



Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels
Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels, is a Charity registered in Scotland, No: SC010389

Newsletter ♦ April 2018

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Message from Leon

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life (Galatians 6:7-8).

Dear Everyone,

As the time of Easter has just passed, we pray that you had a blessed Easter time where the Lord Jesus was and still is in the centre of your thoughts. Life is a matter of sowing and reaping, and what a man sows, that shall he also reap.

There are certain moral laws in operation in this world that are absolute. All of us are responsible beings, and we shall all die and stand before God in judgment and give an account of the deeds done in the body. And our eternal destiny will depend upon what we have done in this life and in this world. Life, therefore, is a huge matter. It is the most serious thing conceivable because what we get in this life and what we will get through all eternity depends upon whether we sow to the flesh or whether we sow to the Spirit. The most important thing to discover in this world is, how does one sow to the Spirit? How am I so to live that I shall reap the blessing of joy and happiness and peace in this world and in the world to come forever and forever?

The apostle Paul answers the question. He puts it in this statement: "God forbid that I should glory ..." It is unthinkable, he says, that I should glory in anything "... save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Galatians 6:14). This is what he preached. And this by the grace of God is the thing that we are privileged to preach as well. The preaching of the cross, the preaching of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, is the very heart and centre of the Christian Gospel and the Christian message. May you experience in the time to come an intense hunger to know the depths of the message of the cross and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Leon Keller

Reminder of the Annual Stated Meeting (ASM)

This will take place in the Small Hall on Tuesday 10th April at 7 pm. The Guest Speaker this year is Duncan Cameron, who will tell us about his involvement with Street Pastors. The Annual Accounts from 2017 and the Minutes from the 2017 ASM are now available on the Display Desk on the pulpit side of the Church. If you take copies away, please remember to bring them to the ASM with you. Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting. Everyone most welcome!

Parish Register

Death

16th February 2018

Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Gray

Galahill House

Our sincere commiserations to all the family and friends of Betty.

Treasurer's Report - February 2018

Budgeted Expenditure for 2018		£82,978
Budget for February		£11,828
Income from offerings to date	£6,601	
Gift Aided offerings tax reclaimed to date	£3,690	
Investment income to date	£0	
		<u>£1,0291</u>
Shortfall (voluntary income)		-£1,537
Income from use of premises	£178	
Other donations to date	£527	
Legacies to date	£0	
		<u>£706</u>
Income shortfall to date, against budget		-£832

Actual General Fund income to date	£10,997
Actual General Fund expenditure to date	<u>£12,267</u>
Income shortfall to date	-£1,270

Average weekly offerings compared:	£849 (Jan-Feb 2017)
	£825 (Jan-Feb 2018)

Tearfund Scotland Jubilee Celebration

I had the great privilege of attending the Jubilee celebration which was held in the Glasgow City Chambers a few weeks ago. We enjoyed worship which was led by Steph McLeod, Yvonne Lyon, Ellyn Oliver and David Lyon, along with an announcement that there will be a tour of "Celtic Worship" in the autumn, which should be something to look forward to if this small sample is anything to go by. Yvonne, Ellyn and David are working on a worship CD which will provide a musical reflection on Jubilee themes, exploring restoration, freedom and love, and which should be available for release later this year.



The evening was made up of three main speakers: Peter Chirnside (Manager of Tearfund Scotland for 30 years), Nigel Harris (CEO of Tearfund) and Lynne Paterson (current Tearfund Scotland Director).

Peter spoke first, recalling many happy memories and mixing them with anecdotes: he underlined how much of Tearfund's growth and success from its humble beginnings was down to the work and commitments of the supporters, which he "merely facilitated" - very typically humble of the man!!

Nigel then spoke of the future, where Tearfund will be focussing its short to medium term goals.

The first goal is the further development of the Church and Community Transformation pro-

gramme. Since its inception in 1998, it has mushroomed from a handful of participants to millions. The second is the support of staff working in areas of conflict, which represents the biggest self-inflicted challenge to humankind. This is also the biggest and most important thing which he asked us to pray for, as requested by those who work in the field. Last is the creation of sustainability in all of Tearfund's work, so that its impact is designed to bring blessing not only to people living in poverty but also to future generations by minimising the carbon footprint of those who provide aid and development as well as those in its receipt.

Lynn rounded off the evening, in between two periods of prayer, with two reflections of a personal nature which spoke of moments where she was moved to tears and then also driven to worship by the experience of living and working amongst communities of impoverished people around the world.

It was a super event to be involved in, and I left both humbled and challenged at my own past, present and future involvement. Our Church has already been allocated a slot in Tearfund's Year of Prayer, which we will host in the week of 23-30 September: more details to follow.

Jim Tennant