

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2018



Dear Friends,

Speaking to an artist recently, he described how a painting took shape. He starts off with an idea in his head but he is never quite sure how it will work out in the end. He said: 'I like the painting to speak to me.' There is a sense in which the painting itself guides him.

It's not unusual to find artists and writers describing their work in this way. I once heard a poet say he never finishes a poem without a sense that in some way it has been given to him. Paul McCartney promoting his latest album said he will never tire of writing songs because of the thrill of seeing something being produced out of nothing.

None of this should really surprise us. There is something about the creative process that is beyond our understanding. But when you believe in a God who created the Universe out of nothing and who has created humankind in His own image, then to engage in any kind of creative activity is to be touched by His being. That is why there is so much satisfaction in building, painting, gardening, writing, knitting, decorating. All of this draws us into the Source of all creation.

I suppose, however, that God's biggest current project is re-creation. Erik Varden, a Cistercian monk writes: 'From being a garden of peace and sweet encounter, the world became a laboratory of selfishness, violence and warfare.' But God has not turned His back on His ruined creation. He is working towards the day when we will be returned to the garden. Through His death and resurrection Jesus has made it possible for us as a renewed people to take our place in a renewed creation. He has emerged from the laboratory of selfishness, violence and warfare as the Risen Lord showing in Himself what God has in store for us when this 'old and weary earth' gives way to the new heaven and the new earth.

The season of Remembrance brings to mind the worst of times for so many people but along with this we hold the faith that Jesus is building the best of times for us all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leigan".



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL **December 1st – 7th**



As you read in last month's magazine, another Christmas Tree Festival will take place this year, for which plans are well advanced.

The official opening will be on Saturday morning, 1st December, when we will be delighted to welcome once again, some members of the Milngavie Pipe Band. The music programme will include some favourites who entertain us every year such as the Allander Jazz Band on Sunday afternoon, and the Jordanhill Handbell Ringers on Wednesday afternoon. We will also have some new musicians, for example, a ukulele group who will also play on Sunday afternoon. The full programme will be published in the usual way so that you can plan your visits to coincide with your chosen types of music.

You know, however, that we rely heavily on volunteers from all the churches to help with the smooth running of the Festival. Here the members of St. Paul's have the biggest responsibility because we need someone from St. Paul's to be on duty at all times, both in the church as a steward and in the kitchen, so that we can help people from other churches who may be unfamiliar with the building. Sign up lists are at the back of the church: we are looking for bakers for two days and stewards for every day but especially for Saturday and Tuesday; we also need staff for the kitchen/tearoom every day and especially on Saturday and Tuesday. We have been very grateful for the enthusiastic support of many members in the past and hope that you will be able to help us once again this year.

We are raising money for three very worthwhile local charities: Milngavie Youth Centre which provides vital support for young people, East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid Project based in Kirkintilloch which helps women in crisis, and Glasgow Street Pastors who provide assistance to people on the city streets at weekends.

Please help if you possibly can! Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about the Festival. We are looking forward to another wonderful start to the Christmas season!

Jean Scott 956 5251

Eleanor Easton 943 0368



Dear Friends,

The other day, while out at a local shopping center, I noticed a well-dressed family. Mum and Dad were in smart suits, and their young daughter was wearing a beautiful red kimono with her hair specially arranged for the occasion. They were on their way to the photographer to have a family photo taken to celebrate Shichi-Go-San (literally “Seven-Five-Three”).

In Japan, in October or November of the year when a girl is aged three and seven, and when a boy is aged five, their family will usually take them to a Shinto shrine to pray for the child’s health and prosperity as they grow up. Girls wear a special kimono and boys a hakama (traditional wide trousers) with a long haori (jacket). The children receive a bag of long thin candy called “chitose ame” (thousand-year candy) representing long life. Most families also take a commemorative photo which will often be used for their New Year card a couple of months later.

We know that Jesus took time out of his busy schedule to place his hands on and pray for, little children. When we served in Otaru church we held a children’s blessing service each year in the autumn. Most children did not dress up, but we took time in the service to thank God for them and to pray for them. We organised some fun activities, took a photo, and gave them each a bag of sweets to take home. Since Christian parents do not take their children to a shrine to pray for them, having a blessing service at the church gave them a helpful alternative. It also gave the church an opportunity to invite other local children—to explain that Jesus loves them and to pray for them too.

The local church that we attend here usually has only one child aged 5, and my boys are the only teenagers there. It can be hard to be different in a culture that values conformity. Please pray for Japanese children to know that Jesus loves them and died for them.

I am coming back to the UK for Daniel’s graduation and will be in St. Paul’s on the morning of Sunday 2nd December. I look forward to seeing you then.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Guild News



On 1st October, our first meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all when *Fine Fettle*, a talented group of musical ladies, entertained us with songs accompanied by accordion and ukulele.

At our second meeting, we learned from Russell Crawford about the Malawi Fruits Project which is a charity working in the North of Malawi, aiming to improve farming and irrigation. Russell tested our knowledge of Malawi with a quiz and it was pleasing to note how many questions we got correct! Russell's presentation centred on *Growing the Future* which includes the partnership project between Malawi Fruits and the Guild, with support from the Scottish Government. Russell explained that whatever money is given by the Guild will be matched by the United Nations Development Programme and this is particularly crucial to Malawi as its population is now over 19 million and it is recognised as being the 3rd poorest country in the world. One of the projects under this partnership is the *Paprika Project* where £26 is given to farms to buy seed and fertiliser so that they can grow their business. It was interesting to hear that paprika is used for colouring orange juice and red lipstick as well as in chicken feeds to colour yolks! Russell also provided us with information on how irrigation systems are being improved as well as how youth farmers are being helped to have better lives. Through Russell's talk and accompanying slides, it was apparent how important Christianity is to the Malawi people and the crowded attendance at their services, which take place four times a week, was testament to their faith and love of God. This very interesting and informative speaker finished his presentation to us with an evocative and inspiring portrayal of the life and mission of David Livingstone.

The inspiring words for the opening hymn at our Dedication Service on 14th October had been written by one of our own Guild members and included the phrase: *whose we are and whom we serve* which is of course, the Guild motto. This was particularly relevant for our Dedication Service as we considered how we can all be actively involved in spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God.

On 15th October, Ian Thomson returned to our Guild and spoke on the topic: *No Strings Attached*. A wonderful story-teller, Ian regaled us with anecdotes of his band and their adventures as they rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, including David Bowie, the Kinks and the Hollies. Ian enthralled us all with a fascinating insight into the music industry and his description of his experiences in the 1960s certainly struck a chord with members.

Guild News Cont...

In a moving presentation, Joanna Martin from Spinal Injuries Scotland, Clober Farm shared with us her personal story at our meeting on 22nd October and described the daily challenges that face those with spinal injuries. Opened in 2012, Clober Farm provides a valuable facility for those with spinal injuries and other disabilities and is a centre of excellence for showcasing accessible living accommodation, as well as having a specially designed garden which was landscaped by the BBC Beechgrove Garden team. Joanna herself a medal winner, gave us a tremendous insight into the Invictus Games and explained that these games are not just about sport but aim to capture hearts, challenge minds and change lives, having as its motto *I AM*. It was clear to all who heard Joanna speak that she had embraced this aim and motto.

At our last meeting in October, Sheila and David Hart will speak to us on USA East to West.

Our programme for November is as follows:

5th November:	Morag Reid – the Life of Jane Haining
12th November (2-3.30 pm):	Afternoon Tea & Singing with David Turner
19th November:	Lynsey Brennan – <i>Seeking the Way</i> (Guild Theme)
26th November:	Playlist for Life

We look forward to welcoming you to any or all of our meetings!



Walk For the Word

Thank you to everyone who supported Walk for the Word on the 6th October. A total of 16 walkers (representing 4 churches in the area) plus 4 dogs took part in the walk round Mugdock Country Park and Carbeth. The day dawned cold (3.5 degrees!) and sunny but soon warmed up – perfect walking weather with dry ground underfoot. Everyone enjoyed the fresh air and exercise – and the well-earned snack in the Courtyard at the end of the walk. £174 has been raised by the St. Paul's walkers.

Frances Ireland

BOOK GROUP



The book this time is *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. Based on the true story of an ancient Jewish codex, the Sarajevo Haggadah, which is one of the oldest remaining illuminated texts similar in style to the Book of Hours. This manuscript was written and illuminated in Spain in the mid-14th century.

The book however is a work of historical fiction following various protagonists through the centuries of exile and war as the book itself is lost and then saved once again. There were mixed reactions to this book. Some of us found it frustrating that this was part fiction and part fact and thought it would have been better to have been dealing with either one or the other to save confusion. Others enjoyed it and would read it again. Perhaps the overall view was that it would have been better to have had the true, amazing story of the book instead of a fictionalised account.

Our next book is *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle and we are meeting on Tuesday 27th November at the usual time.

Joyce Clark

Christmas Outreach

The Stewardship Committee are again arranging a special Christmas delivery from St. Paul's to every household within our Parish boundary.

The delivery will take the form of a Christmas Card and will include an invitation to come and join us at our Christmas services.

Extra "Christmas Cards" will be made available at the back of the church, if you wish to hand these to any other households you may know, that might consider coming along to join us at St Paul's this Christmas. I am sure that anyone who takes up our invitation, will experience the warmth and support of a loving and caring family at St. Paul's, that will encourage them to come back to learn more.

If you are able to assist in the delivery of our Christmas Cards, please add your name and contact details to the sign-up sheets, which will be available on the tables at the back of the Church from 11th November 2018. It is anticipated the cards will be available for delivery during the last week in November.

Gordon Fairbrother
Stewardship Convener.

Thank You

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation and thanks for all the help I have had in the last few months. I have been overwhelmed by all the cards, visits, flowers, gifts of food and lifts so freely and generously given. But most of all, thanks for all the prayers which have sustained me during this time. I am slowly recovering and hope before too long I will be back in the midst of church life. As I tell everyone St. Paul's church family is magnificent. Thank you everyone.

Ann MacLeod

Dear Friends in St. Paul's Parish Church, Milngavie, Thank you for taking time to send me cards and good wishes whilst I have been in hospital. This emphasises the feeling of joy that being a member of this congregation gives me.

Norma Caldwell.

I wish to thank everyone both from within & outwith my District who sent cards & letters conveying their best wishes on my retiral as District Elder & Rollkeeper. It is very much appreciated. God Bless.

Bill Marshall

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the cards, telephone calls and visits, I received during my recent illness. They were all a great comfort to me and demonstrated the love within the St. Paul's Church family. I hope to soon be back amongst you.

Gordon Hamilton

Flower Donations - November

Anyone wishing to record their name in Life, in memory of a loved one, should send the donation a month prior to publication of the magazine.



Mrs E Easton, Miss A Niven, St Paul's Guild, Mrs A M Murray, Mrs J Townson, Mrs M Hutchison.

Please send donations to Mrs M Thoms, 66 Braeside Avenue, Milngavie, G62 6NN, or put them in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be written to St Paul's Flowers.



Cue and Review Print Speaking to the Blind are a charity based in Bishopbriggs.

We are currently looking to recruit volunteer Access to Audio Ambassadors in East Dunbartonshire to place leaflets and business cards at business and amenities in the area and also to show the public how to listen to daily and weekly online articles from the Herald, Evening Times, The National and Inside Soap magazine.

If you would like to volunteer and become an Access to Audio Ambassador, please contact Michael on 0141 772 3976 or via email aatl@cueandreview.com

Details of other volunteer opportunities are on our website - cueandreview.com

Many thanks.

Michael Rankin

Choir Practices for Christmas



As in previous years, we wish to extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to augment the church choir for the Christmas season.

Extra singers for all sections of the choir would be most helpful and the only qualification necessary is the ability to sing (more or less) in tune! Younger members of the congregation would also be welcome to join us.

In addition to morning services, the choir will perform on the first day of the Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday, 1st December. There will also be several carols from the choir included in the Lessons and Carols service at 7.00pm on Sunday, 23rd December. The Christmas programme is rehearsed on Thursday evenings from 8.30pm until 9.15pm on Thursdays from the 15th November.

Please speak to Derek Norval or any member of the choir if you wish further information.

MyelomaUK Thank You

The following letter was received from MyelomaUK in response to the sponsorship money for Paul Buchanan's run, raised from the coffee morning. The congregation will be pleased to know that Paul finished the Great Scottish Run with a time of 1hr 57min which is a fantastic result.

Dear Mr Scott,

Thank you to the congregation of St. Paul's Parish Church for raising £1872.61 (plus Gift Aid) in support of Myeloma UK, by organising a Coffee Morning to raise sponsorship for Paul Buchanan's Great Scottish Run. Together with Paul's sponsorship, you have raised an incredible £2,435.86. The dedication and hard work from all involved is truly appreciated.

Your donation will make a real difference in the lives of myeloma patients in more ways than one.

Fundraisers like you allow us to provide emotional support, information and practical advice to myeloma patients and their families, often in the most difficult of times.

Patients are at the centre of the research we fund. In the last 10 years, with improvements in treatment and care, survival rates are increasing faster than most other cancers.

2018 is a big year for Myeloma UK as we mark 21 years of making myeloma history. We have had some high profile events this year, including the Myeloma UK Garden at Chelsea Flower Show and an interactive digital campaign for Myeloma Awareness Week, where supporters shared their messages of hope and care. We are delighted that this activity has helped us reach a wider audience than ever before, to raise awareness about myeloma.

None of this could be achieved without our supporters. Every donation propels us forward on our journey to find a cure for myeloma. Myeloma UK receives no government funding, therefore we rely on voluntary donations and fundraising.

Our community of dedicated fundraisers is fundamental to our progress and we hope that you will consider supporting us again in the future. Please contact us on 0131 557 3332 or email fundraising@myleoma.org.uk for any questions.

Best wishes

Ruth Harris
Community Fundraiser

Free To Live Thank You

I have received the following letter from The Free to Live Trust that we supported with our Harvest Offering - Chris Scott

"Thank you very much for £896.90 and the Gift Aid Forms from your Harvest Offering. Please pass on our grateful thanks to Rev. Buchanan and the Congregation of St. Paul's.

Your donation will be used to help support the work at Bori, India and we are very appreciative of the support that we receive in Scotland and from our partners in India.

Through support from people like yourselves, in less than 2 years, an empty plot of land has been transformed into a children's home and we are now in the process of building a separate dormitory for the boys, which will enable us to rescue more children from living, and being exploited, on the streets of Pune.

In partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild, we plan to double the number of children rescued and begin a feeding and education programme for the children still living on the streets of the red light district of Pune and hopefully rescue and rehabilitate some of the trafficked sex workers.

Thank you again for your support"

Alan Cairns - Treasurer

World Mission News

Relief and Reconciliation for Syria

This week the Middle East Committee and the Church of Scotland Interfaith Officer co-hosted a gathering with representatives from different faith organisations, to hear from 'Relief and Reconciliation International' (R&R). They are an international, non-profit organisation aimed at combining peacebuilding with humanitarian aid, in response to the Syrian crisis. At a local and regional level, they are trying to unite different communities and groups around a common cause; the future of the youth. They are looking to build a safe and welcoming environment for people of all faiths and none, in order to deepen connections across deeply divided communities. In 2013 R&R opened a Peace Centre Akkar, northern Lebanon – its poorest and most neglected region - close to the Syrian border, a space for learning, living and sharing together, in the spirit of mutual hospitality. They also run schools to help refugees integrate. The event, yesterday, was an opportunity for them to share with us about the success of their recent camp for kids, where the theme for the camp was playing, singing and caring for creation.



World Mission Cont...

Here We Pray Together



“Here We Pray Together”, the fourth annual St. Catherine’s International Peace Forum, started last Thursday at St. Catherine’s Monastery in Sinai, followed by Muslims and Christians praying together at the monastery on Friday. With delegates from all over the world participating in the forum, the event intended to highlight Egypt’s peace and security.

South Sinai Governor, Khaled Fouda, said that the event aimed to spread a message of peace and security across the world, from one of the most sacred areas where three religions meet. Dr. Rev. Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt, and director of CEOSS, a Church of Scotland partner, said “Egypt has always been a holy land; Sinai is the land of the prophets. We all live in a world that is hungry for peace.”

Third annual Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia training

Last week, the third annual Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) training was held at the headquarters of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA).



The week long YAPA - 2018 training was attended by 27 young people sponsored by CCA member churches and councils, as well as representatives of Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim organisations in Asia.

YAPA – 2018 aims to train prospective young peace activists and bring them to a common platform, to help build communities where peace and harmony are upheld.

The curriculum and training methodologies are based on inter-cultural, inter-religious and non-formal learning approaches. The participants also share experiences on the best practices of inter-connectedness to act more effectively as a network.

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Early Copy Dates For December Edition

The copy date for the December issue is Wednesday 14th November for e-mails and Sunday 11th November if using the church pigeon hole.

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th Nov	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	MacKinnon Chapman	Team 10 M. Fraser
11th Nov	K. Hagart J. Mill	Sillars Berry	Team 3 R. Fraser (EC)
18th Nov		Richell MacAllister	Team 4 I. MacCalman
25th Nov	A. McLeod S. Stenhouse	Wilson Wallis	Team 5 I. Torbet