

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2014



I've always loved this time of year. After the darkness and the cold of Winter it is good to hear the birdsong, see new colour in the gardens, enjoy the longer day and see new life in the fields. Spring is the season of new possibilities, new strength, new vision. Philip Larkin has a poem called 'The Trees' in which he sees Spring as a time of new beginnings. This only comes, however, through struggle. The buds have been forced open, the trees are leaved again, but only after the 'death' of Winter. But from this, come May the trees will stand as a testimony that even through the struggle and the 'death' there can be a new beginning:

'Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.'

The season makes its impact on the poet's heart, speaking to him of the hope that life can begin again. It is a reminder to us that in the season of Spring we celebrate Easter and the events that have made it possible for humankind to begin again. We remember the struggle of Jesus' life as he identified fully with our human condition. We remember his death that absorbed the judgement of God on the sin of the world and made forgiveness possible. We remember his rising that points forward to a renewal of body, mind and soul at that time when all things will be made new.

In Spring we have more than the power of nature to speak to us of better days ahead, we have the story of Jesus and its power. It brings us the assurance that our God is with us through all our days of struggle and grief. It brings us the assurance that we can emerge from the worst of our failures knowing that we have been forgiven. It brings us the hope that despite the crushing darkness that is often our human experience God has fixed a time when the buds of renewal will come to full bloom and there will be a new creation for his renewed people to enjoy.

The apostle John had a glimpse of this in these startling visions in the Book of Revelation:

'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning or crying or pain any more for the former things have passed away.' (Revelation 21: 4)

Enjoy the wonders of Spring but more so enjoy the promises of Easter.

Copy date for May issue is Sunday 20th April if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 23rd if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6th Apr	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Stark McCreadie	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 E Watson
13th Apr	E. Izatt F. Ireland	Wilson Richell	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 M Boyd
20th Apr	A. Gibson A. McLeod	Goodlet Tracey		Team 1 C Cooper
27th Apr	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Sillars Chapman	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 B Campbell

Dates For Your Diary

Holy Week 2014

This year, we welcome the Rev Willie Black as our guest preacher at the Holy Week Services. Willie was last with us in 2009, when we greatly appreciated his ministry to us. Willie was then the minister at the High Kirk in Stornoway, but has since retired and is now living in Cathcart on the south-side of Glasgow. He is now interim moderator and locum minister at Trinity Parish Church in Cathcart. Willie served as minister at Durness and Kinlochbervie, before working as a missionary with OMF in Korea. It was from Korea that Willie and Katie moved to Stornoway.

Willie is married to Katie and has three daughters. We well remember and appreciate his gift for expository preaching, his keen sense of humour, and the warmth of his friendship and fellowship. Again, we look forward to his ministry to us.

Willie's title for the week will be, "**What does Jesus want from you this Easter?**" as follows:-

Mon – Luke 22:14-23	“What is important to Jesus this Easter?”
Tues – Luke 22:24-38	“What does Jesus say to you this Easter?”
Wed – Luke 22:27-62	“What does Jesus not want you to do this Easter?”
Thurs – Luke 23:26-43	“What reaction is Jesus looking for this Easter?” Part 1
Fri – Luke 23:44-56	“What reaction is Jesus looking for this Easter?” Part 2

The offerings from our Holy Week services will go to support the work of **The Well**, a Christian multi-cultural advice centre serving Govanhill and the surrounding areas in the south-side of Glasgow. Full details can be found at their website www.thewell.org

The Walk of Witness by the Milngavie churches will again take place on Good Friday starting at the clock in the precinct at 11am with refreshments in the Al-lander Evangelical Church afterwards.

All welcome.

Finance

Throughout 2013 the Congregational Board have been kept informed of our financial situation via the monthly reports of income and expenditure from the Treasurer. Last year the General Fund continued to maintain a healthy balance and although we ended the year with a surplus, during the year for the months from March to November we had to dip in to our reserves.

	General Fund	
Income	2013	2012
Offerings	175,674	177,538
Tax Recovered	36,925	35,444
Other income	6,022	7,617
	218,621	220,599
	Expenditure	
Ministry & Mission	118,244	119,116
Local Staffing	41,555	43,225
Buildings	32,966	31,642
Other Costs	16,678	13,773
	209,443	207,756
Income Less Expenditure	9,178	12,843

Income from Offerings are showing a drop of £1,864 (about 1.05%). Other sources of income are similar to last year. Taking these figures into account and the fact that our expenditure also shows an increase of £1,687 we never the less ended the year with a reasonable surplus of £9,178 and this is the equivalent of about half of our average monthly expenditure.

The Church of Scotland instigated the programme of Stewardship called “Challenge to the Church” in 2012, and I would ask you to please give prayerful consideration to your own Stewardship programme and while the above information only deals with the financial side of things challenges you to how you can use your Time, Talents and Money wisely.

After presenting the Accounts for last year to the Stated Annual Meeting there are still a few copies available at the back of the church.

Intimations From the Treasurer

At the end of last year the Congregational Board agreed in the name of St. Paul's to support the work of the various charities form the general Fund surplus, and I have received the following acknowledgements.

Chris Scott
Congregational Treasurer



Lodging House Mission

Lodging House Mission

Please thank the Congregation of St. Paul's Parish Church for donating the sum of £600.00 donated for our work here at L.H.M. We do value and appreciate every gift that we receive and can assure you that this money will be put to good use. Please continue to remember in your prayers all the work we are engaged in as we offer help and support to those who are homeless and find themselves isolated and socially excluded.

Gus McKay (Chaplain)

Feed the Minds



Thank you so much for your donation of £550.00 sent on behalf of Milngavie St. Paul's Parish Church. Our latest newsletter Connect 17, looks at peace-building within communities and the importance of addressing the roots of conflict – not just trying to alleviate the problems. Your support is fundamental in enabling us to help the communities we seek to serve and to tackle issues at grassroots level. Such work would be impossible without your donations. Thank you again.

Adam Sach
Director of Fundraising and Communications.

Christian Aid Week 2014 is from 11th to 17th May and as usual we are looking for collectors and a sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church.

If you have never collected before and would like to do so please speak to any member of the committee (Gordon Campbell, Betty Watson, Margaret Bonis, Alex McEwan, Marylyn Taggart) and they will tell you what is involved.

Counters will also be required in the main hall on 14th, 15th and 16th May.

St. Rollox Community Outreach

Donations required for their charity shop which supports economically disadvantaged people in North Glasgow including Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Volunteers for the shop are also always welcome - God's love is shown to all.

Deliveries to the shop are accepted Tues/Wed 10am - 4pm.

A constant supply of the following items are required:

Ladies & Gents, Boys, Girls & Baby Clothing, Shoes

Household Goods & Textiles

Small portable Electrical items

Small T.V.s, DVDs, Computers in working order

Prams & Toys

For more information please contact St. Rollox Church on 558 1809 or Sharon Barlow 942 6929

St. Rollox Church Treasure

The current treasurer of St. Rollox wishes to relinquish the post but unfortunately there is no one in-house to take on the role. If anyone is interested, please contact Margaret Woods (Session Clerk) on 647-6046 or email: m.woods29@yahoo.co.uk

St. Paul's Church Society Outing

As agreed at our A.G.M the outing this year will be on Saturday 17th May 2014. We will leave Milngavie Station at 12.30pm to visit Rosslyn Chapel and its new visitor centre. From there we travel to Peebles for some free time and then the coach will take us to the Barony Castle Hotel for High Tea, returning to Milngavie around 8pm.

The approximate cost is £32. Sign up sheets can be found at the back of the church for members and friends to indicate their choice of meal.

As we will be hiring a 52 seater coach there may be places available for members of congregation to join us on this extremely interesting visit.

Further details will follow in the Sunday intimations but this is an opportunity to get the date in your diaries for what, the committee is sure, will be yet another excellent day out!

Marylyn Taggart
Secretary

The Guild

17th Feb: The Rev. Janet Chapman, **Canon at Birmingham Cathedral**, gave us an interesting and informative talk about the Cathedral and its history, as well as her place in the hierarchy. Well illustrated with photographs and diagrams, it gave us an insight into the workings of an Anglican church, lightened by Janet's amusing anecdotes.



24th Feb: Milngavie in Bloom- Mrs. Fiona Lindsay gave us an insight into the work of this voluntary organisation, dedicated to planting & maintaining tubs and flower beds in many areas to enhance the village, promote civic pride and raise awareness of our surroundings.

3rd March: We were joined by St. Luke's Guild to hear Mr. Greer Johnston speak about '**An African Safari with God**' He visited Guinea Bissau in West Africa, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, whose main source of income is the Cashew Nut Crop. He saw the work being done by WEC International, who pioneer evangelism and start churches in places where none exist. Congregations continue to grow in faith and enthusiasm to hear the Word of God.

10th March: Rev. Fiona Gardner spoke to us about **Christian Solidarity Worldwide**. This is a human rights organisation which specialises in religious freedom & human rights. It works through advocacy, on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and aim to influence governments & other bodies on religious freedom issues internationally. Fiona made a heartfelt request to all of us to PRAY for those suffering because of their chosen religion and for justice around the world.

15th March Guild President, Miss Morag Thomson & her Committee would like to express a very sincere thanks to all who supported our **Coffee Morning**, where the magnificent sum of **£1,042.00** was raised. Wow!

Margaret Stirling

Brigade Blethers

Well, that's us been back to the Magical Playground for our annual Company weekend camp. It was cold, dark and drizzly when we left Milngavie on the Friday evening to be welcomed into Auchengillan's nice cosy Providore Building. The only way we could tell that the girls had arrived was by the sound of excited voices. We certainly could not see them above their piles of luggage. Some of the bags were bigger than the girls!!



The Saturday is our big activity day and in true Auchengillan style the sun came out and they were able to climb a 50ft tower then jump off the top (don't worry Mums the Scout instructors had them well harnessed up). As requested by the regulars we had Crate Climbing, Pedal Karts, Team Building and loads more. A Brigade friend came along and taught the Brigaders some cake decorating. Their cakes looked really professional. The party on the Saturday evening went with a real swing. It included a game where the girls had to snuffle about in plates of icing sugar to find a paper star. Very funny when you are only nine or ten years old. We literally couldn't see them for dust; icing sugar dust.

Sunday morning brought craft and more activities then it was all hands on deck for the big clean up. Then parents arrived to reclaim their offspring and I wonder how many of the girls were asleep before they even reached home. Just another brilliant weekend thanks to a great team of Scout instructors and our own hard working leaders.

As for me - I'm away to my bed !!!

Anne Goodlet

Flower Donations—April

Mrs. M. Hamilton,
Mrs. M. Hossack,
Mrs. I. More,
Mrs. E. Whyte



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

2014 Stamp Appeal Launched



The World Mission Council 2014 Stamp Appeal will support a safe haven in Greece for women who have suffered domestic violence and their children. This refuge, named Dorcas, is run by the Greek Evangelical Church, a small church consisting of 35 congregations with a total of around 5,000 members.

By collecting stamps and sending them to the World Stamp Mission Project, PO Box 9191,

Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB, you can ensure these women and children have a safe and comfortable place to call home.

Please encourage friends, family and members of your congregations to collect stamps. More information and a poster are available on the website.



Thank you to everyone who supported our Bible Sunday Appeal so generously. The total sum donated was £1,297.00. When Gift Aid has been added the final sum should be £1,552.25.

Frances Ireland

Book Club

Every so often we read a book which we all think is very moving; well written; an easy read; amazing for an author's first novel etc etc. "The Light between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman was one of these books. Then we started to discuss the plot and the more we discussed the more we realised that this was no "easy read". There were so many difficult decisions which the main characters had to face; so many moral and ethical points to be counted. As a group we all had our own thoughts about how we felt these points should have been handled. It was as if we actually knew these people and had become involved in their lives. That is what a good book should be like and we would highly recommend that you give it a read.



Our next book is "The Secret Life of Bees" by Kate Monk Kidd and we meet on 8 April.



April Edition

Easter 2014

Easter reflection by Dr Doug Gay

The Miracle: An Easter story by Kenneth Steven

The Big Question: Should Easter be a fixed date?

A Night in the City

Thomas Baldwin spends an evening at Powerpoint, a Christian gathering in Edinburgh which attracts hundreds of teenagers.

Written in the Landscape

Jackie Macadam charts the life and Christian influences on the Scots-born naturalist and author John Muir.

The Forgotten Genocide

Seonag MacKinnon reports from Bosnia, where the Moderator of the General Assembly learned at first hand the horror of the massacre which continues to haunt families today.

The Dementia Friendly Church

How a Glasgow church became the first in Scotland to be accredited dementia friendly.

A Role to Play

In her final column, the Moderator highlights the importance of the role of the Church in the life of Scotland.

Passing on the Light of Christ

The Rev David Scott describes how his church held a 'Welcome to the Lord's Table' ceremony for children's first communion.

The Gift of the Spirit

The Rev Dr Martin Fair asks why we have marginalised the Holy Spirit.

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Thank you

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members of the congregation for the overwhelming support we have received since the death of our son, Scott. The prayers and kind words have been greatly appreciated during this difficult time.

Carla & Graeme MacAllister



Dear Friends

April is always a month of change in Japan. It marks the start of the new academic or business year in schools and companies, as well as in government and in churches. Many organisations will have held their AGM in March and will be looking forward to what the next year will hold. For churches, this often means quite detailed planning of different events and activities, as well as adopting a particular Bible verse and theme for the forthcoming year.

Although our two younger boys only moved here with us a year ago and started at new schools, they will each face changes of class and teachers from April. At primary school, the classes are mixed up every two years. At junior high school, the registration class and teacher will change now and be the same for the next two years. So there are more changes for both Calum and Alistair to process over the next few weeks.

Calum is into a new football season as well. He is now playing for the year above his own year and the standard has risen accordingly. But it can be a demanding schedule week by week with practices and matches.

The older two boys have changes ahead too over the next few months. Daniel is doing an exchange for his third year which will see him go to the Law School at Queensland University in Australia from July. Meanwhile Matthew will finish at Hebron in June and is going to take a gap year (what he does being still undecided!) David is visiting India this month for half-term.

Back in Japan we continue to receive many new workers in OMF and have quite a number either due to come over the next year or so or in the pipeline. The needs are great and we continue to ask the Lord to send more workers into this harvest field.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

World Mission

Mobile Diabetes Clinic to serve southern Palestine



Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is a programme of the Lutheran World Federated Department for World Service in Jerusalem. On Saturday, 22 February 2014, Augusta Victoria Hospital's community programme celebrated the inauguration of the first mobile diabetes clinic to serve the southern part of Palestine. The mobile clinic is equipped with an eye clinic and a foot care

clinic to treat diabetes patients. Most of the patients served by AVH are in social need and seeking life-saving specialised care, so the clinic is a welcome and much needed addition to the health facilities available to them.

The event, held in Hebron, was attended by various dignitaries from the Palestinian Authority, LWF representatives and AVH staff.

An Update from the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS)



The PCOSS's commitment to providing shelter without regard to ethnicity in Malakal was a very brave position to take, but unfortunately their Church compound and Bam Centre (the site of the Women's Dept., Nile Theological College and Giffen Institute of Theology) have been breached with devastating effects. The new congregational building was partially burned

down, the Sunday school building collapsed, and the Mission 21 building was damaged by fire and probably looted. All of the people who had been seeking refuge in the Church compound and the Bam Centre have been moved to the UN compound, where the churches from Malakal fasted and held prayers on the 8 March.

There is hope however, for the Leer Midwifery Training School in Unity State. With their buildings now occupied with military, the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA) have arranged for the school to be temporarily relocated to Lokochoggio in Kenya. There are 22 students who had gone home for Christmas when the fighting broke out, and the PRDA are making efforts to track them down, so that they can resume their studies

Please continue to pray for the PCOSS and the South Sudanese people.