

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2020



Dear Friends,

A great deal is made these days of the need for “teamwork” in the workplace. It was Andrew Carnegie who once said that “Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organisational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” And one unknown commentator made the comment that when it comes to teamwork, “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts”.

I would have to say that having watched football matches for a number of years now, these observations are fairly accurate. I have witnessed excellent performances on the football field when a football team have worked as a team, and some disastrous performances when they have not. And good teamwork will involve many things, not least discipline and self-sacrifice and giving.

I remember on one of their home visits, the Fergusons (missionaries with Overseas Missionary Fellowship for any reading this who may not have known them), said that missionary work overseas, or anywhere for that matter, is teamwork. Certainly, Lorna Ferguson is on the front line of this missionary work, having made the move a good few years ago to Japan and having learned the language. They are the ones who are directly involved in planting and growing that new Church there. But the observation was made that behind them are a team of people who support them both financially and prayerfully. And without such teamwork, Lorna's own missionary work would flounder. The same might be said for the many missionaries serving overseas.

The same thing can be said of Christian service everywhere, and not least in the local church. At St Paul's, this is precisely what we are. We are a team. We become a part of the Church to serve, rather than to be served. Our Lord God and Heavenly Father has entrusted even to frail and broken people like ourselves, the cause of His Gospel. And He has blessed each and every one of us with gifts – different gifts, to be employed in His service. When these gifts are employed, and when we pull together in the service of our Lord, we work as a team.

There are many gifts at work in the Church today. Certainly there are those with the gift of teaching and preaching; there are those with the gift of music; but there are those with the equally important gifts of practical “hands-on” work; administration, hospitality, helping, pastoral guidance, evangelism, motivation, speaking, listening, serving, giving, leading, wisdom, and healing, to name but a few.

Perhaps one of the most under-rated of gifts today is the gift of “encouragement”. (Can I ask – when did you last give a word of encouragement to someone at St Paul’s?) Sadly, there are many people who seem to make an art form of “discouragement” in our churches today, and there are many critical spirits afoot!

I hope that you take my point, the church works well in the providence of God when we work as a team and serve the Lord with the gifts that He has given us. We work well as the body of our Lord Jesus Christ when we co-operate with one another in selfless service. And our life and worship are blessed accordingly!

I began by mentioning comments about missionary service in Japan, and about the need for teamwork in overseas missionary service. However, I do leave with the challenge of your being part of a team here at St Paul’s in Milngavie! What is the Lord calling you to do in these days? Where is He calling you to serve? Is He calling you to pray for the ministry here? Is He calling you to pray more for our outreach at home and our missionary work overseas? Is He calling you to pledge financial support to some area of Christian work?

I pray that we would all ponder these things!

With best wishes,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ramsay B. Shields

Flower Donations - February

A big “Thank you” to the Church Members who provide flowers for our services, and to the dedicated flower arranging team.



Donation for this month given in Memory from:

Mrs M Spencer, Mr I Farmer and Mrs J Ferguson

Please write donations to “St Paul’s Flowers”, and either place in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or send to Mrs M Thoms, 66 Braeside Ave, Milngavie, G62 6NN.



Dear Friends,

Tim Keller said that, “To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, dependent on God for everything.” We know that the good news of Jesus will only spread significantly in Japan as a result of prayer. The task is simply too big to be achieved by our own strength.

So we are preparing a new prayer booklet for the needs of Japan. Firstly we surveyed missionaries working in Japan, asking them what they thought the main prayer needs are for the next ten years, to 2030. We received lots of responses. Then we asked some Japanese Christian leaders to help us prioritise the prayer topics. What do they think are the main things that we should be praying for their country?

Next we asked 30 different people to write contributions on the various topics. We are now at the stage of editing these, trying to give them a unified feel so that the booklet reads as one. The task is bigger than we thought, but if the production of this booklet means more people across the world praying for Japan, then it will be worth it. We hope to publish it in time for the Olympics this summer.

James O. Fraser, a missionary to the Lisu people in southwest China over 100 years ago wrote:

“I am feeling more and more that it is, after all, just the prayers of God’s people that call down blessing upon the work, whether they are directly engaged in it or not.”

Thank you to all of you who pray for Japan and support our work there. We trust that in God’s time we will see many more Japanese people accept Jesus as their Saviour, churches planted and new leaders raised up. In the meantime we pray in faith towards that end, knowing that we have a God who hears and answers prayer.

May you all know God’s leading and blessing this year.

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

LIFE and WORK Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' for 2020 are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £31.20 – a reduction of 20 pence per issue on the new cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the **end of March**, if possible. I will be at the back of the church on most Sunday mornings if it is more convenient to pay me directly. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Food Hygiene

Following an unscheduled visit in October to the Lunch Club by an Environmental Health Officer from East Dunbartonshire Council a Pass Certificate was issued. Comment was made that good practices were being followed, that the standard of cleanliness was high and that record keeping was up to the standard required. It is a tribute to the work of the Lunch Club preparation teams that such a good report was issued.

To anyone using the kitchen please help us to maintain this high standard by ensuring that the kitchen is left clean and tidy after use.

Food Hygiene Guidelines are available in the Large Hall kitchen at all times for reference by anyone preparing food on the church premises.

With the Spring Coffee Morning season almost upon us please note that, in order to comply with Food Hygiene requirements, we are unable to serve or sell items containing high risk foods e.g. cream or cream cheese.

Frances Ireland

Food Hygiene Committee Convenor

St Paul's Parish Church
3 Baldernock Road
Milngavie
G62 8DP

15 January 2020

Dear All at St Paul's Parish Church

Thank you so much for raising the fantastic sum of £627.20 for the Scottish Cot Death Trust at your Coffee and Mince Pie Event. This money will really help us to make a difference throughout the country.

Sudden and Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) sadly takes the life of 1 baby or young child every 9 days in Scotland.

The Scottish Cot Death Trust is the only Scottish charity dedicated to:

- Raising awareness & Educating parents and professionals
- Funding research
- Supporting families devastated by the loss of a child, suddenly and unexpectedly.

With just 6 members of staff and a handful of regular volunteers, we wouldn't be able to carry out our work without the support of wonderful people like you.

If you would like more information about the work you are helping to fund, please do get in touch by calling 0141 357 3946 or email fundraising@scottishcotdeathtrust.org.

Thank You! 

Best Wishes

Marlene Graham

Marlene Graham
Fundraiser

Lent Services

Our Lent Services will begin on Saturday 29th February at 9.30am in the West Transept. The services will be based on Sinclair Ferguson's book *To Seek And Serve*.

All are welcome to attend these short 30 minute services on Saturday mornings through Lent. Details will be in the weekly intimation sheets.

Prayer Breakfast

The next Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfast will be held in the United Free Church on Saturday 7th March with breakfast at 8am and a time of prayer from 8.45am until 9.30am.

Bible Sunday

Sunday 16th February will be Bible Sunday in St. Paul's when there will be an opportunity to hear about and to support the work of the Scottish Bible Society both in Scotland and overseas.



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

Date	Morning 10am	Evening 7pm
9 February	Rev John Wilson	Rev Dr David White
16 February	Rev Ken Macdonald	Rev Ramsay Shields
23 February	Rev Ramsay Shields	Rev Ramsay Shields
1 March	Alex McEwan	Lorna Ferguson
8 March	Rev John Wilson	Rev Ramsay Shields

Book Group



We have been reading *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn. We had mixed reviews on this book which is the true story of the author and her husband walking the 630 miles of the South West Coastal Path in Somerset and Cornwall and wild camping. The book begins with the couple having lost everything and being made homeless due to a bad investment and if that wasn't enough, the husband is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Despite these issues they decide to tackle the coastal walk and the book is in the form of a diary of their adventures. Some of the group loved the book and even read it twice but most of us were asking the question "Why?" We felt they were running away to a certain extent and while we had sympathy with their situation we found it difficult to have empathy. We wouldn't recommend it but if it interests you, why not have a go and see what you think. There are some positive reviews online and over 80,000 copies have been sold!

Next time we are going "classical" and reading *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February 2020 at the usual time of 7.45pm.

Joyce Clark

The Christmas card sale amounted to £500. Thank you for this plus the extra donations, and the money for the lunch cards through the year. A further £20 was passed on to the Lodging House Mission

Ann Begg

The Congregational Board and Kirk Session have agreed to undertake a review of the life and work of St. Paul's. The various committees are meeting this month to review what works well in their particular area and what could be done better. The intention is to bring a plan to the Congregation for discussion at the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

The Congregation are invited to submit any views they wish to be considered in writing to the Session Clerk as soon as possible and no later than 3rd February.

Graham Mill
Session Clerk

Guild News

At our first meeting in January, we were delighted that Derek Norval was able to share his musical journey with us. Through musical excerpts and some very interesting photographs of a young Derek, we learned that music has played an important part in his life as well in the life of his family. We particularly enjoyed the photographs of Derek in his early musical career, especially seeing him in his Highland dress attire as an award-winning piper!

Derek's enthusiasm for music was apparent to us all and as he recounted stories of his teaching career, it was easy to see how this enthusiasm has enabled many children and adults to enjoy and take part in musical activities.

We all know that our church services are enhanced by having Derek as our organist and choir-master at St Paul's and we only appreciated how complicated the organ is to operate when Derek gave us a glimpse of how the organ works. We were amazed to hear that there are 1,650 pipes in our organ at St Paul's and even more amazed when Derek showed us the organ at Macy's Department Store in Philadelphia which has 28,677 pipes!

Derek finished his very interesting talk by letting us hear a recital by Dr Carol Williams of the Flight of the Bumble Bee where her feet and hands simultaneously flew over the pedals and keyboards. It helped us all to understand how technically difficult it is to play the organ and made us appreciate even more having Derek as our organist at St Paul's!

A delightful Guild meeting was held on 13th January when we welcomed our speaker, Lorna Ferguson who is home for a few months from Japan. Hymns and prayers were picked to reflect her work abroad. Lorna gave a very moving talk using slides and videos explaining her Japan Journal. We were astonished and humbled by her hard work and fortitude through the most challenging of circumstances especially three years ago when her husband David was extremely ill and then died. Less than 1% of the Japanese people are Christian but Lorna has been a Leader helping other OMF workers and running the children's work and cafés to encourage the Lord's work at all times. Many Japanese people are lonely or bullied and become isolated. There is a huge need for Christianity to flourish. We all wished Lorna a safe return to Japan and wish her sons, Daniel, Matthew, Callum and Alistair all the very best in their chosen careers.

At our meeting on 20th January, Dr Jon Cossar delivered a wonderful lecture on the travels of Robert Louis Stevenson. Using extracts from R.L Stevenson's works to support his lecture, Jon gave us a fascinating insight into the extensive travel of this famous author, highlighting the health hazards and dangers which he encountered as well as telling us about R.L Stevenson's travel philosophy:

I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move.

(Robert Louis Stevenson, Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes)

Although R.L. Stevenson's health, throughout his life, was poor, it did not prevent him from travelling to some of the most remote countries and regions in the world at this time, including over 40 Pacific Islands.

In contrasting the similarities and differences between travelling in the 1800s and in modern times, Jon helped us to understand what little pre-travel health advice and medical facilities were available to R.L. Stevenson and the following extract, taken from one of his letters written in 1893, exemplifies the challenges that he faced:

For fourteen years I have not had a day's real health; I have wakened sick and gone to bed weary; and I have done my work unflinchingly. I have written in bed, and written out of it, written in hemorrhages [sic], written in sickness, written torn by coughing, written when my head swam for weakness...

Jon shared his extensive knowledge of Robert Louis Stevenson's life, loves and travels in an excellent presentation and we were delighted that he was able to come and speak to us about this very interesting author and writer.

The last meeting in January will be our afternoon tea.

Our programme for February is as follows:

- 3rd February: Rachel Rutherford – Tree of Strings
- 10th February: Boys' Brigade plans for the future
- 17th February: Gordon Foster – Decorative Antiques
- 24th February: Stan Paliwoda – Mission Aviation Fellowship.

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

Finally, advance notice that our Guild Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 14th March (10am - 12noon). There will be stalls for home baking and books/DVDs. Any donations of baking, books or DVDs (please note, there will be no bric-a-brac stall) can be handed into the Large Hall on Friday 13th March between 3pm and 4pm or on Saturday morning. Tickets (£2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children) are available from members of the Committee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Hilary Rutherford

World Mission News

Some of you may be aware that the structure within the Church Office is changing and as of 1st January 2020, the World Mission Council has become part of the Faith Impact Forum, along with Church and Society Council and the Interfaith work of the church. Although our name has changed, at present much of our work continues as it was on 31st December 2019! However, over the next few months, the changes to the way in which we work, will be implemented. We have been given, by the General Assembly, four headline priorities on which to base our work. These are:

- Resourcing congregations
- Building and sustaining Christian relationships globally and locally
- Advocating Peace and Justice globally and locally
- Advocating societal changes globally and locally

Do you and your church have 2020 vision for global issues?

Join Christian Aid at a Gathering near you in February 2020 to discover how Christian Aid responds to communities in crisis and how you can speak up for climate justice.

Join a Gathering near you:

Dundee	Wednesday 19th February 2020
Dunblane	Thursday 20th February 2020
Glasgow	Friday 21st February 2020
Dumfries	Saturday 22nd February 2020

Nick Guttman, Head of Humanitarian Division, will share how communities in crisis are adapting, transforming and responding to climate change. Just Scripture is Christian Aid's international Bible study toolkit. There will be a live connection with an overseas partner to find out where faith and climate justice collide.

If you would like to attend a Gathering in Dundee, Dunblane, Dumfries or Glasgow, please RSVP by email (glasgow@christian-aid.org) detailing how many people are in your group and which venue you hope to attend.

Learn more about the Gatherings at

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/gatherings>

Life and Work February 2020

FEBRUARY 2020 | £2.80



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Church unions and linkages

RUN WITH PATIENCE
Ultramarathon runner
Dr Mark Calder

A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY
Stewardship today
and new technology

and much more all for £2.80

New Partnerships

Jackie Macadam learns about the successes and hurdles faced by uniting or linking parishes

Run With Patience

The life and faith of ultramarathon runner Dr Mark Calder

No Time to Waste

In the first in a series of columns marking the 50th anniversary of the Church of Scotland's SRT (Society, Religion and Technology), Dr John Francis reflects on nuclear energy and weapons

A Medieval Church Court

Andrew Stevenson reports on a unique church court in the Channel Islands

A Spirit of Generosity

David Lynch reflects on the recent journey of stewardship in the Church of Scotland and the advance of new technology

The Church of Veere

Anne-Mary Paterson reflects on the history and legacy of the first overseas Church of Scotland

Be the Change You Want to See

In this month's youth column, Matthew MacNeil traces his faith journey, and his role in the Awakening Youth conference in Lewis.

Everything Has to Go

Continuing his focus on 1 Thessalonians, the Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why there needs to be a turning away from one thing to another.

Plus all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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

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Copy Dates

The copy date for the March issue is Wednesday **19th** February for e-mails and Sunday **16th** February if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
2nd Feb	K. Hagart J. Mill	Wilson MacKinnon	Team 6 S. Anderson
9th Feb	A. McLeod S. Stenhouse	Chapman Berry	Team 7 R. Deuchar (EC)
16th Feb	J. Ford C. Taner	Tracey MacAllister	Team 8 S. Speedie
23rd Feb	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Wallis Wilson	Team 9 M. Thomson