

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

October 2018



Dear Friends,

I was part of a group of about a dozen recently who were asked what was their favourite season of the year. A surprising number said 'Winter.' Low temperatures and increased darkness were not a problem. For others, though, it's different. Some years ago I remarked to a colleague half in jest: 'The nights are fair drawing in.' He said: 'Yes, and I hate it.' It was the darkness that he found challenging.

There is, of course, a recognised medical condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder where, in the Winter months, people experience mood changes, plunging energy levels and lack of concentration. Thankfully my friend wasn't amongst those sufferers. He just didn't like the darkness, although to see him engaged in the ministry he loved throughout the Winter months, that thought would be furthest from your mind. With faith and his sense of mission, he got through. More than just got through actually. He continued being a bright and vibrant witness to the Kingdom of God in our midst.

As a new Church season gets under way this is a challenge to us all. We face more than seasonal darkness in the world. There is a darkness that arises from the unseen tragedy, the suppression of justice, intensity of cruelty and lack of compassion. This was the world Jesus knew and yet He declared to His followers: 'You are the light of the world.' People who can lighten up the world as they show kindness to the broken, speak out for what is good and true, and bring a sense of hope to those who feel they have nothing to look forward to. This is accomplished because He is the light of the world and those closest to Him are His channels.

Never forget the words of the Apostle who many believe was closest of Jesus:

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' (John 1: 5)

Let's keep walking in His light,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Legus".

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL      December 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

We are delighted to announce that another Christmas Tree Festival is being planned for this year. As usual, we are expecting around thirty trees to be decorated by organisations and societies in the area and we look forward to a wonderful display of colour and creativity. There will be a varied music programme by a wide range of local musicians and a tearoom with wonderful home baking will also be available, staffed by members of all the local churches. This year the charities we are supporting are the Milngavie Youth Centre, Glasgow Street Pastors and the East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid Project which is based in Kirkintilloch.



Of course the Festival does not happen without a great deal of work and, as ever, we will be asking for your help which has been so freely offered in past years. We will need stewards to direct visitors in the church, bakers for the tearoom and also volunteers to staff the tearoom. It has always been really interesting to be involved in the Festival and volunteers have enjoyed meeting visitors and also working with members of other churches.

More details about the Festival will appear in next month's 'Life' and sign-up lists will be placed at the back of the church in a few weeks' time. Please put the dates in your diary, and plan both to attend and to be involved as a volunteer! If you have any enquiries about any aspect of the Festival, please don't hesitate to contact one of us. Thank you in anticipation!

Jean Scott 956 5251      Eleanor Easton 943 0368

## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

The St Paul's team have now helped twice in the kitchen at the LHM. Supervised by the very experienced chefs we have peeled vegetables, served the food and helped to tidy up. Three or four people are required each day from about 10am to 2pm and, with a dozen or so congregational teams involved, we will be called upon four times per year. We have all said we are available to help at short notice as well and our verdict so far....it's good fun!



**Ann Begg**

## Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

When I wrote last month about all the natural disasters last month, I thought Japan had had its “fair share” for the time being. However, just a few days later another earthquake struck, this time near Sapporo in Hokkaido where we lived for several years. At the epicentre, it registered the maximum number 7 on the Japanese scale (which measures the degree of shaking felt on the ground). 41 people died, mainly from mudslides as the sides of hills collapsed and engulfed houses built at the bottom.

It was strange to see photos of roads we used to travel on, buckled, and other places where houses are now on a diagonal tilt due to liquefaction. The unusual thing about this earthquake was its location. The west and centre of Hokkaido don't usually get large earthquakes. In the Greater Tokyo Area where we now live, we know a big earthquake could strike at any time. In our hall we have two rucksacks packed with emergency supplies, mobile chargers and batteries, so that we can survive a few days if the power and water go off.

Within minutes of the earthquake the whole of Hokkaido was without electricity – that is an area the size of Scotland and with a similar population of nearly 5.5 million people – and many were without water. However, because they were not expecting an earthquake, not many people had emergency supplies and batteries ready. Many shops could not open because the power was off and those that did sold out of supplies within a couple of hours.

As I write this article, we are being warned that a strong typhoon is on its way, due to hit Tokyo tomorrow night. We are being told to bring inside any items that might get blown away or toppled and to secure other things, where possible. Preparation is key.

This reminds me of the story Jesus told in Matthew 25 about ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom. 5 of them were well prepared and had extra supplies of oil for their lamps, but the other 5 didn't. When the bridegroom arrived, the 5 who had run out of oil were shut out of the banquet.

As Christians we believe that Jesus is coming back and that we need to be ready. Preparing for earthquakes and typhoons in Japan, reminds me that millions of Japanese people don't know about Jesus and that they need to get ready for his return. Please pray that many more would hear the good news and believe it.

Thank you for your partnership with us.

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## Harvest Thanksgiving



The wonderful display of posies, plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables and other varied foods in the Church for Harvest Thanksgiving, provided much cheer on an otherwise dull September Sunday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who donated the items, gave of their time and talent, and of course their energy, to decorate the Church, deliver posies, plants, flowers, gifts and cards to members of The Congregation. We also delivered food items to The Salvation Army and Lodging House Mission.

Once again The Girls Brigade donated and enthusiastically created, the beautiful posies which made the Sanctuary so colourful. Well done to the girls and to the Officers and the willing helpers on the night. A special thank you must be given to The Sunday Club and The Bible Class for their donations and for designing the cards which are always gratefully received by our members at home or in care. The contribution to The Free To Live Trust amounted to £1010.65 including gift aid, with perhaps more to come.

Once again many thanks to everyone involved in making the day such a success.

**Elizabeth McEwan**



### Christian Aid Christmas Card Sale

This will take place in The Town Hall on Saturday 3rd November from 10am to 3pm. There will be the usual cards, "guess the weight of the cake", some tray bakes as well as the now famous, "Taggart's Home Made Tablet".

As well as Christian Aid, there will be other charities selling their own cards. For instance, last year, there were stalls from Diabetic UK and RNIB as well as the PDSA and other well loved charities.

The whole event is worth a visit for buying your Christmas Cards.

**Alex McEwan**

## Lodging House Mission - Thank You



I am writing to acknowledge and thank your congregation at St. Paul's Milngavie, for their generous Harvest donations, to assist us in our work with the homeless and underprivileged in Glasgow. Be assured that these will help replenish our food store and enable us to continue feeding our service users throughout the coming winter.

At LHM, we seek to make a positive difference in the lives of our service users. The provision of vital sustenance 7 days a week, by way of healthy breakfasts and lunches, is often the gateway to supporting them in other ways too, through the myriad of problems they face and our Day Centre offers them safe shelter where they know they will not be judged and can always find a friendly word.

We are very aware that we can only carry out the work we do at LHM, thanks to the generosity of supporting churches such as St. Paul's. On behalf of everyone at LHM, especially our service users, please pass on our heartfelt thanks to your congregation for their kindness and generosity. May God bless them as they have blessed us.

Yours sincerely,

**Liz Ashmole**

## Guild News

The Guild session begins on Monday 1st October with a musical evening provided by Fine Fettle. Future topics and speakers include,



8th Oct Malawi Fruits - Russell Crawford  
15th Oct No Strings Attached - Ian Thomson  
22nd Oct Spinal Injuries Scotland - Joanne Martin  
29th Oct USA East to West - Sheila and David Hart.

Our dedication Service will take place on Sunday 14th October during the morning service.

The three year Theme for The Guild is 'One journey Many Roads' and this year's topic is 'Seeking The Way'. The committee have decided that our project for the year will be 'Malawi Fruits' which is a Scottish Christian Charity committed to working in partnership in the north of the country, providing training and support, enabling young farmers to earn a decent living.

## BOOK GROUP



We read two books over the summer – *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* and *The Collector's Daughter*.

Firstly, we discussed the *Potato Peel Pie Society* book which is set in Guernsey during the Nazi occupation. The first part of the book consists of letters between Juliet (the author) and members of the Society and her publisher friends. Details emerge of life during the German occupation and the forming of an unlikely book club with great characters of very different backgrounds. The second part we found more interesting as Juliet visits Guernsey and meets all the people with whom she has been corresponding. We would recommend the book and some of us would read it again.

Secondly, we discussed *The Collector's Daughter*. The collector's daughter is the daughter of William Burrell. A lot of the historic information in the book will already be known to you, if you have some idea of Burrell's origins in Glasgow. Marion had a very difficult and challenging life – not ordinary by today's standards but perhaps we should look at her life in the context of the society in which she lived. Her parents had complete control of her finances and social life. The Burrells moved in high society and regularly met with Lords and Baronets. We all decided we did not like William Burrell, but he was a man who did something amazing – The Burrell Collection. The group would not particularly recommend this book but if you are interested in society and its conventions in this period of history, it might just be for you.

Next time we are reading *The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks and we are meeting on Tuesday 23rd October 2018.

**Joyce Clark**

### Flower Donations - October

Anyone wishing to record their name in Life, in memory of a loved one, should send the donation a month prior to publication of the magazine.



Miss M Hamilton, Mr R Kerr, Mrs G Morrison, Mrs M Ure, Mrs EM Watson, Mrs S Collar

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

### Prayers for Pakistan

Pakistan urgently needs your prayers as former Pakistani cricket captain Imran Khan becomes Pakistan's 22nd Prime Minister. He took office earlier this month after violent and controversial elections in July. Christians and other minorities are anxious about what Mr Khan's leadership will mean for them. Khan and his party have been sending out mixed messages: on the one hand he has assured Christians and other minorities that they will be safe and treated equally under his government. However other statements have been markedly different in tone; he has said before the elections, that he didn't plan to change the infamous Blasphemy Laws and would even work to enforce them.



Centre for Legal Aid  
Assistance & Settlement

Our partners, Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) have asked that we join in praying for the following:

- Pray that the Prime Minister will honour his commitment to implementing the National Action Plan, promising security for Pakistan's minorities.
- Pray that he will be able to deal with the pressing issues of the economy, militancy and more besides.
- Pray that he is successful in stopping the ongoing misuse of the blasphemy law in the country.

### Flood Relief in Kerala

Rescue and relief operations continue in Kerala, India which has been hit by unprecedented flooding.

Our partners, the Church of South India (CSI), continue to cooperate with authorities to provide assistance.



Following his call to help the flood victims, the Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, CSI moderator, expressed his satisfaction that the colleges, schools, churches and parish halls of the Madhya Kerala Diocese are open as relief camps. He lauded the tremendous relief works which are being carried out by the Kerala Dioceses of the CSI and thanked other dioceses outside of Kerala that are extending their support and showing their solidarity with the Keralites, in this time of suffering.

## **World Mission Cont.**

### **USA Withdrawing Funding for Palestinian Refugees**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has expressed deep regret over the decision by the government of the USA to withdraw all funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees.

“This is effectively a decision to abandon the Palestinian refugee population and to block them from the realization of their inalienable human rights and legitimate aspirations for the future – including a viable two-state solution,” said WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit. “As such, we consider the decision immoral and unjust, driving Palestinian refugees to more hopelessness, despair and desperation.”

### **Malawi Distance Learning Students Enjoy Time at Aberdeen Campus**



Three distance learning PhD students from Malawi spent time experiencing student life at the University of Aberdeen last week, as part of a unique partnership between the University and Zomba Theological College. Rev Brian Theu, Rev David Kawanga and Rev Thomas Nyang’ama, took part in the Centre for Ministry Studies Summer School Programme. All three are lecturers at Zomba Theological College, our partner institution in Southern Malawi.

### **Amnesty Report on South Sudan**

Human rights group, Amnesty, has warned that the South Sudanese 'government continues to give suspected perpetrators free rein to commit fresh atrocities'. Amnesty has produced a report based on the testimonies of around 100 civilians who fled an offensive by government forces and allied youth militias in Mayendit and Leer counties, between 21 April and early July this year.

The World Mission Council has been working with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan on a peace and reconciliation programme. This initiative began in 2015 following the visit of the Very Rev John Chalmers to South Sudan when he was Moderator. The South Sudan Council of Churches, of which the Moderator of the PCOSS, Right Rev Peter Gai, is chair, has been involved in high level peace talks. The training that the WMC has delivered to the leadership of the PCOSS, is being used to foster peace at all levels, from grassroots to the high level peace talks between the warring parties.

## Church Of Scotland News

### Scottish actors bring 'Feeding the 50,000' Great War story to life

Actors James Cosmo, David Robb, Phyllis Logan, Gordon Kennedy and folk singer Isla St Clair are taking part in a charity event next month to mark the extraordinary efforts that Church of Scotland members made to look after Scottish soldiers.



In an expression of love, compassion and friendship in the worst of circumstances, nearly 50,000 troops, either going to or returning from the Front, were shown hospitality at St Columba's Church in London.

Most of the men had never been to the city before and often had to wait 18 hours or more for connecting trains to Scotland.

Church members looked out for soldiers at stations and took them back to the church for a wash, hot meals, entertainment and room to sleep overnight.

The little known story is included in a new book - Scots in Great War London - to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I which was recently launched by Princess Anne.

Clydebank born Mr Cosmo, who is known for his roles in Game of Thrones, Braveheart, Highlander and Trainspotting, said: "The Centenary of the Armistice will be an important time to reflect on the tragic losses in the First World War.

"I am pleased to take part in this performance to mark the contribution of Scottish soldiers and the work of church volunteers to care for them."

The story of Feeding the 50,000 will be told through readings and music during two performances at St Columba's Church in Knightsbridge on October 20th at 3pm and 7.30pm.

More information can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

All proceeds will go to Poppy Scotland.

## Scottish Parliament heralds return of Kirk-backed Good Money Week

Good Money Week is back this year from 29th September until 5th October 2018. Andy Wightman, Green MSP for the Lothians, put down a motion welcoming the return of Good Money Week and applauding the efforts of the Church of Scotland and its partners for 'striving towards a more just and sustainable world now and in the future.'



Started in 2005, Good Money Week is co-ordinated by the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF). The campaign, held this year, aims to bring people together from all walks of life and levels of income—including charities, student groups and faith communities—to consider green and ethical options when they make finance and investment decisions.

As part of Good Money Week, on Wednesday 3rd October, the Church of Scotland and partner faith and financial organisations have organised a free half-day conference to discuss the question, "How can you link your faith and values to your money?"

Hosted by Wendy Young from Christian Aid Scotland with a keynote address from Christopher Stockwell, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR), on intergenerational justice, the conference will be held at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

After hearing from Mr Stockwell, guests will have the opportunity to take part in workshops hosted by financial organisations, including a credit union and world-leading ethical bank. The workshop sessions will look at two of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Climate Change and Education.

Alan Miller from Triodos Bank, who is leading one of the workshops, said:

"Money can be a hugely powerful form of democracy if we use it for the collective good. As a conscious consumer, moving your money is one of the simplest and most impactful things you can do.

Consumers and investors can exert pressure to change wasteful and ethically and environmentally objectionable business practices.

It is our choice who we spend and save our money with and we can use this to drive positive change."

It is hoped the workshops will help participants think more about topics such as low carbon investments and how credit unions can be an ethical option for saving and borrowing.

The half-day conference is being held between 9:30-13:30 on Wednesday 3rd October at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicholson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX.

More information can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

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The copy date for the November issue is Wednesday 24th October for e-mails and Sunday 21st October if using the church pigeon hole.

Please send any articles to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
7th Oct	N. Abbott K. Hagart	Sillars Chapman	<b>Team 1</b> J. Sillars (C)
14th Oct	M. McLean A. McLeod	Berry Richell	<b>Team 7</b> C. Robertson
21st Oct	J. Ford C. Tanner	Wilson MacAllister	<b>Team 8</b> L. McNeill
28th Oct	C. McKinnon S. Stenhouse	Tracey Wallis	<b>Team 9</b> M. Thomson