



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 ~
 ~ In Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles (www.melrosepeeblespresbytery.org.uk) ~

Newsletter ♦ September 2019

PDF edition available at www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/newsletters.htm

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Dates for your Diary

(further details may be in this Newsletter or the Sunday Bulletin)

Regular Events

- ♦ **Sunday Morning Worship:** 11.30
♦ Next Communion: 24th November
- ♦ **Sunday Evening Worship:** 18.30
♦ Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec in St Paul's; alternate months in St John's
♦ Communion: last Sunday each month
- ♦ **Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10.00 at 2 Abbotsview Gardens
- ♦ **Badminton for Seniors:** Wednesdays at 10.00
- ♦ **Guild:** Wednesdays at 14.15
- ♦ **Lunch Club:** Thursdays at 12.30
- ♦ **Music Makers:** Thursdays at 19.30
- ♦ **Boys' Brigade:** Fridays from 18.00 (during school term)

Other Events

- ♦ **Old Parish & St Paul's open for all** during September and October: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 - 4 pm
- ♦ **Harvest Thanksgiving:** 22nd Sep.
- ♦ **Congregational Vote:** 22nd Sep.
- ♦ **Meeting of the Galashiels congregations** about the way forward following the congregational vote: 7 pm, 30th September, Old Parish & St Paul's Church
- ♦ **Mission Weekend:** 5th-6th Oct.
- ♦ **Ladies' Away Day** (with St. John's Church): 10.30 am - 2.30 pm on Saturday 19th October in Peebles Evangelical Church
- ♦ **Tearfund Big Quiz Night:** Saturday 16th November in Trinity Church
- ♦ **Communion:** 11.30 am, 24th Nov.
- ♦ **Tearfund Christmas Concert:** Evening of Sunday 1st December, featuring Celtic Carols band.

Letter from our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. You will know that for many months now, representatives of the three Church of Scotland congregations in Galashiels have been meeting to consider the way forward for our congregations.

The General Assembly decided in May that we need to reduce the number of ministers in charges throughout Scotland, and so our own Presbytery has asked every congregation to discuss with its neighbours the best way forward.

On Sunday, 22nd September, after the Morning Service, all members and adherents of the three congregations will be asked to vote between the following two options, which have been agreed by all three Kirk Sessions:

1. That the congregations of St. John's, Trinity, and Old Parish and St. Paul's unite to become one congregation, staffed by a minister and a family worker/deacon/or some such person.
2. That the congregations of St. John's and Old Parish and St. Paul's be linked with Trinity, to become linked congregations, staffed by a minister and a family worker/deacon/or some such person.

The result of the voting will be given to the Presbytery Planning Task Group, who will be making recommendations to Presbytery. Our voting will be by way of giving Presbytery our best advice, but of course the decision as to what will happen belongs always to Presbytery.

Whatever happens, whether it be union or linking, the buildings we all use will remain as they are just now, but we will then consider the matter of buildings, and once we have given Presbytery our opinion, Presbytery will work out what best to do about the buildings.

Caddonfoot have already voted, by three to one, to link with Stow and Heriot.

If you cannot manage to come to church on Sunday, 22nd September, please let David Leckey or myself know, and we will arrange for you to have a vote.

There will be an informal meeting of all three congregations, possibly with people from Caddonfoot, Stow and Heriot also attending, on Monday 30th September, at 7 pm, in Old Parish and St. Paul's Church, to meet with and discuss the way forward with Rev. Rosie Frew, Convener of the Presbytery's Planning Task Group, to which all members and adherents are invited.

Best wishes, David Donaldson.

There Will Be No Hiding in the Crowd on the Day of Judgment

The Bible is clear that a day is coming when God will judge people (Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16).

At the present time the Day of Judgment is a very unfashionable idea, but it will certainly happen, nevertheless. And everyone will participate in it.

What will happen on the Day of Judgment?

On this day, two things will happen.

First, those who are saved and those who are unsaved will be separated and consigned to their fate (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43; 25:31-46), the saved to eternal life on the new earth (2 Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:1), and the unsaved to hell (Matt 24:50-51; Rev 20:15).

Which group we are in depends on whether or not before death we have received by faith the salvation that is in Jesus Christ. Those who have done this will be saved, and those who haven't will be unsaved.

Second, God will judge every person for what they have done while on earth. In other words, He will put each of us on trial for how we have lived our lives. The Bible teaches that this trial will involve a detailed assessment of everything we have done, including every word we have spoken (Eccl 12:14; Matt 12:36).

For the unsaved, what they have done wrong will form the basis for their being sent to hell (Matt 25:41-46; Rom 2:5-9).

For the saved, what we have done right or wrong will form the basis for the rewards we gain or don't gain in eternity (1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 John 1:8).

Those who follow mainstream culture

In every society and culture around the world it is extremely common for people to go with the flow, to adopt the values and lifestyles of mainstream culture without really stopping to think very hard about whether these are good things.

And people often seem to feel that there is a kind of safety in numbers. If they side with the views of the majority, they think there can't be much wrong with that. If they act in the same way as most others do, they reckon that they can't be doing a lot wrong.

To put it another way, people often seem to feel that they can hide in the crowd of popular opinion. Even many of those who believe in the existence of the Day of Judgment apparently think that that day will not pose any great danger for them, since they are just ordinary people with mainstream values, who live as most others do.

We will all be on trial alone before God

In reality, however, any notion that there is safety in numbers is just an illusion. The number of other people who believe and act as we do counts for nothing in God's sight. What counts is how we measure up in His eyes.

And the Bible teaches clearly that the average man or woman is thoroughly sinful (Rom 3:9-19). Jesus even describes ordinary people as 'evil' (Luke 11:13). And He also teaches that most are on the road to hell (Matt 7:13-14). Being an ordinary person, who has ordinary values and lives an ordinary life, will be no protection on the Day of Judgment.

Something that we must understand clearly too is that we will all stand *alone* before God when we are judged. Each of us will be on trial on our own before the Lord. There will be absolutely no hiding in the crowd on that day.

In Matt 7:22-23 Jesus says that on the Day of Judgment many who are condemned will try to defend themselves by making feeble excuses. I expect that many will argue that they just acted in the ways that most people did, and that that shouldn't be held against them. If they do try to use this as a defence, it will be a very poor one.

We need to be ready

It makes sense to think that in some respects the Day of Judgment will be an unpleasant experience for all of us, since we have each done so many wrong things in our lives.

Nevertheless, those of us who have taken hold of Christ and the salvation that is in Him will be ready for this day. However, those who have not taken hold of Christ will be completely unready. For them, the Day of Judgment will be a terrible day indeed.

The good news for all the world is that Christ, in His great love for us, paid the price for our sins when He died on the cross. When we turn to Him in faith, all our guilt is washed away, and we will then be free to live our lives for Him.

Max Aplin



Prayer Power at work!

When Indigo Rooms closed at 3 am, two young men were squaring up to each other. This continued for some time, and others started to become involved. With no police presence it was difficult to see how to resolve this. After around 10 minutes we saw a police car at the bottom of Overhaugh Street, but it had disappeared by the time we got there.

As the situation was continuing, Duncan decided to call the Police. However, Steve suggested we contact the Prayer Pastor first. Duncan did this. Duncan mentioned (slightly tongue in cheek!) that on previous occasions, God's response time was around 3 minutes. Steve said he would set his watch.

As the team prayed into the situation, Steve suddenly said, "Yup, there they go" and looking up, the two folk who had been squaring up and goading each other, were hugging and heading for the taxi rank. A check of Steve's watch showed two and a half minutes!!

Extract from Street Pastors Report of 24th August 2019

Church News

Baptisms



The congregation have been privileged to witness the baptisms of two children during our Morning Services of Worship.

Firstly, on 17th February, Jackson Weatherly, son of Craig and Jade;

Secondly, on 14th July, Eli James Brydon Borthwick, son of Greg and Zoë.

Autumn Fayre - Saturday 16th November

As meteorological autumn is now upon us, it is time to sow the seed in our minds about the Autumn Fayre. We will once again be having this event in the Volunteer Hall and will be serving teas and coffees as well as having a variety of stalls. More information will follow, but - in the meantime - if you would like to help in any way or run a stall, please let Shirley Sandison or Irene Glenfield know.

The Volunteer Hall has been booked for Friday 15th November from 6 - 8 pm for setting up, and for Saturday 16th November from 9 am - 1 pm for running the Fayre and clearing up afterwards. Many thanks in anticipation of your help!

Shirley Sandison

Congratulations to...

Jim and Marjorie Wallace, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary (50th) on 2nd August!

Neil Combe, pictured right, who had a special birthday on August 7th! The congregation celebrated the event with Neil over cake and coffee after the Joint Morning Service of Worship on Sunday 11th.

The eagle-eyed viewing this online may spot the number of years on top of the cake!



The Guild

The **Guild** meets on Wednesdays in the Small Hall, usually at 2.15 pm, and you'd be very welcome indeed.

We're open to both men and women, and we'd be very happy to see you - do consider coming along. If you come once, it does not mean you will be committed - just give us a try! The theme for this year is "Companions on the Road", and this is reflected in the following programme:



2019

2nd Oct - *Companions on the Road*: Rev. Dr David Donaldson

16th Oct - *Companions without a minister*: Helen Howden

30th Oct - *Journeying together* Guild Project: Jennifer Dodds

13th Nov - *Companions over continents*: Ishbel Dorward

27th Nov - *Getting to know you*: Jean Donaldson

11th Dec - Christmas Party

2020

8th Jan - *Companions on the Road* Discussion: Margaret Cashman

22nd Jan - 12.30 pm Scots Lunch

6th Feb - *Companions with scones*: Sukie Barber & Jess Talbot

20th Feb - *Companions on the Road* Bible Study: Janet Combe

6th Mar - *Join the dots* Guild Project

18th Mar - ABM, Spring Tea and Bring & Buy

Church Golf - Singles Competition

A party of 10 enjoyed fair weather and a nice post-match dinner at Peebles Golf Course on Thursday 8th August, with results as follows:

- 🏌️ Winner: Duncan Sandison (69 net)
- 🏌️ Runner up: Robert Lamont (71 net)
- 🏌️ Scratch: Duncan and Robert (95)
- 🏌️ Fewest putts: Colin Hanley (33)
- 🏌️ Longest drive on 18th: Duncan Sandison
- 🏌️ Nearest the pin: K. Simpson (7th); J. Tennant (12th)
- 🏌️ Wooden spoon: Richard Noble.

Death of Pat McIlroy



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Pat on 15th August. When Pat and husband, John, came to our congregation some three years ago, they immediately became involved in the life of the congregation, joining Music Makers and offering their considerable musical talents. Pat had a beautiful voice which was heard on a number of occasions, including in a Southern Gospel Music Jam and Songs of Praise event they staged and during a Boys' Brigade service.

A moving Memorial Service for Pat was held in the Church on Friday 23rd August, during which fulsome tributes from her family and previous congregation, Waukeenah United Methodist Church, Florida, were read out. Music Makers and other members of the congregation prepared food and refreshments which were served in the Hall after the service. The following note was subsequently received from niece, Jill, writing on behalf of the family:

Dear All,

I just want to write and thank you, on behalf of all the family, for making us all feel so welcome today at Auntie Pat's funeral. We really appreciated all your kindness to us and Uncle John. The church looked lovely with all the flowers and personal touches and the food was delicious. Please thank everyone who contributed - it made a very difficult day very special - and I know Auntie Pat would have loved it, too. We will miss her very much but it is comforting to know that Uncle John is in such good hands. It's lovely that we are still able to listen to her amazing voice. Thank you again.

Treasurer's Report - July 2019

Budgeted Expenditure for 2019		£77,812
Budget for January-July		£48,216
Income from offerings to date	£22,218	
Gift Aided offerings tax reclaimed to date	£6,089	
Investment income to date	£1,092	
		<u>£29,399</u>
Voluntary income		-£18,817
Income from use of premises	£9,836	
Other donations to date	£4,155	
Legacies to date	£1,000	
		<u>£14,992</u>
Income to date, against budget		-£3,825

Actual General Fund income to date: £44,399
 Actual General Fund expenditure to date: £48,548
Income to date: -£4,149
 Average weekly offerings compared: **£767** (January-July 2018)
£741 (January-July 2019)

Annual Mission Dinner 2019

Saturday 5th October

Old Parish & St Paul's Church, Galashiels 6.00 for 6.30 pm

Speaker/s from an International Organisation to be confirmed

**Tickets: £8 adults
£4 students**

For further information or for dietary requirements call 01896 756032 or email ishbel.adamson@btinternet.com

Dog Walker wanted

A dog walker is required once or twice weekly; possibly Tuesdays, but definitely Wednesday lunchtimes, for a 15-minute walk with an ageing greyhound. Every week except holidays. Wages negotiable. Please speak to or send an email to Jim Tennant (jim10ant@hotmail.com).



GideonsUK in the Scottish Borders



GideonsUK

GideonsUK in the Scottish Borders operate not only in the counties of Berwickshire, Peebleshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire, but also in part of North Northumberland and down to Langholm in Dumfriesshire.

The Scottish Borders Branch distribute copies of God's word to Year 1 pupils in secondary schools, place scriptures in the BGH Chaplaincy for patients' use, make continual visits to hotels and guest house within the area and respond to requests for Bibles. All with the sole aim of introducing Jesus Christ and the Christian life to those receiving the Bibles.

On 14th September 2019 there will be the opportunity to hear much more, as we have organised a coffee morning in St. John's Church, Langlee, Galashiels, starting at 10.30 am. The plan is to commence with refreshments, followed by presentations on local and national initiatives. Our guest speaker will be the Regional Director for Scotland, David Andrew.

Andrew Bramhall

Tearfund Big Quiz Night 2019

On Saturday 16 November - for one night only - churches and other groups up and down the country will be taking part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever. We'd love you to join in!

Our Big Quiz will be taking place in Trinity Church, Galashiels: please make a note in your diary today!

