

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2021



Dear Friends,

Out for a walk and from a distance I see and hear two people having a real go at one another. It ends with one lunging at the other but the worst is averted as a third party intervenes. It has been some time since I have seen anything like this in a public place and I can't help wondering about the cause of it all.

Not long afterwards I am out for another walk along Bearsden Road. The traffic is very heavy - surprisingly given the present restrictions and soon I hear evidence of automotive disturbance as horns are sounded in anger. I cannot see what has given rise to this but obviously some people are not happy with one another.

I begin to think about the number of items appearing in the media about the effect of the last year on our mental and emotional health. It would certainly be surprising if we have not been affected in some way. Young families, in which work, schooling and entertainment have to be sustained, have been highlighted in particular. But the isolation, social distancing and disruption of communal activity have driven us into ourselves and sometimes that is not a comfortable place to be.

In one of his songs, Bob Dylan speaks of 'trying to feed my soul with thought'. A worthwhile aspiration – if it is the right kind of thought. The apostle Paul sometimes speaks of his inner life being refreshed by other Christians as they share their faith and their love. Our means of contact are limited but not completely cut-off. There has never been a time when there have been so many ways to keep in touch. Apart from letters and cards, the internet has opened up so many possibilities, from email to Zoom. It is not perfect but it still allows ways for our encouragement and support to flow to those who are struggling. The Apostles used the means available to them to sustain relationships with the early Jesus movement, to address problems and to encourage congregations in mission. Would they scorn the means of communication that are available to us?

To get back to Dylan and the feeding of his soul. Our major source for the best kind of thought is Scripture. Someone was asking Gabrielle about Bible reading the other day and how to start. She advised taking Mark's Gospel, reading a portion every day if possible, reflecting on the meaning and asking how this affects your life. Really, this is the only way to stay close to Christ and to know His ways. This is feeding your soul with His thought and opening up the way for the Spirit to sustain your inner life and keep you strong within.

The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to strengthen our commitment to the Word and to wait in expectation for the refreshment of our inner lives that only it can give.

Wishing you all God's Peace,

Lergus

A reminder when lockdown restrictions are relaxed...



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Thank You

I would like to convey my thanks to Chris Scott on his retirement on 31st March after 14 years faithful service as our Treasurer. I have always found Chris extremely helpful if I had an issue about finance for the garden or any other financial matters. I hope Chris and his wife Jean will enjoy the time they will now have as he steps down from this very busy duty.

Sheila Dickson
Garden Convener

The Traidcraft stall continues during lockdown from home

Many thanks to those who continue to remember and are able to buy from me. Although I am not keeping a big stock just now, I am able to order any goods you might need which can be collected in the COVID way, from the safety of my garage!!



Items in stock include tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, marmalade, jam, toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, gardening gloves, washing up liquid, laundry liquid, hand sanitizer, etc!

More stock can be viewed on their website.

Even with all the restrictions, we have made an impressive turnover & between August 2020 & February 2021 we have been able to donate £550 to Traidcraft Exchange.

This accrues from the 10 percent profit, I, as the official fair trader, receive on all orders. To find out more about Traidcraft Exchange please go to their website. All the work done is the Christian response to world poverty.

Rosemary Fraser

Treasurer

Chris Scott, our Treasurer, will be retiring from his position at the end of March 2021.

As a result, the Finance Committee have reviewed the role of Treasurer and propose splitting the duties into two new distinct roles. The roles will be titled Treasurer and Finance Assistant.

Primarily the Treasurer will be responsible for the overall financial affairs of St. Paul's and will report to the Congregational Board.

The Finance Assistant will undertake the book keeping tasks required on a weekly basis. This would require the equivalent of 1 day per week and would be a paid, part time, position. The Finance Assistant would report to the Treasurer. Training can be provided if required

If you feel you would like to undertake either of the roles or know someone in the Church who might be suitable then please contact Graham Mill (956 5155). Task Description sheets are available for both positions and can be obtained from Chris Scott, Treasurer (956 5251) or Gordon Fairbrother, Finance Committee (563 8698).

These are important positions that require to be filled in early course. Please give this request your full attention to enable the stewardship of the financial affairs of St. Paul's to continue effectively.

Graham Mill
Session Clerk

Lent Services

The online Reflections continue on Saturday mornings throughout Lent. Led by members of St Paul's, the theme is *Songs for the Dark Times* and focus on Psalms which reflect the response of people of faith in challenging days.

Covid-19

The Scottish Government has indicated that it may be possible to resume church services next month subject to current trends continuing. Please watch our web-site for up to date information.

Holy Week

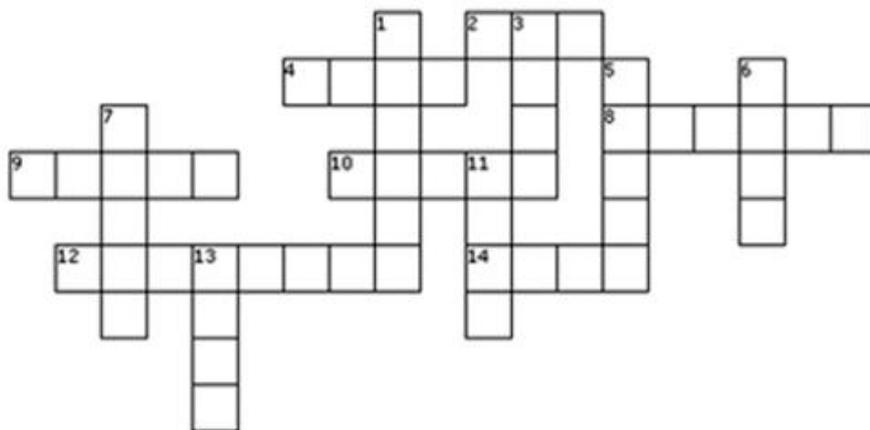
Milngavie churches are recording a series of evening services from Monday 29th March until Friday 2nd April which will be available through our web-site and on You-Tube.

Monday	Isaiah 52:13-15	The Exalted Servant	Rev Douglas Campbell
Tuesday	Isaiah 53:1-3	The Suffering Servant	Rev Ramsay Shields
Wednesday	Isaiah 53:4-9	The Humble Servant	Rev John MacLeod
Thursday	Isaiah 53:10-12	The Glorious Servant	Rev Fergus Buchanan
Friday	Psalm 22	The Forsaken Servant	Rev John Wilson

Fergus will also lead a short reflection on the Saturday morning.

He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus'tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

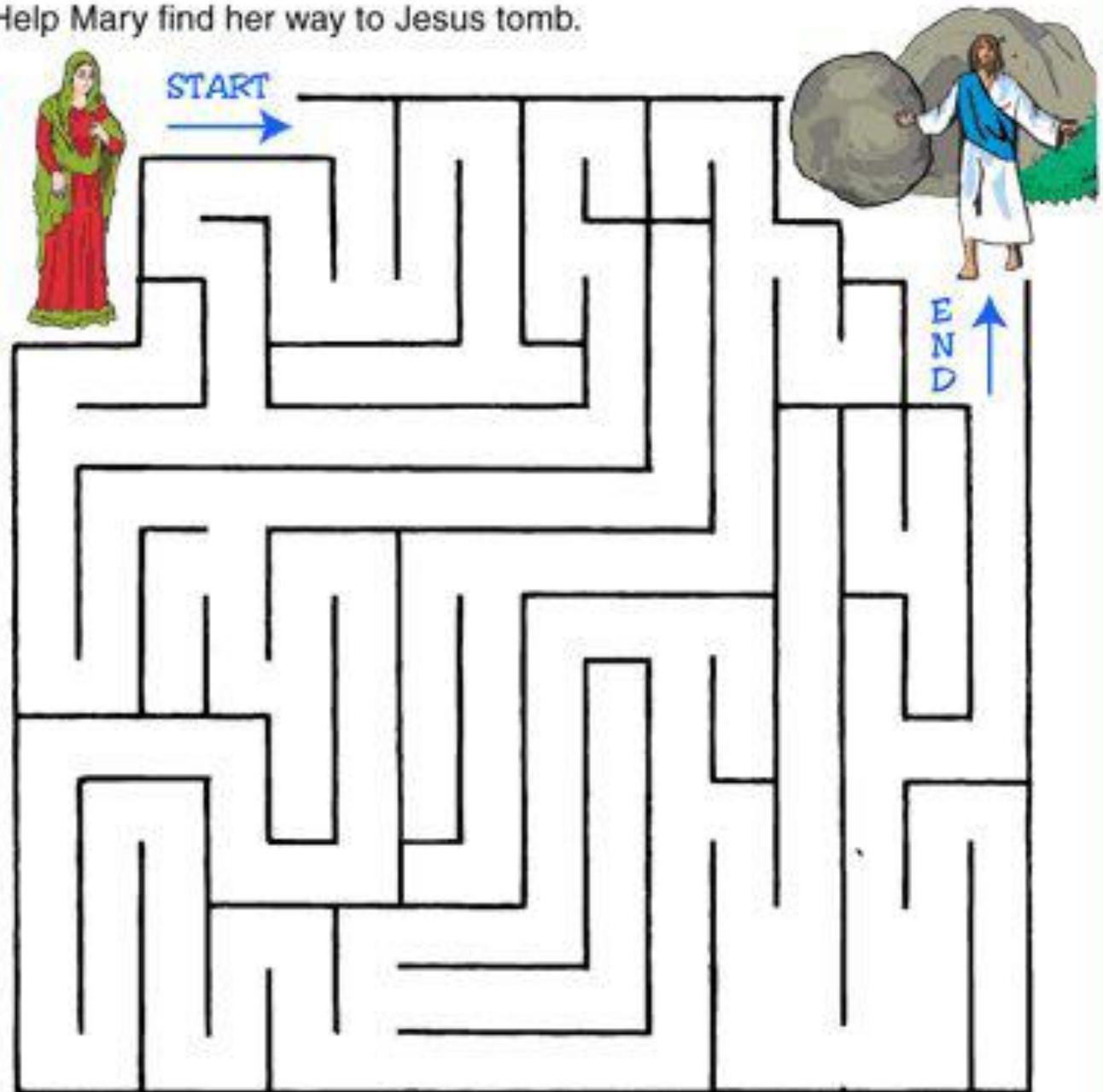
Answers on page 12.

Jesus is Alive Maze

Early Easter morning, Mary Magdalene visited Jesus' tomb. The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus was not in the tomb. She was very sad because she thought someone had taken Jesus' body.

Then Mary saw a man she thought was the gardener. She was so happy to see the man was Jesus! She ran to tell the disciples Jesus was alive.

Help Mary find her way to Jesus tomb.



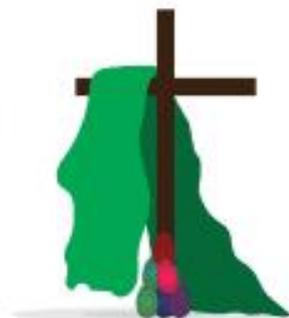
Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E
I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F
E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB





Dear Friends,

Hello from Tokyo where the plum blossoms are indicating that spring is on its way. I wonder how each of you is coping with the ongoing restrictions? Possibly the thing we have missed most of all this past year is being able to see and spend time with other people, to have a leisurely chat or give someone a hug. This is especially true for people living on their own.

If you look at coronavirus numbers, Japan has so far responded relatively well to the pandemic. Thanks to the most recent State of Emergency due to end next week, the number of new cases is falling. However, this has come at a cost. Japan has long been known for its high suicide rate. Over the last 10 years the government and various organisations have worked hard to begin to bring the number of suicides down. However, with the onset of the pandemic, the loss of jobs and loneliness has meant that the number has gone up again. In fact three times more people died from suicide last year than have died so far from COVID-19. In particular the number of children and younger women taking their own lives rose significantly.

In response, Japan has appointed a Minister of Loneliness to the Cabinet, perhaps following the example of the UK. 1 in 3 households in Japan are one-person households. Cultural factors also mean there is a high value of self-reliance, making it difficult for people to ask for help. There are also few counsellors and other mental health professionals who can offer help.

As Christians we believe we are made for community. Just as God exists in the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so God said it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). We all need community. God also designed the church as a community – the body of Christ – where every member is important.

Please pray for those in Japan who are lonely and for Christians to be able to reach out to them, share the amazing hope we have in the gospel and invite them into the community of God's family in the church.

With love and prayers,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Bible Sunday



The last Sunday in February usually sees us celebrating Bible Sunday in St. Paul's when we have an opportunity to hear about the work of the Scottish Bible Society both in Scotland and overseas. During the pandemic, the work goes on despite the difficulties faced by staff in some of the most challenging situations.

The most recent project is supplying Proclaimer Audio Bibles to churches in Mozambique. Using these small black boxes, which cost just £35 each, congregations, and often whole villages, can sit around a Proclaimer and hear God's Word in their own heart language. This is important as there is a high percentage of illiteracy (60%) in many of the villages in Mozambique. And because the box is solar powered, and can also be wound up, it can be transported and used easily. The Bible Society in Mozambique have a team of colporteurs who play a very important role as they go from church to church, and village to village to instruct pastors and volunteers about the use of the Proclaimer and how to set up and support listening groups. Through these colporteurs many people have benefited from the Faith Comes By Hearing programme.

Work is still going on in China, where permission has been given by the authorities to print more Bibles and in Peru where the Bread of Life project continues to support children and families. Bible 2020 is continuing into 2021 with daily readings.

Information about these and all the other projects can be found on the Society's website at www.scottishbiblesociety.org.

Please remember the work of the Bible Society in your prayers.

Frances Ireland

Words for Life

Each day there is a short narrative on the church website under the logo "words for life" and it is also available on the church Facebook page as well as our own "words for life" facebook page. At the moment we are spending each day with a Lent "thought for the day" and to help me I am using a book by Sinclair Ferguson "to seek and serve". The lessons are very short and only take a minute or so to read.

With this in mind, I would like to thank Nimmi who puts words for life on the church website and Janice for putting it on the Church Facebook page. They are a great team.

Online Services

Do you know anyone who has no internet connection or DVD access?

We are so blessed that we have Fergus every week providing online services. We owe a debt of gratitude to Chris Scott who puts the services online for us and makes them look so professional. It was brought to my attention that there are some people who have no access to a DVD player or have no internet access in their homes. It's just to let you know that there are several Churches in Scotland that have a telephone service where you can hear their services by telephoning them.

Examples of this would be:

Renfrew North Church on 0141 530 1308 ,
West Lothian Church on 0150 635 3800
and our very own Lynsey Brennan's church in Dundonald, Lynsey can be heard on 0156 344 4485.

While these phone numbers are not free calls, The Church of England has a free phone line of hymns and reflections on 0800 804 8044. Please pass these numbers on to anyone who might benefit from them, thanks.

Alex McEwan

St. Paul's Society Cards

Having sent another £100 to St. Joseph's Milngavie Food bank, we have now passed the £1000 target with money raised since the pandemic started. We are currently allocating future funds to The Preshal Trust for their hot take away lunches that they prepare and distribute each day. At the time of writing this, we are up to £125 and our target for them is £200 by Easter.

Easter Cards and many other cards are available at the moment and if you would like to order anything please phone me on 0141 384 0274 or email me on alexjmcewan@gmail.com. I can then send you pictures of the cards available or you can view the cards that have just been put on the church website. A big thank you to Stephen Thom who changes the website for me when new cards become available.

Alex McEwan

World Mission

Volunteer at COP26

Would you like to be a part of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November?

The UN Climate Change Conference 2021, scheduled to be held in Glasgow between 1-12 November, will need 1,000 willing and enthusiastic people to take on various roles across the central belt. Applications are open until 31 March.

Find out more at: <https://ukcop26.org/volunteer/>

United Mission to Nepal

Our partners at United Mission to Nepal (UMN) are addressing the impact of coronavirus and lockdown through hospital work and community development work. From UMN'S coronavirus response web page you can see links to relevant news and responses from their clusters and hospitals.

Please continue to pray for the UMN agreements and visa renewals. Their staff does not want any work to be stopped by lack of permission or lack of understanding of the local, transformational approach. Their weekly prayer notes share the latest prayer points. Prayerful support from around the world is much appreciated in these days.

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Copy Date

The copy date for the April issue is Wednesday 24th March via email.

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

Crossword Answers:

Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	
stone	cry	father	