

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2019



Dear Friends,

Perhaps nobody has been more influential in promoting the Christian Gospel in the 20th century than the renowned evangelist Billy Graham who died last year at the age of 99. He preached to live audiences of nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories in a ministry that spanned six decades. From living- room audiences, gathered around radios and television sets, to packed stadia, images of God's messenger at work in the world are entrenched in the hearts and the memories of generations. Taken literally was the invitation to "come just as you are" to Christ, countless lives began anew.

Billy Graham was raised on a dairy farm in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1934, at the age of 16, he made a personal commitment to Christ in a Gospel meeting led by little known preacher Mordecai Ham. In 1943, he married Ruth McCue Bell, the daughter of a Christian missionary surgeon in China. In 1945, Billy was invited to become the first full-time organiser for Youth for Christ – enabling a lifelong path for him as an evangelist.

In 1955, Billy Graham came to Scotland for the first time, in what he called a crusade. It lasted for six weeks and more than 2.6 million people attended the services. The meetings were held in the Kelvin Hall which was opened in 1927 as an exhibition hall. During this crusade, Billy Graham preached virtually every night for six weeks. The hall was filled, and he would go outside and address the crowd who could not get into the building. There was an unusually cold rain falling, but the masses were never deterred. Near the end of the campaign, the services were moved to Ibrox Stadium where 50,000 people attended. The final night was held at Hampden Park where an estimated 100,000 people attended.

In 1957, Graham's stance towards integration became more publicly shown when he allowed African American ministers to serve as members of his New York Crusade's Executive Committee and invited Martin Luther King Jnr, whom he first met during the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, to join him in the pulpit at his 16-week revival in New York City where 2.3 million gathered at Madison Square Gardens Yankee Stadium, and Times Square to hear them.

Billy Graham recalled in his autobiography that at that time, he and Martin Luther King developed a close friendship, and following King's assassination in 1968, Graham mourned that America had lost a "social leader and a prophet".

Second to the Lord Jesus Christ, Billy Graham's strongest support was his beloved wife Ruth who died in 2007. Ruth Graham was a lady of deep mercy and vibrant faith. She was a gifted evangelist in her own right. Her ministry was far more private, counselling at her husband's crusades, writing books and poetry, sharing the Gospel with the ever-widening circles of friends and acquaintances, including several Presidential families. Strong rumours circulated in the winter of 1964 that Graham was considering running for the White House, but Ruth calmly informed him:- "If you run, I don't think the country will elect a divorced president." She added:- "Your job is to give spiritual and moral advice to the President, not political."

A journalist by the name of Grant Wacker believed that because he was a complex, multi-faceted figure who appealed to many segments of society, people saw in Billy Graham whatever part of him touched them most. Wacker said:- "They wrote openly about their grief, fears and joys – they found in him a way to rebuild their lives."

As long as Jesus continued to be glorified, Billy Graham cared little about his legacy. Whatever anyone ever said about Billy Graham, there is no doubt that the secret of the personal magnetism that attracted so many to him was his singular focus on proclaiming Jesus Christ and not himself. In fact, in one of the highlights of my own ministry, taking a coach of people from Portsoy to Pittodrie Stadium in Aberdeen in 1991, I well remember that after a word of testimony given by the footballer Brian Irvine, as Billy Graham came forward to preach, the crowd applauded him. He said:- "Don't clap for me – I am not a famous footballer or singer."

When Billy Graham returned again to the home of his ancestors in 1991 his crusades were held in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen where several people made professions of faith. His style of sharing the Christian message was inclusive, passive, charismatic and politically progressive, allied to his life – affirming a way of communication which was uniquely his own.

In his lifetime, Billy Graham shared the Good News of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are called to do the same. Our methods will almost certainly not be His methods, but I pray that his passion for Jesus would be our passion for Jesus.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ramsay B. Shields

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

One of the characteristics of missionary life is that we move houses and countries more than many of our friends back home. Since I left University (30 years ago!) I have lived in 12 different houses. That's one every 2 and a half years.

At the moment I am packing up to return to Scotland from the middle of November to the end of March next year, for what is called a Home Assignment. This is a time to visit churches and people who support my work here in Japan, to report back on what God has been doing, to renew friendships, and hopefully to get some rest.

I am fortunate that I will return to the same house when I return to Japan next spring. So rather than packing everything up, I just need to sort all of our things out to shut the house and garden up for this time. Alistair will move into the football club's dorm while I am away. I think he is looking forward to the friendships in the dorm, but possibly not the food which we've heard isn't that nice.

I will be at St Paul's a few times over the next months, with the first being on the 1st December. I am very much looking forward to catching up with you all and helping out in any way I can. I will be based at my parents' house near Kinross, but will be through in the Glasgow area quite frequently.

In the meantime, please keep praying for Japan. You may have seen that we had two major typhoons pass over recently causing significant damage and flooding. Around 80 people lost their lives. We also had an earthquake in the middle of one of the typhoons! Our prayer is that many more people in Japan will have the opportunity of hearing and accepting the good news of Jesus and know the eternal hope we have in Him.

With love and prayers for all at St. Paul's,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Advent Services

Our Advent Services will begin on **Saturday 30th November** at 9.30am in the West Transept. Traditionally Advent gives believers an opportunity to reflect on the Second Coming of Jesus and what it means for us today. All are welcome to attend these short 30minute services on Saturday mornings through December. A time of reflection in the mist of the seasonal bustle. Details will be in the weekly intimation sheets.

Christmas Card Delivery

The Stewardship Committee are again arranging a special Christmas delivery from St Paul's to every household within our Parish boundary. The delivery will take the form of a Christmas Card and will include an invitation to come and join us at our Christmas services.

Extra "Christmas Cards" will be made available at the back of the church if you wish to hand these to any other households you may know, that might consider coming along to join us at St Paul's this Christmas.

I am sure that anyone who takes up our invitation, will experience the warmth and support of a loving and caring family at St Paul's, that will encourage them to come back to learn more.

If you are able to assist in the delivery of our Christmas Cards, please add your name and contact details to the sign-up sheets, which will be available on the tables at the back of the Church from 10th November 2019. It is anticipated the cards will be available for delivery during the last week in November.

Gordon Fairbrother
Stewardship Convener.

Church Choir – an Invitation to join with us for our Christmas music

It's already that time of the year when members of the Choir start their rehearsal programme for Christmas. The seasonal music will include many familiar carols plus some new and attractive additions to the repertoire. This is your chance to be part of our contribution to the morning services in December and the "Lessons and Carols" service at 7.00pm on Sunday, 22nd December.

Rehearsals for the Christmas programme are as follows:-

Thursdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th November from 8.30pm until 9.15pm (in the Church)

Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th December from 7.45pm until 9.15pm.

If you are interested and can sing in tune, please come along on any of these Thursdays. For further information please speak to Derek Norval or any member of the Choir. You will be most welcome – give it a go!

“I am Andrew”

Last month the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) announced that Franklin Graham, Billy’s eldest son, was coming to Glasgow on Saturday 31st May 2020.

Who is Andrew? Andrew was one of the first disciples Jesus called during His earthly ministry. The first chapter of John’s gospel recounts how Andrew learned who Jesus was—and then immediately found his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to meet the Son of God. You can do the same by praying for family members, friends, neighbours and co-workers who don’t know Jesus and then bringing them to hear the Gospel during the Graham Tour.

The idea for *I am Andrew* began in the UK. During preparations for Billy Graham’s historic Crusade in London in 1954, the team heard about a local church that was consistently reaching people with the Gospel. When Billy Graham and the Crusade staff investigated, they discovered that the congregation was holding monthly events during which members brought friends who didn’t know the Lord. The team adopted this idea for Crusades and encouraged Christians to pray for and bring loved ones who are far from God to the evangelistic events. This also helped ensure that new believers would be disciplined in a local church. Today, BGEA still uses *I am Andrew*, with the goal of creating opportunities for personal evangelism on a citywide scale. Sunday 24th November has been designated *I am Andrew* Sunday and special cards will be available for you to complete. There are four steps for you to share your faith with a friend.

1. **PRAY** Write down the name of at least one person you know who needs Jesus and then pray each day for him or her. Ask God to open their heart and give you opportunities to share His love with them.
2. **SHARE** Spend time with your friend. It can deepen your friendship and create a chance to discuss Christ. Begin to talk to your friend about attending the event on 31st May with you.
3. **BRING** Bring your friend to the event in the SSE Hydro. If he or she responds to Christ or shows an interest in the Gospel, they will need your ongoing encouragement.
4. **FOLLOW UP** Invite them to church with you. God can use you and your church to bring them into a deepening relationship with Jesus. If you know of someone start praying today. If you don’t know anyone pray that the Lord will bring someone to your attention.

Noah's Ark



As most of the congregation will know, Noah's Ark is the Mother and Toddler Group which is held on Thursday mornings and afternoons during School term time. There are sixty children registered for the morning and the average attendance is between 30/40. In the afternoon there are twenty registered and the average attendance is between 10/14. This is an impressive outreach for St Paul's and you are asked to remember Noah's Ark in your prayers. Any of the congregation who would like to visit and see and hear the fun and games will be made very welcome.

An important milestone occurred at the beginning of October - it was seven years since Noah's Ark started and so to celebrate, a very, very large birthday cake arrived and everyone was able to sing "Happy Birthday " and enjoy a slice of cake. Here's to the next seven years!

Flower Donations - November

Thank you to all who have contributed towards St. Paul's Flowers over the past year, and to the dedicated team who have made such beautiful arrangements for our Sunday Morning Worship. If you would like to join us please let us know, none of us have any special training, but just have a love for flowers!



Donations given in Memory for November are: Mrs J M Evans, Mrs M Hutchison, Miss M Hamilton, Mrs G Morrison, Miss A Niven , Mrs A.M.M. Murray

Please send any donations to Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66 Braeside Ave, G62 6NN, or place it in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's Flowers.

Book Group



We have been reading *The Cellist of Sarajevo* this month. The novel is set in Bosnia during the civil war of the 1990s and opens with a cellist sitting near his window playing Albinoni's Adagio. A bomb explodes outside his window killing 22 people waiting in a queue for bread. Every day for 22 days he sits with his cello in the bomb crater and plays the Adagio – one day for every person killed. The book centres on Kenan, Arrow and Dragan, three individuals struggling to survive as their city is besieged. The characters of Arrow, who is a sniper, and the cellist are based on real people but only the cellist and his music brings hope that the old world has not been completely lost and everything is not completely destroyed by the war. We found the book absorbing and very well written. Recommended reading.

Next month we are reading *The Pianist of Yarmouk* by Aehem Ahmad and we are meeting on 26th November at the usual time.

Joyce Clark

Girls' Brigade Fundraising Quiz

The Brigade's Annual Charity Fundraising Quiz will be held in the large hall on Thursday 21st November 2019, to which all members of the congregation and their friends are invited! The Charity which the company has chosen to support this year is the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research.

Please come along and support this most worthwhile cause! Tickets are keenly priced at £3 per head which includes tea/coffee and biscuits! Teams of up to six people can participate. If you are not part of a team just turn up on the night and we will be pleased to find a suitable team for you to join.

The reigning Champions are the Sunday Club Staff, but it took two tiebreaker questions at the end of the night to separate them from the Girls' Brigade Parents' Team!

The girls hope to welcome you all next month.

Guild News

On 7th October, our first meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all when Flutephonics, a talented group of ladies and gentlemen, entertained us with a varied musical programme.

At our second meeting, we learned from Michelle Livingstone, about the work of Blythswood Care. This charity is known for the Christmas Shoebox appeal and it was inspiring to hear of the personal stories of those people who had received the shoeboxes. There are now 120,000 boxes sent to 8 European countries as well as to Pakistan and in the words of David Armus from Blythswood Serbia, "These packages convey love". Michelle also told us about Talita Kum - the afterschool initiative in Romania which aims to give children the chance to reach their full potential and to 'raise them up' through the provision of meals, help with homework, access to hot showers, and a full cultural programme of music, art and drama. The programme has also been extended to children at junior secondary, giving them the support they need to avoid dropping out of school. As well as this, Michelle provided information on other projects throughout the world, for example, mosquito nets sent to Africa, education programmes in Pakistan and India, ambulances and fire engines sent overseas, and motorbikes for pastors to enable them to visit rural communities in Africa and India. Michelle was a very interesting and inspiring speaker and we were grateful to her for telling us about the extensive work that is carried out by Blythswood Care throughout the world and of course within Scotland, through the 9 foodbanks which Blythswood Care administers.

Our Dedication Service took place on 20th October and the worship throughout reflected Journeys which is our Guild theme this session. This was particularly relevant for our Dedication Service as we considered how we can all mature in our faith, through service, witness and prayer as we journey through life.

On 21st October, Martin Forrest who is a Prison Chaplain gave a very interesting and informative talk on HMP Low Moss. Through photographs and anecdotes, Martin provided us with an insight into the work that is carried out within its walls, as well as giving us information on the prisoners' routine and daily lives. The Scottish Prison Service's motto is, "Unlocking Potential, Transforming Lives" and it became apparent that at Low Moss, through upskilling and reskilling opportunities in work such as metal work and timber machining, prisoners are encouraged to make the most of their time spent there in improving their education. Martin also spoke to us about the Multi-Faith Wing where he and 4 other chaplains provide pastoral care through a number of cross-denominational courses, as well as running a variety of support groups and a Prisoners' Week Retreat which allows prisoners to have time and space for contemplation and personal study. Through the caring of Martin and his team, as well as the other staff at HMP Low Moss, it is clear that there is a strong commitment to being positive and productive in their approach to working with the prisoners and their goal is to prepare them for new and enriched lives outwith the prison environment.

At our last meeting in October, Rachel Haldane will speak to us about the Sailors' Society.

Our programme for our November meetings is as follows:

- 4th November: Receiving a heart transplant – Sue Swinson
- 11th November: Life as a missionary doctor – Peter Buchan
- 18th November: Charity Concert – Group from City of Glasgow Chorus *see more information below
- 25th November: Dancing round Scotland – Ann Robertson (Scottish night)

We look forward to welcoming you to any or all of our meetings!

We also look forward to seeing you, your friends and families at our Guild Charity Concert – please see details below!

**Guild Charity Concert to be held in St. Paul's at 7.30pm on
Monday, 18th November**

St. Paul's Guild warmly invites you to a charity concert on Monday, 18th November in aid of Malawi Fruits*

A group from the City of Glasgow Chorus will entertain us with a wonderful programme which will feature hit songs from the big screen and stage including popular songs by:

Simon & Garfunkel, Lennon & McCartney, Manhattan Transfer and Glenn Millar as well as hits made favourites by Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra and lots more!

Tickets are priced £5.00 (including tea/coffee/refreshments) and are available:

- from Guild committee members
- in the Large Hall after the morning service
- from the Church Office.

* Malawi Fruits, one of the wider Guild projects, is a charity working in the North of Malawi, aiming to improve farming and irrigation.

The following will be leading the services at St. Paul's (*subject to change*)

Date	Morning 10am	Evening 7pm
10th Nov	Rev Dr David White (11.30am)	Rev. Ramsay Shields (Communion)
17th Nov	Rev Charles MacKinnon (Baptism)	Rev Dr David White
24th Nov	Rev Dr David White	Rev. Dr David White
1st Dec	Rev Ramsay Shields	Rev. Ramsay Shields

Church of Scotland News

Lomond Parish Church Scoops Environmental Award

Lomond Parish Church has been recognised with an Eco-Congregation Scotland Gold Award for their work commitment to caring for creation.

Mary Sweetland, Eco-Convenor at Lomond Parish Church, said: "We started on this journey in 2011, and have worked through the levels of the award, raising awareness among the congregation and users of our buildings on the importance of reducing our carbon footprint to protect God's Creation.

James Anthony, who was the Assessor for Eco Congregation Scotland, said: "We were so impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the congregation.

"They were strong in all four areas being assessed, particularly spiritual and practical living. The use of church grounds for community allotments should be encouraged in all churches with space to spare.

"It was very clear that each member of the eco-team has green threads running through them.

"Every person was committed to doing whatever they can, in their own special way, to the Glory of God."

World Mission News

Update from CLAAS

The Supreme Court in Pakistan has acquitted Wajih-ul-Hassan due to lack of evidence after 18 years on death row. Nasir Saeed of the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) explains that, "Although blasphemy is considered a sensitive issue, it is also a serious matter that innocent people have to wait too long to get justice from the Pakistani courts. The Government and courts must play their role to avoid unnecessary delays."

Human rights initiatives in Malawi

Advocate Simon Crabb was invited by the Malawi-based Church and Society Programme and the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council to participate in human rights and peace-building activities with colleagues in Malawi. Dr Linus Malu, legal director of the Church and Society Programme and one of our Mission Partners, said: "Scotland and Malawi have a shared history and lawyers have a common interest in



promoting and respecting human rights. We have enjoyed working together with Simon and we hope we can have further collaborations with Scottish lawyers."

Thank You

I would like to convey my heartfelt Thanks to all my friends in St. Paul's for all the Get Well Cards and Best Wishes while I was in Hospital and also many Thanks for the Church Flowers which was all Very Much Appreciated.

God Bless you all for being so kind.

Lorna Young

With grateful thanks to all the doctors and others who came to my aid when I became unwell in Church on Sunday 6th October. Very Much appreciated.

Janet Charles

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Early Copy Dates

The copy date for the December issue is Wednesday **13th** November for e-mails and Sunday **10th** October if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd Nov	M. Conway K. Edwards	Richell Berry	Team 10 E. Traill
10th Nov	A. Galloway	MacAllister Wallis	Team 3 R. Raeburn (EC)
17th Nov	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Wilson Sillars	Team 4 A. Goodlet
24th Nov	F. Ireland A. McNellan	MacKinnon Chapman	Team 5 F. Ireland