

ST PAUL'S MILNGAVIE

LIFE

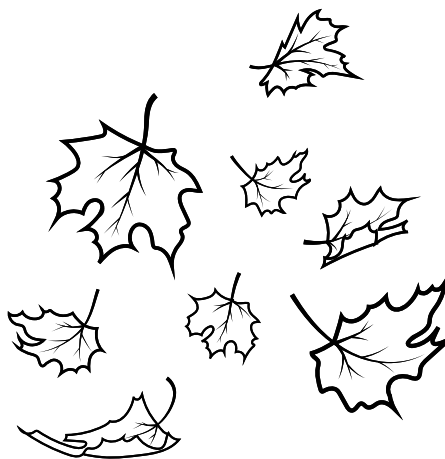


06 SEPTEMBER

12TH ISSUE

*“SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING! NOW IT
SPRINGS UP; DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?”*

ISAIAH 43:19



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Editor's Note

CARLA MACALLISTER

It's hard to believe that summer is already behind us! The past few months seem to have flown by, and as we look ahead to September and the months to come, there is a real sense of anticipation about what God has in store.

There is much happening over the coming months, and I hope you'll find something in this edition that encourages, inspires or challenges you.

Whatever this new season brings, let's step into it with open hearts, trusting that God is already at work among us and has wonderful things still to come.

With love,
Carla

ST PAUL'S LIFE

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Lynsey's Letter

REV LYNSEY BRENNAN

Dear friends,

It's lovely to be back writing to you after the summer break. Perhaps it's because I've recently enjoyed a wonderful family holiday in Paris 'the city of love' but love has been on my mind as we enter this new season.

Over the summer, I had the privilege of leading the wedding of Rachel and Rob, and they chose 1 Corinthians 13 as one of their readings. Not long before, I also led the funeral service for the late Professor Bill Lee, and his family chose this very same passage.



It struck me that these beautiful words speak into both the beginning and the end of life. At a wedding, we celebrate the promise of love; at a funeral, we remember a love that has shaped and blessed a life.

And yet, the world often speaks of love as something temporary and disposable. We talk about falling in and out of love, as though love is simply an emotion that comes and goes.

But Paul describes something altogether deeper.

He speaks about a love that is fuelled by God, a love that doesn't simply give up when things become difficult.

I love the way The Message translation puts it:

1 Corinthians 13:4-10:

***3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and
even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr,
but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no
matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do,
I'm bankrupt without love.***

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies

There have been many times when I've wanted to give up on love.

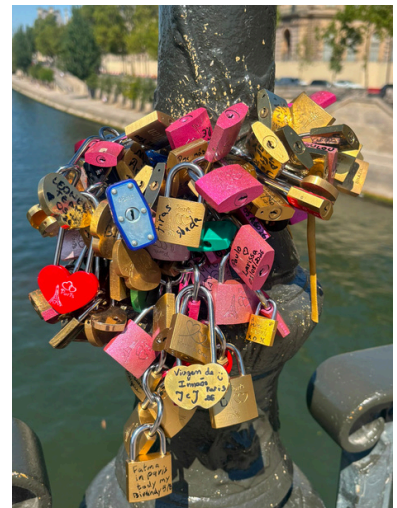
People are wonderful at disappointing one another. We say things in the heat of the moment. We hurt the people we love. And if we're honest, humanity has the capacity to show extraordinary love, but we also know the brokenness of the human heart.

Every one of us has, at some point, failed to love someone as we should. And that is why we need something more than simply trying harder to love.

We need the love of God.

When I was in Paris, I was fascinated by the love locks you see on bridges and railings. Young couples attach a heart-shaped padlock as a symbol of their love, as though that little lock could somehow guarantee that their love will last forever.

But a lock doesn't have the power to keep us loving one another.



God does.

We need one another, of course. We need friendship, family, community and people who will walk alongside us through life. But most importantly, we need God's love to be the thing that holds us together.

So, as we enter this new season, let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us love in ways that go far beyond our own abilities.

- A love that reaches beyond our immediate circle.
- A love that notices the stranger.
- A love that speaks to the person next door we've barely spoken to.
- A love that makes room for the person who feels left out.
- A love that chooses kindness when it would be easier to walk away.
- A love that forgives, serves and keeps showing up.

Because love never gives up.

And ultimately, that's not because we are naturally good at loving.

It's because God first loved us.

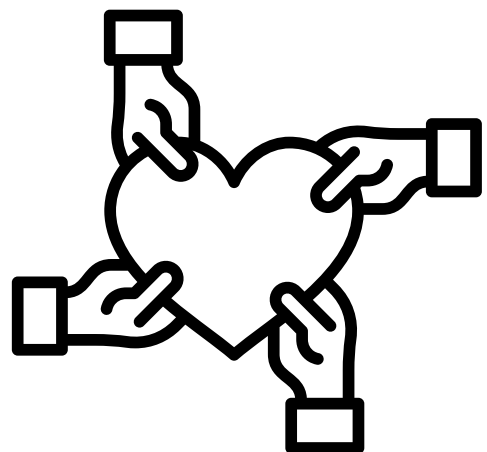
And when His love takes root in us, it can begin to change the way we love one another.

May this be the kind of love we carry into this new season, not simply a love we talk about, but a love we live. A love that we model to our community of Milngavie that communicates the God we serve.

As always please do keep in touch and if anyone in the leadership team can be of any help, please reach out.

Love,

Lynsey x



Pastoral Letter

REV JOHN MACGREGOR
- PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

As I write this reflection for our September Life Magazine, Nepal has once again been hit by tragedy. Flooding, caused by a glacier high in the Himalayas, has sent a torrent of water rushing through a valley, taking lives and destroying homes and buildings.

Nepal is a country that knows what it means to face suffering. In 2015, a devastating earthquake killed thousands of people and left communities across the country facing the enormous task of rebuilding their lives and homes.

In 2018, three years later, my wife Susan and I had the privilege of travelling to the Dhading area of Nepal, close to the epicentre of the earthquake and also where the recent floods have occurred. We were part of a team of twenty Church of Scotland ministers, elders and members, who travelled to see how more than £500,000, generously raised by Church of Scotland members, had been used to help rebuild communities devastated by the earthquake.

It was certainly not a trip for the faint-hearted! We trekked high into the foothills of the Himalayas, winding our way through valleys and climbing thousands of feet. Yet wherever we went, we were welcomed by people whose resilience, kindness and generosity deeply moved us. Susan and I still

regard this journey as one of the highlights of our over forty years together.

What struck us most was how little these people had, and yet how much they were willing to give. Everything had to be carried up steep mountain paths. There were no convenient shops or supermarkets; most lived by subsistence farming, simply making the most of what they had.

And yet we encountered people who were joyful, generous and content. One of our most memorable experiences was worshipping with a small Christian community in a mountain village. We sang together, and they invited us to lead them in a chorus. We sang,

***“Give thanks with a grateful heart...let the weak
say, 'I am strong'
Let the poor say, 'I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us'”***

When we finished, they responded by singing the same chorus to us in Nepalese. It was a truly inspiring moment. These Christians had very little materially. In some villages there was only one latrine for the whole community. Yet there was a richness in their lives that could not be measured by possessions. They were overflowing with generosity towards us and could not do enough to make us welcome. They seemed to understand something that we can so easily forget: God is faithful, and God provides.

Paul's words to the Philippians were not written from a place of comfort. He knew hardship, uncertainty and imprisonment. Yet he could say with confidence:

“my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

Notice that Paul does not say that God will give us everything we want. He says that God will meet our needs. And sometimes trusting God means discovering that his provision looks very different from what we expected.

As we think about Nepal once again facing tragedy, we may feel helpless. We may wonder what we can possibly do. But having been there, having walked those mountain paths and worshipped alongside those Christian communities, I find myself remembering their resilience and, above all, their faith.

I pray that once again they will discover the presence of God among them - the God who meets their needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ.

And for us in St Paul's too, whatever lies ahead, let us remember the assurance that God will never leave us to face it alone.

Every blessing,

John

Hello from Sakata

LORNA FERGUSON

I hope you had a lovely summer, without the heatwaves that the south of the UK experienced. Here in Japan our summer has been “normally hot”. However, there have been times of unusually heavy rain in different places, causing flooding. The church in Chiba where I served for eight years, experienced 60cm of flooding in its sanctuary, rendering most of the seats and equipment unuseable. The church is now praying about the best way forward with their building.

During the summer holidays, we had a short-term team come to lead a five-day Kids Gospel outreach. In the morning the children learned some Christian



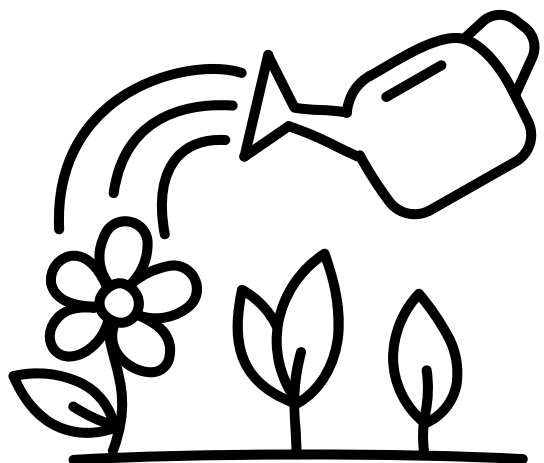
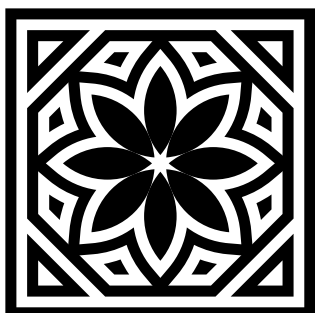
songs in English, with fun actions, and in the afternoon we had various games and other activities. The theme was “I am special”, explaining that God made each of us and we are all precious in his sight (Isaiah 43:4a). We had seventeen children attend. Three were the pastor’s children, but all the rest were non-church children, with four coming to a church event for the very first time. On the last day we invited family members for a concert and a celebration party, and it was good to connect with parents and some grandparents.

Our next challenge is how to follow up these families. I teach two weekly English classes, and from this month will also start an adults' conversation class with two of the mums of children who came to Kids Gospel. I share a Bible story each week at the children's classes, and plan to use the Bible in the adults' time too. We are asking God what else can we do to build relationships with children and their families in the area. The main challenge is that most of the church members are elderly and not able to help much with events for younger people.

I am also still attending sashiko embroidery classes and practising my blow darts. I even have a blow darts exam this month! This is a good way to get to know people, but it can be difficult to have anything more than a surface-level conversation. I am wondering about inviting some of the ladies to my house for 'afternoon tea' to try to deepen those relationships.

Please pray for us here in Sakata as we seek to reach out to the next generation. I am praying for you as you seek to do the same in Milngavie.

Lorna



A Nun's Prayer

ANNE RITCHIE

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it at all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I might be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a saint - some of them are hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen



Thank You

IAN BOWIE

On the 12th of July when staying with my daughter in Moniaive I slipped in her shower, badly breaking my leg in three places. I was taken to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary where two days later I had an operation and a limited-movement brace fitted to my right leg. From there I was transferred to the QEUH and then to the Rehabilitation ward at Gartnavel. I came home on the 3rd of August but will not know if I can weight-bear on my leg until the end of the month and then the physio can start work.

I would like to thank the church family for the prayers, kind words, cards and flowers; and Rev John and the pastoral care team for their visits

Ian (aka Lynsey's dad)

JOYCE AND LYNDA CLARK

Lynda and I would like to thank everyone involved in Bob's memorial service. Special thanks to the church family for their prayers, cards and flowers.

Extra special thanks to Rev John, Hugh, Derek, Ann Macleod and the ladies in the kitchen and Carla on the sound desk who recorded the service. All helped us celebrate Bob's life with coffee and cake after the service. We couldn't have managed without you all.

Elder's Tribute

REV JOHN MACGREGOR

- PRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER KIRK SESSION

It was a privilege to lead the funeral service for John Macpherson and, during my time as pastoral assistant at St Paul's, to have had the opportunity to know John and Margaret and discover that our lives had crossed paths on several occasions in earlier years.

The words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 provide a fitting reflection on John's life: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." John's faith was sincere, steadfast and quietly lived out in his service to Christ and to others.

John was a true gentleman - warm, gracious, gentle and generous. He possessed a remarkable ability to make people feel welcome and valued. His home was characterised by hospitality, and many young people in particular benefited from his and Margaret's encouragement, wisdom and genuine interest in their lives.

His Christian faith found practical expression in many areas of service. He served faithfully as an Elder, was deeply committed to prayer, contributed significantly to the work of the Preshal Trust, and gave generously of his time and gifts to the life of the Church.

Yet above all these things, John treasured his faith, his marriage to Margaret, his daughters, Seona and Morven;

sons-in-law, Jonny and Alan, and his grandchildren, Nathan, Ruairidh, Sam, Mimi, Kori and Libby. His love for his family was evident to all who knew him, and he never forgot his roots on the island of Skye. John loved sport, followed Rangers, and enjoyed a round of golf.

John had an impressive career with customs and excise, ending up as a European Director with UPS Global Shipping and Logistics.

So, we give thanks to God for John's life and witness. His gentle character, faithful service, Christ-centred life and his love of praising the Lord, and contributing as a choir member will long be remembered at St Paul's church.

John has finished his earthly race and kept the Christian faith. We trust that he now knows the fullness of the hope that he had in Christ to which he so faithfully trusted.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

John 11:25-26

The Guild

ELEANOR EASTON



The Guild committee join with me in hoping that the congregation have been enjoying the summer. Our meetings start on Monday October 5th at 2pm in the Large Hall when we hope to welcome back members from last year and also to see many new faces.

At our first meeting we will be entertained by The Semitones who have delighted us in the past. They are a group from the ever-popular Westerton Male Voice Choir and have a very varied programme which has something for every taste. Other topics in October include insights into an author's life, the story of the creation of the Great Scottish Tapestry and a Bible study from Rev John.

If you haven't joined us before we encourage you to come along and see what we get up to. You will be most welcome!

The Guild's motto is taken from Acts 27, verse 23:

"Whose we are and Whom we serve."

Harvest Thanksgiving

ELIZABETH MCEWAN

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 20th September. Donations of food will be delivered to the Salvation Army Wallace of Campsie Lifehouse Project providing emergency accommodation for homeless adult males. The men have access to individual cooking facilities, so easy-cook and tinned goods are ideal. Tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate biscuits and treats are always welcome.

Other food donations will be given to Drumchapel Foodbank who are particularly in need of the following tinned items: soups, spaghetti, beans, tuna, custard, rice and fruit. Loose rice, cereals, tea, sugar and plain biscuits would also be appreciated.

Money donations will be sent to Bags Full of Love, a charity operating in West Dunbartonshire providing a backpack with new essential toiletries and clothing for children entering foster or residential care.

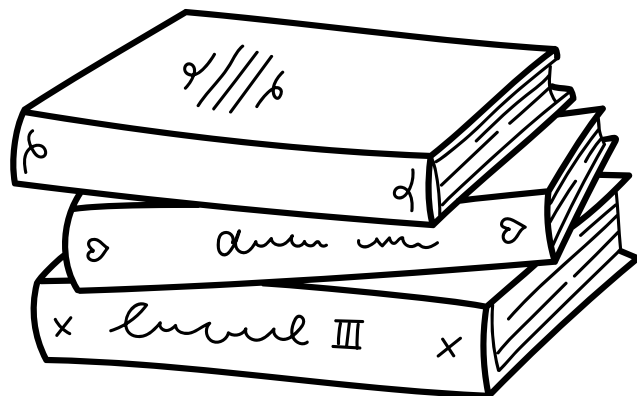
Food donations can be brought to the church on Saturday 19th between 10 and 11.30am or on the morning of the 20th.

If you are able to assist in the making of pew posies please come along to the Large Hall on Friday 18th at 10am. No experience required but bring a pair of scissors .



Book Club

ANN GOODLET



Our group has just finished reading *The Women*, a very powerful book by Kristin Hannah. The story centres round the life of Frankie McGrath, a young nurse who ships out from the United States to serve in the Vietnam war. That was when her life changed completely. She struggles to cope with the chaos and destruction of war and the horrors of treating young men with terrible wounds. But Frankie is strong and faces the dangers and trauma until her spell of duty lets her come back to an America that has changed. None of the sacrifices of soldiers and nurses in Vietnam is acknowledged by a large section of the population of the US. There are marches and demonstrations stating firmly that no nurses ever went to Vietnam. Although this book is fiction it is based on eye-opening fact. We all felt that this was a book which we would find difficult to forget.

If you love reading, enjoy a good conversation or are simply looking for a chance to meet others and enjoy some fellowship, come along to our next meeting. We'll enjoy a relaxed discussion about our latest book, with plenty of tea/coffee, cake and good company along the way. Contact the church office for more information.

Choir

DEREK NORVAL

Practices for the Church Choir resume on Thursday 17th September in the church from 7.45pm until 9.15pm. New members will be most welcome and anyone interested should contact the Organist and Choirmaster, Derek Norval. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to get in touch.

Singers are needed in all sections of the choir. We have a healthy number of members who will always be pleased to encourage new singers and help them as they get to know the wide range of music that we sing. There is no audition! If you enjoy singing and you would like to experience the absolute joy of helping us as we lead the musical praise on a Sunday morning, please come along. Further details from Derek Norval or from members of the choir.



Badminton Club

MARJORY - ANNE KENNEDY

The Club meets in the Large Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. The new season starts on Tuesday 1st September and new members will be made most welcome, so come along for fun, fitness and fellowship. For further information, please see Marjory-Anne Kennedy.

The Beacon

ANN MACLEOD



The Beacon lunch club has been in existence for almost 45 years now. But we have a slight problem as some of our regular helpers have retired. If you can help just one Wednesday a month please let me know. Thanks.

Why Alpha?



We believe God is calling us to grow - deeper in our faith, stronger in our relationship with Jesus, and more confident in sharing the good news with others. That is why we are excited to be running Alpha at St Paul's.

As a church, we want to be a community where people are encouraged not simply to attend church, but to know Jesus, grow as His disciples and discover what it means to follow Him every day. Alpha provides a wonderful opportunity to do just that. It gives us time and space to explore the Christian faith, ask honest questions, listen to one another and discover more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Alpha isn't only for those who are new to faith. Our course at St Paul's is open to anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of God and be revived in their faith. Perhaps you have been a Christian for many years but feel that your faith has become routine. Perhaps there are questions you have never had the opportunity to ask. Or perhaps you simply want to go deeper in your relationship with Jesus. Wherever we are on our journey, there is always more to discover about Him.

As plans start to take shape, with volunteers and participants coming forward, we are praying expectantly about what God might do through these 11 weeks. The course will run every Wednesday evening, beginning on 9th September, and we would love to see it become a significant part of our life

together as a church. If you are interestd in taking part, please email st.pauls@btconnect.com or speak to Rev Lynsey Brennan.

How can you get involved?

Pray

Please include Alpha in your daily prayers. Pray that the course will make disciples of Jesus who have a deepened understanding of Him and a renewed commitment to following Him. Pray for those attending, those leading and all those serving behind the scenes.

Give

There will be a retiral offering after the church services during September. Please consider giving towards the costs of running Alpha.

Bake

Hospitality is an important part of Alpha! Kirsteen Dutton is co-ordinating a baking rota, so please get in touch if you are able to provide some baking.

Volunteer

We also need volunteers to help with tea and coffee. If you are willing to help, please get in touch with Hilary in the church office.

Alpha is not just a course for a few people - it is something we can all support and be part of. Through prayer, giving, hospitality and practical help, we can create an environment where people can encounter Jesus and grow in faith. Let's work together and pray that God will use Alpha to bless everyone involved, deepen our faith and bring fresh life to St Paul's.

Recipe of the Month

ANN MACLEOD

The weather is getting cooler and soups are handy for warming lunches. Celeriac soup is unusual and this lumpy vegetable makes a lovely soup which does NOT taste of celery.

- 1 celeriac peeled, trimmed, and roughly chopped.
- 1 large onion, peeled and roughly chopped.
- 1 large potato, scrubbed and roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp Oil
- 1 litre approximately of vegetable or chicken stock
- Seasoning and parsley to garnish

Method

1. Heat oil over a medium heat. Add onion and fry lightly for 5 minutes (don't brown)
2. Add rest of vegetable and fry for 2 minutes.
3. Add stock to just cover vegetables.
4. Simmer for 20/25 minutes until vegetables are soft.
5. Blend using a hand blender or liquidiser until smooth.
More stock can be added if you want a thinner soup.
6. Season to taste and garnish.

Serve and enjoy



1

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

After the summer success, the Youth Fellowship will continue to run the first Saturday evening of every month. Open to all 8-18 year-olds from 7-8.30pm.

2

MILNGAVIE CHURCHES PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ across Milngavie for a bite to eat and a moment of morning clarity and prayer as we come together for one of our monthly prayer breakfasts. Coming up soon:

Saturday 26th September
- United Free Church;

Saturday 31st October
- St Luke's Church;

Saturday 28th November
- St Paul's Church;

3 HARVEST

As mentioned earlier - this year's harvest service will be the 20th September.

4 STUDY LEAVE

Rev Lynsey will be on study leave week beginning 28th September. Our communion service on 4th October will be led by Rev John MacGregor and John will also be available for any pastoral concerns during this time.

***"Commit to the Lord
whatever you do, and
he will establish your
plans."***

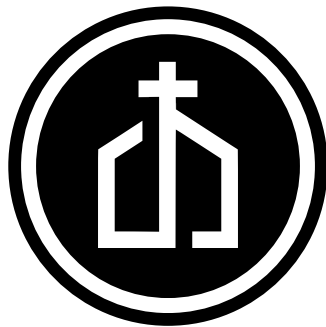
Proverbs 16:3

5 ST PAUL'S SERVICES

Our Sunday morning services continue to take place at the regular time of 11am. As always, we invite you to stay for tea and a chat after the service. On 27th September, we will join together for The Way. This is a contemporary service encountering the Spirit of God. We meet at 6.30pm for hot drinks and doughnuts, before the service at 7pm. This is a growing, ecumenical service (fourteen different denominations were represented at the last service). Please come along and support this witness in the community.

6 LIFE DEADLINES

The next issue of St Paul's Life will be published on Sunday 4th October. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 27th September. All submissions and suggestions are welcome. Thank you for all your continued support.



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