

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 ♦ May 2018

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Annual Stated Meeting 2018

The Annual Stated Meeting (ASM) of 2018 took place on Tuesday 10th April. The Chairman, Rev. Dr Leon Keller, welcomed 36 members of the congregation and opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1, reading from verse 4, followed by prayer. The Treasurer, Marjorie McKendrick, presented the Annual Accounts for 2017 to the congregation and she thanked them for their generosity and mentioned that people give a lot of time and money voluntarily, which greatly helps our financial position. Nevertheless we ended 2017 with a deficit of £3,629. The Property Convenor Keith Simpson presented the Property Report for 2017. Keith explained that around £10,500 was spent last year on keeping the building in good order, considerably less than in the last few years. We have also had the Queen Victoria Memorial window repaired by the Kempe Trust. Keith thanked the many people who keep the building and grounds spic and span, and Leon also thanked a number of people for their work throughout the year, including his wife Janette who puts his sermons onto the internet. Leon gave a short speech about the way forward for our Church, which must be a place of biblical spirituality where we bow before God. His mission would be the preaching of gospel-centred sermons. He felt that modern teaching tended to be man-centred rather than - as it should be - God-centred.



This was followed by the Guest Speaker for the evening, Duncan Cameron (pictured above), who spoke about his role as Street Pastor Co-ordinator for the Borders. He gave a very interesting insight into the role of the Street Pastor on the streets of Galashiels and Hawick. They chat to the young folk they meet and listen in a non-judgmental way. The Pastors are Inter-Denominational and will discuss religion and faith only if the subject is brought up. Duncan stated that Street Pastors is an amazing way of taking God into the community. A cheque for £150 was presented to Duncan for the work of Street Pastors, and David Leckey thanked him for coming to tell us about their work.

Two new members were co-opted onto the Board, namely Julie Carmichael and Liz Jardine. We hope they enjoy their time as members of the Board.

Heart & Soul 2018
Celebrating the life of the Church

Heart and Soul, which is a programme of the Assembly Arrangements Committee of the Church of Scotland, is delighted to be offering the following events during the period of the 2018 General Assembly.

- ♦ **Made for More** – Youth Concert hosted by [Powerpoint Scotland](#) featuring multi-award winning electronic dance music act [LZ7](#): Ross Theatre, Princes Street Gardens, Saturday May 19th 7.00-9.00 pm (free).
- ♦ **Heart and Soul Festival** with Family Stage and Picnic Area and lots of Year of Young People (YoYP) activities: Princes Street Gardens, Sunday May 20th 12.30-6.00 pm
- ♦ **Walking Together** – a youth-led evening of Celebration and Inspiration: Monday 21st May 6.00-7.30, General Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh.

A YoYP Social Media campaign is running throughout May: please share your dream for your church at [#YOYPchurchdream](#) - we want as many dreams, words and images as possible!

The A-Z of (Biblical) ways to pray with your persecuted brothers and sisters



OpenDoors
60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Praying for the needs of the world and the persecuted church can be a challenge ... so here are a few suggestions from the Bible to get you started.

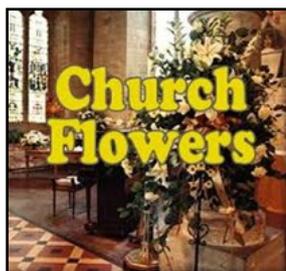
A uthorities – pray that believers will know how to be both brave and obedient citizens (Romans 13:1-7)
B ible – access to God’s Word giving people hope. Pray that Bibles will reach believers (Psalm 119:43)
C hurches – buildings are often vulnerable to closure or attack. Pray for protection (Luke 19:46)
D eliverance – even Jesus prayed that, if possible, he might be spared suffering (Mark 14:36)
E ndurance – pray for energy for those providing support to persecuted believers (Revelation 14:12)
F aith – ask that their faith may not fall, so that they can strengthen others (Luke 22:32)
G lory – pray that their suffering will glorify God as Stephen’s did (Acts 7:59)
H ealing – ask God to heal those who have been injured through acts of violent persecution (Luke 22:51)
I ngenuity – pray that secret Christians will find creative ways to meet others (Acts 16:13)
J oy – even in prison, Paul and Silas sang as they prayed (Acts 16:25)
K nowledge – ask God to give His people all kinds of knowledge to live for Him under oppressive regimes (Daniel 1:17)
L ove – under stress, it is easy for relationships in the church to buckle (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
M arriage – pray for respect between partners and the ability to model the love of Christ (1 Peter 3:7)
N eighbours – invite the Holy Spirit to help Christians love their hostile neighbours (Ephesians 3:16)
O ppportunity – in many countries, being a Christian is allowed but sharing your faith is not (Colossians 4:3-5)
P eace – persecution often takes place in the context of conflict. Pray for Christians to be peace makers (Romans 12:18)
Q uietness – ask the Lord of the wind and waves to calm the hearts of those in trouble (Mark 4:39)
R esilience – pray that God’s children won’t fall into despair (2 Corinthians 4:8)
S afety – ask God to give the staff of Christian organisations and partners safe travels (Psalm 140:4)
T rust – when secret police are spying on churches, believers need to know whom to trust (Psalm 27:11-12)
U nity – when the church is divided, hardships of persecution are exacerbated (John 17:23)
V ision – pray that training opportunities will help Christians show God’s love in their local culture (Acts 11:5-9)
W idows – pray for widows who are bringing up families alone and for the support of churches around them (1 Tim. 5:3)
X enophobia – Christian migrants are doubly discriminated against, pray for justice and mercy (Exodus 23:9)
Y outh – pray that churches will encourage their youth not to give up because of persecution (Psalm 144:11-15)
Z eal – pray for God’s grace on our persecuted family to live out the words of Paul (Romans 12:10-21)

Submitted by **Jim Tennant** and reproduced by kind permission of **OpenDoors**

Presbytery of Melrose & Peebles - News and Events

- ♦ **The Church Needs Prayer:** an ecumenical evening of silent prayer for the Church will be held in Old Parish & St Paul’s from 6-9 pm on Friday 18th May. All Christians are welcome!
- ♦ **General Assembly, 19th-25th May:** Rev. Dr Leon Keller and Mr Peter Sandison of Old Parish & St Paul’s are amongst those appointed by Presbytery as Commissioners to this year’s General Assembly.
- ♦ **Presbytery Planning:** congregations are invited to send ‘forward thinking, visionary’ representatives to a presentation/discussion on the afternoon of Saturday 2 June in Trinity Church to hear the details of the present situation (a 20% reduction in ministry numbers), and to start thinking about the future.

Church Flowers



Dear Friends,

Thank you all most sincerely for the many donations you have so kindly given me. I have used the money when there are gaps in the flower rota and have also bought additional floral items to decorate the church on special occasions. I would also like to thank all those who are on the flower rota who have bought flowers and displayed them beautifully for all to see on a Sunday morning. God Bless you all and thank you for your continued support!



Betty Thomson

Baking Stall for Malawi - Sunday 13 May

The Under Ground Church (UGC) will be doing a cake & candy stall after the service on 13th May. Funds raised will be for our partner church Naisi.

As there is a group coming from Zomba in August and the minister of Naisi will be visiting, we would like to make a donation to youth and children's work and perhaps to other needs in the church.

Church Annual Clean

This will take place on Monday 11th June from 7.00-9.00 pm, and on Tuesday 12th June from 9.30-11.30 am. This will enable the church to be cleaned one day, and the halls on the other. Could those who are able please bring their vacuum cleaner with them: the more helpers we have, the easier and quicker it will be to get the work done, especially as a number of "regulars" will be away on holiday that week. Please let David Leckey or Jim Tennant know if you intend to come along. All help will be greatly appreciated!

Scripture Union (SU) Training Event - 'Growing Young'

This event is for church and youth leaders. Come and explore the findings of the Fuller Youth Institute's 'Growing Young' research, and consider resources and ideas from SU Scotland that may help you grow young people in your church and community. Our local Event will be at Trinity Church 2nd June from 9.00 -11.30, or alternatively at Carrubbers Christian Centre, Edinburgh EH1 1SR, on 29th May from 12.00-2.30. Further details and booking information at <https://www.suscotland.org.uk/volunteer/training>.

Session World Mission Committee

Advance notices concerning future events nationally and locally

MAY

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim world: 15th May to 14th June 2018

A Prayer Guide is available on line at www.pray30days.org & www.facebook.com/pray30days

AUGUST

Visit of a Faith Share Group from Malawi

The Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles have arranged for a group of seven to ten young people aged between 19 and 23 from our Partner Churches in Malawi to visit Scotland from 10th - 27th August. During the latter part of their visit they will attend the [National Youth Assembly](#) at Gartmore House, Stirlingshire, August 17th-20th. Presbytery is anxious that they spend some time with the Parishes and Churches within its bounds. It would be helpful, therefore, if we at St. Paul's and St. John's could indicate our willingness and ability to offer accommodation and hospitality to 2 or 3 people in the Group within the period of their visit. Those who could provide transport are also invited to indicate when and where they could provide this. Please complete the slips below so that you may be contacted with details of the visit at a future date – or phone Milton Cashman on 01896 752711. Thank you!

✂

We would be pleased to offer hospitality and accommodation as indicated below

Dates available	No. of guests	Name & Address	Phone	Email

We would be pleased to offer transport as indicated below

Dates available	No. of seats available	Name & Address	Phone	Email

