

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

March 2018



Dear Friends,

Billy Graham gave an interview to an American news program in 2010. He had just turned ninety-two and he was asked what he would do differently if he had his time again. Actually he had been asked this question frequently as the years passed but the answer was always the same. He said: 'I would study more, pray more, travel less, take less speaking engagements.' Was this so that he knew more, became a more effective communicator and made more converts under his ministry? Not really. He went on: 'I'd spend more time in meditation and prayer and telling the Lord how much I love him and adore him and am looking forward to the time we are going to spend together for eternity.'

We tend to think that setting time aside to realise the presence of God in prayer or meditation on His Word is time to gather strength for the challenges that face us or to gather information about God and His ways. But in his comments Billy Graham puts his finger on what is the default position of the Christian. We are children of a good and loving Father and we seek His presence, not primarily for what we can get but quite simply because we enjoy being with Him, telling Him what we feel about Him and expressing our trust in Him.

When our boys were growing up I used to try to have a Friday night clear as a family time. Sometimes we would go out somewhere but by and large it was a night in, just being together. I remember one of the boys saying to me: 'I really like it when you are in with us like this.' It didn't matter that we weren't doing very much. He was just enjoying my company.

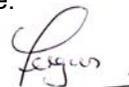
We miss something very important in our relationship with our God if we cannot just enjoy being with Him. An old American slave was once asked what he prayed about. He answered: 'I just looks at Him and He looks at me.' When that becomes our priority, in a sense to enjoy God, then our love for Him deepens and our trust in Him is strengthened. This is what we see so often in the Psalms, the praise book of Israel:

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Say to God "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth bows down to you; they sing praises to you, they sing praise to your name."
(Psalm 66: 1-4)

The problem with the season of Lent is that it can be so self-centered. What do I need to do to become a better Christian? Maybe there are things that need to be given up - and I'm not talking about chocolate - but maybe our greatest need is an increasing awareness of whose we are and whom we serve.



Safeguarding Training

All volunteers in Church organisations or groups are reminded that it is a requirement to attend safeguarding training as part of their duties. Two further training sessions have been arranged for St. Paul's on the dates listed below. Training request forms are available at the back of the church.

Training will take place in the Jubilee Hall on Wednesday 14th March at 2.30pm (tea from 2pm) and Wednesday 21st March at 7pm (tea from 6.30). Please contact **Elizabeth McEwan** for any other details 0141 384 0274

Stated Annual Meeting

The **Stated Annual Meeting** will be held in the Large Hall on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm for the purpose of electing members to the Congregational Board. At this meeting a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December will be submitted. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Graham Mill

Holy Week Services

The Holy Week Services will take place in Milngavie United Free Church from Monday 26th March until Friday 30th March at 7.30 pm. Once again local ministers will be preaching each evening.

There will be a short service on Saturday 31 March at 9.30 am.

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 25th March 2018, and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with the April Life Magazine

St Pauls Society £1 Cards — Where has all the money gone?

At the AGM held on the 25th March we allocated £800 to go out to some charities close to the hearts in St Pauls. Four charities in total received £200 each:

Glasgow Street Pastors A volunteer based initiative with a mandate to be a visible Christian Influence in the city of Glasgow. Teams of street Pastors walk the streets of Glasgow every weekend demonstrating compassion and care in the heart of the city.

Prospects (LIVING TOGETHER) A small organisation that believes that together we can make a significant positive change to the lives of people with learning difficulties in Scotland. Their project ALL FRIENDS TOGETHER is about helping churches to welcome people with learning difficulties and include them in all aspects of church life.

CROSSREACH-RAINBOW HOUSE This organisation is situated in the west end of Glasgow and is a purpose built facility with 17 single rooms all with en-suite facilities. It also houses a gym, an IT suite craft and counselling rooms. Their objective is promoting physical and mental health.

Teen ranch Well known to many people in St. Paul's and our young people have been attending there for nearly twenty years. Run by Bob Ockenden, he has been sharing the word of God with young people as well as providing activities like BMX biking, horse riding, archery and many, many more activities

As well as the above donations The St. Paul's Society has purchased 20 vases that will be used at the Christian Aid Lunch this year. These will be made available for other organisations to use, if they wish.

The Future Of The Cards Many, many people in the church have come to me and given me their opinions about the price of the cards and saying we should charge more. My reason for producing the cards is to allow people to keep buying them so that we can keep using the money for good and worthwhile projects. I'm still trying to produce them at the same price but I am putting up a notice to say that the cards can be purchased for a minimum donation of £1 so that anyone who wishes to give more can do so.

SPECIAL NAMED CARDS can be ordered from myself and a donation of £2 should be placed in the box.

Could I take this opportunity to thank everyone who buys the cards and of course for all the feedback and ideas provided.

Alex McEwan

Thank You

I had been feeling sorry for myself because Eric is in hospital; I had developed a viral infection and to top it all it would not stop snowing! Then a knock at the door brought me the Church flowers and a card carrying the good wishes of my friends in St Paul's. The flowers are beautiful and I wanted to thank you so much for your thoughts and your prayers. I have so much to be grateful for.

God Bless, Anne G

Flower Donations - March

If you wish to have your name written in the magazine in memory of a loved one, donations must be received in the month prior to publication.



Please also specify if a donation is anonymous, and where name and address is supplied a personal acknowledgement will be given.

Donations in memory:

Mrs M White, Mrs C Tanner, Mr I Farmer, Mrs J Ferguson, Miss D Dickson and Miss A Ritchie.

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.

World Mission News - The Moderator's Visit to Palestine and Israel

The Right Rev Dr Derek Browning recently visited Palestine and Israel. He was meeting with Church of Scotland partners in the area, and was visiting important sites.

The Moderator honoured the memory of Jane Haining, the Church of Scotland Mission Partner who died at the Auschwitz Birkenau extermination camp, at Yad Vashem, the sacred Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

Dr Browning, alongside Robin Downie, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, met many people of different faiths including Zoughbi Zoughbi and his family and colleagues at Wi'am, the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre in Bethlehem.

Wi'am are involved in education, job creation, non-violent resistance and mediation, working particularly with women and children. The centre aims to improve the quality of relationships and to promote peace, justice, a culture of acceptance and reconciliation in the community.



Dear Friends,

March 11th this year will see the seventh anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident which devastated parts of East Japan. I can still remember the strange long swaying of the ground that even reached us in Hokkaido, over 500 km away.

In early 2011 we had returned briefly to the church we had worked at in Otaru for 8 years. There, David was introduced to and chatted with, Mr. O, a 67 year old man who was not yet a Christian, but was attending church. Later that year he decided to follow Jesus and was baptized.

Mr. O was moved by the havoc the tsunami had wreaked and wanted to volunteer but decided to study the Bible first as preparation, attending Hokkaido Bible Institute for a year. In spring 2014 he and three other men from the church went for a week as volunteers in the disaster area.

Later he was asked if he would help for two months to set up a non-profit organization called Ippo Ippo Iwate (Ippo Ippo means 'step by step') in Yamada, a town which had been significantly damaged. As he was a widower with adult children in other parts of Japan, he felt free to move over 500 km south.

Two months turned into two years. As he was planning to return home it was announced that Ippo Ippo's prefab café had to be moved to a different location. Mr. O was God's man for this time – he had been a civil engineer for over 40 years!

One of the regular guests at the café introduced Mr. O to the present location, right in the centre of town. It was not only ideal for the café, but also perfect as a meeting place for the newly started Sanriku Nozomi (Hope) Church. The building was successfully relocated and the café and church continue to reach out to this town today.

I am encouraged and challenged by stories of people like Mr. O. Even in his late 60s he was willing to go to Bible College and start a new life serving God in a different part of Japan. Are we as willing to do what God asks of us? Like Mr. O we might be amazed at the plans God has for us.

With our love,

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Guild News



On Monday 15th January, the Guild was entertained in fine style by the Bearsden Fiddlers who gave us a selection of Scottish, English and Irish Airs and the evening was greatly enjoyed by the ladies.

On the 22nd for the first time that most of us can remember, the Guild was cancelled because of extreme weather conditions i.e. snow and ice !!

Alison May came to the Guild on the 29th recounting to us her Chilean adventure She had gone to Chile to attend a family wedding but had stayed to visit other parts of the country. Her talk was well illustrated with slides.

On 5th February, Lynsey Brennan stood in for Fergus Buchanan who was attending a Session Meeting at Baldernock. Lynsey gave us a very moving account of her own journey of faith and told us something of her training and the other churches where she had served since her ordination. Monday 12th February saw a return visit of the Govan Songsters of the Salvation Army, a wonderful evening of praise in this the Songsters Centenary Year. Major Tracy Bearcroft wowed the congregation with her interpretation of "Poor Wandering One" and Songster Leader Matt Ramsay sang "The Power of the Cross" accompanied by the Songsters.

On Monday 19th Feb, Terri Patterson gave her testimony and her commitment to her work with the Prison Fellowship. She told us how her life had been turned round as had many lives which she had witnessed in the various prisons throughout Scotland.

Christian Aid



Are we having a Christian Aid Lunch This Year?

Of course we are ! We asked around and the general feeling was that the early start of The Sunday Service would not hamper people still wanting their usual Soup and a Filled Roll.

The Christian Aid Lunch will take place on Sunday 18th March and as usual Anne Macleod and the Lunch bunch will be happy to serve!

Alex McEwan

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK WILL BE FROM 13TH MAY-18TH MAY

There will be a further article in the next magazine looking for the usual volunteers. We are currently looking at the various areas that we cover in Milngavie so watch this space!

An Invitation To Friendship House

Those of us who work in Friendship House were greatly encouraged by the good response to our appeal last year for more helpers from St. Paul's, and all of these people have settled into their new roles most successfully. We are now making another appeal which will not involve any effort on your part except to walk into Friendship House, sit down at one of our new tables and wait to be served with delicious food by one of our friendly staff!

In other words, we are asking you to think about visiting the House for coffee or lunch, and meeting with your friends there, rather than in one of the numerous coffee shops in Milngavie. Over the last few months we have undertaken a refurbishment programme and as a result the interior is bright and welcoming. We also have a new menu so you will see several changes if you have visited us in the past.

You might ask why you should come when you already have favourite coffee shops which you visit regularly; the reason is that Friendship House is part of St. Paul's outreach in Milngavie, and it would be much appreciated if you could show your support for this Christian witness by visiting us from time to time. The House is open from 10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m. on weekdays, and you will be made most welcome.

Thanks from St. Rollox

As part of the Home Mission Community Outreach, we brought before the Session the work of the St. Rollox Church of Scotland Community Outreach Project in Glasgow.

A support figure of £1000 was agreed and this was taken from our Home Mission Fund. In acknowledging this donation, the Project Team have highlighted the support and services that they will be able to continue and support for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and local residents in North Glasgow. The Outreach Project is literally a life line for those Asylum Seekers who are rendered destitute and homeless. The food parcels and advice worker/s keep them going and a Destitution service with Pastoral care, forms part of their weekly activities.

On a positive note they have a thriving sewing group which provides meaningful activity and new skills to women in particular. In addition they host a weekly ESOL class (English for Speakers of other Languages) offering students the opportunity to learn conversational English, as they await a more formal college education.

This is a worthy cause, here on our doorstep, and we are thankful to God that we are able to encourage and support this worthwhile Outreach Project.
Home Mission Committee

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

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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th March	M. McLean A. McLeod	Berry Chapman	Team 10 B. Marshall
11th March	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars Tracey	Team 3 R. Gow (EC)
18th March	C MacKinnon S. Stenhouse	Richell Wilson	Team 4 P. Knaggs
25th March	P. Barlow S. Robertson	J. Wallis McKinnon	Team 5 B. Adair