

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2017



Dear Friends,

It is one of the most enduring images in football. The game is flowing end to end, the result is still in doubt, and the Coach calls a substitute from the bench. With his hand on the player's shoulder, brow knitted in concentration, he gives his final instructions before sending him into the action, hopefully to make a difference.

This came to mind when I was reading Psalm 80: 16-18:

'Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish. Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.'

This is obviously a time of great distress in Israel, when enemies have overrun the land and caused great devastation and suffering. The Psalmist feels a sense of the judgment of God upon His people. But he is not without hope. There is one close to the Lord, upon whom His hand is laid, who can come to the people to revive them and restore them to His favour.

The Psalmist may have in mind a future King of Israel but it is not hard for us to see in this great hope a foreshadowing of the coming of the Messiah, the Son who is at the right hand of the Father, raised up from the people of Israel, sent to reconcile all things to the Father.

It is upon Him that we must focus mind and heart as 2017 begins. The Church in the Western world faces many challenges but the One who was the great hope of Ancient Israel has come. He has given His Spirit to the Church and promises never to leave her until He has achieved His great purpose. Therefore it is with confidence that we can pray with the Psalmist:

'Restore us, O Lord Almighty;
make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.' (Psalm 80: 19)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lesley'.

St Paul's Christmas Outreach

The stewardship committee would like to express their 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 received a Christmas Card with the message "Jesus the Reason for the Season". The card also included full details of all our church services and events, with an invitation to come along and join us.

Hopefully this outreach to our Parish will increase awareness of the life and work of St Paul's in our community.

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

Gordon Fairbrother, Stewardship Convener

Traidcraft



First of all I must thank everyone for the great support you have given to Traidcraft sales over all the years since 2001 when we first introduced a stall in the large hall after each morning service. We have sold thousands of £'s worth of goods, averaging about £3000 a year.

By using Traidcraft we know that all profits are ploughed back in to expanding the number of new projects that can be started often in very small ways, thus empowering families to work and to make a reasonable living so that they will be able to feed and educate their families. Traidcraft was the Christian response to poverty & lack of opportunity seen in so much of the 3rd world. Two of the major projects over the past few years have been Guatemalan honey, & Clean & Fair palm oil cleaning products.

From January our stall will still be operating but mainly just once a month. The main reason for this is that the Coach House in Balmore is closing there, but opening sometime in the New Year within Milngavie - hopefully in Gavin's Mill - & as they keep a far bigger stock than we could possibly do, - all fairly traded - I thought it time to wind down a bit.

However, for all our regular customers, (& any irregular ones!) we shall continue to take orders, as I remain the designated 'fair trader'. Our first opening date in January is the 22nd. Please come & visit our stall then.

Rosemary Fraser 956 3222 for enquiries or orders.

Book Group



It was the 20th anniversary of the book group in September and we celebrated with a special supper for members old and new. A good time was had by all and we would all like to thank Ann Macleod for her hospitality and excellent supper.

Our book this time is *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner. A sometimes forgotten classic, it is a tale of times gone by when morals and etiquette ruled in polite society. Edith Hope is sent away after embarrassing herself and her friends with an affair with a married man. The stage is set for a chance meeting which offers her the chance of escaping from a life of humiliating spinsterhood. Although some of the group found the book ponderous and over-long, the residents Edith shared the hotel with in Switzerland were brought to life by the author. Beautifully written with wonderful descriptions of people and place, this is a book which you can return to again and again.

Our next book is *His Bloody Project* by Graeme Macrae Burnet. This book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize this year. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 31 January 2016.

Joyce Clark

Milngavie Churches Nativity Storytelling – Saturday 3rd December

A huge 'Thank You' to all the Ladies of St Paul's Church who kindly baked and supplied us with iced biscuits to distribute to the children, and all the members of the Church who generously donated the funds toward the purchase of the Scripture Union Christmas tree baubles for the children to use on their own Christmas Tree at home.

We had intended to tell the story of Jesus' Birth at ½ hourly intervals, but we discovered that as one group was leaving the tent, another group was seated; ready for us to begin again!

In total, 140 children attended, and using hand puppets, they participated in the story. It became quite a family event, with parents and grandparents also joining in, and we were pleased that the weather was kind to us. We felt that the event was very worthwhile, and an extremely valuable Outreach, and that Christ was in Christmas in Milngavie. Thank you all for your support; it is greatly appreciated.

Iris Torbet

Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted to report that this year's Christmas Tree Festival was a resounding success with a huge number of visitors and our biggest amount ever raised for charity. The total came to almost £3,800 and since each of the charities is quite small, the donation they have received - £1,262 - will have a considerable impact on their finances.

Two of the charities are based in Milngavie; these are Carers Link which supports carers of all ages in East Dunbartonshire in a variety of ways, and Clober Farm Spinal Injuries Unit which offers respite both to those who have suffered from spinal injuries and also to their families. The third charity is the Angel Tree Project of Prison Fellowship, a Christian organisation which works among prisoners; this particular project provides Christmas presents for the children of prisoners, many of whom would otherwise go without.

We are very grateful to members of the congregation who volunteered very willingly - as ever! - to steward in the church, to bake and to serve in the tearoom. As in previous years the tearoom played a vital part in the enjoyment of our visitors as they chatted over tea and coffee and the delicious home baking produced by the members of all the local churches who work together to organise the event.

Many members of St. Paul's were involved in decorating some of the beautiful trees which were on display. This year we had thirty -three and we think it was the best display ever, also because the trees themselves were so lovely even before being decorated.

We must not forget the music programme which included several new names this year. We enjoyed a wide range of music performed by musicians from many walks of life. The age range went from toddlers and pre school children who sang very engagingly, through all ages up to some retired members of the community who make the most of their free time by producing beautiful music for others to enjoy. We had a jazz band, a ceilidh band, guitarists, organists, pianists, clarsach players, singers and several others to whom we are most grateful.

Of course we must also say a big 'thank you ' to everyone who supported the Festival by coming to visit it. Without your attendance and your generous donations all the preparations would have been to no avail.

Thank you again!

Guild News January



Our Guild finished the first term in grand style on 5th. December with lunch at Milngavie Bowling Club, with catering by 'Table 13'. Following the excellent meal, we enjoyed the story of one woman's journey to the ministry. Now pastor at Giffnock South, Catherine Beattie regaled us with anecdotes about her struggles with the 'call', and the eventual fulfilment that she found in her new career.

Before that we had a our usual visit from our own minister on the 21st. November, followed by a musical evening on the 29th, with entertainment provided by the Anderson Singers, a group from Cumbernauld.

Men's Association

Our programme of meetings for 2016 ended on Tuesday 13th. December when 19 members and past presidents enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at Cyan restaurant. Good food, great company and fellowship made for a very happy and enjoyable occasion.

Our evening meetings restart on Tuesday 10th. January when our minister, Fergus will give "A Talk of Interest". This will be followed on 24th. by a presentation by Rev Bill Ferguson entitled "Robert Burns - Saint or Sinner".

As always, we would be delighted to welcome friends and all members of the congregation to our meetings.

'LIFE and WORK' Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £27.30 – a reduction of just over 20 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the **end of March**, if possible. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland



Dear Friends

One thing that is well-known about Japan is that it is a country which is prone to natural disasters. Earthquakes happen regularly and each year there are typhoons which cause mudslides and overflowing rivers. Then there are occasional volcanoes erupting and the risk of a tsunami in the event of a powerful earthquake under the sea. Through this past year, significant numbers of people have lost their lives due to earthquakes or typhoons. In one poignant case, a typhoon caused a river to burst its banks and the water poured into an old folks' home leaving many residents no chance of escape.

Recently there have been several powerful earthquakes in the Greater Tokyo area, home to some 42 million people if the whole of the Kanto area is included. It is a reminder that one day Tokyo is once again due 'the big one'. It remains to be seen how much that is mentioned as we approach the 2020 Olympics. The buildings here are remarkably resilient due to stringent building regulations but many older houses would not withstand a strong earthquake.

One thing that we do see in the aftermath of any natural disaster is a remarkable community spirit among local people, with many working together to clear up, and generally a sense of perseverance. We have also seen recently many churches and mission organisations coming together to help by sending teams of volunteers to give help in areas where it is needed.

A stoical spirit and helping one another to rebuild is good. However, for those who lose loved ones suddenly, there is of course deep pain. One thing that is often harder to do is help people to rebuild their lives and find hope and comfort amidst the tragedy that has happened. That is where the gospel comes in. We can 'demonstrate' the gospel through actions; but we also need to 'share' the gospel by words and at times just by being with hurting people in silence. May God use the Christians here to be salt and light in these times.

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

January Edition - LIFE & WORK



The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation:

Scotland and Luther

Luther and the World

The Church of Scotland member involved in the Europe-wide commemoration

The 'New Guild':

A new series looking at innovation and change within the Church of Scotland Guild

Help Lead the Way:

John Sturrock highlights the importance of healing in conflict

Where are the Men?:

Stephen McGuire and Murdo Macdonald explain with the Church's Society, Religion and Technology Project has partnered with a Christian charity to consider the issue of why it is so difficult to get men into church

The Unlimited Power of God:

The Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan shows how prison escapes are a metaphor for the power of God

Compassion in Action:

Sandy Sneddon reflects on a unique project that was founded by the Church of Scotland in Sri Lanka

Improving Healthcare in Malawi:

A Church of Scotland mission partner in Africa talks about the highs and lows of operating a hospital in Malawi

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

Visit our website www.lifeandwork.org for up-to-date news and exclusive features.

Coffee and Mince Pies



Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 18th 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 kitchen and in the hall. The final total raised for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity was £911.68. When Gift Aid is added this will take the total up to £939.18

Frances Ireland and Liz Trill

St Paul's Society One Pound Cards

A brand new range of cards is now available in the usual place outside the Church Office window and as usual all priced £1. So far we have donated money to Preshal and to The Vine Trust but this year we will keep you posted of the money raised so far and during the summer we will decide which church projects to donate the money too. Any suggestions would be welcome. As usual you can order personalised cards with family names just let me know what you need and more importantly when you need the card. A huge thank you so far for all your help and support.

Alex McEwan

Flower Donations - January

Thank you for your donations. It would be helpful if your name and address were included with the gifts, so that I can acknowledge receipt.



Please forward donations to:

Marjorie Thoms at 66, Braeside Avenue, Milngavie, G62 6NN Tel. 0141 956 5372, or place in the Flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the church. Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's flowers.

Thank you.

Donations for January:

Mrs E Adair, Miss E Forbes.

Scottish Bible Society

Thank you to everyone who supported the Annual 'Walk for the Word' in October. The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed our 6 mile walk round Mugdock Country Park and Carbeth, finishing with a well earned lunch in the Stables Tearoom. The total raised by St. Paul's participants was £184.00.

Frances Ireland



Thank you from Rehoboth

Dear John and all at St Paul's parish church, Milngavie,

On behalf of Rehoboth, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous gift of £968.61 which you raised through your Christmas Eve mission night.

I received the cheque this morning by post and we were encouraged by your willing heart to help us.

May the good Lord richly bless your church from above according to Phil 4:19. "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Please keep me in your prayers as I am going for missions to India and Srilanka to visit a Srilankan refugee camp in India where we are helping and a church which we planted in Srilanka. I am leaving on the 2nd of Jan and be back on the 18th.

Once again a big thank you from Rehoboth to St Pauls. In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Prem".

Stephen Prem

World Mission

From Zambia to Leith: A Twinning Visit

Recently we were glad to welcome Mildred Syangandu and Matildah Mfula from the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), and Reverend Iain May from South Leith Parish Church to the Church of Scotland offices. Mildred and Matildah were visiting South Leith Parish Church as part of their twinning programme.



Mildred is currently training to be a minister at the UCZ university college, whilst Matildah works as an Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of the university. Both were enjoying their visit, but were finding the weather particularly cold! A highlight for both of them was attending the Remembrance Service. They were touched by the respectful way in which the service was conducted. They attended South Leith's Food Bank which is held in the Church, and were surprised to find that some people in Scotland are struggling to buy food. The idea of a food bank is something they will take back to their congregations in Zambia.

Mr May has learnt a lot from the twinning visit, and was particularly fascinated to hear about the high numbers of people who attend church in Zambia. He was also pleased that Mildred would be working with his congregation in the future, as she will be coming to Edinburgh to complete her probation before becoming a minister.

Home Secretary to Investigate Visa Refusal

A controversial decision to refuse visas to two Pakistani Christians who want to visit Glasgow is to be examined by the Home Office.

Prime Minister Theresa May said Home Secretary Amber Rudd would be willing to investigate the case.



The Conservative Party leader made the pledge after Kirsten Oswald, MP for East Renfrewshire, raised the issue in the House of Commons. The decision has disrupted the Church of Scotland's plans to build a partnership with the Diocese of Hyderabad in Pakistan.

World Mission Cont.

Invitation: Tent of Nations Celebrations 101

Our partner, Tent of Nations, is an organic farm in Bethlehem/Palestine. It serves as a centre where people from many different countries come together to learn, to share, and to build bridges of understanding and hope.

Tent of Nations is celebrating her 101st anniversary in 2017, and invites old and new friends around the world to come to the Week of Celebrations, from Monday May 1 until Thursday May 4, to show friendship, solidarity and support. The inspiring programme consists of activities, workshops and volunteering on the land.



Tent of Nations offers optional trips the weekend before and after the celebration days. Final deadline for registration is on March 15, 2017.

For more information: www.tentofnations.org or contact the Celebrations Coordinator, Meta Floor, celebrationstentofnations@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

The World Mission Council invites you to come on a pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 29 April- 9 May 2017. The pilgrimage will be led by the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, on behalf of the World Mission Council.



This 11 day pilgrimage will take in the cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jaffa, and Tiberias, introducing you to local Christians and partners of the Church of Scotland, as well as visiting some of the major Biblical sites. You will be guided by a local Palestinian Christian, with support from the two Church of Scotland ministers based locally.

For further information, including costs and a more detailed itinerary, please contact Kenny Roger, on kroger@cofscotland.org.uk, or on 0131 225 5722.

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Copy date for the February issue is Sunday 22nd January if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 25th January if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Note From the Editor

Happy New Year to you all! If anyone has any comments or suggestions for the magazine, please feel free to let me know. New articles are always welcome.

Carla MacAllister

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
8th Jan	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Berry Goodlet	Team 3 E. McEwan
15th Jan	S. Anderson M. Adams	Tracey Wilson	Team 2 E. Adair (C)
22nd Jan	M. Conway K. Edwards	MacKinnon Richell	Team 4 A. Goodlet
29th Jan	A. Galloway J. Townson	Wallis Chapman	Team 5 R. Vallance