

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2020



Dear Friends,

“Je suis Charlie” (“I am Charlie”) was a slogan and a logo created by the French art director Joachim Roncin and adopted by supporters of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, following the 7th January 2017 shooting, in which twelve people were killed at the offices of the French satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The slogan and the logo identified a speaker or a supporter with those who were killed at the Charlie Hebdo shooting, and by extension, a supporter of freedom of speech and resistance to armed threats. Some journalists embraced the expression as a rallying cry for the freedom of self-expression.

The slogan was first used on Twitter. The website of Charlie Hebdo went offline shortly after the shooting, and when it became live again, it bore the legend *Je suis Charlie* on a black background. A PDF file containing translations in seven languages was added shortly afterwards. The statement was used as the hashtag [#jesuischarlie](#) and [#iamcharlie](#) on Twitter as computer printed or hand-made placards and stickers, and displayed on mobile phones at vigils, and on many websites, particularly media websites.

Within two days of the attack, the slogan had become one of the most popular news hashtags in Twitter history. *Je suis Charlie* was adopted worldwide. It was used in music, displayed in print and animated cartoons, and it became the name of a new town square in France.

This whole idea of identification with a cause or an organisation using an “I am” slogan, has gained momentum since then. One example of it being used in retailing is by the retailer J. D. Sports with the use of the hashtag [#iamjd](#).

This year will see the visit to the UK of Franklin Graham, the son of the late Billy Graham. He will be conducting evangelistic rallies across the country starting on the 30th May in Glasgow. Like all rallies led by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, this one will begin with the local church, and end in the local church. Church members are invited to be involved and be part of the “I am Andrew” campaign, a campaign which enables church members to introduce a friend or friends to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me explain. Andrew was one of the first of the disciples to be called by Jesus during His earthly ministry. The first chapter of John’s Gospel recounts how Andrew learned who Jesus was – and then he immediately found his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to meet the Son of God.

Today, we can do the same by praying for family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues who don't know Jesus, and then bringing them to hear the Gospel at the Graham tour.

The idea for "I am Andrew" began right here 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 to which members would bring friends who did not know the Lord. The team adopted this idea for the Crusades and encouraged Christians to pray for and bring loved ones who are far from God to the evangelistic events. Today, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association still uses "I am Andrew", with the goal of creating opportunities for personal evangelism on a citywide scale. As I said, it will be grounded totally in the local church, using members of the local church – people like us. It is not "mass evangelism" as some would have us believe, but personal evangelism on a massive scale.

At St Paul's, we shall be marking "I am Andrew" Sunday at our morning communion service on the 19th January 2020. You can take the "I am Andrew" pledge. "I am Andrew" cards are available, and you can make use of them. If you find this all a bit bewildering, training will be given ahead of the event, and you will be welcome to attend.

The greatest gift you can ever give to someone is the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. I urge us all to take the "I am Andrew" pledge as follows; first of all, **pray** - write down the name of at least one person who needs Jesus and then pray each day for him or for her. Ask God to open their heart and to give you opportunities to share His love with them. Secondly, **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 with you. Thirdly, **bring** – bring your friend to the event. If he or she responds to Christ or shows an interest in the Gospel, they will need your ongoing encouragement. Finally, **follow up** – invite them to church with you. God can use you and our church to bring them into a deepening relationship with Jesus.

Details of the Christian Life and Witness Classes (for training) will be intimated shortly, but for now, I pray that each and every one of us would take the "I am Andrew" pledge.

With every best wish,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ramsay B. Shields



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It was lovely to see some of you in December, and I hope I can catch up with more of you over the next couple of months at St. Paul's.

According to the Japanese calendar it is now Year 2 of the Reiwa era, and the Year of the Rat. Over the first few days of the new year, millions of Japanese people will have visited a local Shinto shrine to pray for good luck and happiness in the coming year.

2020 will be a big year for Japan as the capital, Tokyo, prepares to host the Olympics and Paralympics. The stadium is now finished and hosted The Emperor's Cup football final on 1st January as its opening event. A drill was held last month to prepare for the scenario of a major earthquake hitting Tokyo during the Olympics when so many visitors will be in the city. Immigration procedures at airports are also being streamlined to cope with the expected influx of visitors.

Being prepared for events is an important part of Japanese culture. Japan is known as one of the most "uncertainty avoiding" countries in the world. This means that Japanese people and companies spend many hours preparing in detail for possible uncertain situations so that, if they happen, then people know what to do.

In Matthew Chapter 25 Jesus tells the parable of the 10 virgins or bridesmaids. The bridegroom was so late that the bridesmaids' lamps began to go out. Five bridesmaids had brought extra lamp oil with them, so they were able to trim their lamps and get into the wedding reception. The other five, however, had not brought any spare and by the time they had gone to buy more, the door to the reception was shut and they could not get in. Jesus said in verse 13, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." No one knows when Jesus will return and in face of that uncertainty we need to be prepared by believing in Jesus and keeping our eyes fixed on Him.

Please continue to pray that many more Japanese people will understand that Jesus' return is the most important thing that they need to prepare for, and that many will come to believe in Him this year.

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

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Lorna will be at St. Paul's on Sunday 12th Jan

Sunday Coffee - Thank You

We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service. We are delighted to let you know we were able to give the sum of £1750 to Myeloma UK.

This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and dish washers and we would like to thank them all for their help during 2019. We are most grateful to Bob at Milngavie Mini Market who donates the milk and biscuits for our coffee every week and also a special thanks to Sheila for the continued delivery of these to St. Paul's on Sunday. We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret



Scottish Bible Society BIBLE 2020

Everyone, everywhere reading the Bible aloud.

Bible 2020 is a global initiative encouraging the church across the world to unite and read the Bible aloud each day across our cities, countryside and towns believing that by doing this we can bring change.

It is estimated that in 2020 almost 80% of the world's population will have a smartphone. This technology enables us to connect across the globe as never before, uniting the church to read together the same Bible verse each day in over a hundred countries and over a thousand languages. The selected verses will be released daily to the Bible 2020 smartphone app or a printed copy will be available for download from the website.

Across the world it is hoped that everyone will film themselves reading the passage and upload it to a video wall, showing a vision of Everyone, Everywhere reading God's Word together.

For more information, please visit bible2020.org

Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee and Mince Pies event on 22nd December, with a special thank you to the musicians whose playing helped to create the festive atmosphere. Thanks also to our willing band of helpers both in the hall and in the kitchen. The total sum raised for the Scottish Cot Death Trust was £627.20.



Frances Ireland and Liz Trail

BreakAway

BreakAway has just celebrated its 3rd birthday and we continue to go from strength to strength. The main aim of BreakAway is to give our members a safe, happy and stimulating environment as well as give the carers much needed support.

As in previous years, 2019 was packed with a varied programme of activities for our members to enjoy. As well as enjoying the dominoes, musical bingo, knitting, jigsaws, painting, which is on tap each week, we are also fortunate in that we have Befrienders who organise craft activities and our resident "fitness trainer called Archie who puts our members (and Befrienders) through their paces. Our members enjoy music and singing and we are fortunate that we are able to provide this every week as we know what a difference it makes - you can certainly see the enjoyment on our members' faces when they are active and having fun together.

We are also fortunate to have external visitors to our Group and we are looking to have them again next year.

If you would like to

- a) know more about what we do each week,
 - b) visit us, or
 - c) get involved,
- please speak to Gabrielle, Peggy Barlow or myself.

Most Befrienders come to BreakAway 1 week in 4 and we break for the summer and at Christmas/New Year as well as one week at Easter.

Linda Muirhead

Noah's Ark



As a result of all our toddlers and their Mums, Grans and Carers paying £1 for their attendance at Noah's Ark, the Committee met and decided that, firstly, it would be only right and proper that a contribution should be made to the Church for allowing us the use of the Hall and facilities and the sum of £300 was passed to the Church Treasurer.

Secondly, where the Committee was aware of less fortunate children in the Glasgow area it was decided that £200 should be made as a donation to each of Glasgow City Mission, Child and Family Centre and to CrossReach Daisy Chain Early Years Project and these payments having been made, acknowledgements were received and are shown below.

The congregation will no doubt be delighted to know that our Church, through Noah's Ark, is able to show Christian care in such a tangible way. Anyone who feels moved to help at Noah's Ark should contact Jackie Sillars on 07989 864294 or speak to her in Church. Remember also the standing invitation to visit and see the tremendous outreach which is Noah's Ark. There's even free coffee or tea!

Thank you so much for once again supporting the work of The Daisy Chain Early Years Project with your donation of £200 from St. Paul's and The Noah's Ark Mother and Toddler Group.



Your donation really does help us to support families facing significant challenges including severe poverty, discrimination, social exclusion and isolation. We aim to support each parent and child to overcome these challenges and work to help them recognise their own strengths, encouraging them to grow in confidence and to be all they can be.

This year Daisy Chain has grown and now includes a group for babies and children with additional support needs and an oral health based play project. We have also expanded our outreach work and presently support an outdoor play and nurture project for school aged children on a Monday and pre-school nurture group at Wallacewell Community Fellowship every Wednesday.

Thank you once again,
With best wishes and kind regards

Louise Adams, Acting Team Lead, Daisy Chain Early Years Project

Thanks to you all at Noah's Ark for your generous and very much needed gift of £200.00 for use at our Child and Family Centre.



This is most kind of everyone at Noah's Ark and will help us in the continued provision of this much-needed and much-loved community resource.

Our belief is that all children living in Glasgow should have access to the same opportunities and life chances regardless of their postcode. Sadly inequality in our city is widening and many children continue to be disadvantaged.

Thanks to your support our Child and Family Centre can continue to provide nursery, playgroups, parent-toddler groups and parenting workshops in order that kids in our community of Govan can have the best start in life.

Your support also allows us to support more disadvantaged families in the year ahead, equipping parents with skills and confidence, and providing a safe and stimulating environment for our children in order that they can have the best start in life.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours in Christ,
Jack Geddes, Marketing and Fundraising Manager

Book Group

The group have been reading *The Pianist of Yarmouk* by Aehem Ahmad. This book is advertised as being "One man's struggle to find peace during war" and is set in war torn Damascus. The pianist plays in the rubble strewn streets trying to bring hope through his music to his fellow Syrians. He overcomes many obstacles in this true story and has to make the decision of staying and not surviving or leaving his family and making a better life for himself and them in Germany.



We compared this book with last month's *Cellist of Sarajevo* and felt that this book was not as well written, a bit repetitive and told in a very matter of fact way considering the hardships he encountered. We felt the pianist's father was a more interesting character than his son and would have liked to read the story of his life too.

Next time we are reading *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn and we are meeting on 14th January 2020.

Joyce Clark

Thank You from the Stewardship Committee

The stewardship committee would like to express our thanks to all the volunteers in the congregation, who gave so willingly of their time and talents in the run up to Christmas. Your work was very much appreciated.

As a result, around 1800 households in our Parish, plus around 200 young people, received a Christmas Card with an invite to come along to our services over the Christmas Season.

Thanks again to the volunteers, who hopefully also benefited from the considerable exercise of climbing stairs, walking the streets and getting to know all the nooks and crannies of our Parish.

It is hoped that we can repeat this format with a delivery of an Easter Card in 2020 so please watch this space as your invaluable contribution may be required again in the Spring.

Gordon Fairbrother
Stewardship Convener

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Association of Milngavie Churches will hold a joint service in Baldernock Church at 7pm on Monday 20th January, 2020 to mark the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Expression - Contemporary African Art in Perspective

Josephine MacLeod extends an invitation to attend the above exhibition in the Hidden Lane Gallery, 1081 Argyle Street, Finnieston from 11th January to 31st March. Closed Sunday & Monday. Gallery@hiddenlanegallery.com.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club restarts on 8th October 2020 from 12 noon to about 1pm. Come early for the best selection of goodies. We have our usual lunch of Homemade Soup, assorted rolls and home baking. All are welcome to a friendly warming lunch with good company. A short service for those who wish is held at 1.15pm.

This year we have managed to give donations to St. Paul's Church to help with expenses, St. Rollox Church who do a tremendous work with refugees and asylum seekers, the local Salvation Army Group to help with their Christmas outreach and the Barnabas Trust who assist overseas Christians persecuted for their faith. All this is only possible because of the generosity of the people who come, the bakers who provide delicious homemade goodies and the army of helpers who make such outreach possible.

We are however suffering greatly from a lack of helpers, ladies or men, to help in the kitchen and serve. We also need men to set up and clear the hall . We are all getting a bit older and it would be lovely to get additional help. If you can spare a few hours every second Wednesday please contact Ann MacLeod 942 8339 or John MacPherson 942 4550

Flower Donations - January

Happy New Year!.

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 January are: Mrs M Ure, Ms E Forbes

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.

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

Date	Morning	Evening
12/1/20	Rev Charles MacKinnon	Rev Dr David White
19/1/20	Rev Ramsay Shields (Communion 10am & 3pm)	Rev Dr David White
26/1/20	Rev Dr David White	Rev Dr David White
2/2/20	Rev John Wilson	Rev Dr David White

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

Thank You

A very big Thank You to all who have contributed to the various events held in St. Paul's during December and throughout 2019. Special mention to Derek Norval and the Choir for their contribution to the advent services and leading the congregation in worship throughout the year. To those who decorated the Church for Advent. To the stewards at the Douglas Academy Christmas Concert and other events throughout the year. To the tea makers who are always on hand. To the Elders and members of the Congregational Board for their contribution often quietly behind the scenes. To the leaders of all the organisations. To the visiting preachers who have brought us the Word each week. To those who man the sound desk. To those who tend the needs of our buildings and garden.

A special thanks to Hugh, Aileen and Sandra.

It is impossible to mention everyone but I thank you all.

Graham Mill

Guild News

Our last meeting in November was our Scottish night when Ann Robertson took us dancing round Scotland! Through poetry, stories and photographs of architecture, Ann's illustrated presentation gave us a fascinating insight into how old and new dances got their names, who wrote them and where they came from in Scotland. It was clear that Ann has a remarkable historical knowledge of Scottish Country Dancing and we all learned some very interesting facts across the breadth and length of Scotland.

On 2nd December, we had our Finance Meeting which was followed by Film Favourites, presented by Chris Scott. The lights were dimmed, the sweeties passed around and we all settled down to a nostalgic night of comedy television clips accompanied by Chris' informative and entertaining commentary. Everyone enjoyed the classic comedy which was only surpassed when Chris showed us archive footage of certain members of our Guild who clearly have hidden talents!

The Guild Christmas lunch was held at Milngavie Bowling Club on 6th December. Seventy members attended. The company and food were absolutely first class. We were pleased to welcome our guest speaker, Brian Adair who spoke to us in a most enjoyable and thought-provoking way before rushing off to London!

Killermont Parish Church was the venue for The Dunbartonshire Guilds Together Carol Service on 11th December and the carols, prayers and readings which had been chosen made this a very special service indeed. The filled handbags, which were this year's Guild's Christmas project, were handed over to the Salvation Army who distributed them prior to 25th December. Killermont's hospitality after the service certainly put us all in a festive mood. This service was changed to the afternoon this year instead of the usual evening slot and was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

Our first meeting of the New Year takes place on Monday, 6th January when Derek Norval will be speaking to us about his musical journey. Including this meeting, our programme for January is as follows:

6th January:	Derek Norval – My musical journey
13th January:	Lorna Ferguson – Guild theme
20th January:	Jon Cossar – Robert Louis Stevenson
27th January (2.00pm):	Afternoon Tea, Duncan McEwan – Scotland's Landscapes, Burns Celebration

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

Hilary Rutherford

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Copy Dates

Happy New Year! The copy date for the February issue is Wednesday **22nd** January for e-mails and Sunday **19th** January if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th Jan	M Conway K Edwards	No Crèche	Team 3 E. McEwan
12th Jan	A. Galloway	Chapman Tracey	Team 4 S. Thoms
19th Jan	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Berry MacAllister	Team 2 S. Beck (C)
26th Jan	F. Ireland A. McNellan	Wallis Sillars	Team 5 I. Torbet