



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 ♦ November 2018

www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/newsletters.htm

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Dates for your Diary

(details of some of these events are in this Newsletter or the Intimations)

Regular Events

- ♦ Mondays at 10.30 and Tuesdays at 10.00: **Bible Study** at Grantley
- ♦ Wednesdays at 10.00: **Badminton for Seniors**
- ♦ Thursdays at 12.30: **Lunch Club**
- ♦ Thursdays at 19.30: **Music Makers**
- ♦ Fridays from 18.00: **BBs**

Other Events

- ♦ Sunday 11th November at 10.50, Old Parish & St Paul's: **Service of Remembrance**
- ♦ Sunday 11th November at 19.30, Melrose Parish Church: **Abbey Consort's "War & Peace" Concert**
- ♦ Sunday 25th November at 11.30, Old Parish & St Paul's: **Service of Holy Communion**
- ♦ Wednesday 28 November at 19.30, St John's Church: **Stuart Townend "Courage Tour" Concert**
- ♦ Sunday 2nd December at 17.00, Old Parish & St Paul's: **Joint Congregational Prayer Meeting**

Please note:

The Service of Remembrance on Sunday 11th November starts at 10.50.

Church Structures to be Reviewed

A review is to be held into the governance structures of the Church of Scotland, in a bid to make them 'lean and fit for purpose to lead reform'.

At a Commission of Assembly (a meeting of about a tenth of this year's General Assembly Commissioners) in Edinburgh on October 3rd, it was agreed to form a Special Commission that will make recommendations for a governance structure that would conform to best practice and charity law 'while being true to Presbyterian church polity'. It will also make recommendations on how the church's national structures can best support the mission of the local Church.

The Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr George Whyte, said after the meeting: "It's about how do we make the best use of the money and resources we have." The Special Commission will also examine the role of voting members of the Council of Assembly (CofA) as charity trustees.

The decision follows this year's General Assembly, when the CofA's proposed 10-year strategy was thrown out amidst severe criticism. The Council is now developing a more radical plan, to be presented to next year's Assembly. In the report to the Special Commission, the CofA admits that it has 'become increasingly aware of tensions and difficulties within its own operation. It has sought ways to mitigate the inherent stresses and strains but these have not been completely satisfactory'.

It states: "The Council of Assembly share the view expressed by the 2018 General Assembly (GA 2018) that reform is "much needed" within our Church and presented its Strategic Plan in that spirit. However, the rejection by this year's Assembly of the CofA's Strategy proposals and also their initiative on reviewing pensions trusteeships has caused the CofA to reflect on its remit, membership and working patterns and the broader structure of governance and authority within which it sits."

The commission will be convened by the Rev. Prof. David Fergusson, Professor of Divinity and Director of Research at the University of Edinburgh. The other members are James McNeill QC, an expert in charity law; Sarah Davidson, director general within the Scottish Government; Morag Ross QC, a former trustee of Christian Aid and Convener of the former Church and Nation Committee (now the Church and Society Council); and the Rt Rev. Dr Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester. The full remit is:

- ♦ To review the governance structures of the Church of Scotland, Charity number SC011353, and make recommendations for a trustee body which would conform to best practice (including the avoidance of conflicts of interest) in terms of charity law, while being true to Presbyterian church polity.
- ♦ To recommend key principles for a national structure which is "lean and fit for purpose to lead reform" (GA 2018) and which would ensure that the General Assembly can effectively and efficiently direct its Councils and Committees so that they prioritise their work and resources to support the mission of the local Church.
- ♦ To recommend what further work should be done to embed these principles and review the current pattern of Councils and Committees in order that these might better focus on the Church's understanding of its vocation to be a national church engaged in mission.

Adapted from: www.lifeandwork.org/news/news/post/1087-church-structures-to-be-reviewed

The Prodigal

Two years ago Galashiels Fellowship of Churches (GFoC) tried to enable Origin Scotland in bringing "The Prodigal" to Galashiels. At this time insufficient funding was available but the idea was held in prayer until earlier without warning that prayer was answered! Through the generosity of a church in Selkirk which was closing we were gifted a sizable amount of money for use in "Outreach and Mission" and so came about the means of presenting this tremendous show in the Volunteer Hall on Sunday 23rd September at no cost to any of the audience. It does indeed prove our Christian belief of the Lord's hand in everything.

The show filled the stage with rock band, singers, backing group, orchestra and conductor and of course not to mention The Prodigal himself. While music set the scene with everything from Queen to The Platters, the Prodigal engaged the audience with his need to break away from the restraints he felt his father placed on him and took off for a new life of bright lights, fast living and 'friends' who were more than willing to help him make use of his inheritance. I wonder how many in the audience recalled their dissatisfaction with what they saw as parental control. Perhaps not to the extent of leaving home but in grumbling, complaining and being awkward and bolshie...

So to the tunes of The Proclaimers "I'm on my way", which had the audience clapping along, he continued on his chosen path until the money ran out, the debt took over, he lost his home, car and friends. Despondently, he found a job looking after pigs but they gave him no comfort. Finally, in the depths of loneliness he remembered his father's love. He needed that love and care and there the production drew to a close.

For any who were there identifying with The Prodigal the text from Luke's Gospel was available as was the opportunity to stay and chat with members of Origin Scotland's team of evangelists. If the time to stay back was not for you then, then please feel able to contact [Origin Scotland](#) or any member of GFoC, such as Douglas Renton. You may need to ask the person who invited you to support you in doing so BUT most of all believe that you can talk to your Heavenly Father. He cares and loves you. He will not turn away. He is not going to judge your actions. Just talk to Him in ordinary language. Tell Him about your loneliness or hurt or needs. He is standing there with his arms outstretched to you... turn around and move into His embrace with confidence knowing He loves you.

Thanks to everyone on stage, front of house and those who took time (or will take time) to invite others to believe. Our audience exceeded five hundred. Your donations may well enable Origin Scotland to return to the Borders. Thank you for your generosity and may He be with you all!

Eleanor Simpson

Report on Joint Meeting of Kirk Sessions

There was a joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions of St John's and St Paul's on Saturday 20 October at the Chaplaincy Centre of the Borders General Hospital. We discussed how we saw the churches in Galashiels in 10 years time and how we need to be adaptable in going forward. We have invited Trinity Church to join with our two Sessions to take this forward, and it has since been agreed that a meeting of the Sessions of St John's, Trinity, Caddonfoot and ourselves will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15th November in St John's Church. We also discussed the position of Locum, as David is our Interim Moderator, but we should have a Locum to support and assist him.

We also agreed on the importance of prayer as the basis of anything that we do. It was decided that we will have Joint Prayer Meetings. The first of these is taking place on Sunday 4th November at St John's, and the next is scheduled for Sunday 2nd December at St Paul's. Both meetings will be from 5.00 to 6.00 pm. These are not exclusive to members of the Kirk Sessions but to everyone who has a concern about the churches in Galashiels. The prayer meetings will concentrate on revival for people in the town. Coming to the prayer meeting does not mean you will be expected to pray out loud, but your attendance will be a show of support for others there and your commitment for revival locally. Looking forward to seeing you at these!

David Leckey, Session Clerk

Parish Register - Death

Margaret Ballantyne: 23rd October 1925 - 21st October 2018

Margaret was the first of four children born to Jock and Cathy Henderson. When Margaret was about 14 years old, her mother, Cathy, paid for her to get short-hand lessons, which led to Margaret's employment as a personal secretary in the offices of the textile firm Andrew Stewart. During the war years, Margaret became the sweetheart of the Canadian forces billeted in the Borders, but ended up marrying a Scottish soldier, Jack, in 1950. Margaret and Jack became two of the first residents in the new houses built to replace the war-time prefabs in Meigle Street, where she lived until she moved into Galahill Care Home.

Margaret was baptised in St. Paul's Church on 13th December, 1925, and was always associated with St. Paul's. She was a member of the congregation, and enjoyed attending the Lunch Club, where she met and talked with her friends. With her very good friend, Myra, she would attend regular Guild meetings and Monday morning bible study. Margaret was popular and much loved by all, and we will all have our own fond memories of her. She will be much missed. Our sincere commiserations to her family and friends.

Crossreach: the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

It is 13 years since CrossReach was formed in 2005, though work of a social care nature had been carried out by the Board of Social Responsibility for many years. In fact, next year the Church of Scotland will have been involved in care services for 150 years. CrossReach runs about 70 services now in various areas: Children and Families; Counselling and Support; Criminal Justice; the Homeless; Learning Disabilities; Mental Health; Older People; Substance Abuse – an impressive list. In a short newsletter article like this, it is impossible to do justice to any one of these specialities, all of which are staffed by committed, trained people caring in Christ's name. Perhaps the best thing to do is quote from an article in the most recent CrossReach magazine, which included some comments at this year's General Assembly from the Lord High Commissioner, the Duke of Buccleuch, on a visit to a CrossReach Project for adults with learning difficulties. He said he was particularly struck by staff who have dedicated their lives to "looking after those with constant needs in a loving Christian way" for at least 20 years. The Duke also commended Morlich House in Edinburgh for its innovative '1950s street' which includes a working sweet shop plus a room and kitchenette decorated in 1950s style. In the CrossReach marquee at the Heart and Soul event during Assembly Week, His Grace was shown a display featuring items from the project and said it was an excellent idea which could help residents remember past times in their lives.

This year, CrossReach and Social Care Sunday will take place on 18th November. Churches are asked to remember the work of CrossReach and other social care providers across Scotland. There will be CrossReach Prayer Calendars and magazines available in St Paul's Church on that Sunday, and also copies of the catalogue for Christmas cards and calendars being sold in aid of CrossReach.

Margaret Cashman

Girls' Brigade Enrolment Service

This year the [Girls' Brigade in Scotland](#) celebrates 125 years, and our local Company that meets in Langlee will soon be celebrating 40 years operating in the Langlee Parish. This session there are over 50 girls coming on Monday nights for an exciting time together. On Sunday 28th October, during the morning service, the yearly Enrolment Service was held.



Over 30 girls took part in the service and to begin with the younger members welcomed the congregation with the singing of a welcome song. The Interim Moderator, David Donaldson, gave his own personal encouraging words of welcome and invited all to join in the hymn "Lord for the years", an appropriate choice for an organisation celebrating 125 years in God's service.

A short video was shown of a 125-year celebration event in Ayrshire where hundreds of girls and their leaders came together for a day of fun and fellowship. The girls read two short Bible readings, the first talking about plans and the second on the birth of Jesus. Susan Henderson, the worship leader and Company Captain, led the girls and congregation in the singing of the hymn "Seek and Serve", based on the objectives of the Girls' Brigade to share the good news of Jesus Christ with girls.

David Donaldson gave a short talk on God's Plans for each person and about Hope that is found in Christ. The girls and the adults were each given a small cardboard butterfly, and everybody was encouraged to write on the butterfly something they hoped for, then attach them to a tree branch at the front of the church. This was done with great enthusiasm with girls helping to bring out butterflies from older members. David explained that God does have plans for each one of us and that everyone is of value to God and that He wants all to love and serve Him. But he reminded the girls and congregation that the plans we have may not be the plans God has for us, as God always wants the best for each one.

The Company sang the Girls' Brigade anthem and took part in the enrolment with the Leadership team. The girls made a promise to serve Christ faithfully in running the Company and in doing their part to seek, serve and follow Christ. The service then finished with the singing of a modern version of the old hymn "My hope is built on nothing less".

Kindly contributed by Andrew Bramhall, Session Clerk, St John's

Help needed for Newsletter!

Jim Tennant, our faithful "Newshound" since April 2006, is laying down his mouse after 12 years of encouraging members of our Church to contribute articles and thoughts to the Newsletter, and sometimes contributing features of his own. We thank him very much for this long service, and hope that he will still make the occasional contribution!

The title Jim chose was "Newshound" rather than "Editor", as the production of the Newsletter is shared between himself and Peter Sandison, who puts the material together, prints the Newsletter and arranges distribution. Peter adds his ongoing thanks to the team who faithfully distribute the Newsletter 10 times a year! He has already received one kind offer of help, but would welcome any other volunteers as part of an editorial team, and is open to any ideas for enhancing the quality and look of the publication! Please contact Peter (PSandison@aol.com / 758634) if you are interested or would like further information.

Treasurer's Report - September 2018

Budgeted Expenditure for 2018		£82,978
Budget for January-September		£64,990
Income from offerings to date	£30,021	
Gift Aided offerings tax reclaimed to date	£6,775	
Investment income to date	£2,164	
		<u>£38,960</u>
Shortfall (voluntary income)		-£26,031
Income from use of premises	£11,087	
Other donations to date	£6,311	
Legacies to date	£5,000	
		<u>£22,398</u>
Income shortfall to date, against budget		-£3,632

Actual General Fund income to date: £62,658

Actual General Fund expenditure to date: £61,738

Income surplus to date: £920

Average weekly offerings compared: **£841** (January-September 2017)

£770 (January-September 2018)

Gift Day

The Stewardship Committee has arranged a Gift Day for Communion Sunday on November 25th. Elders will deliver Gift Day envelopes when they make their Communion visits: all donations received this year will be put towards covering church running costs for the current year.

For those of you paying tax on earnings or savings, please remember to complete the "Gift Aid" slip which will be in the envelope as this increases the financial benefit of your gift to the church.

Life & Work magazine subscriptions

If you wish to subscribe to the print edition of *Life and Work* magazine in 2019, please let Peter Sandison (*Life and Work* Co-ordinator) know. The cover price of *Life and Work* will be £2.80. However, Church members get a discount of 9%, giving a cost of £2.55 per issue, which equates to £30.60 annually for 12 issues.

There is also a digital edition of the magazine available as a single download for £1.99 or on a subscription basis for 6 months (£11.99) or annually (£20.99). Details and sample issue through www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe. The article below is taken from the magazine's website.



Looking Back: The end of the War

The End of the War, 11th November 1918 - Life and Work's editorial from December 1918

WW100

SCOTLAND

THANK God! O, thank God! Deep has been the gratitude; seldom before the Father's throne the outpouring of His people's praise. "It is the Lord's doing; and it is marvellous in our eyes." So rapid beyond hope or dream has been the victory of our arms that people have gasped in wonder at the daily growing record of change. And in the end, when Bulgaria, Turkey, Austria, one after the other, collapsed, and it was seen that the

chief enemy was in the toils and must soon be overcome, it seemed almost incredible, too good news to be true. "They believed not for joy." The horrible nightmare of four and a half years was over. Men rubbed their eyes and could hardly believe themselves awake.

But as they realise the glorious truth, tears spring forth to dim the gladness of the hour. We think of those who will never return. We grieve with the homes to which the joy-bells bring the memory of the sacrifice whereby the triumph has been purchased. Our hearts, our prayers, our lifelong gratitude are with them. But when every human sympathy is expended, we turn again to look above us. Thank God! O, thank God!

From: www.lifeandwork.org/features/looking-back---the-end-of-the-war