

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2019



Dear Friends,

The season of Epiphany, when we remember how God has revealed Himself in the life and ministry of Jesus, is not one that I have taken very seriously in the past. There has maybe been a nod in that direction on the Sunday nearest to 6th January when traditionally the Church remembers the Magi. Apart from that it often seems that once Christmas is over the next season to plan for is Lent and then the climactic Easter.

This year has been different. In the Sunday morning preaching I have been focussing on events in the life of Jesus that were particularly significant in revealing God to the world. The Baptism of Jesus, the marriage at Cana, the preaching in the Nazareth synagogue – all of these events revealing something of the nature and purpose of God in the life and ministry of Jesus. A reminder to us that the God we worship was revealed on this earth in the life of a human being.

This is a startling proposition for anyone to consider. 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling amongst us,' says the Apostle John. Some of the greatest minds have probed this and sought to unpack it in a way that can be more readily understood. In the end, however, we have the claims of Jesus Himself, the faith of the Church from the beginning and the mystery.

This doesn't mean we stop probing and unpacking. Some of the giants of theology have been led to express their faith in the simplest and most personal terms. Karl Barth whose Church Dogmatics runs to 14 volumes once summed up his faith in the words of the children's hymn: 'Jesus loves me this I know/For the Bible tells me so.' It seems that his work gave him a deeper appreciation of what had been revealed.

What God has revealed has to be taken on board when it comes to the lives we are called to lead. I have a biography of the Victorian preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon entitled 'Living By Revealed Truth'. This doesn't just refer to the truth about Jesus but also the truths that shape our lives. Jesus called men and women to believe in Him and to follow His ways. This is why every encounter with His truth as revealed in worship and personal devotion should be transformative. God reveals Himself through Jesus so that we can be more like Him.

That book title could be a good motto for us as we make our way through this year, still new, still unknown. Living by revealed truth enables us to focus on who Jesus is and to live lives that reveal Him to the world.

Wishing you all the blessings revealed in Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be 'Spurgeon'.

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 the sum of £2000 to “Teen Ranch Scotland”, an interdenominational Christian Youth Activity Centre in Perth.



This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and new dish washers and we would like to thank them all for their help during 2018. 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 2019.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret

Safeguarding Training

Further training sessions for volunteers working in organisations or groups within the church will take place over the next few months in St Pauls.

All volunteers are reminded that they are required to attend a training session if they wish to continue to volunteer in Church Organisations or groups, as this is an important part of their duties as a volunteer.

Failure to attend training could result in volunteers not being able to work in their groups.

If you are unsure if you have attended a training session or not please do not hesitate to contact the Church's Safeguarding Coordinator Elizabeth McEwan on 0141 384 0274.

Details of training session dates will appear in the church intimations over the next few months.

Elizabeth McEwan

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

We are enjoying a beautiful Tokyo winter so far, with amazing blue skies that you don't get any other time of the year. In fact we are being warned that the air is too dry, meaning it is easier to catch colds and flu. Last week alone over 2 million Japanese were diagnosed with flu, so you see lots of people wearing masks to protect themselves, and with small humidifiers on their desks or in their homes to dampen the air and prevent viruses from thriving.

Many Japanese churches hold their Annual General Meetings in winter. The church I attend here held theirs today. The church has fewer than 60 members, though this is about double the size of an average church in Japan. They support a full-time minister and a part-time assistant minister. Today they agreed to send a young family from the church to be a "domestic missionary" and work with the Christian Student organisation KGK.

This family is a key one in the church. Their 5-year old daughter is the only regular member of Sunday School, and the husband plays the piano, leads the worship regularly and sometimes preaches. They will leave a large hole, and so it was very moving to see church members unanimous in their sacrificial decision to commission them to student work and agree to support them.

Once the family moves to Sendai in March the husband will be the only student worker for 6 Prefectures with more than 9 million people. Student work is key in Japan. Many church leaders first became Christians when they were students. At many Universities there may be only 1 or 2 Christian students so supporting and helping them is very important. At OMF we have several people working among students and I hope that we can help this young family. I am also speaking with the minister here to see if there is anything I can do to fill some of the gaps this family will leave.

In OMF our partnership with the local church is very important. Please pray that we can serve and work well with the Japanese church to see many more people hear the good news of Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Thank You from The Free to Live Trust

I received the following letter from The Free to Live Trust.

Chris Scott, Treasurer

Dear Chris,

Thank you very much for the donation of £1,100 for Seema's Project (and Gift Aid forms to increase the donation by a further £46.25). Please pass on our thanks to Rev. Fergus Buchanan and the congregation of St Paul's Milngavie for their very generous donation given at the Christmas Eve Services. I apologise for the delay in thanking you but, as you know, my wife and I are just back from India where we made very good progress in the future development of the project. Your donation will be used to help with the final stages of the construction of the new boy's home at Bori.

It is amazing that, through support from people like yourselves, in less than two years an empty plot of land was transformed into a children's home and a separate dormitory for the boys is now nearing completion. This will enable us to rescue more children from living, and being exploited, on the streets of Pune.

Over the next two or three years, in partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild, we plan to build the project so that we double the number of children rescued, start a feeding/education programme for the children still living on the streets of the red light district of Pune and, hopefully, rescue and rehabilitate some off the trafficked sex workers.

Up to date photographs of the home and the work of the Trust are available on our website www.freetolivetrust.org.

Thank you again for your support.

Alan Cairns – Treasurer/Trustee

Flower Donations - February

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.



Donation for February: Mrs M M Spencer

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.

Christmas at the Lunch Club

The lunch Club had a busy and successful year with many guests enjoying homemade soup, a selection of rolls and delicious baking provided by our many volunteers. A great deal of thanks should go to the many people who help week by week and worked so efficiently when I was out of action. As always we are grateful for people who could bake just 2 or 3 times a year.

We don't aim to make a profit but many people give so generously and this year we made a magnificent profit of £2500, thanks to our bakers and canny buying. This we divided by giving £1000 to St. Paul's and the remainder was divided between, Lorna Ferguson our OMF missionary in Japan, the Salvation Army, and St. Paul's youth activities.

Everyone is always welcome as it is nice to relax and get fed, so feel free to join us, most Wednesdays during term time, at 12:00. There is also a short service at 13:15 for a time of peace and contemplation. Come early for the best choice of goodies. Thanks to all who help.

Ann McLeod



Guild News



At our first meeting in January, Robin Easton spoke to us about the invaluable work and mission of the Street Pastors. Throughout Scotland, there are 23 Street Pastor initiatives with 600 Christian Street Pastors whose aim is to listen, care and help to make our cities safer places at night. As well as providing clothing, blankets, ponchos and flip-flops (last year, 2,600 flip-flops were distributed to those suffering from the effects of wearing high heels!), the Street Pastors also pick up glass and bottles so that these cannot be used to injure anyone. Robin explained that much of a Street Pastor's work is to talk to the taxi rank marshalls, door stewards and police officers and the Street Pastors are viewed as being a trusted part of the night-life of Glasgow and other cities. In Glasgow, there are around 150 Street Pastors operating in the centre and West End of Glasgow every Friday and Saturday night, from 22:00-04:00. They are divided into mixed teams of three or four and each team has rucksacks with equipment and radios which link to CCTV. Before beginning their shifts, these volunteers meet at St. George's Tron for devotions and, throughout the night, St George's Tron provides a safe zone for those unable to make their journey home due to the effects of alcohol. As Robin told us stories of those that had been helped by this Christian charity in Glasgow on Friday and Saturday nights, it was clear that through the work and mission of the Street Pastors, Jesus' light shines upon the darkness and despair that some people experience on the streets of our cities.

On 14th January, our own minister, Fergus Buchanan, spoke to us on our theme – *Seeking the way* and how it is our mission to share the Word. Through Chapter 4 in Acts, Fergus showed us how the imprisoned Paul still managed, through his steadfast faith, to proclaim God's Word. Towards the end of his 2nd-letter to Timothy, Paul made three requests of Timothy. The first was for Timothy to come with Mark to visit him. Fergus explained that friendship and encouragement from others are important for us and through others' acts and love, God administers to us all. It was interesting to reflect on how people influence us although we may just have a fleeting contact with them. The second request was to bring Paul his cloak as winter approached and in order to be able to best serve his Lord, he wanted to keep his body warm. Fergus asked us to remember, both in prayer and in deed, those throughout the world who are in similar deprivation. The final request was for Timothy to bring Paul's scrolls and parchments (the Scriptures) and Fergus explained how, as a scholar, these would mean everything to Paul, having been deprived of the Scriptures and other reading material. Having these, would enable Paul's soul to be fed so that in focussing on the Word, he would be able to find the way forward. This, like the other two requests, are applicable to us and never straying far from the Word, we can learn about and experience God in our lives so that we can go forward faithfully, *Seeking the way*.

At our meeting on 21st January, Carole Hough gave us a fascinating insight into the meaning of place-names as windows on the past. It was very interesting to hear that place-names tell us about the history, language and people from long ago and that familiar places had been named from either Celtic (Brittonic, Gaelic, Pictish) or Germanic (Old English, Old Norse, Old Scots). We learned how to distinguish between Celtic and Germanic place-names in the short time that Carole spent with us. The most important thing that we learned from this very knowledgeable speaker was that God is everywhere, even in place-names e.g. Prestwick (priests' farm – Old English), Killermont (sanctuary end – Gaelic) and that people's faith, along with their requirement for living near water, played a major part in their choosing of a place-name.

The last meeting in January will be a Scottish musical evening led by David Sturgeon.

Our programme for February is as follows:

- 4th February: Rev. Elizabeth McKay – Statues of Glasgow
- 11th February: Nairn Young – Late Victorian Sunday School
- 18th February: George Cochrane – L-plates for dog owners
- 25th February: Val Brown – Christian Aid.

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

Finally, advance notice that our Guild Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd March (10:00-12:00). There will be the usual stalls of cakes, books and bric-a-brac. Any donations can be handed into the Large Hall on Friday afternoon between 15:00 and 16:00 or on Saturday morning. Tickets (£2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children) are available from members of the Committee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Are you artistic?

CrossReach is running a 'design a Christmas Card for 2019' competition which is open to all. Closing date is Monday 1st April. Details are available at the back of the Church.

Thank You from Lynsey Brennan

Dear Members of St. Paul's Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your most generous gift that you presented to me on my last Sunday at St. Paul's. This is so gratefully received but completely unnecessary, as my time serving in your Church has been a blessing start to finish. I couldn't have asked for a better Probationary period. I have experienced so many different aspects of ministry and what has made the journey so absolutely wonderful is having the support, gifting and enthusiasm of so many Elders and congregational members. People have given of their time, experience and talents to encourage and support me in my ministry to the Church and this has fuelled me with so much joy and love! I will never forget my St. Paul's family and how graciously they supported me and journeyed with me.

My highlights have been the *Waste Watchers* holiday club week and the Karaoke party, serving within Sun Kids, the all age services with the young people taking part and my ministry to the girls and young women at the Girls' Brigade.

St. Paul's has so much energy and spirit to continue to shine and grow for God's glory in the future and my hope and prayer is the Church will continue to grow as a family. This might mean changes that are uncomfortable and not easy but when it is for Kingdom growth and keeping God's word accessible, alive and fresh, this can only be for the good.

As a family we moved to Dundonald the first week in January and I'm taking some time to settle the boys into their new community and schools. The Church and community have both been very welcoming and the manse is already feeling like home. I hope some of you can make my ordination and induction service on Tuesday 26th February at 7pm. It wouldn't be the same without my St. Paul's family being there.

You are blessed with one faithful, fine and wonderful minister. I shall miss you all very much - keep in touch.

Lynsey

World Day of Prayer Service

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held in New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, on Friday 1st March at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome.

Life And Work—February 2019

South of the Border

The Church of Scotland congregations in England and the Channel Islands

'Hope for a Change'

Nuclear physicist Dr David Frame is a member of the Church's World Mission Council. He talks science and faith, and hopes for peace on the Korean peninsula

Where Now for Fairtrade?

As one of the highest-profile Fairtrade companies struggles, we ask what the future is for the movement

Challenges and Joys

Young member Gemma King reflects on growing up in the Church of Scotland

Making Love Count

In the month of romance, the Moderator highlights the importance of a life of love

Uncovering a Seam of Coal History

An appeal for help in finding all Scotland's mining memorials

The Real Cost of Christmas

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers describes how the poorest are paying the most for credit

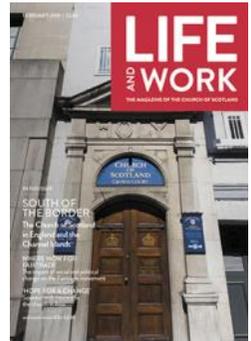
A New Understanding of Friendship

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the lessons of the 'Cell Church Movement'

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; or speak to your church's Life and Work coordinator.



Book Group



This meeting posed something of a challenge for everybody – how to discuss your own choice of the Shetland series of books without giving away the ending! Strangely we all read a different book from the series of seven books by Ann Cleeves, so we had a challenge. We all found the books to be atmospheric and the descriptions of the Shetland landscape were excellent.

There were strong characters many of which appear throughout the whole series e.g. Jimmy Perez, Duncan, Sandy, and Cassie. Some of us were surprised to find that the books were better than the television series.

Everyone enjoyed their choice of book and some of us found it hard to put the book down once we had started! Highly recommended although you are probably best to start with the first book in the series, Raven Black.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th March at the usual time of 7.45pm and we will be discussing *As the Women Lay Dreaming* by Donald S Murray.

Joyce Clark

LIFE and WORK Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' for 2019 are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £31.20 – a reduction of 20 pence per issue on the new 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.

I will be at the back of the church on most Sunday mornings if it is more convenient to pay me directly. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 23rd 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 the charities was £530.28 of which £310.28 was donated to The Way Ahead Group and £220.00 to the Bearsden Macular Support Group (via the Macular Society).

Frances Ireland and Liz Trill

Dear Frances,

Very many thanks for the generous cheque of the value of £310.28 in respect of the money raised at your 'Mince Pie Sunday' service. This is greatly appreciated by The Way Ahead Group and will contribute handsomely to our funds.

The Group have 2 professional Physiotherapists, and they do a wonderful job each week, delivering exercises – therapy which is valued, as often our members, after having suffered a stroke, are sent home with no follow up in this respect.

Please pass on our very grateful thanks for this donation, and we wish the congregation of St. Paul's a very happy 2019.

Sincerely,

Anne Wightman

Chairperson, The Way Ahead Group

Hello Frances,

Many thanks for your email and attached copy of the explanatory letter which I will forward on to my HQ in Andover, along with the cheque.

Once the cheque is cashed, the money will be held for use by the Bearsden support group, as specified in the letter.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate your congregation on this magnificent effort and thank you, on behalf of the Macular Society Bearsden Support Group, for this most generous donation. It will certainly be put to good use.

All the very best for now,

Jamie Cuthbertson

Regional Manager Scotland (South), Macular Society

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Copy date for the March issue is Sunday 17th February if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 20th February if emailing. Please send to:
st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd Feb	J. Ford C. Tanner	Richell Wilson	Team 6 S. Anderson
10th Feb	P. Barlow S. Robertson	MacAllister Tracey	Team 7 S. Adair (EC)
17th Feb	S. Anderson L. Cowie	Wallis MacKinnon	Team 8 S. McFarlane
24th Feb	M. Conway K. Edwards	Chapman Sillars	Team 9 N. Barlow