

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2016



Dear Friends,

January is often thought to be the most 'dreich' of months. After the brightness and excitement of Christmas there is a sense of let-down and the weather seldom brings us any encouragement. With January 2016 almost behind us, we have memories of wet and windy days and not much light. Yet there are signs of things moving on. People are telling me of daffodils and crocuses making a first tentative appearance and birdsong is becoming more evident. The signs are there and we begin to think of brighter and warmer days ahead.

I've been reading quite a lot in the history books of the Bible recently. It's astonishing to see how far the nation of Israel moved away from God throughout their history. There were times when morally and spiritually Israel was a very dark place. Under the leadership of some dubious kings idols were worshipped, the Temple was neglected, foul practices were adopted (even child sacrifice) and the Word of God was forgotten.

Yet there were signs that God had not abandoned his people and was still seeking to establish His will amongst them and to fulfil His purpose for them as a nation. Prophets were raised up who kept the flame of truth burning. From time to time there were kings like Hezekiah and Josiah who were committed to reform, to bring their people back to God. Eventually the Son of God emerged from this people, the ultimate sign that God had not abandoned them or indeed the world he loved and longed to reconcile to Himself.

The signs continue. The story of Jesus is still being told; men and women are still responding to Him; His love shown through His people is making a difference in so many areas of need. The great purpose of God is moving forward towards that day when everything dark and painful will be eliminated from all human experience.

It is the ultimate expression of God's grace that we can be involved in this. Despite our weakness, our limitation, our tendency to fall, we are called to reach for the best, to be instruments of His truth, His love, His justice. There are times when we need to reflect on this for our encouragement and to realise what is possible for us under God. There was a moment when the Psalmist realised that with God's help he could be an example to many, a sign of God's presence in the midst of all the challenges of life (Psalm 71: 7). This is here not just for us to admire but for us to aspire to.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leslie'.

Lent Services

The Theme for this year will be The Influence Of The Cross. We will be guided in our thinking by passages from Paul's letter to the Galatians:

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| February 13: | 'The Cross and Salvation'
– Rev Fergus Buchanan | (Galatians 1: 3-5) |
| February 20: | 'The Cross and Experience'
– Rev Nigel Barge | (Galatians 2: 19-21) |
| February 27: | 'The Cross and Preaching'
– Deborah Chestnutt | (Galatians 3: 1-3) |
| March 6: | 'The Cross and Substitution'
– Douglas Muirhead | (Galatians 3: 10-14) |
| March 12: | 'The Cross and Holiness'
– Stephen Thoms | (Galatians 5: 24) |
| March 19: | 'The Cross and Boasting'
– Robin Easton | (Galatians 6: 14) |

New Members

The Minister is holding a series of meetings with anyone wishing to explore The Christian Faith with a view to Church Membership. The first meeting will be in the manse on Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm.

Church Visitors and W.F.O. Envelopes - Advance Notice

The new W.F.O. envelopes for the coming year will be available at the back of the Church on Sunday 6th March 2016, and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.

Milngavie Choir 40th Anniversary Concert

On the 5th March, in St. Paul's Church, by kind permission of the Kirk Session, Milngavie choir will be performing a concert to celebrate 40 years since the start of the choir. It will include Vivaldi's Gloria and Mozart Missa Brevis and some solo performances. We would really welcome the support of our home congregation and some esteemed former members!



Bible Sunday

February 28th will be Bible Sunday in St. Paul's when there will be an opportunity to support the work of the Scottish Bible Society.

Projects in 2016 will be in China, to fund paper for Bibles, in Malawi, to provide Chichewa Bibles as well as illustrated children's Bibles, and in Brazil where the 'Light of the Amazon' project helps to fund a boat which travels along the Amazon River providing Bibles and other Scripture materials supplemented with giving medical and dental care to remote riverside communities. Other projects will be in Iraq where Christian families have been traumatised and live in anxiety and fear of displacement - as well as Bible provision, this project will fund a team that will deliver Bible-based trauma counselling – and in Ukraine where many children from orphanages have been evacuated and are in danger of ending up being involved in crime. This project will distribute a children's edition of the Bible in Ukrainian and Russian and will work with the local churches to help take care of the children. In Scotland Bibleworld, an interactive mobile classroom, supports schools in teaching Christianity as part of the Religious and Moral Education curriculum.

Book Club



The latest book we have been reading is Suite Francaise by the Jewish author Irene Nemirovsky. This interesting and unusual book was not published until 64 years after the Author's death in Auschwitz in 1942. One of her daughters found the handwritten notes which Irene had made to be used in a novel. The notes depict the conditions faced by some of the French families fleeing from Paris before the German army occupation of 1940. Our reading group applauded the author's ability to make characters and situations come alive. The book is divided into two parts and most of us enjoyed the second part better than the first but this may have been because it was written as a story. Not a book for everyone, but one that is worth reading. If you do decide to read it then try and read the Appendices first as they provide an insight into the way the book was written.

Anne Goodlet

Brigade Blethers



As always, our opening meeting of the new year was a visit to the Kings Theatre Pantomime. However we had a bit of a pantomime of our own before we left Milngavie. The coach taking us to Glasgow didn't turn up! But in no time at all parents and leaders loaded their cars with girls and set off for the town. We arrived in plenty of time and what could have been a disaster turned into an adventure instead. The girls thought it was all part of the fun. We managed to get things sorted out with the coach company and they had a bus waiting for us when we left the theatre at night. The Panto turned out to be one of the best we had ever been to. Lots of laughs, great scenery and gorgeous costumes. Oh to get our hands on them for our Company Display! Never mind, we'll do fine with paper masks and "onesies". Intrigued? Come to the Display in April and find out what we are up to.

We still have a lot to do before then and first on our agenda is our Jumble Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th February. Loads of bargains, home-made cakes and as much tea or coffee as you like. The proceeds go to providing the girls with awards and trophies for completing their badgework throughout the year so we hope to see lots of customers on the day.

Anne Goodlet

PVG Training

To inform and guide all those working in any category that is affected by safeguarding, a programme of safeguarding training courses has been established.

The date and venue for St. Paul's PVG members is Tuesday 19th April 2016 at **St Luke's Church in Milngavie**, from 7.00 to 9.00pm. A cup of tea will be available from 6.30pm

A Training Course Placement Request Form which is required for each volunteer who will be attending on that evening, is available from the office. This form should be returned no later than Tuesday 22nd March 2016. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, though a reserve list will be created. At present it is not possible to offer alternative dates.

Copies of the PVG Scheme handbook are now available from the office.

Malcolm Boyd
Safeguarding Coordinator

Guild News



Our Guild meetings resumed on Monday 4th January, with a visit from Fiona Marks, who brought us up to date with the work of the charity 'Let's stick together', which is our Guild's choice to support this year. Begun in Wales it sets out to support young families, especially after the birth of the first child, possibly a period of greatest stress in a couple's relationship.

The following week, 11th January, we were given a most interesting talk by Andrew Scott, entitled, 'Turkey - Cradle of Christianity'. Accompanied by a selection of fine slides, and a map, he highlighted all the cities and areas mentioned in St. Paul's epistles, as well as places where declarations of Christian theology were debated and declared.

There was no Guild meeting on the 18th. which gave members an opportunity to attend the Ecumenical Service in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

On 25th. January we were treated to a talk on 'Robert Burns- Saint or Sinner' by the Rev. B. Ferguson, an accomplished speaker on the subject of our national bard. With appropriate quotations, often from memory, he highlighted aspects of the poet's life. This was followed by a haggisless 'Burns tea'- a sociable occasion nonetheless!

Programme for February

Mon 1st	Commonwealth Experience with Douglas and Stuart Annan
Mon 8th	Rev. Fergus Buchanan
Mon 15th	Canine Partners
Mon 22nd	George Vidits -Tales from Transylvania
Mon 29th	Rosa Parks-Robert Hamilton

Please Note Saturday 13th February - Guild Coffee Morning

Donations to the various stalls- cake, unwanted treasures and books would be welcome.



Dear Friends

There has certainly been some strange weather in different parts of the world recently. Just the other day Okinawa, an island which lies way to the south of Japan and is usually a great place for an escape during the winter months, had the very rare experience of some snow. Tokyo too had its annual fall of snow which threw everything into chaos for a few hours.

One thing that keeps going in most weathers here is sport. Two of our boys are particularly sporty and we have been well used to the world of football over the last few years in Japan. With the Olympics returning to Tokyo in 2020 and the Rugby World Cup taking place in Japan in 2019, there is already preparation among some Christian sports groups to engage in different opportunities around that time. OMF has linked up with a group called The Ultimate Victory which seeks to use all sorts of creative ways for outreach via sport over the next few years.

Many people do sport in Japan. Almost all high school students are involved in some kind of extra-curricular sport or activity. Retired folks can often be seen on the tennis court. Surveys show that over half of all Japanese people participate in some kinds of sport, either organised or individually. With our boys involved in football, we are beginning to think of ways we too can use this involvement in the sporting world as a way to reach people with the gospel. After we move house in spring, hopefully we will have more time to work out what opportunities there might be. One of our convictions as we live and work here is that we need to be intentionally focused on living for Jesus and biblical truths wherever we are. As followers of Jesus we need to go where people are rather than necessarily expect them to come to us.

Hopefully we will keep you posted over the coming months and years with what is happening with these opportunities in sport in Japan.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

February Edition - Life & Work



The Changing Face of Worship

Thomas Baldwin looks at the patterns of worship evolving in the Church of Scotland today.

On the Streets and Overseas

Part two of our focus on the Guild's latest partner projects, looking at the Street Pastors and Mission International.

'Life with Jesus is Never Dull'

Kirsty Wyllie, a Christian writer, tells Jackie Macadam about her life in the church, her career and living with cerebral palsy.

Credit Unions and the Church

Charles Sim calls on churches and members to consider credit unions as an ethical form of finance.

Church Census Day

The Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie highlights the importance of Church Census Day in Scotland.

'Big Sing' Success in Dunfermline

Lynne McNeil reports from the Guild's praise event.

'Too Important Not to Share'

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, offers a clarion call to mission.

Jesus and Women

Youth Moderator, Hannah Mary Goodlad, argues that Jesus was a feminist.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20.

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Flower Donations - February

Mrs. E. Farmer, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. Harold, Mrs. H. Kelly,
Mrs. P. Knaggs, Mrs. J. Pirie

Please put donations in the Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to:-

Mrs Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave., Milngavie G62 6LJ Tel 956 2630



The following are acknowledgements from the Charities we donated to at the end of last year:

Feed the Minds

Thank you for your kind donation. Your generosity and support is essential for us to continue our work to help marginalised adults and young people transform their lives through education. The positive effects of our work can already be seen in Rwanda. Alongside our partner Human Rights First Rwanda Association, we have trained people to become paralegals. This has increased awareness of women's land and rights allowing them to secure land which is legally theirs.

It is your support that makes this work and change possible. Thank you.

Adam Sach

Director of Fundraising and Communication.

Scottish Bible Society

Thank you for considering those across the world longing to receive their own copy of the Bible. People like Ni, from China, who could never afford to buy a Bible for himself and was so grateful to receive one thanks to the kindness of Bible Society supporters. We know there are many other people waiting for their very own Bibles and by supporting our work you are helping to change this. This gift will make a life-changing difference to many people as they encounter God in the Bible.

With warm greetings,

Elaine M. Duncan

Chief Executive

Glasgow City Mission

Thank you for your kind gift to our Christmas appeal and for showing love to those who are homeless and in need. Last year we served Christmas Dinner to more than 250 men and women who would not have anyone else to celebrate with. And this is about so much more than food, it's a time to have fun, to let people know that they are cared about, and to share the Christmas message with them.

Thank you once again to everyone at St. Paul's Parish Church for helping people know they are loved at Christmas.

Graham Steven

Marketing & Fundraising Manager.

Lodging House Mission

Please thank the kind folk of St. Paul's Milngavie for supporting our work with homeless and vulnerable men and women by your generous donation, this will help us to provide food and shelter for our service users. We are very encouraged that many people from all over Glasgow and beyond show a keen interest in our work with vulnerable people and are willing to support us in many different ways. Without this variety of support, we would not be able to offer the service that we do.

Our Annual Carol Concert was well attended and on Christmas Day we provided a full 3 course meal to around 100 men and women and each person received a gift.

Please remember our work with homeless men and women in your prayers.

Gus McKay
Chaplain

The Boys' Brigade - "*Kit for Kenya*"

The annual appeal has become an important part of being an Anchor Boy in our Company. The boys learn at this early stage, that they are part of a world-wide company of boys, find out something about lives of those BB brothers and that they can do something to help those who are not as fortunate as we are. This year the appeal is **Kit for Kenya**.

There are 20,000 boys in the Boys' Brigade in 795 Companies throughout Kenya. Many, many of these boys live in very poor circumstances where families have had a hard enough job making a living to feed and clothe them, never mind buying a uniform.

Our partner, The Presbyterian Church of East Africa, supports the work of the Boys' Brigade and it is proposed to buy sewing machines and materials and employ and train people to make uniforms for BB units across Kenya. This will make the kit more affordable.

To raise funds for this appeal the Anchor Boys will be having a "**Game A Thon**" on Monday 22nd February. A sponsor form will be at the back of the Church until Sunday 6th March if you wish to contribute or you can contact our BB reps Graham Mill or Gordon Blackadder.

Coffee and Mince Pies



Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on the 20th December, with special thanks 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 before, during and after the event. The sum of £849.50 was raised for Sense Scotland. The following letter of thanks has been received:-

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all here at Sense Scotland I'd like to thank the Congregation of St. Paul's very much for donating £849.50 towards our work with and support of deafblind and disabled people in Scotland.

It's always so nice to receive such donations out of the blue and was a particular treat for me to come back in to after the festivities and be able to write a thank you.

The gifts donated through events, regular giving, one off donations etc are put to the best possible use. Sense Scotland supports and promotes the interest of children, young people and adults who have communication support needs arising from a range of disabilities including, but not limited to, deafblindness, sensory impairment, learning or physical disability. Our vision is for the people we support to live meaningful and independent lives in a world which gives them every opportunity to achieve their ambitions and fulfil their dreams.

With generous donations such as yours we are getting ever closer to reaching our vision.

Many thanks once again,

Erin Leggate

Community and Events Fundraiser



I would like to thank Fergus for visits and the Church family for the beautiful flowers we have received while Ian has been ill in hospital.

Jan Deuchar

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 £1200 to "Tearfund Scotland Christmas Refugee Appeal".



This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2015.

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 2016.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret and Margaret

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Copy date for the March issue is Sunday 21st February if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 24th February if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
7th Feb	A. Abbott K. Hagart	Sillars Goodlet	E. Burns C. McKinnon	Team 6 S. Anderson
14th Feb	M. McLean A. McLeod	Richell Wilson	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 I. Russell (EC)
21th Feb	J. Ford C. Tanner	Bates McKinnon	B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 S. McFarlane
28th Feb	J. Clark S. Stenhouse	Wallis Tracey	M. Ure J. Mill	Team 9 N. Barlow