

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2015



Dear Friends,

The other day I passed a flowerbed at Milngavie Town Hall. It has been prepared by Milngavie In Bloom and has a notice that says: 'Please keep off the garden. Tulips and daffodils are planted and will soon be appearing.' It was a cold day, cloudy, and threatening rain so to see that promise was really quite heartening. To know that very soon there would be a display of life and colour. Amazing too to think that a promise like that could be made, that we can have faith in the cycle of the seasons and the renewing power of creation.

Perhaps we do not go in for Lent to the same extent as other Christian traditions but there can never be any harm in reminding ourselves that often the life of faith can be challenging and demanding of all our resources. We may not be in the position of many Christians in the Middle East and some parts of Africa who are daily in fear of their lives but there are times when we have difficulty making sense of dark and difficult experiences that have fallen to us.

In this we are in good company. The apostle Paul once wrote that life can sometimes be like seeing 'a poor reflection in a mirror', hard to work out. But Paul was in the grip of a promise that God's renewing purpose would never be denied by the worst of circumstances. Some of his most challenging words are in 2 Corinthians 4: 16-17:

'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'

I have often thought about these words and their implications for believers. We are being invited to see our 'troubles' from the perspective of eternity, a time beyond this life when we will see that no matter what was happening to us and how badly we were troubled, God was still working in our lives to take forward his good purpose for us. The key to Paul's faith was that quite simply he knew his God. He once wrote: 'I know whom I have believed.' He was convinced that the God 'who did not spare his own Son for us all' had nothing but a good and loving purpose in the lives of those he loved.

My hope for these weeks leading to Easter is that as a people we will know our God better through our reflection on His promises which alone can sustain us through the challenges that fall to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dates For Your Diary

Koffee and Kake for Kimo

Saturday March 21st - 10.00 till 12 noon

You are invited to a Coffee Morning to raise funds for our boys' home at Kimo in the Peruvian jungle. Last year, thanks to very generous contributions from everyone who attended, we were able to send enough money to buy three computers for the boys' use; this was a tremendous effort greatly appreciated by everyone at Kimo which means that Henry, the house father, can use his computer without being interrupted by requests from the boys and also without viruses constantly being introduced by them. This year our money will go towards the upgrading of the water supply.

Apart from the tea and coffee and delicious home baking which is always on offer at such events in St. Paul's, there will be stalls for baking, books and bric-a-brac; donations to these stalls will be gratefully received both on the evening before from 7.00 to 8.00, and on the morning from 9.00.

Please try to join us for our only such fund-raiser in the year, as we remember these boys who have suffered so much and now enjoy the love and care which they deserve.

Stated Annual Meeting will be held in the Large Hall on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm for the purpose of electing members to the Congregational Board. At this meeting a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December will be submitted.

All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Graham Mill
Session Clerk

The Guild Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th March 2015

10 a.m – 12 noon

Cake Stall Books Bric-a-Brac

Tickets £2 Children 50p

Welcome donations of baking, unwanted treasures, books and bric-a-brac may be handed in on Friday between 2 – 4 p.m. or on Saturday morning

Christian Aid Lenten Lunch

The Christian Aid Lenten Lunch will be held in the Main Hall after the morning service on **Sunday 29th March**. There will be delicious soups, including home-made, and filled rolls. Please come along and enjoy the fellowship with all donations going to Christian Aid.

'Life and Work' Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £24.00 – a reduction of 20 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the end of March, if possible. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Shopping with Traidcraft

Christmas shopping was not an option for me this year. Instead I got the Traidcraft Christmas catalogue which was a wise move. My top purchases were perhaps the pure silk scarves/stoles in various sizes. These scarves came individually packaged just ready to fold and put in an ordinary envelope. Pure silk - well we do know that "guid gear comes in sma' bulk" so any extra paid for quality was recouped in postage.

But there were many interesting possible presents - high on my list were attractive cheese knives. If anyone was lucky enough to be a recipient of one of my Traidcraft Christmas Gifts please let Rosemary or Babs know as they are always interested to see the real thing– not just an item in the catalogue. I am very grateful to Rosemary and Babs for putting in yet another order for me. Please can I have the Christmas 2015 catalogue as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Rachel Douglas

Treasurer's Report

Throughout 2014 the Congregational Board were 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 reasonable balance and although we ended the year with a surplus, for most of the year we had to use our reserves.

Income	General Fund	
	2014	2013
Offerings	166,129	175,674
Tax Recovered	35,658	36,925
Other income	12,450	6,022
	<hr/> 214,237	<hr/> 218,621
Expenditure		
Ministry & Mission	118,145	118,244
Local Staffing	42,612	41,555
Buildings	28,275	32,966
Other Costs	17,820	16,678
	<hr/> 206,852	<hr/> 209,443
Income Less Expenditure	7,385	9,178

Income from Offerings are showing a drop of £9,545 (about 5.4%). Other income sources are almost the same as last year. Taking these figures into account and the fact that our expenditure also shows a decrease of £2,591 we never the less ended the year with a surplus of £7,385 and this is the equivalent of slightly more than a third of our average monthly expenditure.

At the end of the last year the Congregational Board agreed to give donations to 4 charities:

Glasgow City Mission - £1000	Scottish Bible Society - £1000
Lodging House Mission - £1000	Prison Fellowship Scotland - £1500

Each of the charities has sent their grateful thanks for our support.

Chris Scott - Treasurer

Brigade Blethers



This Blether is really a great big "thank you" note ! Our Coffee Morning was very well attended on Saturday 7 February and we banked £ 686.24 which is fantastic. However by the time I left Church the next day I had been given another £40 to add to our total. Then yesterday a member of the congregation gave me another £10 so we have ended up with £ 736.24. We use the proceeds of our coffee morning to pay all the expenses for our Company Display in May and, where possible, we also use some of it to subsidise the cost to the girls for their weekend at Auchengillan. So a big thank you to all of you who have made it possible to give the girls an action packed weekend.

So far we have been working hard at our badgework but it is now time to put our thinking caps on to come up with ideas for the Display. Our Display reflects the theme of our year's badgework and this year we are going Scottish in a big way. So if you are not doing anything on Thursday 7 May why not come along and we will be delighted to entertain you. We'll even give you a bit of supper.

God Bless

Anne Goodlet

Book Club



The book this time is Wish her Safe at Home by Stephen Benatar. Rachel Waring's life consists of a dull office job, a mousy wardrobe, and a difficult flatmate so she is overwhelmed when a great aunt leaves her a country house in Bristol. She imagines she will now be able to do what she wants when she wants and live as a woman of leisure. Unfortunately the reality is very different and we witness Rachel's mental state declining at an alarming rate. Although we would not rush to recommend this book, the group did spend an hour discussing the subject matter which had proved unsettling to many of us. The group were generally disappointed that there was no firm conclusion of the book which finished abruptly with Rachel being admitted to hospital.

Our next book is A Man Called Ove by Frederik Backman and we are meeting on 10 March 2015.

Joyce Clark

World Mission

Malawi Flooding Update

The full impact of the flooding in Malawi is beginning to be understood. With the floods washing away crops, destroying homes and communities, the situation for many is devastating.

Dr. Ruth Shakespeare updates us on the critical situation at Mulanje Mission Hospital, 'There are 1480 people who have lost their homes, and are

still in need of blankets, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, buckets for water, and a basic foodstuff package for each family (maize, beans, cooking oil and likuni phala). More than 3000 pit latrines have collapsed in this area, and rebuilding toilets is an urgent public health priority. Mulanje Mission Hospital has already seen an increase in patients with severe diarrhoea, and we need to be prepared for a cholera outbreak'.



The Church of Scotland has been given £4500 from the Scottish Government to support the work of our partners in the Synod of Blantyre. They will be using the money to provide immediate support to those affected, in particular food and shelter.

If you are able to support those affected then any donations to this work, can be sent to Elizabeth White, (Finance officer), The Church of Scotland World Mission Council, earmarked for 'Blantyre Synod, flood relief'.

Further Attacks In Pakistan

Rt Rev Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar in the Church of Pakistan has contacted us to tell of further attacks in the area.

He writes, "A mob of about 800-1000 people entered our Pennell School, Bannu [3 hours south of Peshawar near the tribal belt on Monday 26 January. Entering the classrooms, they damaged the windows, windowpanes, green boards, electric boards and also scared the children. Some of them were armed as well, thank God there were no injuries to any person. They wanted the school to be shut and the senior students to join them for the protest against the recent cartoons published in France. A few of them climbed the closed gate, entered and then opened it for the rest of the crowd to enter the school.

On hearing about the incident, I immediately went to Bannu, and have just returned I am particularly angry and sad that the police was with the mob and could not stop them entering the school. Kindly keep the Diocese and our Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in your special prayers."

Unrest in Bangladesh



Our Mission Partner in Bangladesh, Pat Jamison, has asked for prayer that peace and stability will be restored in Bangladesh as political unrest brings confrontation across the country.

She writes "28 people were burnt, nine with 48% and others more than 15% when a bus was attempting to leave Dhaka and was caught up in

the permanent blockade by the main opposition party BNP. From 5th January and up until now 30 people have been killed, approximately 900 people injured and 321 vehicles torched many with staff or passengers on board.

I usually travel to the central office by whatever means I can get, usually CNG or local bus as I don't risk my car, however since last week I have started to remain working at home. The violence has been so random its just too risky.

Please keep this wonderful nation close in prayer"

Family Reunion can help find peace in Korean peninsula

In a letter to the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the UK and to politicians in Westminster and Holyrood, Rt Rev John Chalmers said:

'The Church of Scotland agrees with our partners - that reconciliation is impossible without healing the pain and suffering of families who have been separated since the division of the Korean peninsula.'



Count Your Blessings This Lent

Count your blessings this Lent with Christian Aid with daily bite-size reflections to encourage you to pray, give and act to bring justice to our world and change the lives of people living in poverty across the globe.

These reflections are added to by daily reflections on the Church of Scotland website from various members of the church as part of the Moderator's Lenten series.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/lent>

Flower Donations - March

Mrs. D. Dickson,
Mrs. M. Ingram,
Mrs. S. Lindsay,
Miss A. Ritchie,
Mrs. C. Tanner,
Mr. R. Bone



Please put donations in the 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

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

It's often said these days that the world is a smaller place. The earth itself may be the same size and distances to travel no less than they have always been. But we are now well used to hopping on planes to get us with ease and comfort to wherever we want to go. And even if we don't travel at all, what is going on in the world is instantly beamed onto our screens and communication has moved at such a pace in recent years that we can instantly link up with someone on the other side of the world.

For us, that makes a huge difference, even compared to when we left for Japan almost seventeen years ago. In those days, e-mail was still a bit of a novelty for many, and things like Skype, Facebook and iPhones that we are so used to now were still way on the horizon. Nowadays it's so much easier to stay in touch. Certainly that's helpful for us right now when as a family we are on three different continents - three in Scotland, two in Japan and one in Australia. As long as we sort out our schedules to accommodate the time zones, we can keep in touch no problem. Even coming back home is not what it used to be as you can follow the adventures of others on Facebook and somehow keep in touch even though separated by thousands of miles.

This year OMF celebrates its 150th anniversary. In the early days it was known as the China Inland Mission and

worked exclusively in China until the early 1950s when everything changed as a result of the revolution there. In those days and for many years to follow, travel to China (and later other parts of Asia) was by ship. Post took months to arrive (if ever). There was little contact between missionary and those back home. Changed days indeed.

It is good to reflect on what Paul refers to in his letter to the Philippians as 'partnership in the gospel'. What does it mean to be partners in the gospel? Certainly those serving as missionaries need the partnership of those in the home church - praying, giving, encouraging, sharing the concerns and struggles. Not all will go to other lands to share the gospel with those there. But each of us has a role in helping the gospel message reach the peoples of the world, including the people in our own land.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel with us over these past seventeen years. And a big thank you to all who once again organised, helped at and attended the recent Cherry Blossom Fair.

With our love, David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

March Edition - Life & Work



Biblical Mothers

As Mothering Sunday approaches, Dr Helen Bond examines the role of mothers in the Bible, while Jackie Macadam looks back at the history and religious roots of the day. Ron Ferguson considers the role of Mary, mother of Jesus.

'Mother of all the Peoples'

Lynne McNeil dips into the archives to recall the life and death of Mary Slessor, one of Scotland's greatest missionaries, who passed away 100 years ago this year.

Reforming the Kirk

In the final part of his series, the Rev Dr Doug Gay emphasises the need for the winds of change in the Church of Scotland.

Science and the Church

Dr Andrew Torrance highlights the work of a group seeking to bridge the gap between science and faith.

'A Beautiful Gift'

Thomas Baldwin encourages the Rev Peter Johnston to 'Spill the Beans' on a worship publication that is finding a growing audience.

'We Are On the Same Team'

The Moderator calls for respect in disagreements in the Church.

Discerning God's call

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the subject of vocation.

Speaking to the Heart

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights some of the secrets of effective preaching.

The 'Parliament Parish'

John R Hume unearths the history of a Hebridean church.

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Lodging House Mission Quarterly Prayer Letter



Dear Friends,

When we read the gospels we can find many references to Jesus at prayer. Prayer is not a mysterious practice reserved only for clergy and the religiously devout. Prayer is simply *communicating with God*—listening and talking to him. Believers can pray from the heart, freely, spontaneously, and in their own words.

Let me share 2 things we can learn from Jesus prayer life.

First - Jesus believed that prayer works.

Matthew 7:7 - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." The inference here is that if you don't ask then you won't receive.

Second - Jesus prayed before making important decisions.

Luke 6:12-13 - "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles." Jesus prayed for guidance before making such an important decision – a decision that would later turn the world upside down.

Prayer Issues

Give thanks for an excellent response from churches and individuals to our Christmas Appeal for funds and gift donations. Please continue to pray for all our future funding needs in these times of financial uncertainty

Pray for all our service users whose chaotic lifestyles hinders them from reaching their potential and pray that they will accept the opportunities offered here at the LHM to improve their quality of life

Give thanks that staff and service users have responded positively to recent changes in the management structure at the LHM

Pray for wisdom and direction for Gus Smeaton, Interim Manager, and the rest of the Board as they lead and direct the work of the Lodging House Mission

Your prayers will make a difference.

I wish you all much blessings

Gus McKay
(Chaplain)

The Guild



26.01.2015 Gang Violence – Problems & Solutions. Prof. Ross Deuchar gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the strategy now being used to combat gang territorial violence. In 1968 Frankie Vaughan visited Easterhouse offering his help and a Weapons Amnesty was declared, but unfortunately this was short-lived. Working closely with Police Scotland, Ross gives them valuable advice from his research into youth violence & crime, resulting in how they now tackle the problem. The Violence Reduction Unit gives help in many ways. e.g. Anger Management, advice on jobs, Army etc. and is available to all who are willing to accept it and stay on the programme

02.02.2015 Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Dr Barbara Parfitt gave us a brilliant presentation & talk on the work being carried out in Bangladesh, where poverty is a major issue for rights of freedom, abuse etc. A micro credit bank was opened to help families. Following this, The Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing was opened in Dhaka to educate & train young women from the borrower families in Nursing/Midwifery. The programme of research is shared with Glasgow Caledonian University. Dr Parfitt was instrumental in helping to set up the College with Prof. Muhammad Yunus and retains a keen & dedicated interest in it.

09.02.15: Rev. Fergus Buchanan joined us and the Theme of his talk was Great Lives & Their Challenges. He gave examples from the Bible, such as Abraham, Isaac & Jacob and from the modern world such as Churchill etc. All were fallible and had their weaknesses, but achieved their sense of destiny despite this, (or through it) with a strong faith & their beliefs. Press on in Faith is a message to us all.

Diary Dates

- 02.03.15 **No Meeting**
- 03.03.15 Visit to St.Luke's 7.30 p.m.
- 06.03.15 World Day of Prayer – St. Joseph's 10.30 a.m.
- 07.03.15 Coffee Morning 10 a.m. – 12 noon**
- 09.03.15 Rev. George Vidits
- 16.03.15 Dr. Deans & Anna Magnusson: 'The Time of our Lives'
- 23.03.15 A.G.M & Home Night.

Margaret Stirling

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Copy date for the April issue is Sunday 22nd March if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 25th March if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
1st Mar	M. McIntyre M. Spencer	McKinnon Goodlet	M. Ure J. Mill	Team 9 G. Getty
8th Mar	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Chapman McCreadie	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 B. Marshall (EC)
15th Mar	E. Izatt F. Ireland	Berry Wallis	J. MacIntyre M. Fewell	Team 3 G. Campbell
22nd Mar	A. Gibson A. McLeod	Richell Wilson	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 P. Knaggs
29th Mar	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Bates Stark	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 G. Hamilton