

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

July 2020



Dear Friends,

Perhaps you will have heard by now that I am on a phased return to work. Practically speaking this means I will be preparing and delivering services and being available by phone and other media. As I am still 'shielding' I will not be able to conduct funerals. This will continue to be the responsibility of Rev. Ramsay Shields who remains as Interim Moderator of St. Paul's and Baldernock.

Getting to this point has been a long haul with challenging treatment and some setbacks. It's good, however, to look back at the care and expertise of medical staff; the support of colleagues far and wide; the prayerful concern of the congregations of St Paul's and Baldernock; and the love and long-suffering of Gabrielle and the family who have shared this experience with me.

All of this has come to me within the good and loving purpose of our Heavenly Father. It is quite awe-inspiring to think that from all eternity He has seen this day when I can begin to take steps back into ministry. These steps may be small and tentative for the time being but I am trusting Him that in time I will be able to engage more fully in the work of the Kingdom.

It has been interesting for me to see how the online ministry of the Church has been developing over the past few months. Our congregations, including St. Luke's, have been well served by Ramsay Shields and John Wilson. These are men who live in the Word and it has been a blessing to receive what they have grasped in their 'quarrying'. Now it's my turn to engage in this developing ministry. As always I can depend on the patience, gifts and expertise of people around me. Chris Scott for his technological knowhow, Derek Norval in his exceptional music ministry, Hugh McGorm assisting Chris and generally looking after the minister and Stephen Thoms for his stewardship of the website.

Recently I received an email from Professor Donald Macleod who mentions 'the huge expansion in live-streaming of church services (which) means that the showers of the Word are watering the earth as never before, and we have good reason to hope that they will bear fruit.'

That's a bright vision to set before me. These are undoubtedly strange and bewildering days but God has not forgotten us and we can depend on His Word working for the purpose He has intended in bringing all things in heaven and on earth together in His Son Jesus.

Wishing you all God's Peace,  
**Fergus**

## **Margaret Hamilton**

These Covid-19 days have given us all opportunity to reflect on the priorities of life, the things that really matter. Among those are family, work, care for those in need and not least the faith that enables us wholeheartedly to give of ourselves. All of this came together in the life of Margaret Hamilton.

Margaret lived all her life in Milngavie and was known for her thoughtfulness, kindness and loyalty as a friend. In her devotion to her parents, John and Effie, many of us found an example and inspiration not least in the days when her mother's illness required increasing care. Margaret's experience through this time led to her involvement with Carer's Link in its earliest days which still exists to support and encourage carers.

Margaret's caring heart shaped her career in teaching. Throughout her years in Bearsden Primary Margaret often referred to her pupils as 'my children'. She seemed to have an instinct for those who were struggling in any way and did her best to support and encourage.

A life lived so much for others requires inner strength. Margaret found this through life-long friendships, music and gardening but most of all through her faith. In many ways St. Paul's was her extended family and her involvement in different aspects of the Church's life, including the Choir and Girl's Brigade, greatly enhanced our congregational life. She was among the first women to be ordained to the Eldership and became a welcome visitor to her district and a valued contributor to the life of the Kirk Session. Moreover, her Christian witness extended beyond our own congregation with her involvement with Scripture Union and the Church of Scotland Summer Mission.

Margaret appreciated her family and always delighted in news from her niece Emma Dee and her family. Many people were blessed through the years by Margaret's gift for friendship. We remember all those who were closest to her and pray that the Resurrection faith at the heart of Margaret's life will be their comfort, strength and peace.

**FCB**

## **Zoom Cuppa and chat – every Sunday at 11.15am**

It has been wonderful over the last few weeks to be able to reinstate the after-service coffee and chat through the wonderful world of Zoom!

We have been blessed to have online services with Ramsay, John and, now of course, Fergus, but we had really been missing the fellowship we have with our church family. We had seen this working successfully in other churches and thought why not give it a try! The first Sunday we did it we felt slightly anxious but when we saw all the familiar faces popping on to our screens it was all worth it. What a blessing it is to have this available to us when we can't meet in person. Last Sunday 38 people/families came along! We split into 'rooms' of about 5 people to make it easier to chat. Then halfway through we swap rooms so that we can see more folk. It has been great to see everyone chatting and catching up.

So, if you haven't managed to join us yet, why not give it a try. We can send you an invitation via email and you just click on the link to enter the meeting. You can use a computer, mobile phone, or tablet to join, but if you don't have any of these you can join by phone. You can find our phone numbers in the church directory, or email the church office and they will put you in touch with one of us. If you're not sure how to use Zoom we can talk you through this. We would love to see you if you can manage to come along.

**Nimmi Whitelaw, Janice Maclean, Mairi McCreddie, Sue Rollings**

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank the many members of the St. Paul's family for their concern, prayers and kindness to Margaret Thomson during her long illness. The care shown by so many friends was appreciated more than words can say.

We would also like to thank everyone for their support following Margaret's death, and to those who contributed to the memorial fund in her name, on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund. Such little acts of kindness have been a great comfort to the family.

Many thanks to you all.

**Tom, Ian and Ailsa Thomson**

## Musical Quiz (Answers found on page 11.)

All of the answers are hymn tunes we use in St Paul's.

Try to hum, whistle, sing (or maybe even play) the first notes of the tunes that are listed in the first column.

The second column tells you how many notes at the start of each tune you should use to help in identifying the hymn with the same opening notes.

You'll need to change the rhythm of the tune to help you find the answer.

The third column contains a hint.

Column 4 gives you spaces for your answers.

A completed example is given for you in the line below the headings.

# 1 Title of the tune	# 2 no. of notes	# 3 hint	# 4 for your answers
<b>Frère Jacques</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Bunyan</b>	<i>Who would true valour see</i>
1. I could have danced all night (from "My Fair Lady")	4	Seasonal Gaelic tune	
2. Oh when the saints	4	Surely not a boxing match?	
3. Toreador's Song from "Carmen"	4	Seasonal German	
4. Morning from Grieg's "Peer Gynt"	4	Saintly	
5. Keep the home fires burning	4	A bleak Christmas?	
6. Will ye no come back again (use the first few notes – Bonnie Charlie's noo . . .)	5		
7. Skye Boat Song	5	From the Welsh valleys	
8. Loch Lomond	5	A hymn of worship	
9. O flower of Scotland	5	A hymn of praise	
10. Scotland the brave	6	Creatures?	
11. The Campbells are coming	6	Paraphrase 30	
12. Largo from Dvorak's New World Symphony (Going home)	7	Water, deer?	

## **How to get your St. Paul's Society Cards**

Due to the lockdown, obviously you cannot get your usual supply of cards from outside the Church office, but since the lockdown, people have still been ordering and receiving their cards. So much so, that since the lockdown we have raised our £200 for The Beatson as planned and currently have about £50 for our next project which is Bobath Scotland.

**How can I order cards?** Simple, either phone me on 01413840274 or email me on alexjmcewan@gmail.com

**How will I get them?** Simple again, I will put them through your letter box.

**How will I pay for them?** Easy again, we are not looking for the cash at the moment but Elizabeth is keeping names in a book for those who have not been able to get access to cash and can pay later. Paying is the least of our worries.

**How much?** Still the same, each card is £1 or you can get 5 wee pastel cards for £2.50. In addition to that, we still have the St. Paul's digital card, with the picture of the interior of the church and a new "rainbow" card which has been designed for people that you have not seen for a while, during lockdown. We also have some new digital Bible verse cards which we are calling "cards for encouragement". They have been particularly popular with some elders who have been ordering these to send to their district.

So there you have it. The cards are still available. You don't have to leave the house to get them as I will deliver and if you have difficulty getting out for stamps let me know about that too and I can arrange that for you, all part of the service. If you can access the church website, there will be pictures of all the cards on there by mid July.

**Alex McEwan**

## **The Beatson Wellbeing Centre**

After a chat with Fergus, we decided to send our £200 donation to the Wellbeing Centre. This is a unique space designed to be a haven for patients away from the wards and clinics. Patients can choose to relax in one of several tranquil lounges whilst taking in the views over the West End of Glasgow. The centre is a place where patients can enjoy a selection of drinks such as teas, freshly ground coffee or soft drinks. They have access to daily newspapers to enjoy while in the centre. iPads are also available for those wishing to catch up on their emails! We got a call from one of the staff to say that our donation is much appreciated and will be well used.

**Alex McEwan St. Paul's Society Cards**

## **News from the Courts**

### **Presbytery**

Dumbarton Presbytery held a meeting by Zoom on Tuesday 2nd June, 2020 and progressed various business matters.

Presbytery noted the Special Commission of the Generally Assembly had approved the Basis of Union between Greenock & Paisley Presbytery and Dumbarton Presbytery. The new Clyde Presbytery would be formed on 1st September, 2020.

Mr Neil Turnbull was appointed as Presbytery Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the retiring co-ordinator, Mrs Maureen Walker, was thanked for her work in this important area.

### **Kirk Session**

Kirk Session agreed to delegate to a committee comprising the moderator, the session clerk and three elders (a quorum being three) the power to act in the name of the Kirk Session in respect of such matters which, in the opinion of the committee, either (1) require urgent action; or, (2) are uncontentious and may be dealt with in the interests of expediency.

The three elders who will serve along with the Interim Moderator and the Session Clerk are:

Brian Adair, Grace Rogerson and Nimmi Whitelaw.

The Home Mission Committee and the Overseas Mission Committee recommended distribution of the funds currently held in their accounts. These are both Committees of the Kirk Session and the distribution of their funds is subject to the approval of the Kirk Session which was given by the above committee. The funds have therefore been distributed as follows:-

### **The Home Mission Fund**

The Preshal Trust £600.00  
Glasgow City Mission £600.00  
Lodging House Mission £600.00  
St Rollox Community Outreach £112.50  
Total £1,912.50

### **The Overseas Mission Fund**

Christian Aid £831.09  
Barnabus Fund £830.00  
Total £1,661.09

### **Graham Mill, Session Clerk**

## **Communication**

I hope you are all well and managing in these strange times. Although we will soon be able to open for private prayer it is currently not intended to open St. Paul's. The situation regarding future public services in St Paul's is being monitored in conjunction with the advice from the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Thanks to those who have been involved in the recording of the weekly services. Although it is not the same as being in the sanctuary, I know the services have been of great help to many of the congregation and others who have enjoyed the services through the web site. I am aware that not all members are able to access the internet and a limited number of DVD copies of the services are available through Chris Scott.

Life magazine continues to be published on the website and if you are aware of anyone who would welcome a paper copy please let me know. The current situation has resulted in a number of new initiatives and I hope you will be able to join the Sunday morning Zoom sessions and encourage others who are able, to join also.

Remember, although the weekly Prayer meeting cannot be held in St. Paul's we hope that as many as possible will set aside time around 8pm on a Thursday evening so that we can pray together. Prayer notes are available each week on the website for guidance.

We rely on the District Elders to maintain contact with the members but if you have any concerns again please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Graham Mill, Session Clerk.**

## **Book Group**

As we are all well aware, our meetings have been severely restricted due to the virus. Despite these restrictions the Book Group is alive and well and reading lots in lockdown! A quick telephone survey of some of our members has revealed the amazing range of reading material we are all managing to get our hands on. This includes:

Plaque by Albert Camus

The Ninth Child by Sally Magnusson

The Simon Serrailer crime novels by Susan Hill

The Mirror & The Light by Hilary Mantel

The last book is huge and has 882 pages! This is the third book in the Thomas Cromwell trilogy which began with Wolf Hall followed by Bring up the Bodies.

Ideal reading for lockdown.

Happy reading everybody until we are able to meet again.

**Joyce Clark**



### Dear Friends,

Greetings from the rainy season in Tokyo, when temperatures and humidity rise and generally make life a little uncomfortable but we have much to be grateful for. Since Japan's State of Emergency was lifted at the end of May, although the number of coronavirus cases has risen slightly, they remain low overall. Alistair is back at school and football practices are starting up again.

This has meant that we have been able to resume in-person church services. The minister worked hard at working out how to seat everyone two metres apart. We now have two services on a Sunday morning and use the sanctuary and a room upstairs where the service is shown on a screen. Services are shorter than usual, with only a little singing and everyone wearing masks, and people leave as soon as the service has finished. We also continue to offer an online option. So it is not "back to normal" yet, but a small step in that direction.

One thing I have been able to work on from home is the new prayer booklet. We have hit small obstacles at each stage, but at long last we are close to finalising the text. Since I have no design skills, a separate group of people are working on that. We hope it will be printed over the summer. Please continue to pray for this project.

Japan continues to ban entry to people coming from 111 countries. That means that some of our members are unable to come back to Japan at the moment. New members and short-term workers are also not able to get here. We long for these restrictions to be eased so that people can come here again.

In Psalm 27:14 David says: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord." It is not easy to learn to wait when we would rather be out and about and active. May God help all of us to wait on Him.

With love and prayers,

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## Lodging House Mission Update



Dear Supporters,

We are now heading into June and have been living under social distancing and shielding measures for more than two months. Many of us have adjusted to the new normal routines. Here at the Mission, for example, we now work in smaller teams with gloves, face coverings and regular hand washing. We may stand at a distance but we are all in this effort together: making welfare phone calls, preparing food or toiletries parcels, and collecting donations.

Since our last update our Chaplaincy hotline 07864 705 668 continues to help combat isolation. Our small volunteer team has continued making up emergency food parcels and essential toiletries packs which are being delivered by our partner agencies to those most in need. We have also begun to distribute £10 shopping vouchers to those in vulnerable tenancies through Simon Community Scotland. To date 20 have been purchased.

Among the many donations we have received, was a substantial donation from Nestle Health Science through Elaine Clarke, executive territory manager and a friend of Giffnock South Parish Church. The donation of nine products, over 55,000 items was valued at over £117,000 retail. We are grateful to the drivers and logistics team for arranging the transport from the midlands depot.

We have been sharing on Facebook fun photos of those out fundraising. Allison, a supporter from St. Enoch Hogganfield Church, has been taking 10,000 steps to her birthday. Ian, a friend of the congregation at Greenbank Parish church, reached new heights as he cleared moss from his neighbour's garage roofs to raise funds for LHM. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more fun photos and do keep sharing with us what you are up to in lockdown!

We ask for your continued prayer support for,

- our vulnerable client group, who consider the Mission community to be their family, and who are missing the sense of routine and companionship LHM offers,
- the team members who remain on furlough or who are shielding,
- the small group of volunteers and the many partner agency staff, who prepare and distribute emergency food and essential toiletries parcels to the most vulnerable,
- the hotels providing accommodation to our homeless community; Ibis, Rennie
- Macintosh, Copeland, Queenspark, St Enoch, Alexander Thomson, Chez Nous, Hillhead and Willow
- our directors who continue to provide their support and encouragement during the Covid-19 response.

## World Mission News

### PPE arrives from Taiwan for Crossreach

Viv Dickenson, CEO of CrossReach, praises our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, for their generous gift of Personal Protective Equipment which arrived from Taiwan on Tuesday 9 June.



The consignment contained aprons and gloves, the latter an 'extra' gift from the Taiwanese Association in Manchester who oversaw the handling of the gift after it entered the UK, making sure it cleared customs and reached CrossReach safely.

Viv said "There was much rejoicing when the huge pallet was unloaded and entered our building here for distribution to the services. God is good - and so are you and all of the wonderful people who made the donation possible."



### Dismay at announcement of proposed merger of DFID with Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On Tuesday 16th June 2020, the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the Department for International Development (DFID) will formally merge with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The new department is to be called the Foreign,

Commonwealth and Development Office. DFID's impact on the lives and life chances of the world's most marginalised, risks diminishment with the planned September merger with FCO.

The Convener of the Faith Impact Forum, Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, commented: "The Church of Scotland seeks to live out the bias Jesus had towards the poorest and the most vulnerable wherever they are in the world.

"In that light we make a plea for the continued protection of the 0.7% aid target in the newly amalgamated body. We note and support the comments made by Christian Aid about the independence and integrity of the new body and express sadness at the increasing struggle people face both within our nation as well as beyond it, simply to live.

"In these times when we have learned how much the human race is interdependent upon one another, we would urge all to care more for each other and not less, recognising that there is no hierarchy of human value but all are important and matter."

## World Mission Cont.

### Prayers for the World

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts.



This week we pray with the people of Kenya and Tanzania. The following extract is a prayer written by Laura Wacira from Kenya.

Dear Lord,

We thank You for the gift of peace. It's a gift that only You can give. Lord, we are living in great turmoil - hunger, disease, poverty and tears. The cost of living has gone so high; there is so much desperation and despair. Lord, Your children are crying out to You - hearken unto us and bring forth a breakthrough.

We pray that above all we will have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that You are in control. May we be still and know that You are God who never fails.

We stand on Your promises that You have a good plan for us - one of prosperity and not harm.

We pray that as we go through the various seasons of our lives - the ups and downs - that Your perfect peace will prevail through all things. We place our assurance on You knowing that You are above all things and in You all things hold together.

Be glorified Lord. Arise and take Your place.

Amen.

### Musical Quiz – The Answers

1. Child in the manger
2. Fight the good fight
3. Still the night
4. For all the saints
5. In the bleak midwinter
6. Will your anchor hold
7. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
8. O worship the King
9. Praise to the Holiest in the height
10. All creatures of our God and King
11. Come, let us to the Lord our God
12. As the deer pants for the water

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## **Copy Date**

The copy date for the August issue is Wednesday 29th July via email.

Please send any articles to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)