

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

June 2016



Dear Friends,

Anne Tyler is one of the foremost American writers of our day. In many people's eyes she manages to convey the lives of ordinary people in a way that makes them seem extraordinary. Family life is a place where there is conflict, tension, suffering but also a place where people find the resources and the dignity to overcome. In the simplest of language personalities are brought to life in all their variety and complexity. Her latest book sees a family seeking to plan the funeral of their mother who was killed in a road accident. They wonder if she has left any instructions and speculate what they might be:

“My only fear is, she's requested 'Amazing Grace,'" said Amanda.

“I like 'Amazing Grace,'" Stem said mildly.

“So did I, till it got to be a cliché”

‘It's not a cliché to me.’”

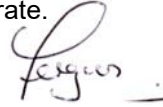
Amanda raised her eyes to the ceiling.”

I know what Amanda means. Ever since Judy Collins made it a hit in 1970, followed by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1972, 'Amazing Grace' has been sung and played on various occasions with people of all faiths and none, feeling able to join in. It is, of course, essentially a Christian hymn, written by John Newton, praising God for the undeserved love that has flowed into his life despite his own shortcomings. Newton's progress towards faith was anything but straightforward and he stood amazed at how firmly God had held him in the face of 'many dangers, toils and snares'. Strangely, the name of Jesus is not mentioned which perhaps may account for its wide appeal, even to the extent that it was played on the bagpipes at the funeral of Mr Spock in one of the Star Trek movies!

Yes I know what Amanda means. 'Amazing Grace' is one of those songs which can be sung without any meaningful connection to its heart and soul. Which is why it meant a lot to me recently to lead a Bible Study with a group of people recovering from a range of addictions and to begin with the singing of 'Amazing Grace'. I am tempted to say it took on a whole new meaning but actually this was men and women connecting with the only meaning Newton intended. From the brokenness of his own life along with a deep sense of shame and unworthiness, Newton marvels at the love of his God who thought him worthy of the death of His Son and brought him to that place where he could say:

'The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.'

Not that this is a hymn merely for those with what might be described as a dark and difficult past. Anyone with any insight into themselves can find reasons why they don't deserve anything from God and so the assurance of His grace, covering this life and the next, is something we can all celebrate.



### Church Flowers

The Flower Guild are hoping they might find some new volunteers to help us arrange the church flowers. Very little expertise is required as there are many people on the Flower Guild willing to help new volunteers. You would only be required to arrange the flowers approximately every six to eight weeks on a rota basis. All floral costs and equipment are supplied by the Flower Guild.

If interested please contact **Marjorie Thoms**, 956 5372, Flower Guild Convenor or myself **Marilyn Ure**, 942 1972.

### 175 Anniversary

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day such a success. The organisation and serving of the family meal to so many was quite an achievement and much appreciated by members and guests.

It was a blessing to have Rev Dr David Graham among us once again, not least because of his encouraging and challenging preaching. We are also grateful to the Moderator of the Presbytery of Dumbarton, Dr Iain Galbraith, who brought greetings from the Presbytery.

All in all, a very happy day in the history of St Paul's. **FCB**.

### Arkanimals

Arkanimals is basically about having fun and games with a Bible story for the children, and for the adults – enjoying a cup of coffee and cakes whilst meeting the other parents/grandparents/carers. We are aiming for any children and their carers from roughly 3-5 years, but please bring along younger siblings as we have some toys available for them too.

We meet once a month on Tuesday afternoon, 1.30-2.45ish in the Jubilee Hall. The dates are on flyers in the porch and a poster on the Noah's Ark noticeboard. We have been growing slowly this term, having 13 children at the last Arkanimals, but would love to see some new people.

Next Arkanimals – 31<sup>st</sup> May – do come along –why not try it! Good value at just 50p too!

Please contact **Carol** for more details – 0777 287 3257

**Noah's Ark** is approaching the end of its 4th year. Over the whole year we have registered 70 to 80 children below the age of 3 years. This term we have between 30 and 40 attending in the morning and between 4 and 11 in the afternoon. The afternoon session was started in January 2015 which was particularly popular with mums and new babies and during the year how these babies have grown!! In fact, already 3 have moved 'Up' to the morning group!



We are hoping to hold a "This is our church" morning in June as we have done in the past 2 years. This gives the children and their carers a chance to see the whole of the premises and to see where the Tuesday group Ark Animals, the Sunday Crèche and the Sunday club are all held. Last year our organist delighted us by playing the organ and letting the children "try" it too.

Noah's ark is only possible because of the team which so faithfully supports it. It's a great team and of course we will need a few more helpers come August. There are a variety of ways to get involved - if you might consider helping or would like to find out more of what it entails, please contact:

<b>Jackie Sillars</b>	956 7589	email: Jaqueline.sillars@ntlworld.com
<b>Rosemary Fraser</b>	956 3222	email: rmfaser@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Or Jackie Pirie</b>	956 1790	email: jackiepirie1@googlemail.com

### **Update on dementia support group**

There have been a few unexpected stops and starts over the past several months in the formation of this group but planning is underway again. Thank you for your patience and for all those present volunteers who took part in the workshops and registered with the PVG scheme in St Paul's. With the help of Alzheimer Scotland we are aiming for a start this autumn.

Some of you expressed an interest in visiting Daybreak, the support group at New Kilpatrick Church and we hope to arrange some visits over the next few months. This would give some volunteers the opportunity to observe a session, giving a taster of what our group hopes to provide.

There will be a sign up sheet on the table at the back of the church from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. Daybreak have suggested two people per session. The 6 Thursdays arranged will be from the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1.30-3.30pm, through to the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

This new support group in St Paul's now has a name - 'Breakaway'.

We value your prayers as preparations move forward and 'Breakaway' takes shape.

**Gabrielle Buchanan & Peggy Barlow**

# Brigade Blethers



As always at the end of our Brigade sessions I would like to let everyone know how hard the girls in the company have worked. We have had a lot of fun this year and the attendance was excellent. The Display was on Thursday 28 April and our Noah's Ark was a wee bit "different". The Girls' Brigade Commissioner for Greater Glasgow, Mrs Brenda Diamond, presented the girls with their awards and I think they all deserve a mention. So here goes!

Our EXPLORERS (P1 to P3) were small in number but huge in enthusiasm for everything they tackled so a round of applause for Lilli Baxter, Holly Harvey, Brooke Kenny and Sophie Stark.

The JUNIOR section (P4 to P7) has grown a bit during the year and choosing winners was pretty difficult. The St Paul's Trophy for the best Junior squad went to Heather Macleod, Kirsty McCusker, Ava Mackay, Finty Smith and Courtney Tibbert; Laura Berry took the Chaplain's Cup for Best Sunday Attendance; Meira Jardine and Heather Macleod were joint winners of the Anne Faith Memorial Trophy; Kara Gibb was the Junior whom we thought had shown most development during the year and the cup for the Best Junior Overall went to a very deserving Heather Macleod.

That brings me to the BRIGADERS (S1 to S6) and we have ten girls who were a real treat to work with. The older girls do not work in squads but we do have some special helpers to name:- Nicola Berry, Jennifer Cockburn, Alison Kerr, Sarah Dougall, Sophie Vernet, and Sophie Wallis. The Keep Fit Cup was shared by Nicola Berry and Lauren Mackenzie. Sophie Wallis achieved the Jennifer MacIntyre Memorial Cup and the St Paul's trophy for the Best Brigader was shared by Jennifer Cockburn and Sarah Dougall.

The girls all did very well but so did the leaders so I would like to say a big "Thank You" to :- Alison Biggart, Alison Cockburn, Janet Cockburn, Alanna McArdle, Vivienne McGinnes, Sheila Morley and Katy Paterson. Keep showing the girls how to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ"

**Anne Goodlet**

## St. Paul's Society Fifty Years On

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, a passer-by in Baldernock Road might have wondered whether a major exodus of St. Paul's members was underway!



Outside the church were rows of suitcases, while nearby a large coach stood ready to take members of the St. Paul's Society to Mull and Iona. With our excellent driver, Chic, at the wheel, the journey to Oban was a delight.

After a short refreshment stop at the Green Welly Shop at Tyndrum, we were on our way to Oban, where we had plenty of time to shop, eat or meet friends. The ferry trip to Mull was calm and bright, with clear views of the mountains near and far. Ben Nevis was easily recognisable with its generous covering of snow, so there were plenty of camera opportunities, and the air was aloud with the sound of 'snapping'! The Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa was to be our 'home' for the weekend; with comfortable lounges, swimming pool, and hot tub, as well as excellent food, it was the ideal centre for the holiday, and there were few complaints.

Saturday, being a more relaxed day, we had hoped that the good weather would continue, but unfortunately, rain fell on the journey to Tobermory. However, nothing daunted, some of the party donned boots and were off on a walk, while the rest of us headed for the Tobermory Chocolate Shop! A visit to the museum proved to be very interesting. After lunch, some of the party returned to the hotel, while others visited Duart Castle, ancestral home of the Maclean chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean.

We had a very early start on Sunday, as we had to be at Fionnfort in time for the 10a.m ferry, but by dint of skilful driving, we just made it! Then a short walk took us to the Abbey, where we joined a busy congregation for morning service, followed by communion. What a privilege to worship in this ancient church, a cradle of western Christianity, and one that attracts visitors from all over the world.

Our journey home on Monday took us through some more lovely scenery, with signs of spring everywhere. A stop at Kilmartin gave us time to visit the ancient gravestones, which have been well preserved. This area also boasts a large number of prehistoric graves, mounds and circles, as well as an excellent hotel and cafe.

The weekend was an outstanding success, thanks to our intrepid leader Marlyn Taggart, who cajoled us, inspired us, supplied us with tablet, and 'counted us all on, and counted us all back', her team who kept us entertained and amused with songs and quizzes, as well as our driver Chic who drove us safely and skilfully across Scotland. Thank you all!

## Japan Jottings



**Dear Friends,**

We started our last Japan Jottings with this sentence – ‘Sometimes life takes unexpected twists and turns’. That was a prelude to sharing about Calum’s football injury but last month saw us bump up against a somewhat more unexpected twist and turn.

Some of you have heard already that David has been diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. We are not sure yet when treatment will begin as it does not necessarily happen straight away. It seems there is a high response to treatment so we hope that will be the case. The main problem at the moment is very low energy and we will be making arrangements soon for a Deputy Field Director to be appointed to cover David’s role as, once treatment starts, it will last several months.

Meanwhile Matthew has finished his first year at Glasgow and returned to Japan for the summer. It is great to have another pair of hands around the house to help. He hopes to get a job here (students need the money!) Daniel graduates from Glasgow on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Lorna is planning to visit Scotland 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June but there is a bit of uncertainty now with David’s situation. The other two boys seem to be doing well at their new schools.

In Tokyo at the end of May, there was a week called Shine when different teams came from around the world as a week of street outreach to people in different parts of Tokyo. Several OMF missionaries here were involved too, using dance, music and other creative arts. This has now happened for several years and is one way to take the gospel to the people where they are.

Thank you as always for your generous support for us and the work of OMF in Japan.

*With our love*

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

## Book Group



This month's book is *A Passage to Africa* by George Alagiah who will be familiar to many of you in his role as newsreader and BBC Africa correspondent. George Alagiah mixes political insight with personal testimony to give us an autobiography of Africa. When he was 5, he and his family emigrated from Sri Lanka to Ghana. His family were Tamil and were escaping ethnic fighting in Sri Lanka. Each chapter deals with an individual country – Ghana, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Somalia, Rwanda, Uganda – all the way to Nelson Mandela. In his Epilogue he says "When I started out on this passage through Africa I had two aims: to tell the truth about the continent but at the same time to ensure that whatever else this book is, it should not be yet another addition to the library of despondency. If it has taken an all too familiar path through famine and fear, conflict and corruption, it is because these are the raw materials of a foreign correspondent."

George Alagiah manages to achieve this by not only recording Africa's failings but also their resilience and their ambition to change things for the better. Although we found the book both disturbing and overwhelming at times, it was beautifully written as you would expect from an experienced journalist.

Our next meeting is on 13 September at the usual time. The book we will be discussing is *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, which coincidentally was one of the free books given away on World Book Day.

**Joyce Clark**

### Flower Donations - June

There are several changes in the flower rota due to the retirement of Wilma Douglas as organiser, and Iris Torbet and Betty Watson who have been so faithful to make beautiful flower arrangements, as an aid to glorifying God in our worship.



We would like to extend our thanks for the hours of unseen labour and to those who have faithfully donated over the years.

Donations for June:

K Canlin, M Phillips, E Torbett, L Traill, M Reid, A Martin, F Ireland, W Douglas

Please put donations as usual in the flower rota pigeon hole at the back of the church, or send to:-

Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Avenue, Milngavie, G62 6NN Tel. 0141 956 5372

Anyone who would like to join the team, please contact me to add your name to the rota.

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The editor would like to thank all contributors to the magazine. Enjoy the Summer break!

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th June	M. Conway K. Edwards	Sillars McKinnon	E. Burns C. McKinnon	Team 6 J. Clark
12th June	A. Galloway J. Townson	Goodlet Bates	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 M. Kennedy
19th June	G. Chisholm A. Shiels	Wallis Berry		Team 2 A. MacIntyre (C)
26th June	P. Dudgeon A. Gillies	Wilson McCreadie	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 R. Rutherford