

St Paul's Milngavie

Life Magazine
March 2009



Dear Friends,

Tomorrow I will go into the Radio Clyde studios to record some more contributions to their *Time Out* slot which goes out at around three minutes to midnight on Clyde 2. That's the one where I have fifty seconds to deliver my message. Yes, I know it's hilarious. Imagine Buchanan having to confine himself to fifty seconds! More seriously, some people have asked how it's possible to say anything remotely meaningful in that time. Well, that's the challenge. On a station like Clyde you are slap-bang in the midst of the sound-bite culture. Short, sharp, verbal arrows are what is needed. That requires a great deal of discipline from someone like me but it is too good an opportunity to pass up. Radio is still the most intimate of our modern media. It demands more from its consumers and is therefore liable to reach them at a deeper level. The number of letters and phone calls I have received over the years from listeners is testimony to that.

Listening is a big part of our Lenten season in St Paul's. Our Saturday morning half-hour devotions will be starting on 28 March and continuing until 4 April. We also have Holy Week to look forward to with our annual services taking place in the United Free Church from Monday 6 April. So there is ample opportunity to increase our awareness of the Season and all the challenging issues that are associated with it. Spare a thought also for our evening services. We will be following a Lenten theme and I have great hopes that if the attendances improve during this time that they might even stay that way for the foreseeable future.

There has never been a time when I have thought that our evening services were not worth having but there is no doubt that attendances could be a lot better. They are an opportunity to spend a bit more time with a passage of Scripture for the strengthening of our faith and the expansion of our understanding of the Gospel. I realise, sadly, that for some people that is not the most enticing prospect but in these challenging times in which we live a firmer grasp of Gospel truth is imperative. Lent is traditionally a time to increase our commitment to the Word of God.

Coming out on a Sunday evening is an opportunity to move in that direction.

Fair Trade in St. Paul's

Why is the fair trade movement so important? It was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. Fairtrade is the UK's leading fair trade organisation. Its mission is to fight poverty through trade, practising & promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives. Every Sunday the fair trade stall is available after the morning service. It is kept well stocked & we will be delighted to show you the new spring catalogue & take orders.



Please buy fairly traded goods whenever possible.

Traidcraft are holding a coffee morning on Saturday April 4th. after the Lent service from 10am. til 12.00pm in the large hall.



St Paul's Society Coffee Morning and Outing

The **Lenten Coffee Morning will be on Saturday the 21st March** following the morning service. There will be the usual stalls, cake and candy, unwanted treasures, books and Cards for Kimo. Tickets are £2. At our recent AGM it was decided that the proceeds of this Coffee Morning would go to a travelling fund for any young people trying to raise funds to visit Kimo. At the moment we are selling cards for the same purpose.

The Society outing will be on Saturday the 6th of June and our destination will be Burntisland Parish Church. This Church is known as " the kirk of the bible" and this dates back to the General Assembly of the 12th of May 1601. The Assembly met in Burntisland due to an outbreak of the plague in Edinburgh at that time. It was at this meeting, a new translation was commissioned and became known as the King James Version. James summoned the Assembly to Burntisland as he had injured his shoulder in a hunting accident in nearby Rossend Castle.



The Church has been refurbished and is looking more glorious than it ever could be, so now is a good time to take a step back in history and enjoy this magnificent setting. Watch out for more news on times and tickets.

If you need more information, and could not attend our recent AGM , have a word with Iris Torbet.

Lent 2009

Our traditional Lent Services will begin at 9.30am on Saturday 28th of February and will continue until Saturday the 4th of April. The Holy Week Services will take place from Monday the 6th of April until Friday the 10th of April in Milngavie United Free Church at 7.30pm each evening. The Guest Preacher from Monday to Thursday will be the Rev. Sandy Roger and on Good Friday Dr Tony Sargent of The International Christian College. There will be the usual half hour service on Saturday the 11th of April at 9.30am led by our own Minister.

The Christian Aid Lenten Lunch will be held in the main hall after the morning service on Sun 29th March.

Come along and enjoy a roll with a selection of soups, including homemade.

All donations to Christian Aid

During the period of Lent over the past few years the Congregation of St Pauls have collected tea, coffee, sugar and tins of fruit for Organizations who feed the people on the streets of Glasgow. The Organizations also give support to these people. This year it is intended to continue this during the period of Lent and this will begin on Sunday 1st March, 2009 for five Sundays. Boxes will be placed at the back of the Church for anyone who wishes to make a contribution. This year it is intended to give the contribution to Glasgow City Mission. Please pray for this work.

Janet Charles

Kards for Kimo

We are continuing to sell cards to assist the young people of the church travelling to Kimo this summer. As the stock of "forever friends" ends we will be introducing a new range of cards for all occasions.

Watch the Sunday intimations for more information on this, as they appear. As usual the embossed cards for prayer and illness will always be available. Their will be Easter cards available at the St Paul's Society Coffee Morning and then each Sunday running up to Easter Sunday. These will be a mixed bag of cards, some general cards and some with a strong Christian Message.

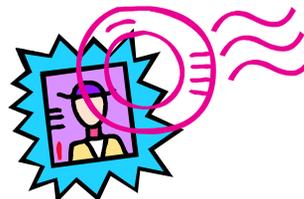
Jazz Concert

FRIDAY 15th MAY
at 7.30p.m.

Following their highly acclaimed visit to our Christmas Tree Festival the Allander Jazz Band have agreed to give a concert in the Church in aid of the Kimo Peru Project.

More details will be available nearer the time, but please keep the date free!

Stamp Appeal



The 2008 stamp appeal raised £1,500. Our appeal was for the Scottish Universities' Mission Institution (SUMI) in Kalimpong. In India, many young girls have to drop out of mainstream education due to financial hardship, gender or caste discrimination. SUMI has helped many of these young girls return to school and continue their education. Our challenge was to support the school, which is an institution of the Church of North India's Diocese of the Eastern Himalayas, deliver first class education for these girls.

The new stamp appeal project will be officially announced in the next few weeks and will be for a project based in the Czech Republic. We have been in close communication with our partners there finalise the appeal and will be releasing details and making resources available as soon as possible.

In the meantime, many thanks indeed for your support – and we look forward to seeing the stamps keep coming in! Your help and support is much appreciated.

Margaret Hamilton and May Phillips.

More Donations

Lodging House Mission

On behalf of all the homeless men and women who will benefit from the donation of £600 please accept my thanks and that of our staff and volunteers. All of us here at L.H.M. are well aware of our dependence on God, each other and on support such as yours. We are reminded regularly, as we observe those amongst us at the very bottom of life's ladder, that no-one is an island to themselves. We are all, rich or poor, housed or homeless, addicted or clean, mentally healthy or mentally unwell, interdependent on each other in this world.

L.H.M. has stood for nearly a century as a practical expression of God's love and the desire of group of caring people working together to show His compassion of those left behind as society becomes more focussed on the independence of the individual. Thank you for playing your part in our efforts.

Stan Smith – Project Leader.

Scottish Bible Society

Thank you for your recent donation of £650 to help us spread the Scriptures to people far and wide, not forgetting those who need the message in Scotland.

Our so-called "Land of the Book" tends to have a somewhat cool attitude to the Bible so I was fascinated to read of the launch in Kenya of a new Bible in the Gikuyu language. One of the guest speakers was none other than the Head of State, President Mwai Kibaki. Alongside him was Kimani Maruge born round about 1920 and known as the oldest primary pupil in the world: his motivation for attending school in his 80's was that he might read the Bible. After the event "such was the eagerness to obtain the new Bible that crowd control became a real concern."

The Guild



Our first meeting in February was hampered by bad weather but despite that we had a reasonable attendance. Mr Douglas Keith gave us a very interesting talk on Holland and the Dutch bulbfields. It brightened our evening seeing all the flowers in full bloom.

On Feb 9th our meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (snow). We were disappointed as we were having a visit from Sandra Hislop of Wilshire Farm Foods. The remainder of the month proceeded to plan however and we had a Bible study on 16th by Rev Kenneth Macdonald and on the 23rd a decoupage demonstration by Nan Middleton.

We are not having a meeting on 1st March as we are visiting St Luke's on the 2nd. The 9th will be Mission Aviation Fellowship.

16th March is the fund raising concert by Mark Donnelly and Aileen Sim with the Bothwell Philharmonic Choir. Donation tickets £5. further details elsewhere in this issue.

The 23rd March will be a Scottish Bible Society night with Alan Campbell and 30th March is the AGM and Home Night.

Our annual coffee morning is planned for Saturday 28th March 10am – 12 noon. Adults £2, children 50p. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Guild Charity Concert



The Preshal Trust

Scottish Charity No. SC033632

I will restore to you the years the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25)



MUSIC IN HOSPITALS

SCOTLAND

communicating through live music

The preparations for the Guild Fundraising Concert on the 16th March, 2009 in the Church are now well in hand. The artistes who will be performing on the night are Mark Donnolly, Baritone, the Bothwell Philharmonic Choir and Aileen Sim, a Mezzo Soprano, who is coming up from London.

The two Charities to benefit from this concert are Music In Hospitals and the Preshal Trust (in Glasgow), both very worthwhile ventures. The history of these charities was given in full in last month's edition of 'Life'.

The tickets are available from members of the Guild Committee, both at the back of the Church and in the Large Hall each Sunday up to and including the 15th March.

Sun Kids and Jump!

Sun Kids and Jump are for all children and young people at Primary School and in Secondary 1

Come along for games, food, Bible stories, songs, and much more... – come along and bring a friend (remember to bring £1.00 to cover expenses)

Saturday 7th March 2009

4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

St Paul's Church, Baldernock Road, Milngavie

For more information contact:
Douglas on 0141-942-7184

"It's an Adventure"

Congratulations are due to the members of our Company Section Cross County Squad who collected a number of medals and trophies at the recent Battalion Cross Country Competition held in Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton. Craig Anderson came first in the Junior race, while Gordon Best and Andrew Muirhead took first and second place in the Intermediate race. In addition, the Company came first in the Intermediate team event. The Boys have been invited to represent the Battalion in the National Competition which is to be held later this month in the grounds of Tulliallan Castle.



Back row:
L/Cpl Andrew
Muirhead,
L/Cpl Calum
Shields and
Daniel
Ferguson
From row:
Gordon Best,
Matthew
Ferguson and
Craig
Anderson



Donations

At the end of last year the Church made donations to several charities from the surplus in the General Fund. I have received acknowledgements from all of them and would like to share with you the positive feedback that all of the charities show in their letters and the encouragement they received from our support.

Chris Scott ~ Treasurer

Feed the Minds.

Thank you very much for the generous donation of £550 sent on behalf of St. Paul's Parish Church. Your contribution will enable us to help educate underserved communities worldwide. This is an effective way to empower people with the skills and knowledge to take charge of their own lives and meet their needs.

We appreciate your community's interest in our work and greatly value this support.
Adam Sach ~ Director of Fundraising & Communications.

The following article appeared in September 2008 in the magazine *Evangelicals Now* by John Benton. It is reprinted with permission.

'Why do you go to church twice on a Sunday? Isn't once enough?' In many churches the Sunday evening service is disappearing.

There are two main reasons for this. First, demands from employers have increased enormously over the last 30 years. Weekends have become precious. Two Sunday services are seen as taking up too much of the weekend. Second, back in 1994, the Tory government legalised Sunday trading. This secularised the day, giving people many more options with regard to how we spend it. Simultaneously it put extra pressure on many to work on Sundays.

Scripture tells us to 'not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching' (Hebrews 10.25). While many Christians are faithful to meet once for worship on the Lord's Day, they leave it at that. There are those who through age, ill health or other circumstances really can't make it out twice on a Sunday. So is there any sense in the tradition of two services? I believe there is.

Because two services are helpful practically

For example, I know of a Christian couple, a nurse and a policeman, who often have to work shifts over the weekend. They started going to a new church which met in a school and just had a morning service. But their shifts clashed with the morning service. Suddenly it hit them that they had not been able to attend a Sunday service for weeks. They concluded they would have to leave and find a church which met both morning and evening to give them an option.

Because two services are a pattern in Scripture

While there is no explicit command in the NT, this is evident in the OT. We find this 'morning and evening' pattern explicitly in Psalm 92: 'it is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.' As Christians, we meet on Sundays as the day of Christ's resurrection. It is suggestive that the gospels record resurrection appearances in the morning and the evening (John 20.1,19).

Because two services match the fourth commandment

The commandment tells us to 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy'. With the change from the Old Covenant to the New, the Sabbath is changed into the blessing of the Lord's Day. According to Genesis 1, a day has both a morning and an evening, And despite what has become popular in our evangelical culture, it is still the Lord's Day, not the Lord's Morning, which we are to celebrate.

Because two services are the tradition of the church

As we look back over history, we find that morning and evening worship on Sunday was the norm. In the early fourth century (by the time persecution had receded and the church had a chance to settle), we find the church historian Eusebius describing Church practice as follows: 'It is surely no small sign of God's power that throughout the whole world in the churches of God at the morning rising of the sun and at evening hours, hymns, praises... are offered to God' (Commentary on Psalm 64),*

During the Middle Ages, morning worship became known as 'matins' and evening worship as 'vespers'. At the time of the Reformation the custom of morning and

evening worship was continued in Crannies's Book of Common Prayer with its rubrics for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. So churches that have dropped the evening service have sharply departed from the normal practice of Christ's church. Now I'm not mad on tradition, but the question is this: 'Are we wiser and better Christians than all those who have gone before us or is it because actually we are succumbing to the secular spirit of our age which marginalises God?'

Because two enthusiastic services rebuke secularism

The meetings of Christians, especially on the Lord's Day, point forward to the coming Day of the LORD (Hebrews 10.25). The special day, one in seven, always did point forward to God's kingdom. That is why the Lord Jesus did so many of his miracles on the Sabbath. He didn't do it simply to upset the Pharisees. He performed those miracles on the Sabbath because it was appropriate. Those miracles were redolent of the power and joy of the coming kingdom. With the resurrection of Jesus on the first day of the week, Sunday speaks of the same thing. It looks forward to the rest and release and joy and fellowship of the world to come, when Jesus returns.

Now secularism sees everything just in terms of this life. But by coming to church on Sunday we are making a statement. We are saying we are looking forward to Christ's coming kingdom, And, by having two services on a Sunday, we are saying, 'This is not a mere duty, we are enthusiastic about this!'

Because two services offer you two opportunities to be encouraged

Hebrews 10.25 says that the purpose of meeting together is to build one another up. We are encouraged as we meet with God's people, pray for one another, share our lives. In particular, our faith is helped under the preaching of the Word. 'Oh, I can listen to a sermon tape, or do a Bible study at home.' That is true. But, as Christopher Ash pointed out so ably at this year's EMA, that is not the same as being together under the Word of God all knowing what we have all heard and therefore looking to help one another obey. How can members of Christ's body say by their actions 'I have no need of you'?

Because two services offer you two opportunities to encourage others

Staying at home and listening to a sermon tape is very 'me'-centred. Sunday is not just about you being encouraged but about you encouraging others. So Sunday nights give you a second opportunity to do that. Perhaps in the morning you have the children with you and it's not easy for you to talk to others and keep an eye on them. But if husband and wife take it in turns to put the children to bed so the other can come out in the evening, you have the chance to be free to talk and pray with others and actually encourage them.

And even your very presence is an encouragement. When Sunday school teachers. or those who can only get out in the evening, come to an evening service where the congregation is sparse and the singing a bit weak, they won't be as encouraged as they could be by a big congregation and seeing all their friends.

So, although there is no explicit command in Scripture that churches must have a morning and an evening service, and it is not a sin to only have one service, nevertheless it makes a lot of practical sense. Our needy nation is not going to be turned around and saved by seeing a lot of empty churches on Sunday nights. People are going to be challenged by seeing full churches, and hearing enthusiastic singing and thinking, 'What's going on there?'

*I am indebted to The Banner of Truth Magazine for this quote.

John Benton

Dear Friends



This will be our last Japan Jottings before leaving once again for Japan. It really seems no time at all since we arrived back last April. The intervening months have been busy, encouraging and blessed in many ways. These last few weeks will be just as busy as we get packed up and say the farewells.

It was a joy to be able to share something of the work to which we will return during one of the services last month and at the lunch afterwards - many thanks to the Overseas Committee for all their work on that. If all goes to plan, we will leave Edinburgh on the morning of 17th March and should be in Sapporo late afternoon on the 18th. Winter will just be coming to an end so we will no doubt be faced with snow piled up at the side of the roads. We will stay for a while at the OMF Guest Home in Sapporo while we look for a house. That is the big prayer request for now. It would be great if we could find and move in to a suitable place by the end of March, as we would then know which school Calum will attend and also because David visits India from 4th April for half-term at Hebron School.

We are looking forward to beginning the new work in Sapporo. Starting a church from zero is a challenge and one that is both exciting and scary! Yet with God's help and leading and the prayers and encouragement of many folks back home, we can face that challenge knowing that we are not alone. We hope to begin some kind of blog so those of you who have access to the Internet can follow our adventures over these coming months.

Before that, we will have our Re-commissioning service in St Paul's on 15th March and we hope to see many of you then. Many thanks for all your support, encouragement and financial gifts during our year back here.

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Flower Donations - February

Mr R. Bone, Mrs K. Butler, Mrs D. Dickson, Mrs M. Ingram,
Mrs S. & J. Lindsay, Miss A. Ritchie, Mrs. S. Stenhouse,
Mrs. C. Tanner.



As always contact Wilma Douglas on 0141 956 2630

Dew Drops

Throughout the season of Lent we shall be following daily readings taking us throughout the season up until Easter Sunday. Paper copies of dewdrops will be available in the same places as before - at the table at the Strathblane Rd Door and out in the foyer at the Baldernock Road door (outside the office).

Alex McEwan

Give us, Lord God,
a vision of our world
as you love your make it:
a world where the weak are protected,
and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the benefits of civilised
life are shared, and everyone can
enjoy them;
a world where different races, nations
and cultures live in tolerance and
mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with
justice, and justice is guided by love;
And give us the inspiration and
courage to build it, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Milngavie Prayer Breakfasts

8am breakfast, 8.45am prayer

7th Mar United Free

4th Apr St Luke's

2nd May St Paul's

6th Jun Allander

World Mission

World mission diary for March
Morgan Tsvangirai has been sworn in as Zimbabwe's Prime Minister. We pray that he will be able to deal with an economy in ruins and a cholera epidemic which has killed more than 3,400 people. More than half of the population rely on emergency food aid. We also pray that with the coalition government he will be able to bring relief and hope to the people of Zimbabwe

BIBLE CENTRED?

The shortest chapter in the Bible is
Psalm 117

The longest chapter in the Bible is
Psalm 119

The chapter in the centre of the Bible is
Psalm 118

There are 594 chapters before 118

There are 594 chapters after 118

$594 + 594 = 1188$

The centre verse is Psalm 118.8

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? Next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their life and that they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word.

Psalm 118:8 (NKJV)

'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.'

Isn't it odd how this worked out. Or was God at the centre of it?

John Cunningham, Fairlie, Largs

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

Zoe Lynn Renfrew, 4 St. Andrew's Drive, Bearsden 62

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr & Mrs J Miller, 16 Mosshead Road, Bearsden 43

DEATHS

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

9.1.09 Miss Jean Renfrew, York

7.2.09 Miss Agnes Rudge, Hillview Nursing Home, Dalmuir 18a

3.2.09 Mrs Helen Gardner, Almond Court, Drumchapel

Copy date for April issue is Sun 22nd March if using church pigeon hole or Thurs 26th if emailing to rona.dawson@go.uk.com Posted articles to 123 Garscadden Rd, Old Drumchapel, G15 6UQ please. 0141 944 4198

Advance warning: Church picnic will be on Sat 30th May 09 – more details in next issue.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
8 Mar	M Thomson E Izatt	Berry, Wilson, Chapman	A Begg J McLean	Team 9 Morag Thomson (EC)
15 Mar	A Gibson A McLeod	Smith, Baxter, McAuley	J McIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Bruce Shearlaw
22 Mar	M Abbott T Douglas	Reid, Bolton, J Deuchar	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Duncan White
29 Mar	M McLean R Cameron	Lawrie, Sillars, K Deuchar	C McKay E Izatt	Team 4 Robert Bone
5 Apr	J Ford C Tanner	Goodlet, Bates, Cockburn	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Brian Adair

