

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2017



The departure of Barack Obama from the White House has brought a flood of articles on his eight years in office. Read one and it would seem that at best it has been disappointing. Read another and it has been as much a success as could have been reasonably expected. With an open mind you could be convinced by one and then the other. A friend of mine describes himself politically as 'a left-leaning old codger who doesn't know where to turn.' He is not the only one in the present political climate. Another friend echoes what so many people are saying: 'You just don't know what to believe.' As soon as you feel you have got one issue sorted out in your mind some new information comes in to destabilise your view and once again you don't know where to turn.

There is a view, of course, that truth is what you yourself create. Your interpretation is what is 'true' and you can be satisfied with that. So in the end there is no truth only 'interpretations'.

Now I realise how difficult it can be to determine what is true morally, politically and, indeed, theologically. Is there anyone out there who after wandering into those areas has not felt disorientated? But that does not mean that there is no ultimate truth and that it is a waste of time to seek to establish it.

A politician of old was exasperated by the very mention of the word 'truth'. When faced with Jesus and His bold statement that He came into the world 'to testify to the truth' and His claim that 'everyone on the side of truth listens to me', Pontius Pilate spouted: 'What is truth?' He then stomped off to address the gathered crowd that was calling for Jesus' execution, the One who claimed to be 'the way, the truth and the life.'

This is not to say that faith in Jesus will automatically bring us to the ultimate truth with regard to political and moral issues. But in recognising that He is the source of truth with regard to God and humankind we have a perspective that casts light on those areas and enables us to see the things that are to be challenged and those that are to be celebrated. The metrical Psalm speaks of a truth that 'from all times has firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.' This is our faith as we seek to find a way forward in uncertain days.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be 'Lesley'.

Church visitors and W.F.O Envelopes - Advance notice

The new W.F.O. envelopes for the coming year will be available at the back of the Church on Sunday 5th March 2017, and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.



Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday will be on 19th February in St. Paul's when there will be an opportunity to hear about, and to support the work of, the Scottish Bible Society both in Scotland and overseas

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 £1200 to "Stauros", a Christian outreach to people with addiction issues. This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2016.

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 2017.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret and Margaret

Guild News



'Best Foot Forward' was the title of our opening meeting on 9th January. Ciaran Carney gave a talk on caring for our feet, with some telling pictures about what might happen if we didn't! A visit to one of our local rivers, 'The Kelvin' was given by Roy Prentice on the 16th. With lovely photographs, he traced the river from its source as a tiny stream to its mouth at the Clyde, with interesting anecdotes on the history of the area.

On 23rd Lyn Dunachie told us the story of the Great Scottish Tapestry, from the moment that the idea took root until its further development into the Diaspora version. It is hoped that the entire tapestry will be permanently housed in Galashiels. It was a well illustrated talk, which gave us an excellent idea of the impact which the Tapestry has on those who see it.



Men's Association

Our programme for February begins on Monday 6th. with a joint meeting with the Guild. A puppet show with a Christian theme will be presented to the meeting.

On Tuesday 21st. we will be having a return visit from Dr. Robert Hamilton, a lecturer in American History. Robert's topic for his presentation is entitled " How the 2016 American Election was won". The topic was decided almost ten months ago, long before the name of the next President of the United States of America was known! This should be a fascinating meeting and one not to be missed!

As usual, all members, friends and members of the congregation are very welcome to join us on any or all of our meetings

Thank You

Margaret would have wished me to thank her St. Paul's Church family, for all their support during her protracted illness both at hospital and Buchanan House and to all those who attended her funeral.

She would have loved and appreciated the beautiful flowers donated to the service by the Church Society and arranged by Iris and Marylyn, the recording of the service by Helen, the presentation of the church in all its glory by Hugh and to Fergus for his unstinting care and the summation of her life at the service.

Thank you all and may God bless you all.

Graham Getty



Dear Friends,

As I'm in the middle of recovery from the stem cell transplant right now, I am not able to write our normal Japan Jottings this time. Instead I've copied one of the various 'musings from my hospital bed' which I've done on different topics over the last months and uploaded to Facebook. This was one written a few weeks ago and is called 'Living in Limbo'. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support for us as a family.

"Most of us probably live our lives with a reasonable degree of predictability. There is routine. We make plans and generally they come to pass. We might even set goals and seek to fulfil them. Tomorrow will come, next week will come and while we know that things can change suddenly, generally life moves on with some measure of certainty.

What happens though when that certainty is taken away? What if you don't know what's going to happen? What if there are questions but no answers - or at least no answers that are very definitive? Not easy if you're the kind of person who likes certainty, who makes plans and who wants to know what's going to come next. For the last months we've lived with that uncertainty - life is in limbo!

My particular case is rare. I don't just have one blood cancer (and that type is unusual enough) but another more aggressive one too which makes my situation even more unique and more uncertain. It's hard even for the doctors to predict and sometimes the answer is 'we don't know!' One doctor friend back home said this which sums it up well : 'humanly speaking there remains a lot of uncertainty about what may happen - it's a high stakes battle and there usually aren't any guarantees'.

So how do you deal with that and live in limbo? Well, one way is just to let go and accept that however much we might like to be in control of our lives and know with some certainty what's going to happen, that will not be the case. You have to learn to live with uncertainty. You need to take a day at a time knowing tomorrow might bring different news which may even just add to the uncertainty! All of that is easier said than done. We can know times of peace as well as times of anxiety, fretting and simply wanting to know where it's all going!

Jottings Cont.

There is something else though and that is learning more and more to trust the One who does know the beginning from the end and who knows exactly what is happening and what will happen. Maybe one of the purposes of this whole time is simply that as a family we might learn that valuable lesson even more. There is a great verse in Proverbs which says - 'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails'. Sometimes it is like opening both hands to God, one crying to him with our heart's desires and the other saying 'may your will be done'. And in the midst of it all trusting in our unchangeable and faithful God is the only place to go if we want real certainty. 'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see'. As a follower of Jesus, there may well be many things in our lives we don't understand or for which there don't seem to be answers but as we lift our eyes to our God and fix our eyes on the unseen things, we find a certainty which will never fail us."

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

World Mission

Pakistani Christians Receive Their Visa- At Last!

The Church of Scotland has welcomed a decision to overturn the refusal of travel visas to two Pakistani Christians. The Home Office ruling means that Farooq Maseh and Waris Emmanuel are now able to join a delegation visiting Glasgow next month as part of a twinning between the Diocese of Hyderabad and Glasgow Presbytery.



Despite reassurances being provided, immigration officials refused the applicants visas on the basis they could not prove they were wealthy enough to be allowed into the UK. The Presbytery of Glasgow, which will fully fund the visit, said the two men had been left "personally depressed and shocked" by the situation. The case was taken up by Kirsten Oswald, MP for East Renfrewshire, who raised it with Prime Minister Theresa May who ordered a review of the decision.

Glasgow Presbytery joint clerk Very Rev Bill Hewitt welcomed the U-turn and said it would help the church "build a partnership" with people of faith in Pakistan. "We are delighted that the delegation from Pakistan coming to Glasgow is now complete and the one week trip as planned can now go ahead,"

Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you again to everyone who supported our Coffee and Mince Pies event. The following letter of thanks has been received. **Frances Ireland and Liz Trill**



Dear Miss Ireland,

Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks, on behalf of our young patients, for your generous donation of £911.68 raised at your Annual Coffee and Mince Pie Event. This is an absolutely amazing gift, please pass on our thanks to all of your members for their generosity and we hope that they all had a lovely time over the Christmas period.

Your generosity will help us to fund enhanced medical equipment, pioneering research, innovative play programmes and family support services, at Scotland's largest children hospital. Thanks to the ongoing supporter and commitment of our fundraisers and volunteers, we were recently able to fund a state-of-the-art 4D cardiac scanner, the first of its kind in the UK, which will help to give thousands of children with heart conditions from across the country the best possible care.

Medical care is only part of the hospital journey for our young patients; a hospital stay can be difficult, intimidating and at times lonely for children and their families. Your support helps us to improve the experience of children like Lewis, who has spent the past few months in the hospital:

"Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity has played such an important role in Lewis's recovery. Seeing children laugh, giggle and smile despite being in hospital is the most rewarding, emotional feeling I've ever experienced, and so much of that is thanks to the charity and supporters like you. We will be eternally grateful" — Emily Davidson, Lewis's mum.

It's thanks to the dedication, generosity and kindness of people like you that we can continue the care of Yorkhill Children's Charity, providing the best possible care to Scotland's children.

I would like to thank you once again and hope that we can count on your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsten Sinclair, Director of Fundraising for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity

Flower Donations - February

Mr I Farmer, Mrs J Ferguson, Mrs P Knaggs.



Please forward donations to Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Ave, Milngavie, G62 6NN, or place in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the church. Cheques should be made payable to St. Paul's flowers.

LIFE AND WORK - Feb Edition



'A Movement, not a Programme'

The work of the Path of Renewal project, which is nurturing a culture of discipleship in Church of Scotland congregations.

A Spiritual Journey

Thomas Baldwin meets author and activist Alastair McIntosh.

Releasing Gifts

Jackie Macadam examines how congregations in long-term vacancy maintain their Christian witness and presence.

Keeping Watch Over Loch Awe

The Very Rev Dr Ian Bradley reflects on a beloved architectural treasure in Argyll.

A Miraculous Escape

The Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan considers the messages drawn from the Bible accounts of Peter's times in prison.

MSPs and the Church

Irene MacKinnon reports on the work of a pioneering project bringing together local people through their churches with Members of the Scottish Parliament.

A Critical Lifeline

The Head of Oxfam Scotland, Jamie Livingstone, offers a first hand account of the food crisis in Malawi.

The 'New Guild'

In the second part of our focus on the Church of Scotland Guild, the changing face of the group at Arbroath: St Andrew's comes under the spotlight.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.50

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Copy date for the March issue is Sunday 19th February if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 22nd February if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

| Date | Flower Deliveries | Crèche Rota | Vestibule Rota |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5th Feb | G. Chisholm A. Shiels | Sillars MacAllister | Team 6 S. Anderson |
| 12th Feb | P. Dudgeon A. Gillies | Goodlet Tracey | Team 7 R. Deuchar (EC) |
| 19th Feb | F. Ireland N. Caldwell | Berry Wilson | Team 8 S. Speedie |
| 26th Feb | M. Abbott K. Hagart | MacKinnon Chapman | Team 9 H. Arnold |