

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2020



Dear Friends,

I am writing this on 26th September 2020. My birthday. For some time now, I suppose, I have been one of the old guys in the Church of Scotland but I have never thought that that is necessarily a bad thing. Mainly because I have very positive memories of the old guys when I was a baby minister, especially those who were my supervisors in training. It's true there were times when you were learning what not to do in ministry but generally I have carried strong impressions through the years of faithful ministry in the pulpit and in the parish. And to me personally they were supportive, helpfully critical and caring.

I remember, in my early days in Stevenston, meeting a colleague in the car park of Crosshouse Hospital. At that time he appeared to me to be impossibly old. He was probably the same age as I am now. But when he asked, 'How are you getting on?' I knew that he was genuinely interested and would always be a sympathetic listener.

That is the key to our Christian living. Not allowing disillusion, disappointment and personal failure to sour our inner being and prevent a compassionate response to others. That can happen over the years and is something we need to guard against. It is especially important in these Covid-19 days. At the time of writing the leaders of the four UK nations fear a second wave. Tighter measures have been put in place, with students particularly hard hit. Fears for their mental health are being expressed with one medical advisor warning against becoming 'saturated with bad news'. That is a message we all need to hear.

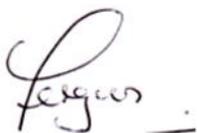
Pre-Covid-19 one of our principal resources for inner strength was when we gathered for worship on the Lord's Day. At the beginning of the year it was unthinkable that we would ever be prevented from doing this. Many congregations have now found their way back while observing necessary restrictions. I hope it will not be too long before Baldernock and St Paul's can be part of this return. But I am conscious of the ever changing circumstances and the need for the Church to observe guidelines designed to aid the health and wellbeing of communities.

In the meantime our recorded services will continue. It is encouraging for all involved to see how many people are logging on and, as I've previously written, I see this as remaining part of the Church's ministry when we emerge from these challenging times. A colleague who is even older than I, surprised me with his positive view of this. He wrote in an email:

‘At the moment, the huge expansion in live-streaming of church services 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. ‘

Apart from this, there is devotional material on the St. Paul’s website. ‘Words For Life’ has been helpful to many. My blog has not been as frequent recently but I am hoping to pick up the pace again. And I have a few ideas about adding to our online witness. I know it’s not the same but we have to be aware of where we are as a nation at this time and how we respond as the Church in a responsible and effective way. With all the challenges we face there is much to prevent our being ‘saturated with bad news’. We have the Gospel, the Good News, the greatest truths that anyone could ever stumble upon, centred on our Lord Jesus who brings the blessings of His being and work to our lives in every circumstance. With our focus on Him, we can face these days with hope.

Wishing you all God’s Peace,



**CrossReach**

**Card and Calendar  
Collection 2020**



I have a few catalogues which I will deliver if you phone me at 956 2801, but you can also order on line at [shop.crossreach.org.uk](http://shop.crossreach.org.uk)

**Morag Thomson**

## Treasury Update

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the offering envelopes were not distributed in the usual way in April and a number of members in the congregation have recently contacted me to enquire about the giving of their offering. I have suggested that if they wished they could forward a cheque to me although some members would have preferred to receive their envelopes.

If anyone would like to receive their envelopes I would be happy to deliver them. If so, please contact me at any of the details below.

Some of our members have altered their way of giving, to Standing Orders. If you wish to consider this, I can send the relevant paperwork to you.

Again, a number of members have asked about how we can support other charities as we normally would have done on Harvest Sunday e.g. Local Foodbanks, Glasgow City Mission or Lodging House Mission. The Session Clerk and I have discussed this and I would be more than willing to receive donations and I will forward them to the relevant charities.

As most of you know, the Church Service is available on the Church website every Sunday and DVDs are provided to those who have no access to the website. As long as you have a DVD player these DVDs can be provided. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a DVD please let me know.

If you would like any further information about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Chris Scott**

Congregational Treasurer

My contact details are:

Tel: 0141 956 5251 or 07723304077

Email: [treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

## Reopening Update

A small team from the Congregational Board has been monitoring the Scottish Government regulations and the Church of Scotland Guidelines on the reopening of churches for worship and have prepared a report for the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session along with the Interim Moderator and subject to the approval of Clyde Presbytery, will decide when to reopen St Paul's for worship. The virus continues to be very active in the community as you will be aware but we believe that St Paul's can safely meet the principles outlined in the current guidance document. We are aware that the guidelines can change very quickly and therefore they will be kept under constant review.

St Paul's will not reopen for worship before mid-October. The Kirk Session will monitor the situation and consider the report from the Congregational Board Team before announcing a date for reopening. The reopening date when approved, will be advised on the St Paul's web-site and members will be contacted by their District Elder/ Church Visitor. There will be restrictions on the number attending (currently a maximum of 50) and places will have to be reserved in advance. Details will be advised later. To assist with setting up a reservation system, it would be helpful, if you were intending to attend the services, if you could pre-register your interest by e-mailing [st.pauls@btconnect.com](mailto:st.pauls@btconnect.com) or by telephoning the Church Office (956 4405) and leaving your name and telephone number on the answering machine. The Office is currently closed but your interest will be acknowledged.

When worship does resume under the current guidelines it will not be quite as we know it.

**You should not attend church** if you are unwell or showing symptoms of Covid-19, if you are isolating or living with someone who is isolating or who is unwell or if you are in the extremely vulnerable (extremely high risk) group. Also you should consider carefully before attending if you are in the vulnerable (higher risk) category.

You must also adhere to the rules on the next page:

- In coming to Church there should be no car sharing with anyone from another household.
- You must pre-register and have received confirmation before arriving at the Church.
- There will be no specific children's programme.
- The joint services, with Baldernock, will start at 10.30am and last approximately 30 minutes.
- Social distancing rules must be adhered to at all times.
- You must obey stewards' instructions.
- You must wear an appropriate clean face covering at all times, unless exempt.
- You will be required to sanitise your hands.
- After registration you will be escorted to a seat and must remain there throughout the service.
- Sadly singing is not allowed and there will be no pew Bibles although music will be part of the service.
- The pew cushions have been removed.
- Toilet access will be restricted.
- At the end of the service you must remain in your seat until asked to leave by a steward.
- There will be no tea or coffee after the service and you are asked not to socialise.

The Elders Duty Rota has been suspended. If you are able to volunteer as a "steward" please contact me asap.

The very successful and welcomed recorded services will continue.

The above is subject to Government Guidelines and although they may change, they are likely to be with us for sometime. While we look forward to being with one another again in the Lord's House on the Lord's Day we ask for your support and prayers as we go through the process of opening the Church for worship, all be it in unusual circumstances.

If you have any concerns or questions about the proposed reopening please do not hesitate to contact your District Elder or myself.

**Graham Mill**  
Session Clerk

## Lodging House Mission Update



Dear Supporters,

It is the season of Harvest and a time to give thanks. Here at Lodging House Mission we have many supporters who have stood with us through this challenging period while our day centre remains closed. We are grateful to all those who continue to support us.

There are a few upcoming events to let you know about. Firstly, as we intimated in our previous newsletter our Harvest Appeal 2020 looks a little different this year. Details of how to support this appeal are below and we thank you in advance for your support of our appeal. Our Chaplain has made a short video ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFsNEuFCN6I> ) also available via the Lodging House Mission's YouTube channel. Congregations can share this through online meetings or as part of a gathered service of worship.

Our annual Homelessness Sunday Service was due to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> October with the Moderator Rev Dr. Martin Fair delivering an address. While our buildings remain closed, the Moderator has kindly agreed to record his address and we shall make this available on our YouTube channel in due course.

This year, while our buildings remain closed, we are providing the facility to purchase Christmas cards online in addition to our normal service. Look out for the link (coming soon) and share as widely as you can through your church publications and organisations so that everyone is able to benefit from this popular service.

As autumn plans and preparations get under way, we ask for your continued prayers for,

the Lodging House Mission Family; our staff team, our dedicated volunteers and our agency partners as we look towards winter planning.  
our vulnerable client group and all who are recipients of LHM's emergency support.  
wisdom and compassion as partner agencies meet and plan for the Winter Night Shelter  
our wider church family as they celebrate Harvest season and support our Harvest Appeal.

Let us look to the assurance of God's blessings amidst all the uncertainty.

**Deacon Claire Herbert**  
Chaplain LHM

# LHM HARVEST APPEAL 2020

This coming Harvest-time, our LHM Harvest Appeal looks a little different, due to current restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 Pandemic and also due to limited storage availability within our Upper Sanctuary because of imminent building improvements works.

**OF COURSE THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE NEED TO FEED THE HUNGRY HAS DIMINISHED. SADLY NOT!**

***Congregation members are respectfully invited to make a financial donation to LHM, equivalent to the value of what they may otherwise have brought as harvest gifts to Church in normal times.***

All proceeds will be used to buy food to enable us to continue feeding the hungry throughout the autumn and winter in compliance with changing Covid-related restrictions.

Payments may be made online through our website or can be sent to our office at 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT

*Thank you*



## Copy Date

The copy date for the November issue is Wednesday 28th October via email.

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



**Dear Friends,**

I am sorry to hear of the additional restrictions everyone in Scotland is now facing as coronavirus case numbers rise. I hope you all keeping well and have all that you need.

In Japan we seem to have got through our second spike of cases without too much in the way of government restrictions. Most Japanese people are very good at practising self-restraint. However, concern is being expressed for many elderly people who are refraining from going out and are becoming quite isolated. With more than 28% of the population being aged 65 and over, Japan has the highest proportion of elderly citizens of any country in the world.

One lady in my church here is nearly 80 years old and lives on her own. She has been in the church since it was started just over 40 years ago, and is a sort of “mother figure” who is always looking out for others.

Recently she decided to get a smartphone with unlimited calls. She told me that she wants to be able to call the other older ladies in the church and have a good long chat with them, to encourage them, and even sing hymns together. She is still working out the technology but is now joining the online church prayer meeting too. It is such an encouragement to see church members being there for each other in this way when they are unable to meet as they used to do.

Christmas is traditionally the biggest time for outreach in the year, with most churches holding services and different events for friends, family and people in the community. Like many other places in the world, however, this Christmas will need to be different. Please pray for the church folks as they consider how to reach out with the good news of Jesus in these circumstances.

In my devotions I am writing on the book of Ruth I have been encouraged to see how God provided what Ruth and Naomi needed at just the right time, in particular through Boaz. May each of us know the Lord’s provision when we need it, and also be able to reach out to those around us when they are in need.

With love and prayers,

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## World Mission News



### **Cuts to advice centres' funding called "reckless"**

The Presbytery of Glasgow said it is "incomprehensible" that Glasgow City Council has cut funding to Citizens Advice centres during a health crisis which has already resulted in job losses, as the cuts will plunge people deeper into poverty and despair.

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, Convener of the Faith Impact Forum of the Church of Scotland, also called on the council to reconsider the proposals

"People Make Glasgow, and so it is essential that people and communities are involved in decisions which affect them," she said. "The voices and ideas and experiences of people who struggle against poverty should be heard and included in decisions that have an impact on them. It seems reckless to consider such substantial changes to vital community funding at the time when people are continuing to deal with the urgency of responding to COVID-19."

### **SRT: Time for Reflection at the Scottish Parliament**

On 18th August, Rev Dr David J Graham, minister at Abbey Church of Scotland, North Berwick and Dirleton Parish Church, spoke about the birth of the Society, Religion and Technology (SRT) Project 50 years ago, in a Time for Reflection address at the Scottish Parliament.



"50 years ago the Church had a vision of engaging more with science and the environment, and the SRT project was born. Today it is still an active mover, shaker and voice in scientific, medical and environmental issues."

## Guild News



It seems such a long time since our last Guild meeting, and it is! Little did we realise then that we would be unable to resume for such a long time. And now it appears that any meetings this session are very unlikely, along with most other church activities. The most recent restrictions will be trying for everyone and especially for those living alone. The committee hopes and prays that you are able to see the services which Fergus is delivering and can derive encouragement both from the teaching and also being able to sing along with the hymns. If anyone is unable to access the internet, Jean and Chris Scott very kindly take DVDs of the services every week to people who have the facility to play them, and are very happy to do the same for others. Please contact them if you, or anyone else you know, would like to receive the DVDs; their number is 956 5251.

We were very pleased with the response to the idea of an Afternoon Tea for Guild members on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> and we know of at least twelve which took place. It was a beautiful day so we enjoyed the sunshine as well as the delicious teas and, above all, the chance to meet up with friends whom we hadn't seen for months. A big 'thank you' is due to all the hostesses for their generosity and hard work. It was also most encouraging that £576 was donated for the projects which the Guild is supporting currently. Income has dropped considerably because of the virus and all the restrictions on holding events, so this was a welcome effort. Thank you to everyone for your gifts.

Speaking of money reminds me that an apology is due on account of our request that you fill a Smartie tube with £1 coins: we had no idea that the tubes hold so many coins! Please don't feel you need to keep going – previously we asked for 20p coins in the tubes so a mixture will be more than enough!

It has been lovely for some members to meet for lunch a couple of times at Andiamo – Kate has organised these and they have been greatly appreciated. Please contact her if you would like to join them next time – her number is 563 9904. Diners are suitably distanced and feel very safe with the regulations being followed.

Kate has also been involved in lending out jigsaws to a few members. She wonders if anyone else has suitable jigsaws of about 500 pieces – perhaps even in the attic – which they would be happy to donate to the 'library'. If so, please let her know.

We are all looking ahead to the winter months and wondering how we might fill our time. Several ladies have been knitting already, producing dozens of items which have been taken to the maternity unit of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. We realise that more of our members may have been knitters in the past but for one reason or another have stopped; you might have needles and odds and ends of wool in the house which you could use. If this idea interests you, please contact Kate -she is really busy! – or Elizabeth Bragg, whose number is 316 1175. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about what to do.

Committee members are continuing to phone our ladies from time to time. If you know of anyone who would appreciate another chat please don't hesitate to let us know. Sometimes a conversation can make all the difference if we are feeling a bit low. The psalms are a great source of comfort and encouragement with words which are appropriate for every conceivable situation. Psalm 23 is particularly well-known and loved: the Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing; He refreshes my soul; your rod and staff comfort me; surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life: these are all phrases which resonate with us in the present situation and can give great reassurance. We trust that you will all experience their truth in your own lives just now.

## **Men's Association**

Regrettably as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Committee of the Men's Association took the decision that there would be no opportunity of arranging speakers for the period from October to December as it appeared unlikely that meetings of the Association could be held under the current restrictions. This also means that our famous Coffee Morning at the end of October will not be held ( no meringues and cream for the sweet toothed among you) and it probably means no Christmas Lunch although if restrictions are eased, this could be arranged at short notice. The provisional date is Tuesday 15th December 2020 and members might like to enter that date in diaries.

Also, Brian Atkinson has been in contact with Mount Stuart on Bute to enquire from them about our possible visit in April 2021 and hopefully that will be able to happen. More details about that will be distributed when further information is available.

The Committee hopes that it may be possible to arrange for some meetings in 2021, but as all will appreciate, we need to await guidance from Government and The Church of Scotland.

With Christ's blessings,

**Brian Adair**

## Traidcraft

The St. Paul's Traidcraft stall is still operational and many thanks to those who are still supporting it. As you see from the accompanying letter, I was able to send another £250 to Traidcraft Exchange from the profit made through stall sales and the accompanying thank you letter tells of the great work that it enables its workers to do.

Please take time to read it and if possible, to support the work by buying in to fair trade. I am very happy to order anything from the catalogue for you. (Don't believe the rumour that Christmas is cancelled; chocolate and Christmas cards are already in stock !!) **Rosemary F. 956 3222 or 07986992583**

Dear Rosemary,

Thank you for your kind donation of £250.00 from St Paul's Traidcraft. Your support is making a real and tangible difference in these difficult times.

For many of the people we work with, the Coronavirus crisis is just one of many problems they face. In Bangladesh, lockdown restrictions have been followed by severe flooding, washing away crops and ruining harvests.

As Shahed, our country director in Bangladesh, recently wrote "Without adequate support, poor people are in dire conditions. This is absolutely heart breaking. People who were doing well only a few months back are now asking secretly for help. They are trying to sell everything they can, but there is no buyer."

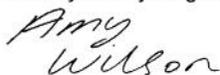
But thanks to you, our teams across the world are currently still able to provide the basics – rice, vegetables and soap, for those we work with. These basic supplies will help farmers and artisans affected by the coronavirus crisis to feed their families, provide for their children, and take the first steps to reopening their businesses.

It's not just short term help your donations are funding. Your kindness is helping people to take the first steps to recovery, and get the skills they need to make their livelihoods more resilient in the long term – so that when the next crisis hits, they are as prepared as possible.

Through training in climate resilient agriculture, help setting up farmers groups, and providing training to equip people with the skills they need to earn more from their hard work, together, we are investing in a future where everyone, no matter where they were born, can earn a fair wage for the hard work they do every day – even during times of crisis.

Thanks to you, we can continue to work alongside the most vulnerable and exploited, and ensure that the crisis doesn't undo the decades of progress we've made together towards a fairer and more just world.

Thank you for your generosity.



**Amy Wilson, Head of Fundraising at Traidcraft Exchange**