

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2017



Dear Friends,

I suppose like many of you I am finding it hard to believe that we are now in the month of March. Where did these last few months go? When I was in primary school we had a history book called 'The March of Time' and many of us might feel that the pace does not get any easier. Mind you, people have warned me over the years that time passes quicker the older you get! Perhaps, but what matters is how you cope with it. Some might say you have to cram as much into every day, make the most of what time we have. Others might point to the importance of having the best of relationships with everyone we encounter. You never know when there will be no more time to set right what was wrong. And still there is that powerful impulse, as old as humankind, to drain as much pleasure out of life while we can, what the prophet saw as the attitude that says: 'Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die!' (Isaiah 22: 13)

All of this puts pressure upon us and creates an unhealthy drivenness that turns us more and more into ourselves. But when we look at the spirituality of the ancient people of the Bible there is a great aspiration to live with a constant consciousness of God and to trust in his good purpose for our lives, even when it seems that time is running out for us. We find this in the Psalms. Have a look at Psalm 46. All around the writer there are changes that are challenging, even frightening, but the voice of God is clearly heard to say: 'Be still, and know that I am God. Or Psalm 31. This seems to be a time when there are many pressures acting on David's life and he fears that he does not possess the resources to cope but he breaks through to the place where he can say: 'But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands.' (Psalm 31: 14-15)

That was the assurance that was strong in the soul of the Apostle Paul. When it seemed that he was the victim of forces beyond his control he was able to say: 'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances . . . whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.' (Philippians 4: 11-13)

This is something we all need to learn in face of all the challenges of life, not least the feeling that time is running away with us. We live in the presence of a loving God, who has a good purpose for us. We might not always see this clearly but we are assured that what has seemed dark to us in this life will be made clear when the Kingdom comes. Then we will be able to say: 'My times were in your hands.'

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

Dates For Your Diary

Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly

The Right Reverend Dr. Russell Barr will be visiting the Presbytery of Dumbarton from Saturday 25 March until Monday 3 April. A busy schedule is planned which will include a visit to Douglas Academy on Wednesday 29 March when the Moderator will have the opportunity to observe Music School pupils preparing for the school concert. He will also preach at our Evening Service on Sunday 26 March. Members of congregations throughout Presbytery will be invited to attend. A reception will be held in the large hall after the service.

It would be great if our ever generous congregation could help by donating tray bakes, crackers or oatcakes and cheese for this occasion. A list will be at the back of the church from 12th March onwards if you wish to contribute. Many Thanks

Lent and Holy Week

Our annual Lent Services will begin on Saturday 5 March at 9.30 am in the West Transept. Please keep an eye on the weekly intimation sheet for further details.

It was hoped that the joint Holy Week services would take place in Milngavie United Free Church but extensive work on the sanctuary has made this impossible. The services will therefore be held in St Paul's from Monday 10 April until Friday 14 April. There will be a short meditation on Saturday 15 April at 9.30 am. The preaching will be shared by local ministers.

Guild Coffee Morning

Our Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 11th March from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon and tickets priced £2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children are available from members of the Committee.

We will have our usual stalls of cakes, books and bric-a-brac and any donations can be handed into the Hall on Friday afternoon between 3.00p.m. and 4.00 p.m. or on Saturday morning.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held in the Large Hall on Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm for the purpose of electing members to the Congregational Board. At this meeting a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December will be submitted. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Graham Mill

Christian Aid Lunch

On the 19th of March, The Christian Aid Lunch will once again be held in St Paul's after our morning service when the usual choice of rolls, cheese and soup will be on offer. Christian Aid Week this year falls from the 14th to the 20th May so plenty of advance warning that once again we will be looking for volunteers to deliver and pick up envelopes.



Christian Aid has more than 70 years experience in supporting communities to thrive. They tackle the root causes of poverty so the people all over the world are strengthened against future knocks. Christian Aid gets people the help they want straight away.



Vine Trust

Janice Mclean shared a **Vine Trust** advert on Facebook highlighting a shortage of volunteers for the **Amazon Hope** beginning 19/3/17 for 2 weeks. Marilyn Ure and myself both thought (independently), " I could do that, so I probably should!" So this time we are off to Peru. I know it's short notice, only 6 weeks away, and you were so generous re. the Jubilee Hope last November, but we would be very grateful for any support you can give. If that is financial, please go to the fundraising page on the vine trust web site, **Rhona and Marilyn/amazon hope**. But if you can't manage that, please pray, as that really helped us last year.



Dear Friends,

David is glad to be able to write this from our own home after spending 43 days in hospital from early January. We are thankful that the stem cell transplant went smoothly and the blood markers are beginning to recover slowly but steadily. It's not just the blood that needs to recover though – energy levels, stamina and immunity are all low so it will be some months till David gets back to whatever the 'new normal' might be. There are still many uncertainties ahead but we take one step at a time. And there are things which are certain – God's love, his faithfulness and his goodness do not change and he can ever be trusted. Thank you to all of you who have prayed for us and encouraged us during this journey so far.

It's amazing to think that at the end of this month we will mark one year of moving to this house in Chiba city. And what a year it has been! As we look back though we can see that this has been a perfect place for recovery and we hope that we will have many more years to enjoy it as well as our garden which provides a never-ending stream of different colours.

March/April is also the time of transition here in Japan. Thankfully we have no school changes this year but each of our two younger boys will move up a year in April, both at school and in the football academy. Daniel will also be in transition later this year as he hopes to do a Masters somewhere. Matthew continues in Glasgow though he will come back to Japan for the summer.

For OMF in Japan we continue to seek the way forward as to our role here over these coming years and some important discussions will happen early this month. There are various exciting possibilities of receiving new workers from places that we do not ordinarily have workers from so there are many new opportunities and challenges for Lorna as she heads up our efforts in mobilising new missionaries for Japan.

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Book Group

The group have been reading and discussing, 'His Bloody Project' by Graeme Macrae Burnet. An amazing and authentic representation of the feudal system in 1869 in a remote community in the Scottish Highlands is the setting for the harrowing story of Roderick Macrae, who we are told at the very beginning of the book has killed three people and admitted responsibility. We work our way through the witness statements, an actual account of the events leading up to the murder written by Roderick himself while he is in prison awaiting trial, a psychiatric report and eventually the trial itself. Is Roderick mad or did he have no other option? This question certainly had us discussing the book at length. Why not read it for yourself and make up your own mind. Not an easy read but difficult to put down.

Graeme Macrae Burnet's book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2016. Next time we are reading, 'The Lady and the Unicorn' by Tracey Chevalier and our meeting is on 14 March 2017 at the usual time.

Joyce Clark

Guild News

At the last January meeting, Anne Currie gave a very informative and amusing account of the work of a Procurator Fiscal. In her talk, which covered many aspects of her career, she explained some of the more challenging parts of her work.



The following week, we had a return visit from Brian Doig and his puppeteers from East Kilbride. Amazing to hear the gospel message delivered in such an entertaining as well as challenging way. The young people were given an enthusiastic reception.

On 13th of February our minister made one of his twice yearly visits. His theme was Joy, which is contained in the Guild's slogan for this year. It was an inspiring message, reminding us of many examples, in scripture and elsewhere, of men and women displaying the joy of their faith, in often distressing and frightening circumstances.

On 21st of February, Lyndsey Campbell from 'Whizz Kidz' gave us an insight into her organisation which assesses the needs of children and young people with mobility problems. With some moving stories from individual users, and how they had been helped, she gave us an interesting view of how they try to help youngsters participate as much as possible in various activities, as well as having fun.

Traidcraft & the Big Brew

A successful Big Brew was held last Saturday morning in the large hall after the half hour Lenten service. We are now in the middle of Fairtrade fortnight, so if you missed our Big Brew, look out for another one in the neighbourhood or visit Gavin's Mill which is now open as the fair trade outlet to replace the Balmore Coachhouse. The next date for the St Paul's Traidcraft stall is Sunday March 26th where you can pick up the spring catalogue which has some lovely 'garden' ideas. It's also nearly time for Easter Egg ordering!!

World Mission

From Hyderabad to Glasgow

It was a pleasure to welcome a group from the Diocese of Hyderabad in Pakistan, and the Presbytery of Glasgow to the Church of Scotland offices this week.



The Diocese of Hyderabad and Presbytery of Glasgow are in the process of twinning, and have enjoyed learning from and getting to know each other.

During the visit the delegation have been meeting people in various churches and projects in Glasgow to get a better understanding of how churches operate here in Scotland. The group were particularly struck by the isolation and loneliness many face in the UK, and were pleased to see that the Church is responding to this issue in Glasgow.

Members of the Presbytery of Glasgow were able to visit Pakistan in 2015, and there began to build relationships with individuals within their twinned Diocese. Rev. Fiona Gardner said that they had received a wonderful welcome in Pakistan, and were glad to return the favour here in Scotland.

Flower Donations - March

Mrs A Easton, Mrs C Tanner, Miss A Ritchie, Mrs M Ingram,
Mrs S Lindsay, Mrs J. Pirie,



Please forward donations with your name and address 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 - MARCH 2017



Church and Play

Jackie Macadam learns about Godly Play, a different approach to
working with children in the Church

A Life of Service

Jackie Macadam meets writer and storyteller Irene Howat

'You Feel More Dead than Alive'

Thomas Baldwin meets a young minister aiming to end the stigma around
mental illness

'I Know How You Feel'

Three contributors explain why offering sympathy to those suffering chronic or
long-term illness is better than trying to empathise with their condition

A Time for Reflection

Ron Ferguson considers the place of Lent in today's turbulent world.

A Changed and Changing Environment

The Rt Rev Dr Russell Harr highlights the lessons to be learned from the innova-
tive farming communities of Perthshire.

Sacred Space on Your Desktop

The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains why the internet can be a touching place for
the presence of God

Opening Doors

In the final part of his series, the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan considers an
unlikely escape from prison

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features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cofslifeandwork

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th March	M. McLean A. McLeod	Richell Wallis	Team 10 E. Traill
12th March	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars Goodlet	Team 3 J. McQueen (EC)
19th March	C MacKinnon S. Stenhouse	MacAllister Tracey	Team 4 S. Thoms
26th March	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Berry Chapman	Team 5 B. Ponton