

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

September 2018



Dear Friends,

The Summer weeks gave Gabrielle and I the opportunity to attend the theatre for the first time in many years and we were struck by what we have been missing. There is something about a 'live' performance, more immediate, more engaging, more personal than anything we see on a screen. And I say that as a lifelong movie fan!

Watching the actors living their parts, giving everything to their performance, I was reminded of the bishop who was deeply moved by an actor's performance. In meeting him afterwards the bishop asked him why actors seem to have no difficulty making an impression on their audiences while preachers frequently leave them cold. The actor replied: 'Actors speak of things imaginary as if they were real, you preachers too often speak of things real as if they were imaginary.'

Ouch! Everyone who is called to preach God's Word should take note. But really this is a challenge to every Christian. In the way we live our faith, in the way we share our faith does the world experience this as 'real'? Are the truths rooted in our lives bearing fruit, shaping our attitudes, clarifying our priorities, enabling us to be the light of the world as Jesus longs for us?

None of us can be entirely comfortable in the face of this challenge but there is a way forward pioneered by the Apostle Paul. He was deeply aware that as a Christian he was not the finished article but he held fast to the belief that in the course of his life, no matter the circumstances, he could grow closer to Jesus and live his life more fully in his ways. He once wrote:

'I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.' (Philippians 3: 10-11)

Paul is not just speaking to an early Christian community. He sets this aspiration before every Christian community in every generation. This is the way for us all to 'get real' about our faith.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leigan'.

## Harvest Thanksgiving

The Kirk Session has decided this year that the offering from Harvest Thanksgiving will go to "THE FREE TO LIVE TRUST" - a small Scottish charity which was formed in 2015.

The aims of this trust are to:

- Rescue & restore victims of modern slavery and their children.
- Raise awareness of modern slavery

Their main work at present is to support a project called Seema's Project. Working in collaboration with RHWPP, an Indian Non-Governmental Organisation in the city of Pune, in the state of Maharashtra in Western India, the project aims are:

- To rescue the abandoned children of trafficked sex workers, young women and girls enslaved in the red-light district of Pune.
- To rehabilitate some of the trafficked sex workers.

The project has already bought land, built a home for forty children in Bori, a village near Pune, to remove the children from the dangers of abuse and the trauma of the environment in which they are living at present. However, a new additional home will be required to allow separation of boys & girls as required by the Indian Government's new regulations.

Many more details & background of the work of the Trust can be found at "[freetolivetrust.org](http://freetolivetrust.org)" The free to Live trust is one of the charities being supported by The Guild Project 2018-21

This year the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 16th September. Donations can be delivered to the Church on Saturday 15th September between 10am and 11.30am or on Harvest Thanksgiving morning.

As usual, donations of flowers, plants and posies will be delivered to the elderly, sick and housebound, by the elders themselves. Food items will be delivered, as usual, to Lodging House Mission and The Salvation Army.

All donations are most welcome. Fresh vegetables, fruit, tinned goods, dried goods (rice, pasta and soup mix are always welcome). The Salvation Army Project to which we deliver, provides single men, living in a hostel situation, with access to cooking facilities. Individual sized portions are always welcome. Tea and Coffee are also welcome.

Envelopes will be available in the pews for those members wishing to contribute to the work of "THE FREE TO LIVE TRUST".

Thank You,  
**Elizabeth McEwan**



**Dear Friends,**

A very belated thank you to everyone who helped with or attended, the Cherry Blossom Festival. We so appreciate the gift to our support to enable us to continue serving in Japan. I hope you have all had a nice summer since then. I heard that the weather was unusually good in Scotland.

Summer in Japan this year has, however, seen several natural disasters. In June an earthquake struck in the city of Osaka, killing 5 people, including a 9 year old girl on her way to school, and injuring over 400 more. Then, in early July, record rainfall in Western Japan caused major flooding and mud slides. More than 220 people lost their lives and thousands of homes were destroyed or badly damaged. July and August have also seen record temperatures, in some places over 40°C, resulting in tens of thousands of people being hospitalised for heatstroke. Nearly 100 people died in July, in Tokyo alone, as a result of the heat. Recently there have also been several typhoons which made landfall, causing further damage.

When such disasters happen, local churches often seek to help people in their communities, even though they may have been damaged themselves. Please pray for these relief efforts, that help would get to those who need it. And as local churches work together with Christian volunteers from other parts of Japan and overseas, may they be the hands and feet of Jesus to show God's love for the people there.

Our summer has been less eventful as Calum and Alistair's football training has continued, even though school is on holiday. Football in Japan is played right through the hot summer, and the break between seasons is in the winter, so quite different from Scotland. Both of the boys finish their present schools next spring and are currently investigating options for the next step. It's not easy doing it in a different culture where you don't always understand the system, so please pray with us for God to open the right door for each of them.

Thank you for your partnership with us.

*With our love,*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## **Badminton Club**



The Club meets in the Large Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. The new season starts on Tuesday 4th September and new members will be made very welcome so come along for fun, fitness and fellowship. For further information please see Frances Ireland or Marjory-Anne Kennedy.

## **The Guild**

The new Guild session begins on Monday 1st October when we welcome back the musical group Fine Fettle. Our dedication service will be on the 14th October during the morning service. A varied and interesting syllabus has been planned for the session and everyone is most welcome to join us any evening. For further information on Speakers etc. please see The Guild notice board in the large hall, or each week in the church intimations.

## **Elizabeth McEwan**



## **Walk for the Word**

The annual 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk to raise funds for Bible Society projects will take place on Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Mugdock Country Park, meeting at 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 towards Bible Society projects around the world, as well as here in Scotland.

## **Frances Ireland**

## 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 Allistair 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)

### Lunch Club

The Lunch club resumes on Wednesday 5th September and after a very successful time last year, we hope that you will join us for lunch this year.



We are open most Wednesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 during term time, for a lunch of home made soup, selection of rolls and delicious home baking, all for the modest donation of £3.00. There is no club to join and all are assured of a warm friendly welcome.

We desperately need another gentleman to help set up & take down tables from about 11.00am until 1.45pm. Even if you can only manage every second week that would be a great help. I am told that an interest in football is an advantage but not essential. If you can help please see John Macpherson.

Thank you

## St Paul's Society Cards

A big thank you to friends and members of the congregation who buy the cards each week. At the moment we have around £380 collected which means we are well on our way to our £1000 target for the next AGM. Just a quick reminder to everyone which the funds that we collect, will eventually be distributed to City Mission, Schehallion ward of The Sick Children's Hospital in Glasgow and to Milngavie in Bloom.

## New Daylight Bible Notes

Several members of St. Paul's use 'New Daylight Bible Notes'. These notes give you each day's daily Bible reading and comment. With Biblical themes from the Old and New Testament, the reader gets a thought provoking comment as well as a prayer point for reflection. It is ideal for anyone wanting an accessible and stimulating aid to spending time with God on a daily basis.

These Bible notes will be found beside The St. Paul's Cards and further copies can be ordered. I cannot recommend these notes highly enough and they now come in a larger paperback version which costs £4.50 and lasts four months. Please buy one and see how useful they can be.

Thanks,  
**Alex McEwan**

### Flower Donations - July to September

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.



Flower donations in memory for July to September: Mrs M MacIntyre, Mrs M Reid, Mrs M Laws

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.

## Safeguarding

All volunteers who have not attended a training session, are reminded that it is part of their duties, as a volunteer in church organisations and groups, to attend.

Each safeguarding coordinator is required to inform The Church Of Scotland Safeguarding Office when volunteers attend training. Two training sessions have been arranged in St Paul's on Wednesday 19th September and Wednesday 21st November.

Look out for further information in the weekly intimations. If you are unsure if you have attended a previous training session, please see Elizabeth McEwan Safeguarding Coordinator.

### Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to all for the cards, flowers, phone calls and prayers. They were a comfort to receive and the support given was greatly appreciated.

**Margaret Stirling**

## BOOK GROUP

Before the summer break we read *The Madness of July* by James Naughtie. He brings all his political expertise to bear in the writing of this spy novel which is similar in style to John Le Carre or John Buchan. We all found the book to be over complicated and difficult to follow. There didn't seem to be a plot, or even a sub-plot, and it was difficult to grasp the story line. Lots of red herrings and a convoluted story made this an unconvincing spy thriller. We are not quite sure who this book is aimed at but none of us were keen to read James Naughtie's next novel, which is a prequel, with the same main character, Will Flemyng, called *Paris Spring*.



At the time of writing, we are due to meet on the 28th of August to discuss two books – *The Collector's Daughter* by SMO Stephen which is the story of the Burrell collection and the *Guernsey Literary Potato & Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

**Joyce Clark**

### **Journeying Together**

Focus on three of the Church of Scotland Guild's new partner projects: supporting teenage mothers in Zambia, Malawian farmers and the children of sex workers in India

### **20 Years of Fischy Music**

The impact of the Christian music charity over the last two decades

### **'Heart Based Work'**

Working with the bereaved

### **Science and Faith**

In her first column as Moderator, the Rt Rev Susan Brown says Christianity has never shied away from intellectual challenge.

### **Free Will**

Interview with an academic who has worked with the Church of Scotland's Society, Religion and Technology Project

### **From Swing Band to Gospel Choir**

The founder of the Heart and Soul Swing Band, the Rev Dr Robin Hill, highlights a major extension of the project.

### **'Come Down and Heal Our Land'**

The Very Rev John Chalmers reflects on a lamentation from South Sudan

### **Jesus Is In Us**

The Rev Scott McKenna explains why we are the essence of God.

**Plus** news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

## **Church Directory 2018/19**

In order to comply with the new Data Protection Act, the distribution of the Directory will be restricted and will not be delivered with the September Life Magazine.

The Directory will be available for collection after the Sunday services on and from 9<sup>th</sup> September. You will be asked to sign a confidentiality statement and you are requested to dispose of previous editions in an appropriate manner. These can be returned to the Church for shredding.

Copies of the Directory can also be obtained from the Church Office

Graham Mill, Session Clerk



## World Mission

### Floods in Kerala



Our partners Church of South India (CSI), National Council of Churches in India and Christian Conference of Asia have been in touch with news about the flooding in Kerala. The State of Kerala in India is currently experiencing a devastating situation due to heavy floods – the worst for a century.

Faith based organisations and volunteers are actively involved in relief operations in local areas, providing food, clothing and medical care in the relief camps. The Church of South India has begun to provide relief assistance to address the survival needs of 3800 households of flood affected people in East Kerala, Malabar, Madhya Kerala and in Cochin. Once the rain stops and some sense of normality is restored, the relief work will begin with a detailed study and a reconstruction plan will be developed. The CSI will work in conjunction with the other relief services in the area in a co-ordinated way.

The Church of South India can be supported in this work by sending any donations to the Church of Scotland World Mission Council.

### Nigerian Church Condemns Rising Violence

At the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN), the Church lamented the number of Nigerians killed in various parts of the country. With the current security challenges in the country characterised by widespread killings, intimidation and general violence perpetrated by Boko Haram insurgents, herdsmen and rampaging bandits, the Church is calling for an overhaul of the nation's security.



## **World Mission, Cont.**

### **StARS - celebrating young people**

St Andrews Refugee Service (StARS) is dedicated to improving the quality of life of refugees and vulnerable migrants in Egypt. They are committed to empowering young people. About 25% of StARS staff are aged between 18 and 21. Most of them graduate from StARS Unaccompanied Youth Bridging Program, then start working as assistants and trainees, and are then offered full time employment. They get better opportunities through StARS, which stands them in good stead for the future.

StARS shared the encouraging story of Adem in a recent newsletter...

'Adem's aptitude for art is unique. Formal instruction has always been too expensive for Adem so he taught himself how to improve his artistic skills. Adem showed his art in an exhibition at StARS and sold his art work at StARS' Bazaars. Adem was born in Eritrea in 2000. He was introduced to the StARS Unaccompanied Youth Bridging Program (UYBP), which is designed to provide youth who live in Cairo, without their family, with the education and skills needed to continue their lives in Egypt. After graduating from UYBP, Adem started working and gained experience in the StARS pre-school and in the Groups and Activities Program. Now, he is a trainee psychosocial worker and he uses his skills, personality and abilities to build up others.'

To find out more about StARS take a look at their website or to learn about the Church of Scotland's Year of Young People, please visit the C.O.S. website.

### **Continued Prayer for Post Elections in Zimbabwe**

With the inauguration of the new President Emerson Mnangagwa being delayed due to a legal challenge by the opposing party and with the subsequent violence after the elections, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) has asked for continued prayer.



“Throughout this process the church mobilised millions of its members to participate in a prayerful, informed and peaceful manner. The Church will continue in like manner as Zimbabwe charts its way forward towards unity, peace, justice and prosperity”.

## Take Action – push for a strong Scottish Climate Change Act

Climate change affects us all but it's the world's poorest people who are impacted most. This is a momentous year for tackling climate change in Scotland, as in May 2018, the Scottish Government introduced a new Climate Bill which gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to build a better world, free from poverty and climate change.



However, Christian Aid believe that the Bill lacks the ambition and action needed for Scotland to play its part in tackling climate change. The Scottish Government claims that they'll be one of the first countries to achieve net-zero emissions, but the Bill doesn't commit to that.

Please take action today by asking your MSPs to push for changes to the Bill as it makes its way through Parliament. Take the online e-action or get in touch with Christian Aid to request postcards to distribute in your church and community. The Moderator Rt. Rev Susan Brown will be taking part in the Christian Aid Power Walk as part of this campaign.

## Amity Foundation Update



In 2008, the Wenchuan earthquake hit Sichuan province with a magnitude of 8.0 on the Richter scale. The disaster displaced mountains and rivers, causing devastating destruction and killing nearly 70,000 people. One of our partners, the Amity Foundation, were involved in helping rebuild the village with the help of supporters from all over the world. On the 10th anniversary of the earthquake, Amity staff went back to the village of Woyun.

## A Future Worth Saving For

Good Money Week (29th Sept – 5th Oct) is a campaign to show you there are sustainable and ethical options when it comes to your bank, pension, savings and investments.



This year's Good Money Week conference will provide you with an opportunity to consider how your faith, values and finances interact. Learn how the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to positive decisions about our money and how we can help ensure a sustainable world now and in the future.

To find out more or to register for the event, please visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

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The copy date for the October issue is Wednesday 26th September for e-mails and Sunday 23rd September if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
2nd Sept	S. Anderson L. Cowie	MacKinnon Sillars	<b>Team 10</b> E. Traill
9th Sept	M. Conway K. Edwards	Chapman Berry	<b>Team 3</b> J. McQueen (EC)
16th Sept	A. Galloway M. Thomson	Richell Wilson	<b>Team 4</b> S. Thoms
23rd Sept	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Tracey MacAllister	<b>Team 5</b> F. Ireland
30th Sept	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Wallis MacKinnon	<b>Team 6</b> G. Blackadder