

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

September 2019



Dear Friends,

The problem of pain is a fundamental theological dilemma and perhaps the most serious objection to the Christian faith. A book which has helped me greatly in this area is *The Problem of Pain* written by C. S. Lewis in 1940. In this book, C. S. Lewis wrote, "On the highest level, pain, through trials and sacrifices, teaches true self-sufficiency: to rely on God, to act out of heavenly strength, out of a purely supernatural motive. When man acts in this way he becomes a co-creator with God: Human will becomes truly creative and truly our own when it is wholly God's, and this is one of the many senses in which he that loses his soul will find it."

Despite occasionally hearing over the years that 'some people sail through life', the reality is that we will eventually come face to face with the sadness of the death of someone we love. Therefore, bereavement is an inescapable and universal reality of our lives.

This personal voyage will be moulded by our life experiences as well as our religious and philosophical beliefs. For some, death will be the absolute end, the clinical conclusion to life. For people of faith, it will be a seamless progression of life into a different realm, the beginning of an afterlife. Regardless of beliefs, many people can be naturally confused and fearful regarding death because of its unknown and mysterious character. We may even hedge our bets in the way that Robert Burns did with his epitaph for a friend, "If there is another world, he lives in bliss. If there is none, he made the best of this." Even if we feel that someone will receive eternal life, we still feel their loss like a gaping wound.

A Roman Catholic priest writing in his journal after conducting the funeral of a young boy with cerebral palsy expresses this very honestly when he wrote, "For the Christian, death is always a bitter contradiction – utter devastation at loss, but with the deep knowledge that what we see as death is a mere shadow cast on the reverse side of life."

When someone dies, we miss so much their touch, their mannerisms, their smile, their voice, their presence, and even their irritating habits. Yet despite bereavement, our lives must go on. The simple words "if only" can almost drive us insane, particularly if we are consumed with guilt and regret, and even those with a devout faith can feel angry with God.

Continued overleaf...

In the Old testament, the book of Psalms is full of cries to God in despair. “How long, O Lord?” “Will You forget me forever? “How long will You hide Your face from me?” (Psalm 13:3). For many people, it can be hard enough believing in an invisible God, never mind one who appears to be absent and remote during our time of greatest need. The great paradox of how we respond to human loss is never more evidenced than when we are either drawn closer to God, or when we rebel against Him or blame Him when we cannot find the right answers. C. S. Lewis did not question the existence of God when his wife died, but he did question God’s love. He felt that at no other time, God had seemed more distant and unconcerned. Did God really love? If so, where was He during his greatest need?

So how does God really feel about our pain? As we celebrate the seasons of the Christian year, and as we come to know the Lord more in the Gospels, we see how Jesus Himself suffered during His life and ministry here on earth. We need simply to look at the way that Jesus responded to the bereaved with both passion and grief. In Jesus Christ, we have the historical evidence of how God responded to pain on earth. However, the fact that Jesus Himself suffered greatly does not remove sorrow from our lives. Nor does it guarantee that we will always feel comforted, but it does show us that our Lord God and Heavenly Father does not sit idly back and watch us grieve alone. God, in Christ Jesus, was willing to join us in His short time on earth and endured more pain and suffering than most of us will ever know. In doing so, He has made possible a future world with no tears or sorrow. (Revelation 21:5).

We should never forget the cost of God’s love for us. This is the God who endured all suffering and death in order to rescue us from it. The answer to the problem of pain and suffering is not to deny it; nor to banish grief from our lives (the increasing number of “non-religious” funerals shows the extent to which people are trying to do just that), but to embrace the saving love of God. Though His Word does not promise the absence of pain in our lives, through Jesus the Suffering Servant, He promises to be with us in every trial, even to the end of the age.

With every best wish,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ramsay B. Shields
Interim Moderator

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

I hope you have all had a good summer. As usual, summer in Tokyo has been very hot. Most days the “feels like” temperature is over 40 degrees. The summer Olympics next year will certainly be a challenge for both athletes and spectators.

In August I took Calum to Florida to start University, where he got a football (or should I say “soccer”!) scholarship. The first weekend they travelled 9 hours each way by bus to play a match in North Carolina. They regularly go to different States for matches. With learning to study and write papers in English for the first time he will have a busy first term.

So now it is just Alistair and me left in Japan. The house is much quieter! Alistair is also busy with football training and matches, but he enjoys it all. He turned 16 recently so is now able to do some part-time work for extra pocket money.

This month I will travel up to Sapporo for the 10th Anniversary service of Hiragishi Izumi Church. This was the church David and I helped to start in 2009 along with How Chuang and Kaori Chua. How Chuang died in 2015 and David in 2017 so it will be a poignant anniversary in many ways.

At the moment the church is led by a missionary family from Hong Kong, with some help from 3 others from Germany, New Zealand and England! Some Christians have moved into the area and decided to join the church. Others have come to believe in Jesus and been baptised at the church. Sambi san, who was our first new believer baptised at Christmas in 2009 is now married and has a baby. Although the church is still small, it is encouraging to see it grow.

The church has a variety of outreach events happening, from a ukulele circle to English classes to a Mother & Toddler group. Some people are also studying the Bible with one of the missionaries. Please pray for the church to continue to grow, that by its 20th anniversary it will be large enough to have been handed over to Japanese leadership and independence.

Thank you as always for your partnership in the Gospel.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity Fundraising

I'm participating in the Kiltwalk on the 15th September to raise money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

It all started in January 2014, when I came home from a Skiing trip with the school and became severely ill. I was then diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis. I was only 12 years old.

Transverse myelitis is a rare neurological condition in which the spinal cord is inflamed. Transverse implies that the inflammation extends across the entire width of the spinal cord. Partial transverse myelitis and partial myelitis are terms used to define inflammation of the spinal cord that affects part of the width of the spinal cord. Signs and symptoms are variable and reflect the level of the affected spinal cord. The underlying cause of transverse myelitis is unknown.

I now have Bladder Retention, which causes me to use a catheter, 3 times a day. Urinary retention is characterised by poor urinary stream with intermittent flow, straining, a sense of incomplete voiding, and hesitancy (a delay between trying to urinate and the flow actually beginning). Luckily I have had no damage to my kidneys, and I can finally say I'm proud of myself for getting this far.

The staff and teams at Yorkhill and the Queen Elizabeth University hospital have been phenomenal. I physically cannot thank them enough, the Psychiatrist, Urology Team, Neurology and Ward 3A at the Queen Elizabeth.

After everything I have been through, I have come out at the other end, studying as a Children's Nurse which I have been inspired to do, from the amazing people who have helped me. This job is amazing and the NHS staff are true heroes to a lot of people.

I have now raised over £1000 and I cannot believe it, the kindness of people and generosity has been unbelievable. Thank you all!

Sophie Wallis

The link for my kiltwalk donation page is -
<https://edinburghkiltwalk2019.everydayhero.com/uk/sophie-wallis18#>

Walk For the Word

The annual 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk will take place on Saturday October 5th in Mugdock Country Park, meeting at 10 am in the Visitor Centre Car Park.



Sponsorship forms are available at the back of the church. If you would like to come for the walk, but would prefer not to be sponsored, please feel free to join us for the fresh air and fellowship.

The money raised from the Walk will go to Bible Society projects around the world as well as here in Scotland.

Thank You

Our family would like to express thanks for the many expressions of sympathy, cards, calls, emails and flowers received regarding the death of our mother Mrs. Jane (Jennie) Getty who passed away peacefully on the 31st July, at Westerton Care Home, Bearsden.

A special thanks to the Rev. Ramsay Shields for his contribution in the funeral and to the Rev. Fergus Buchanan and her elder Robert Gow for their interest and visits to her over the years.

It is a decided blessing to be part of the family of St.Paul's.

Graham and Jean Getty

We would like to thank you all for your prayers, help and support both before and after the death of Angus. We are so touched by the amount of cards, gifts and practical help that has been given.

We were awed at the number of you who attended the funeral. This was most definitely a true testament to the person Angus was.

We are assured in our hearts that Angus now stands amazed in the presence of the Lord.

Philippians 1: 21

The Maclean family

Cue And Review - Print Speaking To The Blind

We are a charity for the visually impaired. We are endeavouring to reach out to local churches and organisations for support as we are keen to reach as many visually impaired people as possible in the local area. It is estimated that there are around 529 blind people in East Dunbartonshire and circa 40,000 in the West of Scotland, many of whom are unaware of our service. Based in Bishopbriggs, we record newspapers (The Herald, The National, The Evening Times and Inside Soap) free of charge for those with visual impairment by way of USB memory sticks sent out by post, a mobile phone app and an online website. For more information, please visit our website to hear our articles at www.cueandreview.com/freepodcasts or download the "talking newspaper" app on Android from Play Store. We are also currently seeking volunteers to record some of our newspaper titles if this is something you would be interested in please email us at AAATL@cueandreview.com or call us on 0141 772 3976.

Leaflets about the charity are also available at the back of the church.

Safeguarding

Any volunteers who have a PVG form are required to complete and return it as soon as possible if they wish to assist in any church organisations and groups in the coming session. Disclosure Scotland and The Church of Scotland process these forms which can take 6-8 weeks.

Volunteers are reminded that they require to attend Safeguarding Training. Further sessions will be organised over the coming months. Please watch out for details in Life Magazine and weekly intimations. Volunteers who fail to attend training sessions may not be able to assist in Church organisations and groups.

Elizabeth McEwan
Safeguarding Coordinator

Badminton Club

The Club meets in the Large Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. The new season starts on Tuesday 3rd September and new members will be made most welcome so come along for fun, fitness and fellowship.



For further information please see Marjory-Anne Kennedy.

Flower Donations - September

Thank you to all who have contributed towards St Paul's Flowers over the past year, and to the dedicated team who have made such beautiful arrangements for our Sunday Morning Worship. If you would like to join us please let us know, none of us have any special training, but just have a love for flowers!



Donations given in Memory for September are: Mrs M.K Laws, Mrs Wilma Douglas.

Please send any donations to Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66 Braeside Ave, G62 6NN, or place it in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church. Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's Flowers.

Book Group



Maybe you have heard of the Golden Age of crime fiction. This covers crime stories written between 1930 and 1940 and although it was a bit old fashioned in style, it paved the way for many authors including Agatha Christie. We have been reading a murder mystery in this genre called *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley. We have a remote and desolate hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands which has been cut off due to heavy snow falls and seven Oxford friends who have been meeting every year for the last ten years. The only thing they seem to have in common is that they went to University together. As the story unfolds we learn more about each of them. The writing is very clever because you don't actually know who has been murdered until much later in the narrative. As each character is revealed you realise that they don't really know each other at all - but one of their number has committed murder. Most of the group enjoyed the book and would recommend it.

At the time of publishing, the book group will have also met on the 27th Aug to discuss *The Seal Woman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson.

Joyce Clark

Lunch Club

After the summer break the Lunch Club restarts on 4th September from 12 pm to 1 pm. All are welcome for lunch of soup, filled rolls and home baking.



Due to longstanding helpers retiring we need one or two ladies to help in the kitchen and serving and a gentleman to help set up and clear away tables, chairs etc.

The ladies usually only help every second week and gentlemen most weeks. If you can help please see Ann MacLeod or John Macpherson.

Thank you.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This year the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 22nd September. Donations can be delivered to the church on Saturday 21st September between 10am and 11.30am or on Harvest Thanksgiving morning.

As usual donations of flowers, plants and posies will be delivered by elders to the elderly, sick, housebound and those in care homes. Food items will be delivered, as in previous years, to The Lodging House Mission and The Salvation Army.

All donations are most welcome. Fresh vegetables, fruit, tinned goods and dried goods are always put to good use by the organisations involved.

The Salvation Army Project to which we deliver, provides single men with hostel type accommodation and they have access to cooking facilities. Individual sized portions are always welcome as well as tea, coffee and of course little treats.

Envelopes will be available in the pews for those members wishing to contribute to the work of 'Water Aid'

Thank You

Elizabeth McEwan

Harvest Thanksgiving Coordinator

St Paul's Society

We continue to sell the £1 cards and as you may be aware, the charity that will benefit from the cash collected will be MYELOMA UK and at the time of sending this for print we had collected over £100 so far. Please Remember that you can order 'personalised' cards with the person's name and age on the card in 'Diamond lettering' at a cost of £2 for each card, one week's notice is appreciated in these cases but not always necessary.

Members may remember our Summer Visit to Lynsey Brennan's new charge in Dundonald and the magnificent spread her congregation set out for us. Well, a date for your diary is Saturday 5th October and on that afternoon we intend to have an afternoon tea for St Paul's Society Members, people who went on the Dundonald Visit and invited guests. On that afternoon it is hoped that we can entertain the Dundonald people who looked after us during the summer and it is hoped that Lynsey can also attend. We will also give them a tour of our church in the afternoon.

St Paul's Society Team

LIFE AND WORK
SEPTEMBER 2019



God and Taxes - The morality of taxation

'I Really Love My Church Community' - Former MEP Catherine Stihler talks about faith

Removing Barriers - An innovative partnership between CrossReach and the Prince's Trust, helping young people access careers in care

Web Worship - Iain McLarty describes the background to the web project capturing hymns from CH4

Celebrating the Guild - A look ahead to the annual Gathering in Dundee and Guild Week

The Disinvestment Debate - Second in a two-part series exploring the argument for disinvestment from fossil fuels

This Church Family Is Unique - Buwanika Weerasinha, a member of the Scots Kirk in Colombo tells her faith story

Building Strong Communities - The work of the Council for Christians and Jews

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

Date	Morning 10am	Evening 7pm
8 September	Very Rev John Christie	Rev Ramsay Shields (communion)
15 September	Rev John Campbell	Rev Ramsay Shields
22 September	Very Rev John Christie (Harvest)	Rev Dr David White
29 September	Rev Dr David White	Rev Dr David White
6 October	Rev Ramsay Shields (communion)	Rev Dr David White

Pyramid Rock

The Holiday Club took place from Monday 5th August to Friday 9th August with an average of 40 primary aged children attending each morning and 70 attending on at least one morning. Over 30 members of the congregation and 10 young people from the Bible Class helped out during the week. They were well supported by many others who helped with decorating the hall, baking, preparing crafts and collecting materials to help with the crafts.

Pyramid Rock was the title and the theme of the week was the story of Joseph. We looked at God as a planner, helper, provider, forgiver and saviour. We emphasised the Fatherhood of God and how He wanted us to be part of His family. Our memory verse was John 1, verse 12 – *“To all who believe in Jesus’ name, God gave the right to become His children.”*

Captain Ketchup reminded us of the story from the previous day. Crafts and games followed. The Bible Class produced the drama *“Dr Potty and his niece Denise”* which greatly entertained the children.

Tea and coffee was offered to parents arriving for their children, giving an opportunity to welcome them into the church building.

The families were invited to a party on the Friday evening which was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all. An encouraging number of families joined us for a special Family Service on Sunday morning.

Thank you to Hazel Buchan and everyone who was involved and especially for the strong prayer support of the congregation and of many other congregations in the area.

Church Of Scotland News

Upsurge in demand at Kirk run school uniform banks

Hard-pressed families across Scotland are increasingly turning to “school uniform banks” run by Kirk congregations. Co-ordinators of “used but still usable” clothing services have reported an upsurge in interest from parents and carers who are struggling to make ends meet.

They cater for children and youngsters preparing to return to primary and secondary schools after the summer holidays and provide articles including blouses, shoes, school jumpers with logos, blazers, polo shirts, trousers, skirts, PE kits, school bags, lunch boxes and stationary.

Clothing is largely donated by parents of children who have outgrown them or no longer have any use for them. Some of the items are brand new and have never been worn.

Co-ordinators say the scheme is good for the environment by encouraging recycling and ensuring pupils are properly clothed and equipped has a positive impact on emotional and academic wellbeing.

St Margaret’s Parish Church in Forfar started a service four years ago after minister, Rev Maggie Hunt, moved to the Angus town and struggled to find a uniform for her daughter. The demand for the service has grown to the extent that 2,194 articles have been given away since April this year.

Milton of Campsie Parish Church in East Dunbartonshire started running a “used but still useable” clothing venture with the local primary school this year. Minister, Rev Julie Moody, said: “This is the first time it’s happened and parents were encouraged to hand in uniforms at the end of last term and to the church, which we opened every Friday in July for donations. Folks in the church then washed, ironed and sorted the donations and we were inundated. During our fortnight of Holiday Club at the end of the summer, the uniforms were available for parents/carers to browse and take away. There has been really good take up.”

Ms Moody said the church was pushing the scheme as an environmental issue. “Both the school and the church want to promote environmental care,” she added. “The leftover uniforms are now going to the school where they will be available at parent evenings, school discos, etc. The church will have them on offer at the Christmas Fayre and we’ll ask for more donations in the New Year.”

Other churches that run school uniform banks include Viewpark Parish Church in Uddingston, Chalmers Parish Church in Larkhall and Gilmour and Whitehill Parish Church in Hamilton.

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The copy date for the October issue is Wednesday 24th September for e-mails and Sunday 21st September if using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
1st Sep	M. Conway K. Edwards	Wallis Wilson	Team 10 B. Shearlaw
8th Sep	A. Galloway	Sillars MacKinnon	Team 3 R. Gow (EC)
15th Sep	A. Gillies R. Cameron	Tracey Richell	Team 4 E. Bragg
22nd Sep	F. Ireland A. McNellan	Chapman Berry	Team 5 B. Ponton
29th Sep	K. Hagart J. Mill	MacAllister	Team 6 G. Blackadder