

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

September 2014



Dear Friends,

I heard someone recently reminiscing about a series of children's books they used to love called *Choose Your Own Adventure*. As you read through each book you were confronted with choices as to how the story would proceed and eventually end. Some fans of the series reckon that they had a formative influence on them, introducing them to a world where decisions have to be taken which have consequences.

As I write this we are approaching a Referendum where each of us has a decision to make which will determine the course of our country's future. It is arguably the most important political decision that any of us have been called upon to make. Either way we will be going forward in a different Scotland with new challenges and some uncertainties.

I would never seek to undermine the gravity of this and would urge everyone who is able to make their own personal mind known. However, I will go to our local polling station not just with my own mind settled but also with a conviction that whatever happens there is another Kingdom which transcends time and national boundaries and that will continue to be formed according to the promises of our God. Someone has said that history is by definition 'His Story'. At the end of all things we will see how God has been working through all the twists and turns, times of darkness and times of light, times of great achievement and times of lamentable failure - working to renew His creation beginning with the lives of men and women.

That is not an easy position to sustain. Just recently I was shown pictures of the savagery that is being inflicted by IS upon Christians and people of other faiths in Iraq. I had to ask myself how I would respond to this if I were a pastor in Iraq. The challenge is always to hold fast to the conviction that His Truth stands, His Love is certain, and His Purpose is always unfolding. Not that this is in any way passive. As we are confronted by the worst we must become more committed to the best as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We do not merely hold on to what is good, we show what is good in our response to every circumstance, even the darkest.

I have my own hopes for the Referendum, as you will also, but more than

anything else I pray for a Scotland where men and women will become more aware of the Divine Surge which is moving towards that day when Jesus will make all things new.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
7th Sept	A. Galloway J. Townson	Goodlet Wallis	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 S. Harrison
14th Sept	M. McIntyre M. Spencer	Richell McCreadie	J. MacIntyre M. Fewell	Team 3 L. Muirhead (EC)
21st Sept	D. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Sillars Berry	R. Cameron M. Thoms	Team 4 M. Donaldson
28th Sept	E. Izatt F. Ireland	Bates Stark	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 G. Greig

### Church of Scotland Stamp Recycling

We have now reached the second part of the year since we took over from May Phillips, and can appreciate the sterling work she did.

We have to say a big thank you to those collecting the stamps, and particularly if you went the “extra mile” and trimmed to the regulation 1/4 inch.

The cutting needs a steady hand, but we have found it interesting sorting into the categories i.e. Foreign, Commemorative and Regular. Keep up the good work and encourage friends who are not reliant on emails.

The box for the stamps is located on the right at the top of the stairs as you enter from Strathblane Road.

**Irene and Norma**

## Lunch Club



We hope that you all have had a lovely summer break and are ready for the business of Autumn as it approaches. If you like a midweek break with a rest and pleasant lunch then come to St Paul's Lunch Club which meets every Wednesday during term time in the large hall. From 12-00 to 1-00pm we serve fresh

homemade soup, with a selection of rolls and delicious home baking all for the modest cost of £2-50. It is all served at tables with nice crockery and agreeable company. Come and join the company of young and not so young for an enjoyable lunch. Your support enables us to make a small profit each year and last year we were able to give donations to Scripture Union and Blythswood Trust which enabled children to have a holiday this summer.

For those who wish there is a short midweek service at 1-15 pm in the Centenary Hall, taken by our minister or one of our elders. A time for peace, quiet and contemplation in the busyness of our lives.

We would love to have some extra helpers especially men to help set and clear the hall. Also if you are able to bake occasionally to provide the delicious baking everyone enjoys. If able to help please see Ann MacLeod 942 8339 or Gordon Campbell 563 0377. Many thanks.

## The Guild



The ladies of the Guild give you a very warm welcome to our Opening Night on Monday 6th October at 7.30 p.m. when we will be joined by students from the Douglas Academy School of Music. If you are free please come along for what will be a very enjoyable evening. Here's a list of our guests for the month of October :

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Monday 6th  | Douglas Academy Young Musicians                  |
| Sunday 12th | Guild Dedication Service                         |
| Monday 13th | Liz Cotton - Fairtrade                           |
| Monday 20th | Gill Aitkenhead - Vice Lord Lieutenant of County |
| Monday 27th | Women's Aid.                                     |

## Margaret Stirling



Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone at St Paul's Church for their donation of food stuffs for the benefit of the families who attend the Preshal Trust Centre.

We continue to grow into our new building and really appreciate the wonderful facilities we are able to offer to those seeking our help with their day to day lives. We plan to reach even further into our community as the autumn and winter months draw in.

As we approach the anniversary of our opening, we are conscious of the increasing numbers of people coming to us with not only addiction, but physical and mental disability. We are fortunate to have such wonderful supporters who give of their time and talents to provide the facilities to support them through our programme of activities. We are also able to help those who are lonely and need care and comfort.

Once again, thank you so much for taking the time to support our work here in the South West area of Glasgow and we wish you every blessing in your work for the Lord in Milngavie.

Yours sincerely,

*May Nicklas*

### **WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR GARDEN**

Plant three rows of peas:  
Peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:  
Squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:  
Let us be faithful, let us be kind, let us love one another

No garden should be without turnips:  
Turn up for service when needed, turn up to help one another.

Water freely with patience and love.

St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

# Life And Work

## September Edition

### Decision Day: September 18

Focus on the independence referendum and the road ahead for Scotland, with contributions from both sides of the debate and the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office.



### The Real Winner

As the Ryder Cup comes to Scotland, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the links between golf and faith.

### 'An Authentic Spiritual Experience'

The Moderator emphasises the need to show that belief in science and God are not mutually exclusive.

### A Community Investment

Jackie Macadam highlights the work of Scottish Churches Housing Action in turning redundant church property into affordable housing.

### 'The Kirk's Best-Kept Secret'

Jackie Macadam meets Dr Sally Bonnar, Convener of the Church's Social Care Committee.

### Flagging Up the Links

David Pott highlights the links between the flag of Jamaica and a Church of Scotland minister and introduces a new project building on the historic links between Scotland and the island.

### The Canvas Town Church

John R Hume highlights the significance of a church in an east coast holiday town.

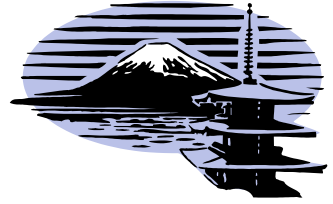
### A Journey of Faith

Interview with the author of a new book about the Scottish missionary Jane Haining, who died in Auschwitz 60 years ago this year.

**Plus** all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters and crosswords – all for just £2.

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Japan Jottings



### Dear Friends

As we move into September we are thankful that the heat and humidity of August begin to lessen – well, a little anyway. We enjoyed our time away in the mountains at the OMF holiday home and as we write this, we are still on holiday, spending the last few days at home. School term here does not start again till the beginning of September.

Daniel is now well settled in Brisbane and seems to be enjoying his courses and life there so far. He has been going to a large church called Nexus and is involved in various Bible studies on campus. Matthew has a job in Tokyo for at least these next few months as he starts his gap year, doing English conversation over the phone – something called ‘speed learning’. He is still trying to work out what to study when he starts university next year. He is enjoying going to a church in downtown Tokyo called Grace City – it literally is right in the heart of the main commercial district of the city.

This month sees David go off to the OMF Headquarters in Singapore for a consultation involving all the Field Directors of the different countries (or ‘Fields’) where OMF works in Asia. It should be a profitable time of sharing together. We continue to welcome new workers to Japan with one family and one couple arriving last month and others due over coming months. The team here comprises 120+ adults plus lots of children from around 18 different countries!

We are also beginning to turn our minds towards plans for our home assignment from January. It will not be a whole year this time because of the boys’ schooling and football here but we are aiming to be back for several months from January. It will be good to catch up with everyone then.

*With our love*

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



## St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship

Unfortunately no-one has volunteered to take on the organisation of holidays for church members, their friends and relatives. With the permission of the minister, I am offering places on a trip I am organising for the local National Trust for Scotland members' group. If you would like to apply for a place, you would be most welcome but you would

have to be a member of NTS or NT and of the local group. The latter costs £13 for a family or £9 for an individual. Below you will find the details:

11th-15th MAY, 2015 Shropshire and the Welsh Marches.

Come with us and explore by coach, steam train and barge a lesser-known area of the UK. Our hotel, Albrighton Hall Hotel, is situated just North of Shrewsbury in Shropshire.

We shall visit Shrewsbury, which is a compact, medieval town, easily explored on foot. Nearby is the NT property, Attingham Park, where we shall lunch in Lady Berwick's library, opened specially for us. An introduction by the guide will be followed by a free-flow visit to the property.

The following day we shall venture into Wales where we shall have free time in Llangollen and then journey along the canal on the barge, Thomas Telford, crossing the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a World Heritage site. Lunch will be served on board. We have hired the barge for our group only. Thereafter we shall visit Plas Newydd, the home of the "Ladies of Llangollen", a fascinating and little-known story recently shown on television.

The next day we go to Llanfair Caerinion where we travel on the narrow gauge railway by steam train to Welshpool and return. This is a private journey just for our group, since the railway does not open on weekdays until after our visit. We complete the day by lunching at NT Powis Castle near Welshpool, followed by an introductory talk and free-flow visit to the castle and its renowned gardens.

Please return the booking form enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for further details and cost. If you wish to e-mail me the required details, I can send out the information to you electronically.

Anne Ritchie  
12 Norwood Park  
Bearsden G61 2RF

956 5027



## Book Club

There are two book reviews this month due to the summer break.

The first book is *The Uninvited Guests* by Sadie Jones. Advertised as a ghost story, we begin in an isolated 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house where a family is preparing for a birthday party. The news of a train crash is brought by one of the party and a mysterious representative of the railway requests that the survivors be put up at the house. The uninvited guests appear from nowhere and seem to multiply as the night goes on. This unexpected intrusion affects the family and their friends and brings out their best and their worst qualities, revealing long-buried secrets. Where there should be kindness for the passengers there is resentment and impatience at the disruption. The group felt that the characters could have been developed more although the historical detail was good. The characters were selfish and the family dysfunctional. Not one of our better books and only a couple in the group really enjoyed it and would recommend it to others.

The second book we have read is *After the Fall* by Charity Norman. A 5 year old boy falls from a balcony and is seriously injured. His mother says it was an accident – but was it? The McNamara family moved to a new life in New Zealand little expecting what was to come. This book generated a lot of discussion in the group. We felt that there were quite a few issues which emerged including remarriage, immigration, drug abuse and

redundancy. We also felt the husband was very selfish – the whole family were uprooted and moved across the world for him and he didn't even see the problems on his own doorstep he was so obsessed with his painting and his success as an artist. We were also a bit frustrated with the mother “going in alone” and not seeking help with her daughter's drug problem. We also asked the question – who did the mother put first her husband or her daughter? Why don't you give it a go and see what you think – what would you have done?

Our next meeting is on 21 October 2014 when we will be reading *The Prisoner of St Kilda* by Margaret Macauley.

Joyce Clark



### Badminton Club

The Club meets in the Large Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm. The new season started at the beginning of September and new members will be made very welcome - so come along for fun, exercise and fellowship.

Marjory-Anne Kennedy,

Secretary



## Brigade Blethers



What a glorious summer we have had but now that "the nights are drawing in" as they say we have to start thinking about our winter pastimes. For me that is Girls' Brigade and by the time you come to read this the Company will have started back and be ready to tackle new challenges. How lucky we are that the challenges we face are fun things and that we still have the freedom to try them out.

We are sticking to some of our old routines though e.g. we still meet on Thursdays. P1 to P3 start at 6.30pm and go home at 8.00pm. Our Juniors, P4 to P7 keep the same hours but have a programme all of their own. Then the "oldies" S1 to S6 run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

We have a good team of young officers who have new ideas and new approaches to things and this keeps the Company young at heart. So any girls in the congregation who are looking for something different to do why not come along on a Thursday evening and find out what we get up to.

Our Brigade motto tells us to seek, serve and follow Christ. Well it is quite easy to seek Christ - it is the serving and following that can be difficult to do. So I would ask that you keep all of the Officers and girls in your prayers. We need all the help we can get in today's world.

God Bless

**Anne Goodlet**

## Flower Donations ~ September

Mrs M. Brown  
Mrs M. Taggart  
Mrs. E. Watson



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



The annual 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk to raise funds for Bible Society projects will take place on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Mugdock Country Park, meeting at the Visitor Centre. Sponsorship forms are available at the back of the church. If you would like to come for the walk, but would prefer not to be sponsored, please feel free to join us for the fresh air and fellowship.

The money raised from the walk will go towards the Good Samaritan Programme supporting children in Swaziland affected by HIV/AIDS. Within most schools 75% of children are orphaned or caring for sick and dying parents. About 25% of these children have HIV/AIDS themselves. Some were born with the virus or have contracted it from caring for sick parents. The Bible Society programme provides spiritual and practical support and helps them cope with the social stigma attached to the disease.



### **Men's Association Session 2014—15**

After the summer break, our meetings re-commence on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October when Ian Marshall will be giving a presentation entitled "Waterway of the Czars". A fortnight later on the 21<sup>st</sup> October we will be hearing about the charity work of "Help for Heroes". Both presentations will, I am sure, be interesting, enjoyable and informative and we look forward to a good turnout of members, friends and any members of the congregation who wish to attend.

Our meetings start with tea/coffee, biscuits and chat from 7.15 to 7.30pm. The presentations usually last for about 45 minutes and are followed by an opportunity to ask further questions of the speaker.

Our annual Coffee Morning will be held in the main hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 10am. to 12 noon. As well as tea, coffee and a delicious selection of cakes, there will be the usual stalls selling books, dvds/cds, toys, games, bric-a-brac and home baking. An ideal opportunity for an autumn "clear out" to set aside donations for our stalls!



I would like to thank my friends of St Paul's Church for all their kindnesses and prayers during the time of John's illness and death. The family and I were overwhelmed with the support received and the encouragement we felt at the time of John's funeral on Thursday 21st August.

**Marilyn Ure**

In May I fell down the stairs in the house which resulted in two broken and displaced vertebrae in my neck. After wonderful treatment on the NHS at the Southern General Hospital I am now making an excellent recovery and thankful I remain mobile.

Many thanks to all who sent cards, flowers, phoned and visited with their good wishes and a special thanks to Fergus for visiting in hospital. All these gestures meant so much to Jean and I and were very much appreciated.

This gives a new meaning to the expression "Break Neck" and is a warning to those of us who are more "mature".

**Be careful!**

Kind regards,

**Ian Ferguson**

I would like to say thank you to so many members of our congregation who were so kind to me during my recent illness, consequent surgery and convalescence. Your many cards, calls and visits were much appreciated as were the gifts of cooked meals which were very gratefully received by the family. Thank you all too for upholding me in your prayers and I'm sure all this kindness has greatly helped with my recovery. I feel really blessed to be part of this wonderful church family.

**Nimmi Whitelaw**

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blank*

Copy date for October issue is Sunday 21st September if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 24th if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)