

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

April 2018



As many of you will know by now, in December of last year I was told that a blood condition diagnosed in 2009 had moved on and treatment was required. That began just before Christmas but the more intense treatment that was anticipated has been postponed for the time being. The treatment, begun in December, will be continuing on a monthly basis and although this leaves me feeling a bit 'woozy' for a couple of days, life should go on more or less as normal.

I have been very grateful for the care of the staff at the Beatson Centre who at times work under considerable pressure and yet take time to answer questions, provide reassurance and leave you feeling you can go forward with confidence. Moreover, it has been a happy providence that at this challenging time I am again working in a team. David and Lynsey have been my confidants, encouragers and prayer supporters. Their willingness to take on unforeseen tasks at short notice has given me much peace of mind.

This is all apart from the sympathy and understanding that has come in waves from the congregation. There is no greater encouragement than to know that you are the focus of so much prayer. Both Gabrielle and I, not to mention the whole family, are grateful for this and know that it will continue in the days ahead.

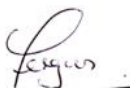
It has been a time when I have appreciated the Psalmists vision of God as a 'refuge'. Time after time we read: 'In the Lord I take refuge', 'God is our refuge', 'I take refuge in the shelter of your wings.' It is when we fasten our minds to the promises of Scripture and present ourselves to God in prayer - no matter the confusion of our thoughts and the turmoil of our emotions - that we can find a strength beyond our own strength and a peace that can come from no human source. Only in the shelter of His wings can we find hope for each day and for the Kingdom to come.

Continued overleaf...

That really is what you might call the Easter faith. It is belief in a God who has come to us and shared our life, who has died to deal with the central problem of all our lives, who has passed through the darkness of death and emerged as the 'first-fruits' of a new humanity. Today the Risen Lord stands as everything God wants us to be, a people called to show His life in ours and destined to populate the eternal Kingdom where the shadows of disease, distress and death never fall.

I hope you all have a happy Easter with this message burning ever more brightly in the depths of your being.

Wishing you God's Peace,



News from BreakAway @ St. Paul's

It has been amazing to look back over the past year in BreakAway @ St Paul's and remember many happy times shared with befrienders and members. In the development of our dementia-friendly support group, it has been encouraging to observe how well our new members have settled in and contributed to different activities and projects.

On reflection there have been many highlights. Last June we enjoyed a Wimbledon theme session including, of course, strawberries and cream! In December, for our Christmas party, committee members knitted and presented to everyone miniature 'Christmas Puddings' with a sweetie enclosed. Family members were invited to join us playing party games, trying out crafts and a wonderful singalong was enjoyed. Our knitting group, apart from lots of 'blethering', has created beautiful blankets and baby hats. The hats were presented to a local midwife recently and will be given to new- born babies in the maternity hospital at the QEUH. We are presently planning our first outing and hope this will be successful.

If you are interested in finding out more about BreakAway there are information forms on the table at the back of the church, or speak to one of the committee.

Thank you for your prayers and the variety of support given to BreakAway by our St Paul's family.

Gabrielle Buchanan

Book Group

The book group met tentatively, in view of severe weather forecast, on Tuesday 27th February, having been cancelled because of snow in January. As a result we discussed two books.

The first, "Like a Mantle the Sea" by Stella Shepherd related the author's experience in the 1960's on Papa Stour, an island off the west coast of Shetland. Coming from England, she lived there for eight years teaching at the small primary school until it closed as a result of depopulation, while her husband, though not an ordained minister, looked after the church activities. We all agreed it was an easy read, describing life on this remote island with its everyday issues, exceptional tasks and necessary supportive community that would have been very new to her.

The second book was "Nothing to Envy" by Barbara Demick, an investigative journalist in South Korea writing in 2010. She interviewed several defectors from North Korea and retold their stories in novel form, describing life there, then why and how they left to become refugees in South Korea where they built new and very different lives. A very vivid picture was portrayed that enthused some but others found hard to read.

The next time we will each talk about 'a good book I read recently'. Contact the office for date and venue.

Ann Begg

Christian Aid Lunch - Sunday 18th March



After a lot of thought, and a few frantic telephone calls at 07.30 in the morning we decided to go ahead with the Christian Aid Lunch on a very cold and snowy morning.

After all, having come to church, we thought that many people would be glad of a cup of Ann McLeod's delicious soup and a roll and cheese.

Those of you who came in for lunch, were extremely generous and (so far) we have raised £474 which is a great effort. Big thanks to Ann and the Lunch bunch for all their sterling work and to the members of the congregation who helped clear up.

Alex McEwan

LIFE AND WORK—April Edition



Easter

- Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly
- New Clarence McGonigall story by Ron Ferguson
- The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains how the resurrection invites us to prepare to encounter the risen Christ

From Homelessness to Primus

Interview with the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church of Scotland

On the Rails

The work of the Railway Mission and recently-formed 'Railway Pastors'

Tribute to Billy Graham

By the Rev Jim Stewart, minister of Perth: Letham St Mark's

Home of a Vigorous Congregation

John R Hume reports on the history of a spiritual and physical landmark in an Ayrshire village

The Power of Place

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers highlights the importance of holy places

How are you with God?

In his final column as Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr Derek Browning highlights the unique selling point of the Church of Scotland

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

Online visit us at www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

Lodging House Mission

Following the success of the 2016 project to commence Saturday opening, the LHM decided to open on Sundays for the duration of the Winter Night Shelter (1st Dec, 2017 until 31st, March, 2018). The Board has now decided to open permanently on a Sunday.



LHM opening hours are now: 8am - 3pm every day (closed NY day)

Ann Begg



Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! When we first came to Japan nearly 20 years ago Easter was unheard of. At our church in Sapporo we held an Easter Festival for the local community. In the midst of various activities and games we were able to explain what Easter was all about.

But in the last couple of years Easter has begun to appear in the shops. There are pictures of eggs and bunnies and signs saying “Happy Easter”. Because Easter is still so unknown there is often a sign next to what is being sold explaining what Easter is. Here is one:

"Happy Easter. What is Easter? Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let's celebrate the coming of spring with the eggs and rabbits that symbolizes 'new life' and 'fertility'!"

April also sees the start of the new school year. Calum will begin his last year of high school, and Alistair his last year of middle school. Both face important decisions as to their future. In Japan there are only 9 years of compulsory education – 6 primary and 3 in middle school. To enter high school and then University you need to sit tough entrance exams. These last years of high and middle school are known as “examination hell” and there is a lot of pressure on the students.

Recently I invited round a Christian family I have got to know in the area. I thought it would be a chance to get to know them better. But the mother explained that their younger child, ages with Alistair, is what is known as a “school refuser” and doesn’t like to meet people, so they are unable to come.

A recent report shows that 3 out of 100 middle schoolers are school refusers. The top reason given was that of anxiety. Schools know it is a significant problem and are trying to take steps to provide help, but the numbers are increasing.

For our family we are now approaching the first anniversary of David’s death. Whilst we still miss him deeply, the promise of resurrection and eternal life gives us such hope. Please pray for people in Japan to be able to hear the wonderful message of Easter and know that glorious hope of the gospel.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Guild News



On 26th March, Ian Thomson, who had previously spoken to us about his work as a security guard with clients ranging from the Pope to the Queen, told us of the work he was engaged in with agencies in Sierra Leone, digging wells, and building schools.

Then, due to the very heavy snowfalls a few days later, it was decided to postpone the Guild Coffee Morning from the 3rd to the 10th March, and cancel the Guild meeting for 5th when Russell Crawford had been due to talk to us about Malawi Fruits.

Our Coffee Morning went ahead on the 10th and was a great success, raising a total of over £900.

Our last meeting before the AGM was on the 12th March when a speaker from the Glasgow City Mission told us of its work among the homeless and rough sleepers in Glasgow. As well as providing hot meals, the Mission provides other help, like the crèche in Linthouse, and the 'home scheme' which provides individuals with a home in which to make a fresh start.

By the time this goes to print we will have had our AGM, finishing our weekly meetings. However, we look forward to seeing one another at the Presbyterian Guild Afternoon Tea later in March, and our summer outing in May.

Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May 2018



Did you know that Christian Aid as an organisation is currently focusing on things like- Climate Change, Tax Dodging, South Asia Flood Victims, Hunger and Malnutrition across East Africa, Syria, Sierra Leoneand the list could go on and on. That's why we as a church have agreed to support Christian Aid and do all that we can to bring in the much needed public contributions in our Area. Very soon we will be asking for volunteers to deliver and collect Christian Aid Envelopes.

Please, please, please give this your careful consideration and look for the lists that will be at the back of the church towards the end of the month.

Alex McEwan

Flower Donations - April

If you wish to have your name written in the magazine in memory of a loved one, donations must be received in the month prior to publication.



Please also specify if a donation is anonymous, and where name and address is supplied a personal acknowledgement will be given.

Please send donations to Mrs M Thoms, 66 Braeside Avenue, Milngavie G62 6NN, or put them in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be written to St Paul's Flowers.

World Mission News

A State of Emergency in Sri Lanka

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka has released a statement concerning the escalating inter-religious tension which is unfolding in Sri Lanka.



"The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka is deeply distressed at the significant escalation in Inter-Religious tensions which has led to the loss of life and damage to property.

We appeal to all Peace-Loving Citizens in this country to take into consideration the heavy price we have paid for nearly three decades of war and violence and to work towards the peaceful resolution of the issues that are causing these acts of violence which are not in line with the righteous principles upon which this country is founded."

The 2018 Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering will take place in Edinburgh on Saturday 28th April. The theme is "Pass the Planet" and focuses on the International Year of Young People. Eco-Congregation Scotland are encouraging as many young people as possible to take part. The full programme will be announced shortly, but registration is already open at: <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/2017-annual-gathering/>

CHURCH REGISTER

No changes this month!

The copy date for the May issue is Wednesday 25th April for e-mails and Sunday 22nd April if using the church pigeon hole.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
1st April	A. Galloway M. Thomson	S. Wallis Chapman	Team 6 J. Scott
8th April	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Sillars Berry	Team 7 J. MacIntyre
15th April	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Tracey Richell	Team 1 P. McCreadie (C)
22nd April	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Wilson McKinnon	Team 8 A. Begg
29th April		J. Wallis Chapman	Team 9 A. MacLean