that he has marvellous powers of observation and he has the British off to a T. Well worth a read

We are now about to embark on Brian Clarke's book "The Stream" which is more meaningful when read in the Spring of the year. If you feel that you would like to read this and to join us at our next meeting on 8th May then please contact Helen in the Church office for the venue.



Brigade Blethers

The girls work hard on a Thursday night and this year they have been working hard at home too. Last November the girls were given a bulb and a plant-pot. They were asked to plant the daffodil and look after it during the winter. We also asked them to put a little of their pocket money away each week to make their own personal donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Finally we asked them to decorate the pots. Then last Thursday we held a coffee evening. The girls brought back their pots of daffodils and everyone who came along to support us helped us to choose 3 winners. The grand total collected for Cancer Care was £323 and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped us to reach this amazing sum.

Last year I was asked to put forward the name of any Brigader who regularly put in extra hours to help within the Company or the Church and who could be depended on to help when and if required. Four girls were chosen, Sarah Graham, Laura McKay and Eleanor Thompson, and on Friday 16 March Sarah and Eleanor (along with nearly 200 other Brigaders) attended a special ceremony where Mr Jack McConnell, The First Minister of Scotland, presented them with a Millennium Volunteer Award. Unfortunately Laura was unable to attend but she will get her Award in due course. Well done girls. We are all very proud of you!

Yours Anne Goodlet.

St Paul's Church Society - Summer Outing

Cathedral of the Isles, Millport

The date of the Annual Summer Outing has had to be changed to Saturday 16th JUNE, as the Cathedral had a prior booking in May. The committee hopes that this date will be suitable to Members and friends. Further details will be in the May edition of 'Life' magazine.

Iris T.Torbet
Secretary and Treasurer



CHURCH REGISTER**New Members****Joined by Resolution**

Mrs Rosemary Reath, 14 Viewpark, Milngavie 54

Change of Address

Mrs Fiona Holt, 13 Stockiemuir Ave., Bearsden 48

now 9 Garvel Road, Milngavie 61

Mr & Mrs John Anderson, Balwearie, 6 Dumgoyne Ave., 27

now Balwearie, 42 Scott Brae, Kippen 70

Disjunctions

Rev and Mrs William Beattie, 259 Milngavie Road 47

Weddings

3 March 2007 Rona Barbara Macdonald, 6 Garrioch Crescent and
Anthony Peter Thomas Dawson

Rotas

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche	Traidcraft	Vestibule
1 st Apr	L Hughes R Buchanan	Kerr, MacKinnon, Whitelaw	R Fraser C MacKay	Team 4 Patricia Knaggs
8 th Apr	A McLean R Cameron	Baxter, Reid, Bolton	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Gordon Hamilton
15 th Apr	J Ford C Tanner	J Deuchar, Smith, Sillars	No stall	Team 1 Christine Forsyth (Communion)
22 Apr	J Clark M Taggart	MacAuley K Deuchar Lawrie	B Barr H Reid	Team 6 Elizabeth Watson
29 Apr	I Torbet P Barlow	Chapman, Goodlet, Cockburn	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Ronald Buchanan