

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2016



Dear Friends

Violence has cast a long shadow over Easter 2016. The bombs in Brussels, the trial of Radovan Karadzic with images of his atrocities, and the murders in Clydebank and Shawlands have served to remind us of the dark side of human nature. It is difficult enough to face all of this but perhaps more so when we are people of faith. After the Dunblane tragedy a man said to me: 'This is a hard time for fellows like you.' I suppose he meant that it is difficult to confront such horror and bring a message of hope. And he is right. We should all recognise the challenge of faith in the midst of tragedy and suffering. Sometimes it is hard to believe that at the heart of the Universe there is a God of love and justice who is in control. But this is one of the great assurances that arise out of the last days of Jesus life on earth. Even in the depths of the darkness that engulfed our Lord God was working for the renewal of all humankind.

I recently visited the grave of a friend who died last year. He had been living with cancer for six years, enduring the most debilitating of treatments, before the disease eventually overwhelmed him. On his headstone are the words: 'Nothing will ever separate me from the love of God.' This is from a passage of Scripture in which the Apostle Paul reflects on the worst things that could ever happen. He speaks of 'trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword' and against these things he places a question: 'Is there anything there that will ever be able to separate me from the love of God?' His answer? 'There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8: 35-39)

I have no doubt that Paul had questions. The extent of suffering he endured throughout his life was beyond anything that most people go through. But still he was convinced of the love of God and His good purpose in his life. I believe that this can be explained by the centrality of the Cross in Paul's faith. He saw the love of God working in and through the death of Jesus. On the surface it was a ghastly spectacle but Paul came to believe that this death opened up the opportunity for forgiveness and renewal for the whole of humankind. The confirmation of this was in the Resurrection of Jesus when the light from the tomb scattered the darkness around the Cross and the followers of Jesus understood what had been achieved through His suffering.

The questions will always remain but reflection on the Cross and the extent of Jesus' sufferings can bring the hope that even in the worst of circumstances the love of God is present and His good purpose is unfolding.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leslie'.

## 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration

A reminder of our 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration Service on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> with guest preacher Dr. David Graham. The Moderator of the Presbytery Dr. Iain Galbraith will be bringing greetings from the Presbytery. The Service will be followed by a family lunch in the Large Hall.

The lunch will consist of two courses followed by tea or coffee and cakes. So that as many people as possible can be involved, we hope that bakers will be willing to make tray bakes or other goodies that don't need buttering. Lists will be at the back of the church at the end of April for those who wish to help. If you are not a baker but would like to make a small donation towards tea, milk etc. please see Ann MacLeod or Frances Ireland. Thank you



### Hand Made Cards for Preshal

You may have noticed that we have been selling cards just outside the Office window? These simple cards are raising money for The Preshal Trust and each month the theme of these cards will be changed giving you a new opportunity to buy cards for friends and loved ones. All occasions are being covered, Get Well, Birthday, Prayer and even notelets that can be simply used to keep in touch. It is hoped that you will support us in the sale of these cards and at some point in October a cheque will be passed onto Preshal along with further monetary support from The St Pauls Society. As we type this article £225 have been raised so far.

If you see a card that you like check the price on the back and pop your money in the honesty box provided. The average card is £1 and some are as low as 50p. If you would like a special card personalised with a friend's name on it just give me 24 hours notice and it can be done.

**Alex McEwan (for The St Pauls Society)**

For further information and orders  
alexjmcewan@gmail.com    01413840274

## Christian Aid Week 2016



*Christian Aid Week* is from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May and as usual we are looking for collectors. 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May.



Sincere thanks to all who attended the concert or helped with the arrangements on the 26th February. £3340 was raised (before expenses) for the National Trust for Scotland and the Preshal Trust. Many visiting St Paul's for the first time commented on its beauty and the warmth of the welcome. Your support was greatly appreciated.

### **Anne Ritchie**

On behalf of Robert and myself, I would like to thank everyone and in particular Mr. Buchanan for their prayers, support and encouragement after our accident. It was uplifting to receive such fellowship and extreme kindness from so many people. Thank you.  
God Bless,

### **Maureen Donaldson**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bible Sunday appeal so generously. The total sum donated was £1,207.50. Thanks to those who completed Gift Aid Declarations. When the Society has reclaimed the tax this will increase the overall total to £1,412.00.



### **Frances Ireland**

## Brigade Blethers



Just came home from Auchengillan on Sunday afternoon so guess what this blether is all about!

We had a wonderful weekend. The sun shone all day Saturday and Sunday so the girls were able to enjoy all the activities which, thanks to a generous grant from The Allander Charities Trust, we had been able to book. For many of the girls this was their first taste of Auchengillan and its magic and they loved it. My friend Eleanor and I were in charge of the cooking and it was amazing how much those girls could eat. There is something very satisfying about seeing plates coming back empty.

The rest of the staff were out and about "controlling" the groups and they did a grand job. We didn't lose anyone until the Saturday night when one of the leaders went into the Brigaders' dorm to make sure everyone was OK. She found four empty bunks. However they had not escaped - they had just decided that it was more fun sleeping in a huddle on the floor. And you think boys are bad!

See you next month after the Display.

**Anne Goodlet**

## Book Group



We have been reading *The Potter's House* by Rose Thomas. We have recently read another book by this author, *the Kashmir Shawl*, which was very well received by everybody in the group. *The Potter's House* generated a very full discussion despite the fact that only two members of the group actually enjoyed it! The story is about Olivia who lives on a tiny Greek island married to a local man, mother to two small sons. Following an earthquake which devastates the island, a survivor, Kitty, is rescued and she is welcomed into Olivia's family. The effect of Kitty's presence on the island and in the family forms the main part of the novel. Our lively discussion centred on whether or not we believed this complicated story – as you can imagine there were various suggestions put forward. Maybe you should read it for yourself and let one of the group know your conclusions!

Our next book is *Passage to Africa* by George Alagiah and we are meeting on 26 April 2016.

**Joyce Clark**

## Guild News



On 29<sup>th</sup>. February, Dr. Robert Hamilton spoke to the Guild about Rosa Parks. She was the black woman, who, by refusing to give up her seat to a white woman in a segregated bus, sparked off the civil rights movement in the United States. Despite losing her job, and suffering death threats, Rosa Parks went on to become active in various areas involving discrimination.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the AGM was held, followed by the usual entertainment put on by the retiring Guild Committee. This took the form of a very amusing parody of the TV Mr and Mrs show.

Our last meeting was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> when we were entertained by the Christian Puppet and Drama Group from East Kilbride Baptist Church. However, their leader emphasised that the group wasn't there just to entertain, but was a ministry, bringing the gospel message in a unique way. This very talented group of young people was a great hit and, by popular demand will pay a return visit next year.

The Guild Summer Outing will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, when we will visit the Sterling Outlet Shopping Park, followed by high tea at the Royal Hotel in Bridge of Allan.

We wish all our members an enjoyable and hopefully sunny summer. Our meetings resume on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

## Lunch Club



We are having a short break over the first two weeks in April and will be closed during this time. We reopen on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April when all are welcome for a lunch of soup, a variety of filled rolls and delicious home baking. Come along at 12 noon and enjoy good food, company and you may wish to join the short service held at 1-15 for 15 minutes.

## Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

As this is being written we are sitting in our house the day before Easter, still surrounded by various boxes and clutter! It might take a little while longer yet to feel settled here, but we are so thankful to have this home, complete with garden! It's our first time to have a proper garden in Japan. We're not quite sure what all the different trees and plants are but are looking forward to the changing colours of the seasons. We also have a couple of friendly cats that come to be fed!

Having done lots of closure last month, April is a time for new beginnings. Calum and Alistair start at their new schools and we gradually get to know a new area. We will also 'enjoy' the daily commute into the OMF offices but don't plan to go in every day anyway, taking some time each week to work from home. We are not sure yet exactly what we will do for a church base but don't need to decide that imminently.

This month on the 23rd there is a special memorial service in Sapporo for an OMF colleague and friend who died last year aged 55 leaving a wife and (now just turned 4 years old) adopted daughter. You will remember that when we returned to Japan in 2009 to begin a new church plant in Sapporo, we worked with How Chuang and his wife Kaori. As they were in Singapore when he died, there has not yet been any service in Japan for his many friends and colleagues here. David has been asked to give a short Bible message at that service.

We appreciate all your support for us here, not least with the Cherry Blossom Fair which takes place faithfully year by year. Thank you to all who helped with that and all who attended. We are right at this moment about to welcome the cherry blossoms in our area.

*With our love,*

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

## April Edition - Life & Work



### Faith and Finance

Should the Church of Scotland divest from fossil fuels?

Interview with Charles Munn, elder, economics professor and convener of the Church's Special Commission on the Purposes of Economic Activity. Two ministers reflect on past careers in the banking industry

### The Privilege of Chaplaincy

The Rev Chris Kellock offers an insight into the life of a military chaplain

### Changing Lives

The work of International Justice Mission

### Bridging the Gap

Dr Murdo Macdonald shares stories of church-sponsored projects closing the digital divide

### Creative Theology

Ron Ferguson argues that the Church of Scotland needs both conservatives and liberals

### Unity of Church 'Of Fundamental Importance'

In his final column, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison explains the importance of seeking unity

### A Passion for Justice

Reflecting on a recent trip to Egypt, Hannah Mary Goodlad considers the plight of refugees and the need for tolerance

### Image Over Word

The Rev Alastair Duncan considers the place and power of art in the Church today

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### Flower Donations - April

Mrs. M. Hossack, Miss M. McLean, Mrs. I. More,  
Mrs. M. Robertson, Mrs. E. Whyte.

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

## Church Of Scotland News

### Kirk farming minister post hailed by MSPs

The Church of Scotland has been commended at Holyrood for launching a new pioneering ministry post to support stressed out farmers in Ayrshire.



Seventeen Conservative, SNP and Labour MSPs have backed a motion in the Scottish Parliament hailing the role which has the support of NFU Scotland and rural charity RSABI.

The two organisations say the perilous state of the ailing sector is taking a "serious" toll on the health and wellbeing of many people in the farming community who too often "suffer in silence".

The motion was lodged by the MSP for Ayr John Scott who described the farming ministry role as a "bold and timely initiative".

It reads: " That the Parliament welcomes the first dedicated farming minister post created by the Church of Scotland in Ayr to support people in the agricultural industry; considers that the farming sector is undergoing serious challenges at this time, specifically regarding low produce prices and issues with common agricultural policy (CAP) payments, and that this has led to high levels of stress and mental health issues among farmers; considers that this new position will provide the church with a better understanding of modern-day farming concerns as it seeks to build relationships with people working in the industry, provide spiritual and family support and encourage consumers to buy locally, and congratulates the Church of Scotland Ayr Presbytery on responding to a local need in what it considers such a pertinent and imaginative way."

Mr Scott, a farmer by trade, said: "The appointment of a dedicated farming minister is a bold and timely initiative on the part of the Church of Scotland.

"That there is a need for a listening ear and helping hand in our rural community particularly in Ayrshire at this time is beyond doubt.

"Farming and working on farms can be a lonely and stressful occupation, at the best of times, but currently the difficulties faced by some colleagues and friends in the rural community are becoming overwhelming.

"So I congratulate the Church of Scotland on taking their ministry to where it is urgently needed."



## **Church Of Scotland News Cont.**

### **Kirk to work with Islamic Finance Council on ethical financial services**

The Church of Scotland and Islamic Finance Council UK have announced a partnership to create ethical financial services.

The joint venture will draw on how the Christian and Muslim communities have supported ethical finance in the past and examine the practical commercial viability of new models which can tackle inequality and poverty. This pioneering initiative is the first time the Church and Islamic finance have come together to collaborate and will aim to create solutions open to everyone regardless of religious or ethnic background.

This initiative has come into being through a shared belief that existing financial institutions have in recent years lost their social conscience. Following the banking crisis of 2008, further ongoing scandals of mis-selling payment protection and interest rate fixing have raised the question if reforms have worked. We believe this is an exciting opportunity for faith groups to work together on solutions which will benefit the whole of society, regardless of faith or belief.

On announcing the project Rt. Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said:

"In 2012 the Church of Scotland's special commission on the purpose of economic activity identified human flourishing and the protection of the planet for future generations as two of the most critical purposes for financial interaction. Our current system has gone badly wrong, creating massive inequality and the destruction of our shared natural resources by money-making machines overtaking commerce that serves the common good.

"The Christian and Islamic faith traditions share a commitment to economic justice and a call to an equal distribution of the gifts of God. By collaborating and "putting our money where our morals are" we have an opportunity to live out our common values and make a tangible change for those most affected by poverty. Active concern for our communities is an obligation and we look forward to meeting the challenge together."

## World Mission

### Christian Aid sponsored walks

The time has come to register for Christian Aid's annual sponsored walks. There are plenty to choose from so if you or a team from your congregation want to take part contact:

Amy Menzies - [amenzies@christian-aid.org](mailto:amenzies@christian-aid.org) or 0141 241 6138.



### Forth Bridge Cross

Saturday 23 April, reception from 1pm, walk 2-5pm  
Forth Road Bridge, South Queensferry

### Tay Bridge Cross

Saturday 30 April, 11am-2pm  
Tay Road Bridge, Newport-on-Tay

### Erskine Bridge Cross

Saturday 7 May, 2-5pm  
Erskine Road Bridge, Old Kilpatrick

### Cumbrae Challenge

Saturday 11 June, 10am-4pm  
Cumbrae Slip, Great Cumbrae

### Rev Ebe Joseph: Healing the wounds of civil war in Sri Lanka

Rev Ebe Joseph, General Secretary of National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (pictured centre), met recently with representatives of the Church of Scotland to discuss the role the church in Sri Lanka has in vital peace and reconciliation work.



He said: 'Collectively we are using our religious and spiritual resources as we try to heal the bitter memories of people, the bitter experiences of people, and work to restore relationships between the communities so we can build a nation together.'

## World Mission Cont.

### Moderator's Challenge 2016

This year the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Angus Morrison has been challenged by the Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, Hannah Mary Goodlad, to cycle around Loch Leven with her on a tandem bike on **16 April**.



Not only will the challenge take place in the Moderator's parish, but it will be in aid of the **St Andrews Refugees Services (StARS)**, a project run by our partner church in Egypt, which both the Moderator and the Youth Moderator visited in January. StARS is based in St Andrews Church, Cairo, and was one of the first organisations in Egypt dedicated to improving the quality of life of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants.

The cycle kick off is at **10.30am** at **Kirkgate, Loch Leven** and it is estimated that they will finish at 12.30pm.

### Church of North India joins silent rally to demand rights for Dalit Christians and Muslims

On 10 March our partners the Church of North India and the Church of South India took part in a rally organised by the National Council of Dalit Christians in Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Together they called on the Indian government to grant Dalit Christians and Muslims rights without discrimination on the basis of religion.



Currently in India the Constitutional Scheduled Caste Order means that only Dalit Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists receive full welfare benefits. This means that Dalits who converted to Christianity or Islam do not receive the same social, economic and educational benefits as other groups. Approximately 70% of India's 25 million Christians come from the Dalit background, so this is a very serious issue for our partner churches.

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Copy date for the May issue is Sunday 17th April if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 20th April if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd Apr	G. Chisholm A. Shiels	Wilson Wallis	E. Burns C. McKinnon	Team 6 J. Scott
10th Apr	P. Dudgeon A. Gillies	Berry McCreadie	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 S. Adair
17th Apr	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Tracey Chapman		Team 1 C, Inglis (C)
24th Apr	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Sillars Richell	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 L. Johnston