

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

June 2018



Dear Friends,

Time travel has long been a staple of science fiction and fantasy books and movies. I am not a great fan of the genre but I seem to remember that although the time traveller can influence events in the future he or she can never change the past. What is done is done, what is said is said, mistakes can never be rectified, achievements never unravelled.

That came to my mind recently when listening to the early morning Sunday Service on BBC Radio Scotland. The preacher emphasised that we need to trust God with our past as well as our future. The future is unknown but we go forward in the faith that we go with our good, loving and just God. The past is known. It may contain much that we can celebrate but there will be mistakes that can reach beyond the years and touch us with a continuing sense of failure. It can be like having broken glass in your soul which seems to be waiting its moment to cause you pain.

David knew what this is like. In Psalm 32 he reflects on an acute sense of sin in his life that was actually having an effect on his physical health. He describes himself as 'groaning all day long.' The turning point comes when he acknowledges his sin: 'I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord . . ." (verse 5). The result is an experience of forgiveness that enables him to go forward with faith strengthened and hope renewed. The past has not been changed but he can now live with it knowing that it does not come between him and his God. It is as if the broken glass has lost its edge.

Time and again Paul recalls a past in which he persecuted the Church and was responsible for the deaths of followers of Jesus. He writes: '(I) do not . . . deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.' (1 Corinthians 15: 9). The memory is still strong but the broken glass has lost its edge due to the grace of God. Paul goes forward as a new creation, past put behind him, nothing to separate him from his God, by the grace of God His servant.

By definition a 'disciple' is someone who learns. As disciples in our time one of the most important lessons we can learn is to trust God with our past. It cannot be changed but our attitude to it can be changed so that it is no longer a burden. Thinking of the grace of God revealed to us in Jesus Paul writes: 'The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me.' Not so that we are continually 'bowed down beneath a load of sin' but set free to bear witness to His renewing power.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Lesley'.

## OMF Thank You



Dear Friends,

This letter is a thank you from OMF for the gifts you have given over the last tax year, enabling East Asians to be reached with the good news of Jesus Christ in all its fullness through ministries of this organisation.

We are thanking the Lord that the total gifts received last year ensured that all of our members were at least 100% supported through a combination of general giving to the organisation and giving for specific individuals. In addition, all OMF members from UK have currently been able to be at least 100% supported so far during 2018 on the same combined giving basis. (Where support for a specific member exceeds 100%, the support is normally allocated to them in full and then shared with other lower supported members, according to policies established in local field contexts).

In particular, the gifts received from you during the last tax year were:

Lorna Ferguson - Support - £5814.18

We have recently rolled out a new online partner portal which is accessible via <https://ukhub.omf.org>. This portal will enable you to monitor historic giving (for the last 12 months), as well as completing Gift Aid declarations and standing order instructions, registering for prayer material mailings and OMF events.

If you would like further information regarding the use and stewardship of finances through OMF, please do contact me at [uk.fimmgr@omfmail.com](mailto:uk.fimmgr@omfmail.com) or on 01732 880305.

Many thanks, once again, for your partnership with OMF in the ministries in which we are engaged together.

Yours Sincerely,

**Jeff Hall**  
Finance Manager



### Dear Friends,

It was in June 1998 that David and I left Scotland with nearly 4 year old Daniel and 2 year old Matthew to join OMF in Japan. It is amazing to think that 20 years have passed and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at St Paul's for their faithful support of us over these past 2 decades. We couldn't have done it without you.

At the moment I have four visitors from Scotland staying with me. After 20 years living here, a lot of things have become quite normal to us, so it is fun to see them through the eyes of a visitor. Things like manoeuvring the car down a lane barely wide enough, being surprised at how vast Tokyo is, finding Japanese food delicious yet healthy, or discovering that hot spring baths are amazing. Our visitors also keep telling us to stop apologising for things – like the weather not being sunny, the beds being on the floor or the local dogs barking early in the morning.

When you live in another country for a long time, you find that you gradually adopt some of the ways of doing things in that culture. In Japan, one of these things is apologising, even if something is not your fault, or if something is not within your control – like the weather! Usually we don't notice it, but when we have friends visit, we realise that there are many ways in which we have adapted to the Japanese way of doing things.

There are lots of unwritten rules here. Don't eat on trains, speak quietly in public, don't blow your nose (it is more polite to sniff!), take your rubbish home (there are very few public bins), thank someone at least twice and apologise three times – these are just some of the things that become increasingly normal the longer you live in Japan.

In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Cor 9:22). Missionaries are meant to identify with the people they serve. And it is for a good reason, as Paul shares in verse 23 – it is for the sake of the gospel, that people might believe in Jesus and have eternal life. What could be better than that?

Thank you for your partnership with us.

*With our love,*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## Traidcraft Exchange Thank You



Dear Mrs Fraser,

Thank you very much for your recent generous donation of £300.00, kindly generated from your Traidcraft stall at St. Paul's. The surplus you have so kindly donated to us will be used to help hidden entrepreneurs in some of the world's poorest communities to develop the skills they need to leave poverty behind for good.

As a Traidcraft Fair Trader you know a thing or two about entrepreneurial spirit and business skills. Traidcraft Exchange's Hidden Entrepreneur appeal is all about using these same principles to help people in developing countries work their way out of poverty.

When people in low income countries receive training in proven skills - to add to their natural will to succeed - they can turn a profit and use it to feed their families and educate their children. They can build a better future for their families for generations to come.

Your donation made between 12th January and 11th April 2018, will be doubled by the UK government meaning we can help twice as many people - thank you so much for your kindness, and all that you do for Traidcraft Exchange.

Yours sincerely,

**Karen Smith**  
Fundraising Administrator

### **Rev. Fergus Buchanan**

As mentioned in last month's magazine, Rev Fergus Buchanan celebrated 30 Years as minister of St. Paul's on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Several members of the congregation have expressed the wish to contribute towards a gift in recognition of this milestone and the Kirk Session have agreed to this.

If you feel you would like to contribute, please place your donation in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer and place in the box at the back of the Church or send to the church office. Gift Aid cannot be claimed for this purpose.

**Graham Mill**

Session Clerk

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

As many of you will be aware new Data Protection legislation came into force across the EU on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The Church of Scotland have issued guidelines re the holding of data in any form and the new legislation goes beyond the previous Data Protection Act. Over the summer we will review the personal data we hold, the need to hold the data, who has access to the data, the security of the data etc.

We are required to have a Privacy Notice and a Data Retention Policy which outline the way we use the personal information we hold and although there are guidelines these require to be tailored to our local situation.

We are required to advise all those whose data we hold in whatever form, what information we hold about them and why we hold it. An individual has the right to have any information we hold removed from our records.

This work has started and I would ask that any member of the congregation who holds any personal information on others, ensures that the information is held:-

1. Lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
2. For a specific and legitimate purpose
3. Limited to what is necessary
4. Accurate and up to date
5. Kept securely
6. Kept no longer than is necessary
7. Destroyed in a secure and appropriate manner

If you have any questions in relation to GDPR please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Graham Mill**

Session Clerk

## 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Milngavie Company, The Boys' Brigade



All Sections of the Company brought the year to an end with three very successful Parents' Nights and Prizegivings.

The activities displayed were many and varied, all good fun and clearly enjoyed by the Boys and much appreciated by the parents. There were awards aplenty and much clapping.

Great credit is due to Captain Alistair Fettes and his staff of 8 lieutenants.

The Boys are back in September  
Anchor Boys P2 and P3 on Monday at 6.15pm  
Junior Section P4, P5 and P6 on Monday at 7.15pm  
Company Section P7 – S6 on Friday at 7.30pm

Please give a warm invitation to any boy you know who is interested.

The email address is [milngavieboysbrigade@gmail.com](mailto:milngavieboysbrigade@gmail.com)

New website is well worth viewing at  
[www.1-2milngavie.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://www.1-2milngavie.boys-brigade.org.uk)

### **OBERRAMMERGAU 16-23 July, 2020**

Anne Ritchie would be grateful if members of the congregation, their relatives and friends would send their application forms with deposit cheque for Oberammergau to her as soon as possible.

Details are in the brochure available at the back of the church. No cheques will be sent to McCabe until we have a viable group. Do remember that the first deposit is returnable before the second deposit is due next year. Please give the holiday serious consideration. In 2010 we took a party of 35 with us. 2030 might be too late for you! It is a wonderful experience.

## Flower Donations - June

The Church flowers are entirely funded by private donations, and are then delivered to members of the congregation going through difficult times.



Anyone wishing to record their name in Life in memory of a loved one should send the donation a month prior to publication of the magazine. A personal acknowledgement will be sent out where name and address is supplied. A big thank you to the flower team for all their beautiful arrangements. Many people have written expressing their thanks for the beautiful flowers they received after the morning service.

Donation for June: Mrs M Phillips, Mrs J McColgan

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

### **Statement from National Council of Churches in Korea on historic "Panmunjom Declaration"**

Our partner on the Korean Peninsula, the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) has made the following statement about the historic meeting between the North and South Korean leaders.

"Today we are deeply moved by the step made towards a new history of reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula. The summit which started with the two leaders of Korea crossing the military demarcation line (MDL) has deeply moved the heart of all Koreans and the people in the world.

Having recognized the absurdity and pain brought forth by separation, for more than 50 years the NCCCK has worked for the reconciliation and peace of Korea while praying without ceasing. Therefore, the NCCCK welcomes the historical Declaration pronounced by the two Korean leaders at the Panmunjom Peace House on April 27, and we show a great respect to the two leaders who eventually worked out the Declaration.

The NCCCK respects the agreed promises in the Declaration that are of great significance for a peaceful coexistence, prosperity, and for reunification in the Korean peninsula."

Read more on the WCC website

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The copy date for the September issue is Wednesday 22nd August for e-mails and Sunday 19th August if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Thanks to all who have contributed over the last few months.  
Enjoy the summer!

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd June	M. Conway K. Edwards	Chapman Sillars	<b>Team 6</b> J. Clark
10th June	A. Galloway M. Thomson	S. Wallis Berry	<b>Team 7</b> M. Boyd
17th June	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Tracey Richell	<b>Team 2</b> M. Conway (C)
24th June	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	MacKinnon Wilson	<b>Team 8</b> G. Rogerson