

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

February 2018



Dear Friends,

I wonder how many actors have played Winston Churchill on television or in movies? Those that spring to mind are a galaxy of talent: Michael Gambon, Timothy Spall, Brendan Gleeson, Albert Finney, Robert Hardy, Timothy West. Now add to those Gary Oldman, confidently tipped for an Oscar for his performance in 'Darkest Hour'.

In order to take on a physical resemblance to the great man Oldman wore a 'fat-suit' and endured three hours of prosthetic make-up every day. The voice might not be such a big deal. I remember my father doing a passable imitation. Nevertheless, the end product is impressive and worthy of the publicity slogan: 'Gary Oldman is Winston Churchill.'

The Apostle Paul often speaks of the Christian believer undergoing a transformation. God is seeking to make us more like Jesus. In Romans 8: 29 he speaks of Jesus as the elder brother in the Christian family and His followers are destined to be 'conformed' to His likeness. Of course, this is not a physical likeness or something that can be worked up or acted out. God is seeking to bring out from our own unique character the character of Jesus. It is an inner transformation. Paul says in Romans 12: 2: 'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

Paul sees this as the Holy Spirit making an impact on the mind of a man or a woman through the Gospel. He or she is convinced that Jesus is the Son of God and that His life is the pattern for all Christian living. The Spirit seeks to confirm the believer in that faith and to bring out all the qualities of Christ-likeness. What are these qualities? Paul speaks of them as 'the fruit of the Spirit': Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22) To live by the Spirit is to commit our lives to all these qualities. Paul speaks of keeping in step with the Spirit. He sets the pace and we seek to keep up. But in a way no coach or Personal Trainer can do, the Spirit gives us His strength to keep up.

In the end God does not want an impersonation of His Son but a genuine growth of those qualities that reflect His very nature. No Oscars are handed out for this. The glory belongs to God for doing in us what we could never do for ourselves.

Wishing You God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leslie'.

Thank You From Preshal



Dear Friends,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity in your donation of Christmas Gifts for the families of the Preshal Trust.

We have been busy for Christmas to ensure that all our clients and their families have a wonderful time, thanks to the kindness of all those who support the Trust.

We had our Christmas Party on Tuesday 19th December, where we served dinner to nearly 130 people with Santa visiting and giving a gift to everyone who was there. Our friends thoroughly enjoyed the celebration.

Once again, thank you so much for your support for the Preshal Trust and we take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

With love and thanks,

May Nicholson

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has had a busy year with many visitors and as a result we are delighted that we are able to give generously to the Church towards the use of the hall and also we donated to The Salvation Army and Glasgow City Mission. This is due to the great support of all who visit us for lunch and the many bakers who supply us with beautiful cakes, scones and fruit loaves all of which are greatly enjoyed. But we must not forget the many volunteers who freely give of their time to set up the hall, serve and prepare the food and the ministers and elders who take the short service. All of them deserve our thanks for their great work.

The Lunch Club continues every Wednesday during term time from 12 noon to 1pm. All are welcome but come early to get the best choice of goodies.

LIFE and WORK Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £27.30 – a reduction of just over 20 pence per issue on the 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. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Guild News



Our 2018 season started in energetic style with a Keep Fit session led by Brian Smillie on Monday 8th January. He fairly put us through our paces with non stop exercises leaving the writer of this gasping for breath. But it was good for us!

The Bearsden Fiddlers will be entertaining us on the 15th, followed by a talk about the organisation Spinal Injuries Scotland on the 22nd.

Look out for our fund raising event on Monday 12th February, when a concert will be given in the church by the Govan Salvation Army Songsters .(Donation tickets on sale now)

Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 24th 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 British Acoustic Neuroma Association (BANA) was £571.16. The following letter of thanks has been received.



BANA would like to thank all the people of St. Paul's Parish Church who have so generously raised £571.16 for our Charity by holding a coffee and mince pie event on the Sunday before Christmas.

We receive no statutory funding so in order for BANA to continue we rely on grant funding, membership fees and the generosity of supporters like yourselves who kindly fundraise for us.

On behalf of BANA and our members we thank you.

Kind regards,

Trish Hibbert
Accounts Administrator

LIFE AND WORK - FEBRUARY 2018

The Saints of Scotland

As Valentine's Day approaches, Jackie Macadam reflects on the saintly people who have influenced Scotland.

Faith into Action

Profile of Professor Gordon Dickson, former chair of the charity CHAS and Church of Scotland elder.

A Fresh Statement of Faith?

The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald argues that it is time to return to the 'unfinished business' of reviewing the role of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Making a Difference

The Rev Colin Sinclair, outgoing chair of International Council of Scripture Union, reflects on the charity's work overseas

Sleeping Under the Stars

Lynne McNeil reports from a mass sleep out on a freezing night in Edinburgh.

Off the Beaten Track

The Rev Richard Baxter considers the message of Biblical encounters in out of the way places

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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SPECIAL OFFER

Receive a 10% discount on Saint Andrew Press books, resources and stationery through:

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Flower Donations - February

As from the beginning of this year, anyone wishing to have their name mentioned in the life magazine for flower donations please could you get the donation to me four weeks before the magazine is published along with the request for publication.



Thank you for your donations. There have been many expressions of appreciation from the congregation.

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.

Donation for February:

Mrs M Spencer



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers and support, as Paul would call it your “partnership in the gospel”. It is a great encouragement.

Sometimes working in Japan it is easy to feel discouraged. OMF is having a prayer focus month for Japan in February and I have been doing some research to back up our prayer points. Here are some things I found:

Nearly half of Japanese ministers are over 70 and only 10% are under 50.

There are more ministers in their 90s than in their 20s!

30% of churches have no minister;

There are 40% fewer missionaries working in Japan now than there were in 1997; and

Nearly 1,500 communities in Japan with populations of 3,000-50,000 have no church.

At the same time I had an encouraging visit to Sapporo in December when I visited Hiragishi Izumi Church which David and I helped start in 2009. The church is now renting a couple of rooms in a building very near the station. Growth is slow but they have had people come to believe in Jesus and be baptised. The church is now led by another OMF couple and the husband is gifted in drama. For Christmas he wrote and performed a one-man play to help explain the meaning of Christmas. They had over 40 guests that day and for many it was probably the first time they had ever heard the gospel.

Last week in the church I attend, it was announced that they are supporting a new church plant in a nearby city with the help of missionaries from Korea. It is exciting to see the Japanese church, even though it is small, being involved in reaching out to new areas and wanting to see new churches started.

Please pray for the work in Japan. Our vision is to see a vibrant church impacting every community. There is a very long way to go, but along that way there are small encouragements which help keep us going. Your prayers and support are part of that encouragement.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

500 Miles - Thank you

The Christmas Eve Offering this year went to a small Charity based in Edinburgh which was founded by Olivia Giles who lost both arms and legs as a result of meningitis in her early thirties. I first met Olivia at the Guild in October and have met with her several times since.

I would like you to read this acknowledgement from her as a testament to her courage and inspiration to us all.

Chris Scott ~ Treasurer

With thanks to the congregation of St Paul's Parish Church

Thank you very much indeed for your wonderful donation to 500 miles of £1,402.81. I know that we will be able to claim Gift Aid on some of it and that the total will be even higher but I wanted to thank you all right away.

When Jean and Chris first told me that 500 miles had been nominated to be the beneficiary of your watchnight services, I was thrilled of course and very grateful to them and the Guild for putting our name in the frame. It is such a fillip for any small charity to be chosen to receive a retiring collection at Christmas when there are so many other well-known and deserving causes out there, with which many of you will have connections. I didn't have any expectations about what might be raised; I was just happy that we had been selected. I can absolutely assure you I had no idea that Chris would be transferring anything like this huge sum into our account before the year was out. I really am stunned at your generosity, especially after 500 miles also received the Guild collection on the night I went to talk at its meeting.

Thank you very much to all who contributed. This superb sum will go a long way in our work. We are a small charity but one of the positive functions of being small is that we are very direct in our application of funds. I can assure you that every penny will go towards significantly improving the quality of life of people with mobility difficulties, through one of our projects in Malawi or Zambia, by helping them to get access to the prosthetic and orthotic devices that they need for independent mobility and maximum body function and that they would not otherwise be able to afford.

I realise that a number of the Guild members will be familiar with 500 miles and that you will have been able to pick up leaflets on Christmas Eve, but for anyone who doesn't know how your collection will be spent, in summary, 500 miles helps people in Malawi and Zambia who have lost their limbs or the use of their limbs to get up and walk again. We do this by helping them to get access to and to afford, prostheses (artificial limbs) and orthoses (braces and splints for limbs, spine and neck) which help them to walk or function properly.

As well as giving poor disabled people the money to buy the prostheses and orthoses that they need, in order to leave a legacy for future generations, 500 miles also establishes and supports the centres which manufacture and prescribe these devices and we sponsor the training of local staff to international standards to work in them.

I really believe that the work of 500 miles is highly effective in terms of (1) impact per pound, (2) numbers of disabled people who will benefit and (3) the huge transformation in the quality of people's lives. For a relatively small, one-off sum, prosthetic and orthotic support can have a life transforming effect for a disabled individual, giving that person the chance to be mobile and so, get an education, earn a living, support a family and generally participate in social activity. As a quadruple amputee myself, I know how utterly dependent I am on my artificial legs which are given to me, free, by the National Health Service in Scotland and how much we take our basic services, which are so poor in parts of Africa, for granted.

If anyone would like to follow our progress through our newsletters (no more than two a year) please just send me an email to olivia.giles@me.com. Our newsletters never ask for money. They are genuinely a report on what has been happening and what we hope to do, so that past donors can see what we are doing with their money.

We know that prosthetic and orthotic devices can make a life changing difference to our patients but the best way to get that across is to tell you their stories. I hope you enjoy this one about Chikambuso Phiri from the northern region of Malawi, told here by Tiwonge Kaponda, his prosthetist/orthotist (with a little tidying up by the manager). Chikumbuso is a 16-year old boy with a congenital deformity – he has a shortened lower limb. He's the youngest of 4 children and lives with his mother and step father near Jenda in South Mzimba. Chikumbuso heard about the outreach clinic that was organised by 500 miles at Jenda Health Centre so he came along.

At first Chikumbuso wouldn't sit inside the building where the assessment was taking place. In fact he hid for a bit behind the building. It was clear that he was totally lacking in confidence and did not want attention from anybody. It must have taken a lot of courage for him to come.

The local Health Surveyor Assistant recognised him straight away, explaining he was an "orphan" which in Malawi means that his natural father is dead even though his mother is alive. The health assistant said Chikumbuso's step dad was a drunkard and sometimes could get abusive. She also said Chikumbuso has been known to be a difficult kid at school and that he can get disruptive when he is picked on because of his deformity.

The staff assessed Chikumbuso and saw that our service could assist him so he came to the 500 miles P&O centre in Mzuzu to receive his ortho-prosthesis which is a combination of a prosthesis (to replace the part of his leg that is missing) and an orthosis (to support the part which is there). When he came to the centre he had no guardian and no change of clothes and nothing to eat. Tiwonge worked on his device and he came and left with the government lorry transport - without which he would not have come at all.



A month after his initial visit we were in his area for another outreach so we arranged to do a short home visit. It was lovely to meet him and his mother in their very small mud hut. We could see the device had been used. Chikumbuso proudly escorted us back to our car and said to one of our staff as we walked together, “kids used to say things before I used my leg, now they don’t say anything”. Sam, our manager, told me “It seems this device has not only helped with Chikumbuso physically but also may have eased some of the challenging social and home environment he deals with every day. Here is a picture of him giving thumbs up outside his home. It speaks volumes about what this means to him – and us.”



Tiwonge said, “Chikumbuso was living a hopeless life due to challenges he faced because of his deformity with his friends laughing at him. But Chikumbuso went home a happy person, through the service he got at 500 miles clinic. He gained hope and he is now going to school. His friends are wondering what happened to him because now he can walk without strain. His mother appreciated the service 500 miles gave to Chikumbuso because it will change his life.” Tiwonge is not prone to effusiveness but she was very struck by the difference in the boy – and proud of herself for helping him.

We have no shortage of patients in need, just like Chikumbuso, so I thank you all very much for your amazingly generous support and endorsement of what we do.

Kindest regards.

Olivia.

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 £1300 to “Stauros”, a Christian outreach to people with addiction issues.



This would not be possible without the help of all our tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2017. 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 2018.

Many thanks once again to everyone.

Margaret and Margaret

World Mission News

Zambia Faces Cholera Outbreak

Ida Waddell, our Mission Partner in Zambia, has contacted us with news of the cholera outbreak in Zambia:

"Zambia, especially Lusaka, has been badly hit with Cholera. There are over 2000 cases reported so far. Gatherings of more than 5 are being discouraged, even in church services. Markets are closed, and there is a curfew imposed in the most affected area from 18:00 until 06:00. Schools, Colleges and Universities have not opened."



The United Church in Zambia have issued a statement regarding the situation, providing recommendations of best practice to its congregations.

Church of Scotland News

Fife Church Brings Medieval History Alive

A church has helped to bring medieval history to life using the backdrop of their own historic building in the run up to the opening of the Fife Pilgrim Way later this year. Members of Markinch Parish Church welcomed around 80 visitors to the 12th century site at the weekend for a talk about what was once one of the holiest pilgrimages in Britain.

The event was the first in a series planned by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, designed to help people become more familiar with the background to the sacred route.

Based on evidence of so called 'spittals' or pilgrim hostels along the holy route, which for hundreds of years held deep spiritual meaning, the speaker showed that at one time there were many different paths crossing Fife used by religious visitors.

Described as "a work of art in itself", an intricate display of knitted scenes depicting the daily life of monks as well as pilgrims was also exhibited, which showed snapshots of the daily lives of the people who would have been connected to the walk.



The crafted figures were designed by Rev Elizabeth Fisk and made by members of Culross Abbey, who loaned them to Markinch for the exhibition. The church worked

with two other groups locally, the Community Council and the Markinch Historical Group, to put together the event.



The 70-mile route will begin in Culross and North Queensferry via Dunfermline and end in St Andrews.

Meanwhile the group Action Together of Churches in Scotland will work with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to encourage churches to work ecumenically and with their local communities in preparing to welcome those who use the route. Fife Coast & Countryside Trust will run a range of exciting interpretive features, and a programme of free community activities until March 2019.

The next talk will be in Culross on Tuesday 20th February and will focus on the original sources showing pilgrimage and pilgrimage networks in medieval times, through Fife.

Gaelic group takes first steps toward national plan

A comprehensive survey on the use of Gaelic within the Church of Scotland is being launched.

The Kirk's Gaelic Group is laying the groundwork for a new plan that will look at how the language is currently being used in ministry. The audit will help determine how Gaelic-led ministry could be supported in future.

It will include a questionnaire for ministers, including student ministers, probationers and ordained local ministers, that is designed to build a complete picture of Gaelic ministry within the church today.

Ministers who do not speak Gaelic and have no Gaelic parishioners are also urged to contribute and share their thoughts, to ensure the fullest possible picture. A second part of the audit will identify where there is further potential for Gaelic-led ministry in the future.

Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, chairman of the Gaelic Group said there are areas across Scotland where Gaelic-led ministry is flourishing. He added that there is an interest in Gaelic in some places but no Gaelic-speaking ministers— or vice-versa.

Dr Morrison, a former Moderator of the General Assembly, said: "We hope that every minister will complete the questionnaire so that we can have the best possible foundation for an informed Gaelic Plan for the Church.

"In the past we have seen successful projects demonstrate the potential for nurturing Christian faith through Gaelic worship and witness.

"Now we want to move ahead with creating a Gaelic Plan that will support Gaelic-speaking believers and Gaelic-led ministry for many years to come."

Steven MacIver, who has been involved in Gaelic development for the last 10 years, will be carrying out the audit during a three-month collaboration with the Church.

"I'm delighted that the church has seen the value in preparing a Gaelic Language Plan and also how the ministry can benefit the awareness, usage of, and confidence in the language," he said.

"The use of Gaelic in the church is extremely important to the future of the language as well as providing a context for the historical importance of Gaelic within Scotland."

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The copy date for the March issue is Sunday 21st February for e-mails and 18th February using the church pigeon hole.

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th Feb	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Sillars Chapman	Team 6 S. Anderson
11th Feb	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Tracey Richell	Team 7 A. Wylie (EC)
18th Feb	M. McLean A. McLeod	Wallis J. Wilson	Team 8 D. Rogerson
25th Feb	J. Ford C. Tanner	McKinnon Wallis S.	Team 9 M. Macpherson