

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2019



Dear Friends,

A visit last year from relatives from New Jersey (their first time in Scotland) took me for the first time in many years to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh. It is always a great occasion, but every time that I have visited, the most moving part of the event is the “lone piper”, playing his lament on the castle ramparts. I find it moving in the way that I find Remembrance Sunday moving when we are invited to take stock of the past.

It was just over five years ago, on the evening of the 4th of August 2014 where the lights in our land dimmed between 10pm and 11pm to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War 1. It was a war that gave the world an experience of slaughter unlike anything ever experienced. The pinnacle of human civilisation at that time produced a ghastly theatre of horror, including a single battle in which as many as one million men were killed or wounded.

The Somme, Gallipoli and Passchendaele are etched in our British folk memory as well as our history. The sheer density of this war was frightening. Most of the slaughter occurred along a battle line that moved at tortoise speed during four tedious years. It was the ugliest of wars: despondent, drawn-out, a slog of battle that was far removed from the glamorous movie exploits of Pearl Harbour, Dunkirk, or D-Day. The war ended with all sides in blood-drained exhaustion – a horrendous slaughter strewn across a churned-up landscape of Northern Europe.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, British casualties alone reached almost 58,000; almost 20,000 of whom were killed. Once started, the 1st World War rolled uncontrollably forward, crushing everything in its path. Evil is contagious. Ordinary decent people became part of the war as they became almost immune to bloodshed and killing for the sake of the “cause”.

The “Great War” was the first in which manufactured poison gas was used as a weapon on a large scale, as the machine gun, the artillery barrage and the bomber rose to prominence. Trench warfare killed a huge number of soldiers. In front of the trenches, the barbed wire ripped open anyone who attempted to pass, as land mines blew up anyone who tried to cross the “no-man’s land” between the trenches. Remarkably, a tinge of humanness peaked through the brutality briefly in 1915 when a truce enabled British and German soldiers to play football together in “no-man’s land”.

Continued overleaf...

How often do we see columns of names of brave soldiers killed in action between 1914-18 in our towns and villages and give them little thought? If we were to focus on even one of those names, it would be difficult for us to comprehend what that individual loss represented to a family and community, and what they could have gone on to achieve. These were fit young men who were full of vitality, potential and ambition. Now multiply that single loss by 15 million to grasp the true loss. We may be technologically literate today, but often we remain morally naïve and emotionally ambivalent.

Eric Bogle's "Green Fields of France", also known as "No-Man's Land" is a popular song capturing the emotional struggle relating the terrible toll of war as the songwriter walks through a military cemetery and reflects poignantly at the grave of "Willie McBride". Who was he? What did he experience? Who loved him, and what does he mean to people now?

Despite Jesus' clear teaching that God and Caesar had different domains of authority, both sides in the First World War were ready to smudge that distinction. The Allies were proudly fighting "for God and King", and the German soldiers had "Gott mit uns" (God with us) inscribed on their helmets, giving both sides a moral reason to fight.

At times of war, the Church inevitably wrestles with pacifism and militarism, often forcing her to re-examine scripture and practice in some areas, such as prayers for the dead, and how we deal with conscious objecting. During the American Civil War, a devotional cleric shared with President Abraham Lincoln the hope that "God was on our side". The President wisely rebuked him, pointing out that the more pressing issue was whether or not they were on God's side. As we all know, heartless "religion" can be twisted to fit into any cause or ideology.

Although, understandably, many soldiers lost faith amid the relentless slaughter, the spiritual history of the war became quite legendary. Tales abound of communion being celebrated and shared behind the front line. Amid the ensuing danger, there were accounts of Bible readings on the way to Gallipoli and an account of Gordon Highlanders carrying Psalms in their sporrans.

Even Christianity at its most compassionate affords no easy answers, but it does point to the heart and suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the darkness and the evil that confronted Him at Calvary. This was a totally unjust suffering which helps to turn the apparent absence of God into a presence, however elusive that presence may appear at times to be.

In our daily lives, there will be times when suffering comes our way. It might often be relentless and will usually seem to be needless. However, we can look to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and discover there the presence of God in our times of trial.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Ramsay B. Shields

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Hello from Tokyo where the summer heat is beginning to abate and we are looking forward to autumn. However, one thing that late summer often brings is typhoons. We had a strong typhoon named Faxai pass right overhead one night. I was fortunate in that my house and garden only had limited damage, but friends just up the road had no electricity for over 48 hours, and some places took even longer before power was restored. And this was in temperatures of over 35°C! There was no signal for smart phones in some places, no air conditioning, TV or games. It was a reminder how dependent we are on electricity.

Alistair's school saw the roof blown off one smaller building and quite a lot of tall trees damaged. However, the teachers worked very hard to clear everything up and after two days the school was able to reopen, and then 3 days later hold their annual culture festival, which is a highlight of the high school year.

I am on the PTA this year, so was involved in the culture festival. The students put on various plays, dances, musical items etc. and prepare some snacks. The parents prepare hot food for sale.

I was placed in the "curry group". Japanese people like to be well organised in advance, so before the summer we met at the school to try out various curry options, picking the two which we thought would work the best. We also had to have a medical check that we were fit to serve food!

Then on the Saturday morning of the festival we all turned up early at the school. The Dads helped pitch tents in the school grounds, teachers helped cook the rice, and the Mums organised the curry. During the 6 hours of the festival we sold 250 plates of curry.

Every high school has a culture festival. It has been part of the school calendar for many years. This means that the Japanese parents will also have experienced the festival as children, so they all know what needs to be done. There are very few instructions given, and yet everything goes smoothly and the job is accomplished.

However, if you are not Japanese, then you don't know what to do. If you ask how you can help, people will tell you it's fine. Instead you have to watch out for something to do – pick up a cloth and wipe a table, or find a Japanese Mum doing something and give her a hand. I found it a great cultural experience for me in learning how Japanese groups operate, and a great way to build friendships serving alongside each other.

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

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Eulogies

Elaine Adair died suddenly but peacefully on Thursday 15 August after a short illness bravely borne. Adored and adoring wife of Brian, loved and loving mother of Scott, Jill and Jackie. Fabulous Gran of Megan, Murray, Sam, Jack, Emily, Chloe, Lucy and Ellie. Sister of Tricia and Jackie.

A congregation of over 700 gathered in her beloved St. Paul's on Monday 26 August to give thanks to Almighty God for Elaine's life here on earth, and to praise God for the many treasured memories that we have of her which we pray will never fade with time.

Elaine was born in Park Nursing Home in Glasgow, and she grew up in Milngavie, attending Milngavie Primary School, and then Bearsden Academy. Elaine started work with Collins the publishers, then at Barr and Stroud in Anniesland followed by the RAC. St. Paul's Church was a big part of her life and it was through St Paul's Youth Fellowship she met Brian. The Youth Fellowship had a great track record when it came to playing cupid, because there are another eight couples who married around that time and are now celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversaries including Billy and Christine Ponton who went on to be very close friends, with each being each other's best man and bridesmaid.

When Elaine married Brian, and the family came along, Elaine was very much a full-time wife and mother. Elaine was a very devoted family lady, and she was very proud of her family. In fact, it could be said of Elaine that if she had a hobby, it was family. A born organiser, Elaine loved to be involved in the organisation of things and had a very practical approach to that role. Elaine enjoyed music and dancing, golf, trips to Arran, holidays to South Africa but also the holidays with the family to the Canary Islands and Portugal where Elaine enjoyed the winter sun with the whole family including the grandchildren. She was a fabulous Gran.

St. Paul's Church was a big part of Elaine's life. She was a lady of faith, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was perhaps the best thing that she modelled to her family. Elaine was selfless, and that was never seen more than in her service of the Lord here in St. Paul's – the Lord whom she loved and trusted. Elaine served on the Congregational Board and latterly the Kirk Session; she sang in the choir; she was involved in the Young Wives Group and the Breakaway Group, and such was her love of children that Noah's Ark was a big part of her life. Elaine had a contagious enthusiasm for Noah's Ark.

Even when feeling unwell, Elaine's thoughts and concerns were for other people. She attended every day of The Holiday Club as well as the party and family service on the Sunday. Faith, family and fun are just three of the many words that would sum up Elaine Adair. She was an example to our day and generation.

Angus MacLean who died on 5th June, 2019 was born on the Isle of Harris on 9th September, 1938 and grew up in Hushinish, attended the local primary and junior secondary schools, and completed his schooling at senior secondary in Portree.

After time of National Service in Malaya when he served with the pay corps, Angus moved to Glasgow where he attended college, served in the Police Force, and went on to work on the taxis until he retired.

Angus was an outgoing character with a great sense of humour. He was a man of faith, serving his Lord here at St. Paul's. Ordained as an elder in March 1984, Angus served as Treasurer for many years and was actively involved in the Lunch Club, Breakaway and at Friendship House. Angus was a great man of prayer, and he loved to study the Word of God – not just read it by way of habit but study the Word in depth.

Angus had four loves – his church and His Lord, his family, Harris, and his football club. The order of his love for these things would often depend on how well Rangers were playing, but in all of those loves, we rejoice most of all that Angus was a new creation in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that he was a loving husband, father and grandfather, as well as a great brother and brother-in-law.

He was a warm man, full of empathy. When Angus told you that he was praying for you, if you were a believer, you would know that, because you would feel upheld.

Angus knew sadness in his life in the loss of his brothers Iain, Norman and Christopher but even as his own health was failing, Angus' trust in the Lord was strong. He was a great witness to the Lord's work in his life in these last days of his life. Angus passed away very peacefully and is now rejoicing in the presence of the Lord that he loved and served so faithfully. He is at peace.

We remember those who have been left behind who will miss Angus most of all. Our thoughts and prayers turn to his wife Margaret, his sons Ian and Alistair, daughter-in-law Janice, the grandchildren Alison, Gordon, Michaela, Rafaella and Gabi; his brother Calum John; sisters Morag, Chrissie and Kate, and Ross and Jess and the rest of the family and friends.

Men's Association Coffee Morning- Saturday 26th October 2019

The annual Coffee Morning held by the Men's Association will be held in the Large Hall on Saturday 26th October 2019 between 10am and 12 noon and all members of the congregation and their families and friends will be made very welcome. There will be the usual cake and candy stall and a book and dvd stall but no bric a brac to allow more room for sitting at tables. Donations of tray bakes, pancakes, scones and any other tasty morsels will be gladly received, either on Friday 25th between 6pm and 7.30pm when the Hall will be being prepared for the next day or being brought on the morning of 26th. All volunteers to help on that evening will be made very welcome.

The Charity nominated by the Association this year is Bobath Scotland which seeks to support those in Scotland suffering from cerebral palsy. Bobath's Chief Executive is Stephanie Fraser, a member of Baldernock Church who will be speaking to the Association on Tuesday 5th November and all are invited and welcome to attend that evening.

We hope for a good turnout and support from St. Paul's and Baldernock to our Coffee Morning.

Tickets for the Coffee Morning are priced at £2.00 and will be available in Church on 6th, 13th and 20th October but you can also pay at the door on the day of 26th October.

Flower Donations - October

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 October are: Mrs S Collar, Mrs J M Townson, Mr R Kerr .

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



Our book this time was *The Sealwoman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson.

In 1627 pirates raided the coast of Iceland taking 400 people into slavery including 250 from a small island to the south of Iceland. The pastor, his wife and their three children were among those taken captive and although the event is historically accurate little is known about what happened when they eventually reached Algiers. The story centres round Asta, the pastor's wife, who is steeped in the sagas and stories of her homeland. It is these stories that help her to survive in an alien culture. We all thought the book was well written with an honest characterisation.

The question is - in Asta's situation would you be willing to compromise your faith or would you embrace an alien culture in an effort to protect your children. We had a good discussion on this point and we even referred to Colossians and Paul's refusal to compromise his faith. A modern parallel could also be drawn with the plight of the refugees in the present day many of whom are separated from their children.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th October 2019 when we will be discussing *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway.

Joyce Clark

1st/2nd Milngavie Company, The Boys' Brigade

The new session has started in St. Luke's Church Hall and a warm invitation is extended to any boy interested in joining the Company.

Anchor Boys ~ P2 and P3 on Monday at 6.15pm.

Junior Section ~ P4, P5 & P6 on Monday at 7pm.

Company Section~ P7– S6 on Friday at 7.30pm.



Further information from Captain A. Fettes at
milngavieboysbrigade@gmail.com

Guild News

On 7th October, our Guild has its first meeting of the session when Flutephonics will entertain us with an evening of music. We would like to invite anyone to join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening. All of our meetings are held in the Large Hall at 7.30pm and our programme for this session has something for everyone!

Our programme for our October meetings is as follows:

7th October: Flutephonics

14th October: Blythswood Care – Michelle Livingstone

20th October (Sunday): Guild Dedication Service

21st October: Prison Chaplaincy – Martin Forrest

28th October: The Sailors' Society – Rachel Haldane

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

We would also like to give you advance notice of a date to keep free in your diaries, details below and watch out for further information in next month's Life!

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 will shortly be available from Guild committee members and also 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.

St. Paul's Church, Milngavie Presbytery.... What does it mean to you?

Presbytery is the gathered life of the Church of Scotland in a particular area.

St. Paul's is part of the Presbytery of Dumbarton which is bounded by Glasgow on the east, the river Clyde to the south, Argyll to the west and Stirling to the north. There are 33 congregations in the Presbytery which stretches from Clydebank in the south to Arrochar in the north and from Westerton in the east to Garelochhead in the west. Dumbarton is one of the 45 presbyteries in the Church of Scotland. Presbytery meets monthly and consists of the Minister and a nominated Elder from each congregation. Much of the business is conducted in the 10 committees which meet as and when required. Presbytery is responsible amongst other things, for ensuring that ministers are deployed appropriately around the Presbytery as a result of an agreed local plan.

A **Radical Action Plan** (RAP) was approved by General Assembly in May this year. The Plan envisages considerable changes in all areas of governance of the Church including the reduction in the number of presbyteries to about 12 by 2024. The new regional Presbytery structure will provide leadership and focus alongside practical support for local congregations, freeing them for mission and ministry.

In 2011 the General Assembly replaced the Quinquennial Visitation of each congregation by the presbytery, with a **Local Church Review** (LCR). Dumbarton Presbytery undertook the first of these reviews last year, in conjunction with two congregations. We do not know when Presbytery will visit St. Paul's, however the Kirk Session, along with the Congregational Board, have agreed to look at the LCR at its conference in November and if appropriate present the findings to the Congregation for discussion at the AGM in March, 2020. The LCR is wide ranging, covering all aspects of church life, including membership, buildings, finance, staffing, organizations, services, mission and the local community.

Members and anyone involved with the St. Paul's community, are welcome to contribute to the review and are invited to submit written comments/suggestions to our Presbytery Elder Mrs Jean Scott or the Session Clerk Graham Mill via the Church Office or email st.pauls@btconnect.com.

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

Date	Morning 10am	Evening 7pm
13 Oct	Rev Kenneth Macdonald	Rev Dr David White
20 Oct	Rev Kenneth Macdonald (Guild Dedication)	Rev Ramsay Shields
27 Oct	Rev John Campbell	Rev Dr David White
3 Nov	Rev Charles MacKinnon	Rev Dr David White
10 Nov	Rev David White (11.30am)	Rev Ramsay Shields (communion)

Thank You

Brian, Scott, Jill, Jackie, Tricia and Jackie and their families are so grateful to their St. Paul's family for their huge support at the time of the devastating loss of Elaine. The cards, letters, messages and home baking were most comforting and the prayers upheld us all at this difficult time. Thank you all for being present at the Thanksgiving Service which was truly an outstanding occasion for an outstanding lady.

Special personal thanks to Rev. Ramsay Shields and Rev. Lynsey Brennan for conducting the service, to Hugh McGorm for all his work in the background and to Frikki Walker, the Organist, who certainly kept everyone on their toes during the last hymn!

A fabulous tribute for a fabulous Wife, Mum, Gran, Sister and Friend.

Thank you all again for your continuing prayerful support.

The Adair Family.

To my church family,

Thank you all for reading and donating to my story. The kiltwalk went incredibly well, my dad and I completed the 28 miles in 9 hours! We had a lovely day for it too, at least the weather was dry! I managed to raise over £1500 for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. I couldn't be happier! Again, thank you all!

Sophie Wallis

Harvest Thanksgiving

The wonderful display of posies, plants, flowers, fruit, vegetables and other varied foods provided some cheer for our Harvest Thanksgiving on what was a dull September Sunday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who donated items, gave of their time and talents and of course their energy, to decorate the church sanctuary. Also thanks to the people who delivered the posies, plants, flowers, gifts and cards to members of our congregation and for all the items delivered to the Salvation Army and The lodging House Mission.

Once again, the Girls Brigade donated and enthusiastically created, the beautiful pew posies that made the sanctuary so welcoming and colourful. Well done to the girls, officers and willing helpers.

A special thank you must be given to The Sunday School and Bible Class, not only for their donations but for designing the harvest cards which are greatly appreciated by our members at home and in care homes.

The contribution to The Water Aid was £683.50 (not including gift aid). Once again many thanks to everyone involved in making the day such a success.

Elizabeth McEwan

World Mission News

Czech Minister welcomed into Church of Scotland Parish



The Rev Štěpán Janča was introduced to the parish of Lockerbie Dryfesdale, Hutton and Corrie in the Presbytery of Annandale and Eskdale on 10th September 2019. Mr Janča is a minister of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB) and is the 4th minister to come to Scotland in a programme of ministry developed through the partnership between the ECCB and Church of Scotland. Mr Janča and his family will be in Scotland for 2 years.

No changes to the register this month

The copy date for the November issue is Wednesday 23rd October for e-mails and Sunday 20th October if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
6th Oct	A. McLeod S. Stenhouse	Wallis Wilson	Team 1 F. Dorrall (C)
13th Oct	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars	Team 7 J. MacIntyre
20th Oct	P. Barlow S. Robertson	MacKinnon	Team 8 A. Begg
27th Oct	S. Anderson L. Cowie	Chapman Tracey	Team 9 G. Getty