

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2016



When I was a Divinity student I would often preach in different churches throughout the Summer when ministers were on holiday. On one occasion an organist asked why I had chosen so many 'Easter' hymns. I cannot remember exactly what they were but they were gathered around a general theme of the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection and what it means for us today. I was taken aback at the assumption that this was appropriate only at certain times of the year.

Similarly, it was recently suggested to a colleague and myself that in our preaching we had a tendency to turn Christmas into Easter. I could only assume that this was because we not only majored on Jesus coming to the earth but the purpose of His coming. Something that was made clear to Joseph before His birth: 'You are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.' (Matthew 1: 21).

All of this highlights a problem in observing the Christian Year. I have always believed that there is value in this. It is devotionally helpful that at certain times of the year we focus our thoughts on particular aspects of the Gospel story. At Advent we remember the people of Israel who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah; at Christmas we remember His birth at Bethlehem; at Easter His sacrifice and resurrection; and at Pentecost the coming of His Spirit as an eternal presence in His Church. But in emphasising parts of the story we should never exclude the whole story. The birth of Jesus is given greater significance when we realise the purpose of His coming. The death of Jesus is all the more powerful when we realise that the One making the sacrifice was the Son of God from all eternity.

I attended a funeral recently when the hymn 'Tell me the old, old story' was sung. It reminded me how important it was for the Church simply to tell the story. This is how faith is born. This is how faith is strengthened: 'Tell me the story often/For I forget so soon;/The early dew of morning /Has passed away at noon.'

I once heard an eminent theologian say that more than anything else today we need to tell the story of Jesus with the conviction that it has its own power. It is my prayer that that story will fill our minds this Easter, remembering who it was who died on the cross and experiencing the peace of knowing that he died for us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ferguson'.

Holy Week Services

The Holy Week Services this year will be held in Milngavie United Free Church. The speaker will be the Rev. Phil Stead of Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

The Services will begin at 7.30pm every evening and there will be a short service on Saturday 26th March at 9.30 am.

175th Celebration

This year sees the 175th anniversary of the establishment of St. Paul's as a congregation. The Kirk Session have decided that this should not pass without acknowledgement and therefore there will be a special service on Sunday May 22nd. The guest preacher will be Dr. David Graham who was formerly an assistant of St. Paul's and has been minister in North Berwick for the past 18 years.

After the service there will be a family lunch in the Large Hall.

A Note on the New Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

There are some changes to the W.F.O. envelopes which are being delivered along with the March edition of Life.

Since the number of members using the W.F.O. envelopes has fallen, we have reduced the number of envelopes and as a result some members will find that their envelope number has changed. The changes come into effect on 10th April 2016.

Please do not use any old envelopes after that date as you may then have a different number.

It would be very helpful if you would destroy any old envelopes.

James McQueen (W.F.O. Treasurer)

Lenten Lunch



The Christian Aid Lenten Lunch will be held after the morning service on 20th March. Please come along and enjoy the fellowship with a choice of soups, including homemade, and a variety of filled rolls.

All donations will go to Christian Aid.

Mrs Bunty Barr

Bunty died on 10th August and the funeral service was held in Norfolk. Her son Richard has arranged for a Memorial Service to be held in St. Paul's on Monday 7th March at 2pm to which everyone is invited. Tea and coffee will be served in the large hall after the Service



I would like to thank all of the Church family for cards, letters, flowers and all the support I have received during the last few weeks of Ian's life. Thank you to Fergus for a lovely service and to all those who attended Clydebank Crematorium.

Jan Deuchar

Brigade Blethers

We had a wonderful Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th February which raised the sum of £655. By the time I came out of Church the next day I had received another £80 from Church friends who had not been able to come on the Saturday. We are really grateful for everyone's support because it means that we can reward every girl for their work during the year.



Our thoughts have now turned to our Church parade on 6th March then on to the Company weekend to Auchengillan on the 18th. The weather doesn't bother us much but it would be nicer if it got just a little warmer. (That's just my age talking!) After celebrating Easter we will need to put our best foot forward for our Display. We are focusing on Noah this time and the girls are quite excited about becoming a monkey or a tiger or whatever, even if it is only for one night. I'll let you know how it all turns out; or better still, please come along and see for yourself.

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 meeting on 1st. February took the form of a quiz based on the popular TV programme 'Call My Bluff'. This replaced the advertised visit of Douglas and Stuart Annan.

On 8th. February our minister, the Rev. Fergus Buchanan gave an interesting talk based on a film made by his son Mark. It highlighted the rivalry and subsequent acceptance experienced by two brothers.

A new visitor came to our Guild on 15th. We welcomed Heston, a beautiful Labrador Retriever, with his handler Danny Gallacher from Canine Partners. We heard inspiring stories of the difference that the companionship of a dog had made to individuals with varying degrees of medical problems. Heston won our hearts with his friendliness and patability as well as a demonstration of ways in which he helped people by taking clothes out of the washing machine, opening doors, and keeping their owners safe.

On 22nd George Vidits made a welcome return to St. Paul's. There was an excellent turn out to meet him and hear his talk about Easter in Transylvania. He explained about the different times of celebrating Easter in the different denominations, e.g Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic, each with its own colourful traditions. But he emphasised that no matter what these apparent differences were, they all celebrated the true message of Easter.

Future Meetings

Mon 29th Feb Rosa Parks(the woman who triggered the fight for civil rights in USA) Talk given by Robert Hamilton

Fri 4th March World Day of Prayer'

Mon 7th March AGM and Home Night

Mon 14th March Closing Night - Acting Up - Christian Puppet and Drama Group.

Tuesday 24th May - Summer Outing



Dear Friends

One of the features of missionary life is transition. We are often facing changes. This month contains a number of endings and new beginnings for us.

The first thing we come to is graduations. Both Calum and Alistair finish at their present schools and move on, in Calum's case to High School and for Alistair Junior High. In Japan these schools are separate places lasting three years each. The graduation is a big event in Japan, taking place from kindergarten onwards. In Japan closure is important and it is right to do it well and properly. Calum graduates on the 15th with Alistair on the 18th. Then in early April there are further entrance ceremonies as they start new schools.

The next big event is our house move. A Christian couple with a large house had moved to be nearer their family in Yokohama. They wanted the house to be used by Christians and offered it at an amazingly low rent. It's a long story but through an introduction by a third party we got to hear of the house and we'll move on the 22nd. It's a great place and it will be so nice to have a little distance from the OMF headquarters as we presently live right next door. It's much more convenient for the boys as both are now in the same football academy.

So we have yet more changes to face. For Alistair (12) it is his sixth house and eighth school (including kindergartens). For Calum (15) it is his eighth house. The boys do remarkably well and seem to be able to make new friends easily for which we are very thankful. But change and moves are very much part of the reality of missionary life. We hope to be able to stay in this present house for quite a few years though!

We give thanks for a God who does not change and for your faithful support for us here.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

March Edition - Life & Work



Easter 2016

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the place of Holy Saturday in the journey to Easter.

Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Ron Fergusson ponders the place of Easter in Scotland today.

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson considers the message of hope on the road to Emmaus.

'Life is Not About Making Money'

Jackie Macadam meets Iona Bain, a young Christian and writer on ethical finance

Friends, Sticking Together and Bolivia

The final three projects chosen by the Guild for their latest partnership programme

Tales of Iona

Dr David R Smith highlights the development of a new game designed to share the treasures of Iona with a new generation

A Medieval Parish

John R Hume traces the rich history of Currie Parish Church

An Enduring Legacy

During a Moderatorial visit to Egypt, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison discovers that a 'forgotten' Scottish missionary is still revered by the country's Christians

The Uncharted Waters

Hannah Mary Goodlad draws parallels between fishing and faith

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

Online Journey through Holy Week with the Life and Work contributors at www.lifeandwork.org

Flower Donations - March

Mrs. D. Dickson, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs.S. Lindsay, Miss A. Ritchie, Mrs. C. Tanner.

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

Financial Report

Throughout 2015, I have kept the Congregational Board informed of our financial situation via the regular reports of income and expenditure.

Last year the General Fund continued to maintain a healthy balance and although we ended the year with a surplus, for most of the year we had to dip into our reserves.

Income	General Fund	
	2015	2014
Offerings	164,018	166,129
Tax Recovered	35,902	35,658
Other income	20,323	12,450
	<hr/> 220,243 <hr/>	<hr/> 214,237 <hr/>
Expenditure		
Ministry & Mission	116,810	118,145
Local Staffing	42,752	42,612
Buildings	31,496	28,275
Other Costs	12,899	17,820
	<hr/> 203,957 <hr/>	<hr/> 206,852 <hr/>
 Income Less Expenditure	 16,286	 7,385

Income from Offerings are continuing to show a drop, and this year it was just over £2,111 (about 1.3%). Other income sources include a legacy of £10,000 so these are also showing a drop over last year's figure. Taking all of these figures into account and the fact that our expenditure is also showing a decrease, in this case just less than £2900 we never the less ended the year with a modest surplus of £16,286 and this is the equivalent of just less than our average monthly expenditure.

At the end of the year we donated £700 to the Presbytery's Holy Land Bursary Scheme, and £250 to each of the following, Lodging House Mission, Glasgow City Mission, Scottish Bible Society and Feed the Minds. Acknowledgements from every one of them were in last months "Life".

Chris Scott - Congregational Treasurer

The following page shows a summary of the Budget which will be presented to the stated Annual Meeting on 9th March for approval by the Congregation

Proposed General Fund Budget – 2016

INCOME	<u>Actual 2015</u>		<u>Budget 2016</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Offerings				
WFO Envelopes (non Gift Aid)	10,656		10,700	
Gift Aid Cheques, Standing Orders & Envs	134,588		135,600	
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid Donations	35,902		35,900	
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	18,774		18,500	
		199,920		200,700
Other Ordinary General Income				
Congregational Organisations Donations	2,150		2,100	
Funerals & Weddings	600		500	
Interest - Bank Accounts	308		300	
Miscellaneous Donations	6,990		1,500	
Life & Work Income	0		930	
Use of Premises	275		1,000	
Legacies	10,000			
		20,323		6,330
Total Ordinary Income		<u>220,243</u>		<u>207,030</u>
EXPENDITURE				
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work				
Ministries & Mission Allocation	115,742		118,733	
Less: Endowment Income	-277		-278	
Presbytery Dues	1,345		1,450	
		116,810		119,905
Local Staffing Costs				
Voluntary Additional Stipend & E'ers Nic	33		0	
Minister's Travel, Tel & Other Expenses	2,631		2,650	
Pulpit Supply/Guest Preacher	848		850	
Other Salaries & Supply + Nic	39,240		40,100	
		42,752		43,600
Building Costs				
General Repairs & Maintenance	7,284		6,200	
Heating & Lighting	11,105		12,000	
Water Charges & Insurance	10,509		10,784	
Manse Council Tax	2,598		2,600	
		31,496		31,584
Other Local Costs				
Printing, Stationery & Photocopying	2,766		2,500	
Telephone, Postage & Publicity	1,758		1,700	
Equipment	1,702		1,000	
'Life'/Life & Work	249		1,230	
Donations, Outreach & Grants to Org's	2,379		1,500	
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,045		4,000	
		12,899		11,930
Total Ordinary Expenditure		203,957		207,019
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		16,286		11

World Mission

Partners' Leprosy work highlighted in Holyrood

Vital work supported by the Church of Scotland to help provide for those who have suffered from leprosy in Africa has been highlighted in the Scottish Parliament. Kenneth Gibson, SNP MSP for Cunninghame North, spoke about the Schoonhaven Lepers Village in Ghana and Project Mepapa Leprosy in Mozambique during a private members debate to mark World Leprosy Day 2016.



People who have suffered from leprosy face severe stigma and discrimination in their communities. Often ostracised and sent to live in 'leprosy villages', these people receive spiritual and practical support from our partners the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana and the Evangelical Church of Christ in Mozambique.

"You are living your faith through action": Moderator inspired by the Synod of the Nile



When in Egypt, the Rt Rev Angus Morrison met with our partner the Synod of the Nile and inspired by their social outreach and commitment to ending violence against women said:

"You are living your faith through action. I am struck by the similarity in many of the challenges we are facing in our respective communities, though in different ways and on different scales. Sometimes I hear people say the Church should look inward to its own problems, but you are evidence that with God's love and a strong belief even a small team with limited resources can achieve so much."

World Mission Cont.

Update from Aleppo

As the conflict in Syria continues and Aleppo is once again cut off, many of you may remember Rev Ibrahim Nseir, who is a minister in Aleppo with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon and who shared so movingly with delegates at the General Assembly in 2015. Ibrahim has been in touch to update us and to give thanks for the continued support and prayers from people in the Church of Scotland.



He writes : 'We are facing different challenges including finding water, food & fuel for the community yet the grace of God never left us alone. The blessings of God are surrounding us everywhere and the power of living will defeat power of death. Our church provides every day 25 litres of drinkable water for 250 - 300 families. The church too pumps water daily, between 15000 - 20000 litres to 15 - 16 families for washing. We offer food to 200 families per month.

We feel that God is using our Presbyterian Church of Aleppo to fulfil the needs of the people of Aleppo and decrease their suffering. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.'

Czech Family Camp



This summer we will be joining our friends from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren to run a camp for families from Scotland and the Czech Republic in Běleč, near Prague. The camp will run from Saturday 6th August until Saturday 13th August.

The programme will include cycling, swimming, walking, team games and arts and crafts as well as times of worship and reflection. There will also be opportunities for trips to local places of interest.

The camp will cost £100 per adult and £50 per child with under 4's free. This includes accommodation on a full board basis, on site activities and transport to and from Prague. There may be the possibility of some support through the Faithshare Programme to help with the cost of flights from the UK.

If you are interested in finding out more or to register for the camp contact Karen Gillon at kgillon@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Copy date for the April issue is Sunday 20th March if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 23rd March if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6th Mar	P. Barlow S. Robertson	McCreadie Berry	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 S. Harrison
13th Mar	S. Anderson M. Adams	Chapman Sillars	J. MacIntyre L. Cowie	Team 3 L. Muirhead (EC)
20th Mar	M. Conway K. Edwards	Goodlet Richell	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 M. Donaldson
27th Mar	A. Galloway J. Townson	McKinnon Bates	C. Mackay R. Fraser	