

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

May 2019



Dear Friends,

This week, I happened to stumble upon an article in the news about food banks. As I expected, a great deal of political capital was being made of this. However, whatever our view might be on the politics of the situation, the truth is that today, a number of people are living below the poverty line in the UK. Today, in East Dunbartonshire, there are families who are struggling to put food on the table. For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis – redundancy, benefit delay, or even an unexpected bill – can mean going hungry. Every day, there are parents who skip meals to feed their children, and people are forced to choose between paying their rent or mortgage and eating.

Whatever we may think of the prevailing political situation at the moment, as Christian believers, we must surely agree that such a situation is unacceptable. As Christian believers, we cannot sit back and do nothing. In Matthew's Gospel, we read of two miracles, one in chapter 14 from verse 13 where Jesus fed five thousand hungry people, and again in chapter 15, from verse 29, where He fed four thousand. The ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ was a very practical ministry, touching people and feeding people at their point of greatest need.

Now of course our Lord Jesus Christ is the One who is the bread of life who satisfies our deepest needs; and on the cross, He satisfied our greatest need which is salvation, eternal life, and peace with God! Yet He is the Saviour who works through His people today to meet the needs of those who are marginalised in communities, and not least our own.

What can we do for those who are going hungry in our community? What opportunities are there for us to feed the hungry, as our Lord fed the hungry? Two of the local churches in the area (St. Joseph's in Milngavie and Killermont Parish Church in Bearsden) have teamed up with East Dunbartonshire Council to participate in the "foodbank" scheme, providing emergency food and support to local people in crisis.

You see, a gift of food does more than just fill empty stomachs. Foodbanks have been shown to help to prevent family breakdown, housing loss, crime and mental health problems. East Dunbartonshire foodbank is part of a wider foodbank network, which helps local churches and communities to open foodbanks, providing emergency food to thousands of people nationwide every year.

Continued overleaf...

I do pray that we would give some thoughts to the words of our Lord Jesus in that challenging Parable of the Sheep and the Goats of which we read in Matthew's Gospel, at chapter 25, and from verse 31, as follows:- "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all His angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in Heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right, and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

We serve people in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, because we love Him, and seek to love the people for whom Jesus died.

With best wishes,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ramsay B. Shields

Holy Week

A BIG thank you to all who helped, in any way, with the services held in St. Paul's during Holy Week. Thanks to Aileen, Sandra and Hugh for all the additional work they undertook so willingly. Thanks also to those who served Communion, the stewards, the organists, the sound desk operatives and not least the tea makers. Thank you.

Graham Mill

Session Clerk

Flower Festival: 7th and 8th June 2019

This year's Flower Festival in support of WaterAid will be held in St Andrew's on Friday, 7th and Saturday, 8th June from 10 am to 4 pm each day. As usual, this allows for participating churches to uplift their floral arrangements on the Saturday so they may be used on Sunday in their own churches.



Last year's festival was a great success in raising money for WaterAid and contributing to the community's enjoyment of Milngavie Week activities. We hope all the Milngavie Churches will be able to take part this year. The church will be open from 5 pm – 7 pm on Thursday, 6th June for the arranging of flowers and I will be there to meet you. Arrangements can be uplifted at 4 pm on Saturday, 8th June.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Rigg

Vestry Secretary, St Andrew's Church

Following on from the above notice, a volunteer is required to do an arrangement on behalf of St Paul's Church, which involves doing the arrangement in St. Andrew's Church on Thursday 6th at 6pm.

As the flower arranging team are already committed to doing regular arrangements in St. Paul's Church for Sunday worship, we would value another member of the congregation to represent St Paul's in the flower festival.

Thank you,

Please contact Marjorie Thoms, or Angela Rigg at St Andrews Church.

BreakAway Knitting Group

The Knitting Group at BreakAway has become a very popular activity for the ladies during our Tuesday afternoon meetings. We are delighted that we can relax and enjoy one another's company and conversation while also making items which have been so much appreciated by the community.

Last year we contacted a local midwife, from the Labour Suite at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital who visited us with her own new-born baby and took delivery of approximately seventy hats. She has recently visited us again with her toddler and second new arrival. All new-born babies in the UK have to wear a hat while in hospital, so lots are required, in fact, five hundred each month. Our Members and Befrienders have 'clicked needles happily', presenting her with one hundred and fifty-seven brightly coloured hats and a number of small blankets and hats for premature babies. A group of Befrienders has also knitted thirty-five hats for fishermen, and the Scottish Northwest Fishermen's Association in Mallaig was very appreciative of the parcel we posted off to them last month.

We would like to say a very big 'thank-you' to everyone involved.

Elizabeth Bragg

Vine Trust Coffee Morning

The Overseas Committee would like to thank all those who supported the coffee morning on Saturday 6th April. The Coffee Morning raised the grand total of £2,100 and this was due to the wonderful generosity of members and friends of St. Paul's Church.

This money will go a long way in helping both Sue and Beth as they prepare for their trip with the Vine Trust to Tanzania in August and they can also be sure of our prayers. Rhona Raeburn has also agreed to join them on this trip.

Marilyn Ure (Overseas Convenor)

Beth and I were overwhelmed by the amount raised at the coffee morning. It is wonderful to feel so supported by our Church family. A big thank you to the overseas committee for all the organisation and to all those who helped and came along to support the event.

Sue Rollings



Thank you to the whole family at St Paul's.

Over the past months, there has been such care shown for me, Margaret and the family and I know that we have been a constant inclusion in your prayers.

We are very blessed to be part of such a loving and close church family and I can't thank you enough for all the cards, visits and help, both practical and spiritual. The kindness that has been shown by all has been overwhelming.

Special thanks to Fergus and the Office Bearers for all their support.

Psalm 27: 13-14

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Every blessing

Angus Maclean

My family and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone at St.Paul's for all the prayers, visits, cards and flowers during Alice's Illness and over the past few weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us and especially the attendance at her funeral. It is very much appreciated.

With kind regards,

Campbell Henderson

The following will be leading the services at St. Paul's (*subject to change*)

Date	Morning 10am	Evening 7pm
12th May	Rev Dr David White	Rev Ramsay Shields (communion)
19th May	Rev Dr David White	Rev Dr David White
26th May	Very Rev John Christie	Rev Dr David White
2nd June	Rev Dr David White	Rev Dr David White

Flower Donations - May

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 May: Mrs M E Robertson, Mrs S Speedie

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.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week this year falls from 12th to 18th May. As usual we will need as many people as possible for delivering and collecting envelopes. Please give this your prayerful consideration and leave your name on the sign up sheets at the back of the church.



Alex McEwan

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

When David and I arrived in Japan in summer 1998, it was Year 10 of the Heisei era. Alongside the Gregorian calendar, Japan also has its own unique calendar, using the years of the Emperor's reign. Heisei was the name given to the era under Emperor Akihito. He announced he would abdicate on 30 April 2019, and that his son, Naruhito, would succeed to the throne. Recently the Government declared that the name of the new era will be Reiwa, or beautiful harmony. So we have 30th April Heisei Year 31, followed by 1st May Reiwa Year 1.

The anticipated new era has given rise to many articles about how Japan has changed over the last 31 years. One of the biggest areas is that of family life. Whereas marriage used to be the norm, a survey in 2015 showed that more than a third of people in Japan now live alone. Nearly a quarter of men reach age 50 without marrying (and living together outside of marriage is relatively rare).

In 2016 the number of children born in Japan dropped below 1,000,000 for the first time since records began in 1899. Japan's birth-rate is among the lowest in the world, at 1.43 and the population is declining. As the number of elderly also increases (more than 25% are over 65), an increasing problem is that of "kodokushi", people dying alone in the apartments and often not being found for some time. It is common enough that there are now companies which specialise in cleaning out the apartment and sorting out the belongings of the deceased.

Related to this, the number of crimes committed by people over the age of 65 has also been increasing. Many of them prefer to live in prison rather than on their own, so, when they are released, they commit another offence in order to get back into prison.

One thing that has sadly not changed during the Heisei era is the percentage of Japanese people who are Christians. Rather it remains stubbornly below 1%. As we enter the Reiwa era our prayer is that many more people would come to believe in Jesus and know the joy of being part of God's family. Recently one elderly lady in our church shared that coming to church is the highlight of her week. May many more people, old and young, be able to rejoice in a similar way at being part of God's family.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

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Copy date for the June issue is Sunday 19th May if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 21st May if emailing. Please send to:
st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
5th May	A. Galloway	Chapman Richell	Team 10 I. Strang
12th May	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Wilson MacAllister	Team 3 M. Ure (EC)
19th May	F. Ireland	Tracey Wallis	Team 4 Marylyn Taggart
26th May	K. Hagart J. Mill	MacKinnon Sillars	Team 5 G. Fairbrother