

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

November 2016



Dear Friends,

I recently visited a place called Adlestrop in Gloucestershire. A brief stop there inspired the poem by Edward Thomas. He describes the noise of the train, a passenger clearing his throat, the bare platform, the flower-laden countryside and a blackbird's song which is then augmented by 'all the birds/Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.'

When I write it like this I realise that it does not convey the significance of the moment for Thomas. It is a moment that might be familiar to many of us when it seems we are being touched by something beyond what we see and touch and hear; a moment in time and yet beyond time; a moment of completeness and contentment; a moment when the purpose of life is not in doubt.

It is eight years now when on a November evening I stood in the Negev desert and saw the star-scattered sky that would be familiar to Abraham and other ancient desert travellers. I knew there were things going on around me. People were talking, an evening meal was being prepared, animals were heard in the distance but I was lost in a moment of wonder.

Like many young men of his generation Edward Thomas enlisted to serve in the First World War. He was killed in action at Arras on Easter Monday, 9 April 1917, leaving a wife and three children. It is my hope that until that moment of tragedy he carried with him his Adlestrop experience: a sense of a love, a goodness, a joy, a peace at the heart of things. And more than this, that he had an awareness of the One from whom all these things flow, and who promises a deeper experience of these things in the New Creation.

This is the season of Remembrance when we cherish this hope for all those whose lives were lost in the tragedy of war. But remembering too that in our worst of times there lies, as another poet has said, 'the dearest freshness deep down things.' Jesus' life, death and resurrection show that God's purpose unfolds in the deepest darkness and will prevail in that moment when He makes all things new.

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

Christmas Tree Festival December 3rd - 9th



As we said in the last magazine, another Christmas Tree Festival is to be held this year. We plan to raise money for three local charities: Carers Link, which supports carers of all ages, Clober Farm Spinal Injuries Unit which helps both the injured and their carers, and the Angel Tree Project which provides Christmas presents for the children of prisoners - this is organised by Prison Fellowship. We hope to raise a significant sum which will make a difference in the lives of many children and adults.

As before, there will be a tearoom with tea, coffee and delicious home baking provided by the different churches which are on duty each day. We are looking for volunteers who will bake for the tearoom, help to serve there and also to act as stewards in the Church. We feel it is necessary to have a St. Paul's member in the Church at all times in case of any emergency which could not be dealt with by a stranger. To this end sign up sheets will be at the back of the Church and we hope you will consider whether you can help - it is a lovely way to start the Christmas season!

Another important feature of the Tree Festival is the music programme which this year features many popular performers from previous years - the Jordanhill Handbell Ringers, the Allander Jazz Band, Rachel Rutherford on the clarsach, Ryan Corbett on the accordion and children from two preschool groups as well as our own Noah's Ark. We have several new performers this year including one who is very familiar to you all, Derek Norval, so you will have a chance to hear him playing for much longer than on a normal Sunday morning. The full music programme will be published soon.

We are looking forward very much to this year's Festival and hope that many members of the congregation will be able to be involved, both as visitors - also bringing your friends! - and as participants. Thank you in anticipation!

Glasgow City Mission

Glasgow City Mission are holding a Craft Fair on Saturday 12th November from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. in their offices in 20 Crimea Street, Glasgow G2 8PW (down by the Broomielaw)

As well as local crafts, there will be home baking and building tours. £3.00 payable at the door includes tea or coffee and a cake. All proceeds will go to their work tackling homelessness and poverty in Glasgow.

Christmas Card Delivery

The Stewardship Committee are arranging a special Christmas delivery from St Paul's to every household within our Parish boundary.

The delivery will take the form of a Christmas Card with the message "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and will include an invitation to come and join us at our Christmas services.

Extra "Christmas Cards" will be made available at the back of the church if you wish to hand these to any other households you may know, that might consider coming along to join us at St Paul's this Christmas.

I am sure that anyone who takes up our invitation, will experience the warmth and support of a loving and caring family at St Paul's, that will encourage them to come back to learn more.

If you are able to assist in the delivery of our Christmas Cards, please add your name and contact details to the sign-up sheets, which will be available on the tables at the back of the Church from 6th November 2016. It is anticipated the cards will be delivered during the last week in November.

Gordon Fairbrother

Stewardship Convener.



Church Choir.

Members of the Church Choir are getting ready for the Christmas season, preparing a mixture of traditional and new music to enhance the worship in December.

Extra members will be most welcome in all sections of the choir. Thursday rehearsals, in the church, commence at 7.45pm and finish around 9.15pm. We rehearse the music for Sunday morning and then move on to our Christmas collection. Anyone wishing to learn the Christmas music is welcome to come at 7.45pm on any Thursday evening or come from around 8.30pm when we will be concentrating on our Christmas repertoire. Please speak to the Organist/Choirmaster, Derek Norval, or to any member of the choir for further information. Come and share the joy and privilege of leading the Christmas singing - you will be most welcome.

Guild News



Our speaker on 26th October, Dr. Cam Donaldson, from the Yunus Chair in Social Business and Health at Caledonian University spoke about his department's research into the causes of poverty. He enlarged on the development of self reliant groups, such as those helped by WEvolution, a charity supported by our own Guild for two years.

There was no meeting on the 2nd November, as we paid our annual visit to St. Luke's Guild on the 3rd. There was an excellent turn out of our members to hear the Rev Alan Sorensen's very entertaining description of the links between broadcasting and preaching. He had learned to put the Gospel message into 1 or 2 minute slots- that was on the radio, not from the pulpit! Afterwards we were then given royal hospitality by the ladies of St. Luke's Guild.

Mon. 9th November saw a visit from our own minister. Taking the lines of the Gaelic blessing, 'Deep Peace', he used photographic images to highlight each one e.g. 'the running wave', 'the flowing air' and 'the shining stars'.

Mon. 16th was billed as 'The Shows' a talk by Yvonne Waring, who turned out to be an actress of considerable talent, and versatility, as she guided us through her on-stage career, changing character and accent with ease. She must be an inspiring and amusing teacher, which is her day job!

Guild Week Celebration

As intimated in last month's magazine, on Monday afternoon 14th November the Guild will be celebrating Guild Week with a Songs of Praise followed by Afternoon Tea in aid of our Guild Project - Care for the Family. We would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to join with our members on this occasion

We would be delighted see you on the 14th November at 2.00 p.m. in the Large Hall.

If you would like to know more please speak to Jean Scott, Marion Shearlaw or Margaret White.

Milngavie Churches & the Christmas Lights – Sat. 3rd December

Last year, at very short notice, the Milngavie Churches organised a Nativity Scene in the Town Centre, as part of the Christmas Lights Festival. It proved to be an amazing success, which we are planning to repeat this year, and arrangements are progressing well.

Our Tent will be at the Stewart Street end of the precinct, and from 2.00pm – 5.00pm, this is where, at half-hourly intervals, the Storyteller will share the Nativity story with the children, and the stall adjacent to this will hold a 'real, live donkey!', which of course is very much part of the Nativity scene. The children participate in the storytelling by holding up hand held puppets, denoting each character or animal as the story unfolds.

Iced biscuits were distributed to the children at the end of each session last year, but supplies very quickly ran out and had to be purchased from local bakeries. This year we would like to repeat this little gift, but also to give the children a reminder of the story throughout Christmas.

This is where we need your help! The Committee has ordered from Scripture Union little Christmas bauble Story books which open to reveal the Nativity Story, and which can be hung on the children's tree at home. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to put **CHRIST** into **Christmas** in Milngavie and further afield. It would be greatly appreciated if you could donate some iced biscuits, and/or small monetary donations to cover the cost of the Scripture Union Baubles. This is a really lovely Pre-Christmas event, with no entry fee, so bring your children, grandchildren, friends, or just rediscover the child in **YOU**, as you visit the Nativity stall.

Thank You,

Iris Torbet – 956 2164

Flower Donations - November

Mrs Mary M Hutchison	Mrs A Murray
Mrs M Taylor	Miss A Ritchie
Mrs E Torbett	Sunday Club



Thank you St Pauls Society for undertaking Poppy arrangements on Remembrance Sunday 13th November.

Thank you also to the new team, whose arrangements have been so beautiful.

And thank you for your regular donations. Please put donations in the flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church, or send to:-

Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Avenue, Milngavie G62 6NN



Dear Friends,

Thank you to the many who have been following us through this journey as David battles blood cancer. We really appreciate the support and prayers of those back home and it is so encouraging to know you are standing with us.

As of the middle of last month David is back in hospital for several rounds of stronger chemo. This time we thought we'd write about what it's like in a Japanese hospital. I'll use the personal pronoun from now on as it's easier to do it that way.

Having never had any stay in a hospital anywhere else, I'm not in a position to make any comparison so this may or may not bear much resemblance to experiences others have had in Scotland. I am in a four person room though there is very little community and often I don't even see the others in the room. Each has a kind of self-contained space and the others' curtains are always drawn at the front. I tend to leave mine open a little. Maybe it's a man thing here that men just like to be away in their own space and not having dialogue with others whom they don't know.

As for food, it's actually pretty good. There is always a range of little dishes served at each meal and of course being Japan it's all very nutritious and healthy. Having said that, I do appreciate it when Lorna brings in some goodies from outside to supplement that! As for the medical care, it's really excellent. The number of nurses to patients seems high and there's no sense of them being rushed off their feet. They're always there instantly any time a nurse call is made. And the main doctors are great too - always taking care to explain as clearly as possible and answer questions we have.

Just this morning David had a visit from the physical trainer to his bed for exercises. He looked at a pile of books and said 'Is that a Bible?' When I said it was he said he had never seen one before. I happened to be reading a book about forgiveness too so we had a little chat about that and the meaning of the cross. He comes most days so hopefully we can follow that up as we have sessions together.

Thank you very much for all your prayers and support.

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

LIFE AND WORK: November Edition



The Beauty of Wood

The significance of trees and wood, inside and outside churches
Interview with a chartered forester who plants trees in Africa

Remembrance

The Moderator of the General Assembly offers a personal perspective on Remembrance, and a Remembrance prayer
Lynne McNeil considers changing attitudes to Remembrance

From Armenia to Nazareth

Morgan Jamieson highlights the history of EMMS Nazareth, sister organisation of EMMS International, and its humble roots through a young Armenian doctor

'Go In Joy'

The Guild Gathering in Dundee

Celebrating Interfaith in Scotland

A preview of Scottish Interfaith Week, November 13-20
Ephraim Borowski, Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, considers what it's like to be Jewish in Scotland today.

'Remember Us'

The Rev Jill Clancy and the Rev Bill Taylor look ahead to Prisoners' Week, November 20-27.

Waste and Beauty

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights how love can be wasteful and beautiful

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

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Are you a member both of St Paul's congregation and the National Trust for Scotland?

Anne Ritchie is organising an NTS four-night trip to Lincoln and surroundings on 1st-5th MAY, 2017. Already a substantial group from St Paul's will be going on this holiday and you are invited to join them to enjoy fellowship and visits to interesting places.

If you would like details, please contact Anne at church, e-mail her on anrit521@icloud.com or telephone 956 5027.

Thank You Letters

I have received the following letters from Vine Trust and Glasgow City Mission – Chris Scott, Treasurer



Thank you for the kind donation of £231.62 you sent in support of the Vine Trust's Tanzania Medical Programme raised from the Cake Sale held by St. Paul's Bible Class.

We are always very encouraged by the support and interest we receive so please be so kind as to convey our thanks to all at St. Paul's. I know that Marilyn and Rhona are very grateful to all in the congregation for their support and a #fundraisingfriday post will be published on our Facebook page in celebration of their fundraising.

Please be assured that these funds will be used to advance the work of the Tanzania Medical Programme and help some of the most vulnerable and isolated children and families in this world.

Thank you again for your continuing support of the Vine Trust.

Heather Bingham - Finance and Office Administrator.



Thank you very much indeed for celebrating Harvest this year with Glasgow City Mission. Your gift of £870.70 plus gift aid will be spent providing nourishing and wholesome lunches to those who come through the doors of our City Centre project. Thank you for being so generous.

Steven is one man who regularly attends "I feel a lot of love in the place and I meet a lot of people" he says. "It makes me feel good and the food makes me feel even better. I love helping out too and doing the dishes"

Sharing lunch at Glasgow City Mission is much more than just sharing food. It's also about getting alongside people, people like Steven, and building relationships. From this platform, people can more easily move forwards in their lives. We do this because that's what Jesus did – he ate with those who were marginalised and socially disadvantaged and He showed them His love and compassion.

Thank you for helping us to share His provision and His compassion with those in our city who so often feel excluded.

Graham Steven – Partnerships & Communications Manager.

Thank you Fergus and St. Paul's Church Family

Praise and thanks be to God for your prayerful support, your love, flowers, cards and visits to John at home. All of this brought God's "Peace that passes all understanding".

Love from Nan Cattnach and family

Kirk Welcomes Climate-Change Pact Signed by Political Party Leaders

The World Mission Council welcomed the re-confirmation of commitment to tackle climate change by all major party leaders in Scotland. The recommitment took place following a lobby organised by Stop Climate Chaos, a coalition of organisations working on climate change, of which the Church of Scotland is one.



This coincided with a special mass lobby event at Holyrood which brought nearly a hundred people from all over Scotland to meet their MSPs. They urged politicians to do more to improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings, invest in the renewable energy sector and in low carbon transport, and cut greenhouse gas emissions from the food we eat. Last year the leaders signed a joint promise to set out comprehensive plans on how they will tackle climate change and reduce emissions. The Scottish Government is due to publish a Climate Plan early next year, setting out their actions to tackle climate change. This is expected to be followed by proposals for a new Climate Change Bill.

The event was attended by several members of the World Mission Council, as well as our visitors from Zambia, India, Jamaica and Ghana. This was an exciting experience for the group as they went on to speak at our Care for Creation conference following the lobby.

Adrian Shaw, the Kirk's Climate Change Officer said: "I am particularly pleased that a large number of people who attended the lobby in the Scottish Parliament were from churches. This shows how committed people are to help the Scottish Government implement its commitments of climate change."

The Church of Christ in Thailand Mourn the Loss of their King

It was with great sadness that the people of Thailand learnt of the passing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He died peacefully on 13 October in Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok.

The Government have announced that flags are to fly at half-mast for the next 30 days. Many Thai people will be wearing black as a symbol of their grief.



The Officers of the Church of Christ in Thailand have advised its churches, programmes and institutions to organise worship and remembrance services in honour of the king, and to continue to pray for Thailand. King Bhumibol Adulyadej was much loved and ruled for 70 years. The Church of Scotland sends its condolences to the people of Thailand.

ALTERnativity Festive Family Boxes!

It's that time of year again! The organised among us are beginning to think about Christmas. Lists are being drawn up, plans made. For many, however, Christmas can be a struggle. There's pressure to buy, pressure to have a spectacular time, family complications to deal with, and it all gets a bit much.



ALTERnativity provides an alternative to the hectic and commercialised Christmas we may have become accustomed to. Through providing resources and activities, ALTERnativity brings our focus back to the Christmas story, and helps us to think about what Christmas means in a World where half of its population is starving.

ALTERnativity is very excited to announce the launch of their new Festive Family Boxes! Together with Spill the Beans, ALTERnativity has come up with something which families can do together throughout the month of December. Christmas is both busy and costly so activities are kept simple and will encourage children to use things which can be found around the home – rather than going out and buying yet one more thing. Each day has something to do for children and a reflection for adults. All the family can get involved and just take five minutes out from the nativity plays, Christmas parties and shopping mayhem to spend a little time together. Please visit <https://www.alternativity.org.uk/> for more information.

W. M. Volunteer Stories: Lyn and Bob Connolly in Zambia and Kenya

Upon retirement, Lyn and Bob Connolly from Tulliallan and Kincardine Parish Church decided they wanted a change of scenery. Lyn is a nurse specialising in dermatology and Bob is a compliance manager specialising in health and safety and has worked in the NHS on prevention control of disease. Both have skills they felt could be useful to the world church. Having contacted the World Mission Council, a trip to Zambia and Kenya was arranged. They have now arrived in Kenya for the second part of their adventure, and have sent us some news!

“Life in Kenya is very different from Zambia. It's a slower pace. The Presbyterian University of East Africa is situated in Thogoto just outside Kikuyu and is approximately 45 minute drive from Central Nairobi. Thogoto got its name from Scotland. When the missionaries came to Kikuyu and settled in this area, the local people pronounced 'Scotland' as 'Thogoto'!

I am working with the Nursing Department and am presently involved in writing the answers to three exam papers. I have had a few patients to see in my clinic from students and staff but not the numbers I saw in Zambia. Bob is dealing with fire policies at present. The university has been busy getting ready for inspections from the Commission of University Status as they hope to get chartered status. There are approximately 1000 students, 83 of which are nursing students.



Missionaries had a huge impact on the Kikuyu people. One such missionary was Minnie Cumming Watson from Dundee, the first woman missionary of the East Africa Scottish Mission. She established a system of Christian schools that became the model for primary education in the colony, and cared deeply for its people. She died in Scotland, but her ashes were brought back to be interred with her husband who was also a missionary here.”

If volunteering with the World Mission Council is of interest to you, please contact us to discuss your options. You can email us on: world@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Please note the **earlier copy date** for the December issue of Sunday **13th** November if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday **16th** November if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6th Nov	M. Conway K. Edwards	Chapman Wallis	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 B. Shearlaw
13th Nov	A. Galloway J. Townson	Goodlet Sillars	J. MacIntyre L. Cowie	Team 3 R. Raeburn (EC)
20th Nov	G. Chisholm A. Shiels	Bates McCreadie	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 E. Bragg
27th Nov	P. Dudgeon A. Gillies	Berry Tracey	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 B. Adair