



# Old Parish and St Paul's Church, Galashiels

Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels, is a Charity, SC010389, regulated by OSCR  
~ Linked with St John's Church, Hawthorn Road, Langlee, Galashiels TD1 2JZ ~

## Newsletter ♦ February 2019

[www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/newsletters.htm](http://www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/newsletters.htm)

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<i>Treasurer:</i>	Marjorie McKendrick	☎ 752540
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### Dates for your Diary

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

#### Regular Events

- ♦ **Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10.00 at 2 Abbotsview Gardens
- ♦ **Badminton for Seniors:** Wednesdays at 10.00
- ♦ **Lunch Club:** Thursdays at 12.30
- ♦ **Music Makers:** Thursdays at 19.30 (recommencing 14th February)
- ♦ **Boys' Brigade:** Fridays from 18.00
- ♦ **Morning Worship:** Sundays at 11.30
- ♦ **Evening Worship:** Sundays at 18.30
  - ♦ Bi-monthly from February in St Paul's; alternate months in St John's
  - ♦ Communion last Sunday each month

#### Other Events

- ♦ **Kirk Session Meeting:** Tuesday 19th February at 19.00
- ♦ **Kirk Session**, along with other local Kirk Sessions, meet Presbytery Planning Task Group in Trinity Church Hall on Thursday 28th February at 19.30
- ♦ **Joint Prayer Meeting with St John's, Trinity and Cadonfoot Churches** in St John's on Sunday 3rd March at 17.00
- ♦ **Patrick Bryan of Interserve** is our Guest on Sunday 10th March
- ♦ **Meeting of Trustees** on Tuesday 12th March at 19.00
- ♦ **Joint Meeting of St. Paul's & St. John's Kirk Sessions** on Tuesday 12th March at 20.00
- ♦ **Annual Stated Meeting** on Tuesday 26th March at 19.00

### A letter from our Locum Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

In these days when we are being encouraged to "think out of the box" and consider "blue sky ideas" one area of concern is far from new: "How can we get more young people into the church?" You can guarantee that the question will be asked every time groups of people gather to discuss the future of the church.

A friend of mine, a minister in another denomination, faced the challenge in his small town in England. He had established good contacts with the local secondary school and he asked the young people why they did not come to church. The conversation went something like this:

- "We don't understand all that 'these' and 'thous' language in church"
- "I speak the same way in church as I'm speaking to you now"
- "But the music is dreary and we don't like the sound of the organ"
- "In my church a band leads the music and most of the stuff we use has been written in my lifetime and a lot of it in your lifetime"
- "But we can't understand what vicar's [he's not a vicar] going on about"
- "Well I don't mind if someone interrupts to ask a question. Is there anything else?"

Silence.

- "So if you come to my church we'll have modern upbeat songs led by a good band; the words we use will be ordinary English not something churchy; if you don't understand or disagree with me you have my permission to interrupt. Will you give it a try?"
- "No"
- "Why not?"
- "Because we don't want to."

For my friend, and for me, that was a light bulb moment. We can set out to make church as undemanding, entertaining, interesting and accessible as is humanly possible, but if someone doesn't want to come to church they won't.

I honestly believe the church is greatly misguided in believing that it can perform some sort of entertaining trick and people will flock in.

So do I have anything positive to add to the discussion?

Yes.

**Firstly**, we must make this a matter of prayer, both individually and together. To miss out on prayer can so easily look like we think that we can solve the problem without God if we're clever enough.

**Secondly**, we should cultivate relationships where we can reach a point of inviting someone to church with us. The current social climate wants religious belief to be kept strictly private and behind closed doors. We need to pray (again) and seek opportunities to invite people we know to come with us - and to keep on inviting them even if they decline the first time.

**Thirdly**, we need to rethink our strategy of trying to get children to bring their parents. We need to take a grown up message out to adults and they will, when convinced, make sure that their children come along.

You may disagree completely but, if you do, let's reason together. We are in this together and the kingdom is coming.

Rev. Neil Combe

## Foodbank

### Thanks!

I am passing on thanks from the Galashiels Foodbank Committee to Old Parish and St Paul's for its support of the Foodbank for the past year.

During 2018, there have been volunteer changes in the role of Co-ordinator and also in the role of Treasurer, so it has been a challenge to the Foodbank Committee to keep the Foodbank operating. I can tell you that during 2017, there were in total 652 referrals to the Foodbank, with 1006 individuals receiving food during that year. As of the beginning of December 2018, referrals had jumped from 652 to 774 for the 11 months of the year. This is a sad sign of the times and a big jump in demand for the duty teams to deal with. Remember - while Galashiels has one of the biggest foodbanks in the Borders, it is only one of them!

We have received great support from Old Parish & St Paul's volunteers during this year, as a result of which I have had very few issues to face covering the days when we are on duty. If you would be interested in providing time to work with our duty team, please note that we are only on duty 3 days during every 8-week period, so the demands on your time would not be high. If you want to find out more information, speak to David Leckey for my contact details.

The Foodbank also appreciates donations at any time, and the Congregational Board agreed a new method of doing this at its meeting on January 15th: details below.

Colin Hanley

### Appeal

Galashiels Foodbank would prefer if folks donated money instead of food, so allowing them to buy just what is needed at any one time and avoiding 'mountains' of any one thing.

The Congregational Board has decided that, as a church, we will support this. From the beginning of February there will be small envelopes beside the hymn books in the church for your donations to go into, then you can simply pop them into the offering bag on any Sunday.

That way these donations will be separately recorded in the accounts and the monies regularly paid to the Foodbank Treasurer.

Do please consider contributing regularly to this worthwhile outreach!

### Annual Golf Awards

Nine golfers enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Kingknowes Hotel on the evening of Monday 28th January, which was followed by the prizegiving and a carpet-putting competition, which has now become an annual tradition. By a happy coincidence, this was won by Ian Forsyth, who is putting his golf clubs into semi-retirement. Our thanks go to Jim Tennant, who puts a great deal of effort into organising our outings, arranging the venues and providing the prizes. Thanks also to Robert Lamont of the Kingsknowes Hotel for providing appropriate accommodation for the annual dinner and carpet-putting, and projection equipment. The picture on the right are of those attending the dinner with their trophies; the other photos feature Keith Simpson and Peter Townsend with their prizes.



The following awards were made:

- ⌘ Player of the Year: Peter Sandison
- ⌘ Longest Drive: Robert Lamont
- ⌘ Indoor putting: Ian Forsyth
- ⌘ Best scratch score: Ian Henderson
- ⌘ Nearest the pin: Peter Townsend
- ⌘ Pairs Champion: Steven Fox
- ⌘ A series of unfortunate events: Colin Hanley
- ⌘ Pairs Champion & Fisherman's Trophy: Duncan McCosh
- ⌘ The George Henderson Memorial Trophy: Jim Tennant
- ⌘ Best putter & best individual performance: Duncan Sandison
- ⌘ Texas Scramble winners: Duncan McCosh, Jim Tennant and Keith Simpson



## Congregational Board Business

### Manse

Since the departure of Leon and Janette in August, the Manse has been empty, but a team of people have, however, been very busy getting it ready to let out to tenants until we are able to call another Minister. Cleaning has taken place, as well as painting of window sills and shed. It was discovered that the gas fire in the lounge was not fixable, so a new electric fire has been purchased. We had hoped to have tenants in November, but that did not happen. However, I am happy to say that we now have a lovely couple staying there, and their family will join them during holidays.

The rental income will be shared between ourselves and St John's Church, so that will help to offset the cost of the new fire, removal of the gas fire, and work which has been required to maintain the central heating system.

### Dates for your diary

- ◆ The Meeting of Trustees (all members of both Board and Session) to approve the Annual Accounts will take place on Tuesday 12th March at 7 pm.
- ◆ The Annual Stated Meeting (ASM) will take place on Tuesday 26th March at 7 pm.
- ◆ The next Board Meeting is on Tuesday 9th April at 7 pm.

All of these meetings will take place in the Small Hall.

### Autumn Fayre 2019

The Volunteer Hall in Galashiels has been booked for Friday 15th November from 6 - 8 pm for setting up, and for Saturday 16th November 2019 from 9 am - 1 pm for preparing for and running the Fayre.

### Tribute

#### Albert Thomas (Bert) Hegarty

On Thursday 24th January family and friends, including a number from church, gathered to mark the passing from this life of Bert Hegarty on 13th January 2019.

Bert was 87 and had endured indifferent health for a number of years following a road traffic accident. He was an engineer to trade, and after National Service in the RAF he worked for GPO Telecommunications, latterly BT. He was a man of many interests but will be remembered with appreciation for his service to Old Parish and St Paul's. He was an elder who served as Presbytery Elder, in Sunday School and young people's work, on the Property Committee, and enjoyed meeting others in the Badminton Club.

He and Eileen married in 1954 and came to live in Galashiels in 1970. To her, and to their children, David and Marion, and Bert's seven grandchildren, we extend deepest sympathy in their loss. Like many of the kingdom's most faithful servants he did good without fuss of self-advertisement. We thank God for him and uphold those who miss him most in our prayers.

### Be Ye our Angel Unawares

*If after Kirk ye bide a wee,  
There's some would like to speak to ye.  
If after Kirk ye rise and flee  
We all seem cauld and still to ye.  
The one that's in the seat with ye  
Is stranger here than ye, maybe.  
All here have got their fears and cares,  
Add ye your soul unto our prayers,  
Be ye our angel unawares.*

This short prayer was contributed by Pat McIlroy, who writes: "John [her husband] was going through some papers from our Kirkin O' The Tartan services we did in the USA and found the attached little prayer that we think sums up St Paul's after service tea/coffee. Thought it might be worth sharing in the bulletin or newsletter! The after service tea and coffee is such a joy at St. Pauls!".

Members of the congregation may be aware that Pat is undergoing chemotherapy at the moment. She embarks shortly on the second cycle of the treatment. She is very grateful for our support and prayers. We continue to pray for Pat as she undergoes her course of treatment.

### New Members



We warmly welcome and extend the hand of fellowship to Craig Wetherby and Jade Smith, who took their vows of admission at the morning service on Sunday 20th January.

We've all become much more aware in recent years of just how much trade matters to our daily lives. We've become very aware of how many jobs, government policies, the goods we buy and services we enjoy are linked to trade – both here in the UK, and in countries right around the world.

We can think about trade in (at least) two ways. First, trade is a way for everyone to have better lives. Without trade, we could not eat bananas, or drink coffee, for example. Without trade, many jobs would simply not exist. Trade is cooperation, and partnership that helps us all.

The second point about trade is that it is a tough business. Negotiations are hard fought. No-one wants to come out with a bad deal. To "arm wrestle" successfully in trade negotiations, you need big economic and political muscles.

So, when trading with poorer communities around the world, it is right to ask two questions.

**First**, who's got the power? Or, if you like, who's got the biggest muscles?

**Second**, are those we trade with opponents and competitors – or friends and partners?

This year the Fairtrade Foundation puts the spotlight on the Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), the world's biggest cocoa producer. Four million people across Cote d'Ivoire grow cocoa, much of which comes to the UK. And yet, shockingly, 60 percent of all cocoa farmers live below the United Nations poverty line of just £1.47 per day.

Who's got the power in this trading relationship? It isn't the farmers.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**  
**25 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH**



## Treasurer's Report - December 2018

<b>Budgeted Expenditure for 2018</b>		£82,978
<b>Budget for January-December</b>		<b>£82,964</b>
Income from offerings to date	£40,102	
Gift Aided offerings tax reclaimed to date	£8,351	
Investment income to date	£2,182	
		<u>£50,634</u>
<b>Shortfall (voluntary income)</b>		<b>-£32,330</b>
Income from use of premises	£18,706	
Other donations to date	£13,833	
Legacies to date	£5,000	
		<u>£37,538</u>
<b>Income surplus to date, against budget</b>		<b>£5,209</b>

Actual General Fund income to date: £89,907  
 Actual General Fund expenditure to date: £76,941  
**Income surplus to date: £12,966**  
 Average weekly offerings compared: **£829** (January-December 2017)  
**£771** (January-December 2018)



### ONE WORD RESOLUTION

abide

John 15:4  
John 15:7

health

1 Corinthians 3:16  
1 Corinthians 10:31

BELIEVE

John 3:16  
Romans 15:13  
John 20:29

joy

Proverbs 17:22  
Philippians 4:4  
Psalm 18:24

content

Hebrews 13:5  
Philippians 4:11-13  
1 John 4:13

love

1 Corinthians 13:13  
Romans 13:9  
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Fearless

Isaiah 41:10  
2 Timothy 1:7  
Joshua 1:9

MERCY

Luke 6:36  
Matthew 5:7  
Matthew 9:13

forgive

Ephesians 4:31-32  
Leviticus 19:18  
Colossians 3:13

peace

1 Corinthians 14:33  
Psalms 46:10  
2 Thessalonians 3:16

GRATITUDE

Psalms 118:24  
Psalms 136:1  
Colossians 3:15

Trust

Psalms 28:7  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
Luke 1:37

### Forthcoming Events

♦ **Worship Leader Course 2019**

Dates for this course for Worship Leaders are: 23rd March, 27th April and 25th May. Indications of interest and requests for information should be sent to the Mission and Service Convener of our Presbytery:  
[graeme.donald@btopenworld.com](mailto:graeme.donald@btopenworld.com)

♦ **Being Together and Learning Together: Dementia-Friendly Developments in our Communities.**

Conference with five expert keynote speakers and workshops on Friday 22nd March, 10 am - 4 pm at St Columba's Church, Stirling. For information and booking (by 12th March 2019) please contact Bonnie McDowell:  
[bmcowell@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bmcowell@churchofscotland.org.uk)

♦ **Elders Conference 2019**, on

"Creating and Deepening Discipleship", taking place from Friday 7th June to Sunday 9th June at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Fife FK10 4BE. Booking closes on 19th May. This is a conference to enthuse and inspire current and future elders in the Church of Scotland with a fresh vision of discipleship and to equip them to have a good understanding of their roles as office bearers. Further Details and booking information at:  
<https://eldersconference2019.eventbrite.co.uk>