

# LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

## Life at St. Paul's Milngavie September 2017



Dear Friends,

The new church season sees us at the beginning of a new phase in the story of St Paul's, one that will be challenging but also presenting us with new opportunities for service. Like most other congregations in our Presbytery we are now part of a linkage arrangement with another congregation, our near neighbour Baldernock Parish Church. No one should ever pretend that this is ideal but resources are so stretched in the Church of Scotland at present that linkage with the shared ministry it involves, is the best practical response. In this way the Christian witness in all the parishes in our Presbytery can be maintained.

The immediate challenge for both congregations has been the change of the times of worship. This has caused some anxiety but with only one Sunday behind us at the time of writing, the response of the St Paul's congregation has been encouraging. Along with that there was a good attendance at Sunday Club and Bible Class and Messy Church had one of its best attendances.

There is more to life at St Paul's than our worship of course and I have been deeply moved at concerns expressed about the extra pastoral workload that will be falling to me. As you may know by now, Dr David White, recently retired from Kirkintilloch: St Columba's, will be assisting me part-time and Mrs Lynsey Brennan will be undergoing a probationary period with us as she prepares for full-time ministry. Both are looking forward to being part of the St Paul's family and providing the worship and pastoral care that will keep us strong.

As I said at the end of the service on 13 August I feel at peace within myself with regard to the new arrangement. Not just because of the ministry resources that have been provided but because of what I know about our congregation. Challenges have been faced in the past and overcome; new forms of ministry to young and old have emerged in recent years; a consistent awareness of our place in the nationwide worldwide church has been maintained. I see nothing in the new arrangement that will stifle the gifts within our congregation or the vision that has driven our mission.

A message I saw on a t-shirt recently was: 'Don't look back. You're not going that way.' God is going forward with His great purpose for the world. May we always be found in His great surge towards the Kingdom.

Copy date for October issue is Sunday 17th September if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 20th if emailing.

Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
<b>3rd Sept</b>	A. Galloway J. Townson	Chapman MacAllister	<b>Team 10</b> S. Harrison
<b>10th Sept</b>	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Richell Wallis J.	<b>Team 3</b> R. Raeburn (EC)
<b>17th Sept</b>	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Wallis S. Wilson	<b>Team 4</b> M Donaldson
<b>24th Sept</b>	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Goodlet MacKinnon	<b>Team 5</b> M. McDowell

## Badminton Club

The Club meets in the Large Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The new season starts on 5th of September and new members will be made very welcome so come along for fun, exercise and fellowship.

**Marjory-Anne Kennedy**  
Secretary



## Guild News

Guild starts up again on Monday 2nd October with a return visit of 'Fine Fettle' a group of talented ladies on accordions, ukuleles and voice. We invite ladies in the congregation to join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

Meetings are held in the large hall at 7.30 p.m.

The Guild's annual dedication service will be held at the morning service on Sunday 8th October.



## Lunch Club

The Lunch Club starts back after the summer break on Wednesday 6th September from 12.00pm to 1.00pm. We enjoyed a great success this last year with many appreciating the hospitality and friendship offered at this lunch.

We serve homemade soup, a selection of rolls and delicious home baking all at a modest charge. We do not aim to make a profit but many people pay extra and we are able to give donations to St Paul's and local and foreign Christian Charities every year. This is thanks to our many volunteers who so faithfully give 3 hours time either weekly or fortnightly. However many of our faithful long time helpers have had to "retire" and we desperately need 1 or 2 men and 1 lady to help. Donations of baking, two or three times a year, are also very welcome and delight the many who are no longer able to bake.

If you can help in any way please see Gordon Campbell or Ann MacLeod who are at church most Sundays. Thank you.

## Church of Scotland News

### Church support for child benefit top-up campaign

The Moderator of the General Assembly is backing a new campaign aimed at lifting 30,000 children out of poverty.



Right Rev Dr Derek Browning said he fully supported the Give Me Five initiative, which is seeking a £5 a week increase in child benefit per person.

For families struggling to make ends meet, the extra money could mean a week of proper breakfasts, a warm school coat or the ability to share in out-of-school activities.

The Give Me Five campaign is being officially launched at the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge on Wednesday. It is urging the Scottish Government to use its new powers to make a real difference to the lives of families.

Campaigners said the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill was to be welcomed as it sets out ambitious targets to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. But they argue that urgent action is needed now to meet the needs of the 260,000 children living in poverty today.

Dr Browning said: 'It is a political, social and moral imperative that we act now to effect change for the good.'

"The Church of Scotland stands alongside people of all faith traditions, and none, in the move towards fairness for all our children."

Dr Browning said the Church of Scotland believes in a "God of justice, a God who speaks out for the disadvantaged, the left behind, the ignored and the voiceless".

The campaign is backed by organisations including the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Children 1st.

Sir Harry Burns, Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and a former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, is also supporting it.

## World Mission Cont.

### Flood Relief in Nepal

As many of you are aware, South Asia has experienced serious flooding over the past few weeks. The United Mission to Nepal (UMN), our partners in Nepal, have contacted requesting our prayers and support for the work they are doing to help those affected.



Joel Hafvenstein, Executive Director of UMN said: "Thank you so much to all who have begun praying with us on this already.

In a relief situation, time is of the essence. Today, we are authorising our cluster teams to procure up to 3 crore rupees (around \$300,000) worth of emergency relief items to distribute to roughly 2,000 affected families over the coming days. These will include a month's worth of food, tarpaulins for temporary shelter, and hygiene and dignity kits.

Our local partners who focus on disability and people living with HIV will be providing relief to the people they serve; other higher-capacity partners will be carrying out broad relief distributions in flooded villages, in coordination with the local government.

For individuals who wish to support UMN, we have set up a just giving page (please visit our website), and are grateful for any and all contributions. We're even more grateful for your prayers. Please uphold UMN's staff and partners as we work to respond to this devastating disaster, and remember those who have lost all their possessions to the flood."

### 24th of the Month Event

We are joining with Christians around the world to pray for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month. We pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month. If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Carol Finlay from the World Mission Council [cfinlay@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cfinlay@churchofscotland.org.uk) or Val Brown, from Christian Aid, [VBrown@christian-aid.org](mailto:VBrown@christian-aid.org)

## Walk For the Word

The annual 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk will take place on Saturday October 7th in Mugdock Country Park, meeting at 10 am in the Visitor Centre Car Park.



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 to Bible Society projects around the world as well as here in Scotland.

## The St Paul's Society Cards

The cards are still outside the Office window and as always the price for each card is £1. At the time of the magazine going to print we have collected almost £700 since Christmas. As soon as we have reached the total of £1000 we will decide who will benefit from this year's collection. A big thank you for all your support and for all your orders of bespoke cards. Remember if there is a particular card that you have seen and missed, just ask and the card of your choice can be produced.

### Alex McEwan

## Church Directory

The 2017-2018 edition of the Church Directory is distributed with this magazine. Our thanks go to the editor, the contributors and of course the advertisers. Any changes should be notified to the Church Office.

Please destroy the 2016-2017 edition sensibly as the Directory contains personal information about members of the congregation.

Under Data Protection Regulations all such information should not be kept longer than necessary and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Any Directories, rotas etc. no longer required can be left in the Confidential Waste box outside the office for shredding.

**Graham Mill**  
Session Clerk

## Christian Aid 2017



Just another thank you to all the amazing helpers who delivered, collected and counted for this year's Christian Aid Week. We received the following letter from Christian Aid acknowledging our commitment and contribution to their cause. This total includes money raised from the Lunch and the Quiz.

I am delighted to confirm receipt of £13,376.56 arising from fundraising by Milngavie Christian Aid Group this Christian Aid Week.

Christian Aid Week remains our greatest opportunity to raise awareness of what Christian Aid does, and to invite the people of Scotland to contribute to this work.

Through collections in church, house-to-house and street collections, and a whole range of enjoyable events such as coffee mornings and book sales, more than a thousand churches up and down the country have made sure that this year's Christian Aid Week has been another great success, raising funds and awareness and helping us bring about practical changes to eradicate poverty.

I anticipate that when all has been counted, we will find that Christian Aid Week in Scotland has raised almost £1.5 million once more.

In this, Christian Aid Week's 60th anniversary year, I would like to thank you, and everyone who joined with you, for enabling us to continue to show solidarity with, and offer support to, people such as Nejebar whose story featured in this year's appeal resources.

Together with our global neighbours in the thousands of communities that we work, and in partnership with the hundreds of local organisations who help us, we can build a world where everybody has a safe place to call home.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Foster-Fulton".

The Rev Sally Foster-Fulton  
Head of Christian Aid Scotland

## Book Group



Our book this month is A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson. The book relates the life of Teddy Todd through the different stages of his life from poet, his experiences through World War II, and his experiences as a husband, father and grandfather. This book follows on from Life After Life by the same author and some of the group felt they should be read together to better understand the characters.

There was a mixed reaction to this book. Some of us felt the story jumped about too much and was over-complicated as Teddy's life seemed to be mapped out for him already. The book was a catalogue of "what ifs". What direction would his life have taken if he had chosen differently?

The book read as if the author didn't have any clear idea where she was going with the story but felt she should expand on the life of Teddy Todd who you first meet in Life After Life. Perhaps this book should be read in conjunction with Life after Life to get to grips with Teddy and his family.

Our next meeting is on 29th August and we will be discussing When Breath becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi.

## Joyce Clark

## World Mission

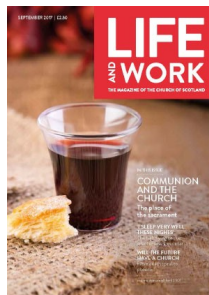
### The Election in Kenya: Moving On

Religious leaders in Kenya are stressing the importance of actions that could move the country forward, despite a presidential election result dispute that has deeply divided the East African nation.

The country had been tense since 11th August, when the Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced Uhuru Kenyatta, the incumbent President, the winner. The main opposition has since rejected the results, with Raila Odinga, the 72-year-old National Super Alliance candidate, pledging to use all means to overturn what he deems a fraudulent result.

Religious leaders urged politicians to seek answers in the courts. Odinga on 16th August announced he would challenge the result in the Supreme Court, calming an anxious country, which feared opposition action may ignite further chaos.





### Communion and the Church

Thomas Baldwin considers the place of communion in the Church of Scotland today

### Will the Future have a Church?

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson finds hope for the future in church history.

The Rev Dr Doug Gay reflects on feedback to his proposals for church reform

### “I Sleep Very Well these Nights”

The Rev Iain May tells Jackie Macadam about the journey from high-flying banker to Edinburgh minister

### Releasing Gifts

Catriona Munro, Clerk to this year’s National Youth Assembly, reports from the event

### “We Were All Made Equal”

Jackie Macadam hears from women taking part in a conference celebrating female

### Love in Action

Previewing CrossReach Week 2017

### Catching up with God

The Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning asks the church to engage with the General Assembly’s call to prayer

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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There is also a free Gaelic supplement available. You can read it in the Gaelic supplement section of the Life & Work website.

## Church Garden

As life returns to normal after the Summer break on behalf of the Congregation, the residents of Homebrae House and those waiting at the traffic lights in Strathblane Road, a big ‘thank you’ is due to the team who maintain the Church Garden throughout the year but in particular over the summer months. Thanks also to Hugh McGorm for his contribution.

## Hospitality

The new session has started with a bang with St Paul's providing hospitality at two large events within a week.

Thanks to all, under the guidance of Ann MacLeod, who served, helped set up or provided baking for the Service of Linkage and the Memorial Service for David Ferguson. The opportunity to gather together in a relaxed atmosphere for refreshments and further fellowship was much appreciated and several expressions of thanks for the warm welcome have been received.

## Brigade Blethers

What a year! Our presence in the magazine has been quiet over the past year but I can assure you the hall on a Thursday night isn't as quiet!

During the 2016-17 session, our wonderful group of girls had lots of fun and made lots of friends. Our activities included singing, dancing, crafts, parties, a trip to the pantomime and our annual Auchengillan weekend.

As always, we concluded our year with our "Travel in the Time Machine" Display, which, if I do say so myself, was fantastic!

We as a company would like to thank everyone in the church for their continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all soon at our Enrolment parade.

We are keen to get our numbers up this year and so if you know of any young girls between P1 and S6, they are more than welcome to join us every Thursday between 6.30-8 in the large hall!

### Alanna McArdle

PS. My heartfelt thanks to 'our' Mrs G for her continued support and confidence boosts when I feel like I'm not good enough to fill her boots! We'd be lost without you!







### Dear Friends,

Thank you so much to St. Paul's for hosting David's memorial service last month. To everyone who helped with preparations, made cakes, did what was needed on the day, and attended the service, I'd like to say a huge thank you. It was such an encouragement to me, and to my and David's families to be able to hold a service which gave thanks for and remembered David's life and which also gave glory to God as the giver of that life.

One of the interesting things about living in another country is being able to observe the different ways that another culture marks birth, marriage and death. In many places these events are associated with different religious rites. The main religions in Japan are Shinto and Buddhism, and most people follow the practices of both.

For many Japanese people, Shinto (the "way of the gods") is associated with a new start. Parents may take a new-born baby to a shrine for a dedication ceremony. People also go there to pray for success in exams or for a new job, writing prayers on wooden tablets. Buddhism, however, is associated with death, so most funerals are carried out by a Buddhist priest, with rituals continuing on various anniversaries of a death for up to 33 years. One challenge for the church is how to help Japanese people mark these important life events in a way which is appropriate for Japanese culture but does not involve the rituals or beliefs of Shinto and Buddhism.

It is said that attending a Christian funeral can be a significant time for Japanese people. Some Japanese Christians trace their first interest in the gospel to a time when they attended a Christian funeral, because of the message of hope that we have in Jesus. Many of the boys' football friends and parents came to David's funeral in Japan. Some have since commented that it was the first time they have ever attended a Christian funeral. We trust that they will remember the message of hope that they heard there and that some would want to know more.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

*With our love,*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

### Harvest Thanksgiving

This year Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 17th September. Donations can be delivered to the Church on Saturday 16th September between 10.00am and 11.30am or on Harvest Thanksgiving morning.

As usual donations of flowers, plants and posies will be delivered by elders to the elderly, housebound and sick members of our congregation and food items will be delivered to the Lodging House Mission and Salvation Army.

Any donations are most welcome. Fresh vegetables, fruit, tinned goods, dried goods such as rice, pasta, soup mixes are always welcome. The Salvation Army project that we deliver to provides for single men living in a hostel situation with access to cooking facilities so individual size goods are most welcome. Tea and coffee are always appreciated.

Envelopes will be available in the pews for those members wishing to contribute to the work of OMF in memory of David Ferguson.

Thank you

**Elizabeth McEwan**

Harvest Thanksgiving Convener

### Flower Donations ~ August/September

#### August:

Mrs Suzanne Robertson

Mrs Margaret McNeill

Mrs Jean Getty



#### September:

Miss E M Watson

The Laws Family.

Please forward donations with your name and address to:

Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Ave, Milngavie, G62 6NN or place in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the church. Cheques should be made payable to St. Paul's flowers.