

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2019



Dear Friends,

Many of you will know by now that I am due to begin a course of chemotherapy in the first week of March. For the last year or so I have known that this was a probability so the news was not such a great shock. The biggest challenge has been the realisation that I will have to be signed off for a significant period of time. I had hoped, perhaps naively, that I might be able to continue my work during the treatment but the medical advice is quite clear that this is not possible. Through the years I've heard many cancer patients say that the treatment is worse than the disease and I have to be prepared for that.

Myeloma is a blood cancer, still quite rare but becoming better known due to more efficient diagnosis. In its later stages it can have a catastrophic effect on bones and kidneys. Thankfully I am not in this category but signs of bone deterioration were discovered last year despite the fact that I did not feel ill. (People still say to me: 'You don't look ill!') However, the last year has been a struggle at times due mainly to fatigue which can be another factor in the myeloma experience. My prayer, then, is that the treatment will hold back the progress of the disease and restore some of the strength I've been granted in the past to serve as your Minister.

At a practical level, the Presbytery of Dumbarton will appoint an Interim Moderator who will ensure that the worship and pastoral care in St Paul's and Baldernock will continue through the period of my treatment. This will be confirmed at the March meeting of Presbytery. Rev. David White will remain in his part-time post and will continue to be involved in the life of both congregations.

I am hoping that I will keep in touch through my blog on the St Paul's website and when strength allows, through worshipping with one or other of the congregations on the Lord's Day. Nothing will do me more good than simply being part of God's people.

The Psalms have been a challenge and a comfort in recent days. I have returned to many familiar verses. But here is one that has just recently struck deeply. Psalm 138: 3: 'When I called you answered me; you made me bold and stout-hearted.' The scholars tell us that the second part of the verse is more literally translated from the Hebrew: 'You made me bold in my soul with strength.' Pray that that strength will fall upon my inner being.

Praying you will be kept in the knowledge of God's love and goodness,

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

## **Lent Services**

Our Lent services will begin on Saturday 9th March until 13th April. Each service will begin at 9.30 am for half an hour.

The theme will be 'Abraham: A Journey Through Lent.'

More details will appear in the Sunday intimations.

## **Stated Annual Meeting**

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held in the Large Hall on Wednesday 13th 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, 2018 will be submitted. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

### **Graham Mill**

Session Clerk

## **Vine Trust Coffee Morning—Saturday 6th April**

As some of you will know, Rhona Raeburn and I, and my daughter, Beth, have signed up to go to Tanzania in August to work for 2 weeks on the Jubilee Hope, a boat which brings health care to the people who live on the Tanzanian islands of Lake Victoria. The boat has a minor surgery clinic, as well as a dentist and pharmacy and is a vital provision for these people, who would otherwise not have access to healthcare. The Vine Trust have a great website which gives more information about this work.

I am both daunted and excited about this trip, but have had the support and prayers of many in our church family, and particularly of Rhona and Marilyn Ure, who have been encouraging me to volunteer for some time! Marilyn and Rhona have been to Tanzania and Peru with the Vine Trust, and are great ambassadors for their work. I am very pleased that Rhona will be with me on my first trip.

The Overseas Committee in St Paul's has kindly agreed to hold a coffee morning to support our trip and this will be held on Saturday 6th April in the large hall at 10am. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Sue Rollings**

## Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Spring is a time of 'all change' in Japan. Weather reports eagerly include a section on when the cherry blossoms are forecast to bloom in each area. They also include a pollen forecast for a form of hay fever which plagues many people at this time of year.

March also sees the end of the school year in Japan. This year Calum will graduate from high school and Alistair from middle school. Three years ago, Calum graduated from middle school and Alistair from elementary school. It was at this time that David began to feel unusually tired, which we later found out was the onset of his lymphoma. So March is a month of many memories.

Alistair passed the entrance exam for the high school he wanted to get into, and he will start there in early April. Calum had planned to apply to a Japanese University with a strong football team. However, recently he was offered a sports scholarship to attend a University in Florida. After speaking with the football (or should I say 'soccer'?) coach there, he decided that this was what he wanted to do.

To be accepted, Calum needs to sit American SATs in English and maths. He has spent 11 out of his 12 school years in Japanese education. That means that he learned everything in Japanese, including maths. English was what they learned as a foreign language in the same way as a child in Scotland might learn French. The last time he studied in English was when he went to Clober Primary School for a year when he was 8 years old. So it is quite a challenge suddenly to switch to sit exams in English.

The football season also starts in the spring in Japan, so Alistair is working hard at his goal keeper skills to prepare for the new season. He is now in the U18 team and the training is much tougher.

The new church year also starts in April. I met recently with the minister and will now be called a "cooperating missionary". That means that I will help with various things in the church as is needed. The church longs to reach out more to their local community and I hope that I will be able to help with that.

I trust that you will be able to enjoy spring when it comes. When you see the cherry blossoms, please think about, and pray for, Japan, that many more people will come to know Jesus who is our rock and never changes.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

*With our love,*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## Guild News



At our last meeting in January, Patricia Robertson, the National Convenor from the Guild National Council, dropped in to pay us a visit. We all enjoyed a Scottish musical evening with songs, ballads and poetry from the very talented David Sturgeon. David took us on a musical journey round Scotland and then spoke briefly about Robert Burns before singing us four of Burns' songs. We were also privileged to hear a rendition of *Oor Hamlet!* Our evening finished in grand style with oatcakes, cheese, shortbread, tea and coffee and it was lovely for us all to have the opportunity to have a chat.

The Rev. Elizabeth McKay was the speaker at our first meeting in February and she had prepared a presentation of photographs of over 30 Glasgow statues which were a mixture of modern and old. It was interesting to see both familiar and new ones and, interspersing her talk with references to Biblical verses, the Rev. McKay helped us to see how God is present in the messages that the statues portray, for example, love and reconciliation.

On 11th February, Nairn Young provided us with a fascinating insight into Late Victorian Sunday Schools by showing us original documents and other very interesting historical artefacts. We learned about the creation of these schools and also their purpose, to allow children to socialise, learn valuable skills e.g. Sewing, as well as receiving religious instruction. It was hard to comprehend that in 1897, there were 10,700 teachers and 114,400 scholars on the roll of the Glasgow Sunday School Union alone. It was clear to see how important these schools were on Sundays, in providing some escape for the children who otherwise had very hard and difficult lives during the rest of the week.

We were pleased that members of the Men's Association were able to come to our meeting on 18th February where George Cochrane, ably assisted by a very well trained Cody, told us all about Dog Management and the work of the Scottish Canine Consultative Council (SCCC). Working with local communities, the SCCC aims to educate dog owners and non-dog owners on the control of dogs within societies.

The speaker at our last meeting in February will be Val Brown who will be talking to us about Christian Aid.

Our programme for March is as follows:

- 2nd March (Saturday, 10:00-12:00): Coffee Morning
- 4th March: Major Ian Patrick – Salvation Army Emergency Services
- 11th March: Ann MacLeod – Traidcraft trip to India
- 18th March: Ronald McDonald House, Glasgow
- 25th March: AGM, Karine Davison – Scottish Street Songs

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding training sessions for volunteers in Church organisations and groups have been organised for the following dates in March:

Tuesday 12th March 7pm to 9pm ( tea from 6.30pm)

Wednesday 27th March 2.30pm to 4.30pm (tea from 2pm)

This training will take place in the Jubilee Hall, please enter by the side gate. All volunteers who have not attended any previous training in the church, are reminded that this is a requirement as part of their duties as a volunteer.

If you have any questions about PVG applications or training please contact Elizabeth McEwan, the Safeguarding Coordinator. Contact details can be found in the Church Directory or email [emcewan1957@gmail.com](mailto:emcewan1957@gmail.com).

## **Kirk Session Safeguarding Training**

A further training session for Kirk Session members who have not already attended any previous Kirk Session training has been arranged for Tuesday 19th March 7pm (tea from 6.30pm). Booking forms are available from Elizabeth McEwan and at the next session meeting on 6th March.

## **St Paul's Society £1 Cards**

At the AGM of The St Paul's Society on 9th March, we will decide which good causes we shall support in the coming year. Thanks to your generosity in buying the cards last year, we will be able to give donations to; Milngavie in Bloom, The Schehallion Ward for kids with cancer and Glasgow City Mission. A great big thanks to all of you who regularly buy the cards.

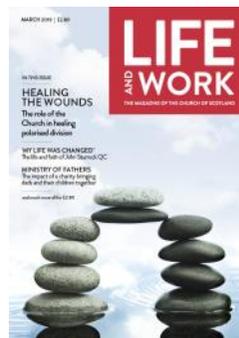
**Alex McEwan**

## **Christian Aid Lenten Brunch**



Christian Aid week this year is from 12th to 18th May so keep an eye open for intimations asking for collectors once again. The Christian Aid Brunch this year will be on Sunday 24th March after the Service. As usual we will be having our various soups as well as our cheese rolls.

## LIFE AND WORK MARCH 2019



### **Healing the Wounds**

The role of the Church in healing division

### **'My Life Was Changed'**

The life and faith of John Sturrock QC, mediator with Place for Hope

### **Ministry of Fathers**

The work of a charity bringing together dads and their children

### **Westminster, Confessions and the Church**

The Rev Dr Donald MacEwan highlights a conference to examine the Westminster Confession of Faith

### **The BB and the Rhema Foundation**

A young BB's visit to Romania

### **Doing as Jesus Did**

The Rt Rev Susan Brown urges us to treat everyone with equal respect

### **The Powerless are Not Forgotten**

The Rev Richard Baxter explains why the powerless are not ignored or neglected by God

### **A Church in 'Little Scotland'**

The work of a Church of Scotland south of the Border

**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

Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; or speak to your church's Life and Work coordinator.

## Thank You

For the loving and sustaining comfort, support and encouragement which our daughters and I have received in such great measure from the St Paul's family since Morag's death in January and for your many prayers -a simple heartfelt thank you.

**Lachie McNeil**

## W.F.O. Envelopes

The new W.F.O. Envelopes for the coming year will be available to be distributed with the April edition of Life. I would be most grateful if church visitors could deliver them along with the Life magazines. Many thanks

**Jill Wallis**

W.F.O. Treasurer

### Flower Donations - March

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.



Donations for March:

Mrs E Adair, Mr I Farmer, Mrs J Ferguson, Mrs M Ingram, Mrs T Knaggs,

Mrs J Pirie, Mrs CE Tanner, Mrs M White

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.

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Copy date for the April issue is Sunday 24th March if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 28th March if emailing. Please send to: [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
<b>3rd Mar</b>	A. Galloway	Berry Richell	<b>Team 10</b> S. Harrison
<b>10th Mar</b>	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Wilson Tracey	<b>Team 3</b> L. Muirhead (EC)
<b>17th Mar</b>	F. Ireland	MacAllister Wallis	<b>Team 4</b> D. Lawson
<b>24th Mar</b>	K. Hagart J. Mill	MacKinnon Sillars	<b>Team 5</b> G. Hamilton
<b>31st Mar</b>	A. McLeod S. Stenhouse	Chapman Berry	<b>Team 6</b> J. Scott