



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 ♦ Dec 2019 / Jan 2020

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 except for Joint Services (see foot of column for locations and times)
 - ♦ Next Communion: 2nd February at 11.15 in Trinity Church
- ♦ **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

- ♦ **Carol Singing in Tesco:** Friday 20th December at 19.00
- ♦ **Christmas Family Service:** Sunday 22nd December at 11.30, Old Parish & St Paul's
- ♦ **Candlelight Service:** Tuesday 24th December at 23.00, Old Parish & St Paul's
- ♦ **Joint Christmas Day Service:** Wednesday 25th December at 10.00, Old Parish & St Paul's
- ♦ **Joint Services of Worship**
 - ♦ Sunday 5th January at 11.00 in St John's
 - ♦ Sunday 12th January at 11.15 in Trinity, with a light lunch & presentation on Dumfries Baptist Church Centre
 - ♦ Sunday 19th January at 11.30 in Old Parish and St Paul's
 - ♦ Sunday 2nd February at 11.15 in Trinity, with Communion
 - ♦ Sunday 1st March at 11.00 in St John's
 - ♦ Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday) at 11.30 in Old Parish and St Paul's

Letter from Rev. Neil Combe

Dear Members and Friends,

Suppose you ruled over a race of people who were like all people: a bit mixed. Some of them were good most of the time and some of them were not good most of the time and the rest fell somewhere between angelic and demonic.

And suppose you looked at this race and saw the troubles they experienced, many of which were of their own making and all of which were directly or indirectly a consequence of their foolishness.

And suppose you wanted to change this race of people so that instead of being victim of their own folly you would be able to make them recipients of your abundant kindness towards them. How would you bring about the necessary change in their nature?

You could send a prophet; someone who would in a forthright and vivid way condemn their wickedness leaving them without escape or excuse. How would that work? Prophets don't have a good track record. Many were ignored; many were ill-treated or even killed. The rate of successful prophetic ministry is not good.

Perhaps you should send a teacher. Someone who could spell out the folly of their misbehaviour but here again the remedy is not often effective. People can know perfectly well that a course of action can lead to suffering of others or of self but they still set out to do as they please.

Perhaps you could send a lawyer and make lots of new laws: "Don't do this. Get a permit for that. You have to be 27 years old to go there." But no law ever made anyone good. The best thing a law does is set a benchmark against which we can test an individual and decide if we have to act against them.

Down through the ages people have seen these as the solution to a race's bad attitudes and bad actions. Even to our day and amongst our nation we see the same pleas: we need a prophetic voice; we need better education; there should be a law against it. Even the most ardent atheist will throw their hands up in the air when they see the hopelessness of trying to reform a race by mere good effort.

Christmas is the story of God acting, when faced with that most rebellious of races, the human race. He sent Jesus Christ and when you read the story in the New Testament you can see that Jesus was certainly a prophet (And suffered the rejection of prophets) and he was certainly a teacher (Whose teaching was new and fresh and different) and he was certainly an expositor and defender of the law of God. But here is where Christmas is so significant. Jesus was more. He came to teach and preach and prophesy, but not as just another in a long line of men who did these things. He came as the eternal Son of God. But that was not all. He didn't just speak because he wasn't only a man of words like a prophet or a teacher or a lawyer. He came as a Saviour. He himself did what no amount of talking could ever do. As Paul writes in the letter to the Galatians:

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5 ESV

May you enjoy a really blessed Christmas!

Neil R Combe

The Ministry of Kindness

Sadly, the world today is often a very unkind place. Selfishness and hard-heartedness can be seen everywhere we look, and we don't have to search very hard to find people going out of their way to hurt the feelings of others.

Of course, there is nothing new about all this. Human sinfulness has always meant that unkindness has been very common, both in words and actions.

Today, however, it seems that the amount of unkindness, at least in words that are spoken, has reached an all-time high. The reason for this is the existence of the internet. It is now extremely easy to make unkind comments online about people that are widely read by others. And this can often be done anonymously, meaning that someone who wants to be unkind needs no courage at all to do so. The internet makes it clear that the world contains millions and millions of people who enjoy being unkind to others.

Kindness as fruit of the Spirit

Although we find ourselves surrounded by such a sea of unkindness, as Christians we need to be very different. We should be the sort of people who not only avoid being unkind to others but who actually go out of our way to be kind.

In Galatians 5:13-26 the apostle Paul spends some time teaching the churches in Galatia about morally upright Christian living. This passage includes his well-known description of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in v. 22:

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'

The items on this list are all very important moral qualities, and we should note carefully that kindness is one of them. We must therefore not underestimate the value of kind words and actions in God's sight. To put it bluntly, God absolutely loves it when we choose to be kind to others, whether in word or deed.

Kindness need not be a burden

I think some Christians neglect the importance of kindness because they are afraid that if they repeatedly give to others in this way, they will lose out and it will become a burden.

This, however, is a mistake.

For a start, most kind words and acts take only a small amount of time and effort. Usually, there is very little cost associated with kindness.

Secondly, even on those occasions when being kind is more costly, we must remember what the Lord Jesus says in Luke 6:38: 'Give and it will be given to you.'

This is a key principle of life in this world. Typically, when we give to others, God gives good things back to us in return.

Thirdly, it is not just God who gives to those who are kind. Kind people are almost inevitably liked and appreciated by others. And they are the most likely to be the recipients of kind words and deeds themselves.

Determined to be kind

In a world, then, that is full of unkindness, Christians should be determined to be different. When we see people acting selfishly and uncaringly, let us make a conscious decision not to follow suit. And when we come across those who go out of their way to be unkind, let us be all the more eager to go out of our way to be kind.

Max Aplin

Tearfund Big Quiz



The second annual Tearfund Big Quiz night resulted in 7 teams gathering in Trinity Church hall on Saturday 16 November to do battle for the small, but perfectly formed recyclable trophy. The quiz came already prepared, so the quiz master's job was just to press "play" in the video!!

The final results, after eight rounds of fairly stiff questions on a wide range of subjects, were as follows:

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| "Wool-Verines" | 51 points |
| "The Ever Hopefuls" | 48 points |
| "Oo Ken Nowt" | 47 points |

The wooden spoon was collected by The Apprentices (3 well known members at Old Parish & St. Paul's) with 28.5 points. Well done to everyone who was brave enough to take part. A very hearty and well deserved vote of thanks to Trinity Church as hosts, to Steven and Gail Fox for helping set up the technology and to the tea team who kept everyone very well refreshed!! There were a total of 26,051 quizzers who supported the quiz nationwide across 556 churches. Our small local event has so far contributed £289.50 to the fundraising total, which will be updated next year.

Jim Tennant

Galashiels Foodbank

Old Parish and St Paul's has for a number of years shown a high level of commitment to the Galashiels Foodbank. The regular financial donations have considerably helped the purchase of fresh food items for clients, and a committed group of volunteers make themselves available to cover duty weeks when we prepare the food for clients. The reason for this article is to ask for additional helpers for the church duty team, as at the moment we are very dependent on a small group of volunteers who could do with new support. During 2020 the Galashiels rota only has us on duty for one week in six and we only have to provide food on the Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of that week. The time commitment would be from 3 to 5 pm at the latest, and food is collected from St Peter's Church, so there is no running around the town. For more information, or if you would like to help, please speak to David Leckey.

Colin Hanley

Tribute to Rev. Milton Cashman 22/02/1933 - 29/10/2019



Patrick Hamilton Cashman was born in Ireland on the 22nd February 1933, the last of a large family of children.

His father was an Irish farmer. Sadly, his mother died within weeks of his birth and he was brought up largely by his mother's sister who was known all his life as "Auntie". The family was close and he had good relationships with his cousins. He went to school in Cork and then went on to Wilson Hospital School in the middle of Ireland. There were many good influences on the young Milton, including the Anglican Church's Archdeacon Waller, who Milton greatly admired.

An able boy, he went on to Trinity College, Dublin, and graduated in Science. While working with Mullard Limited in the south of England he met Margaret at the church he attended. They were both leaders of the Pathfinders Group at St Patrick's Wallington, in Surrey. From the beginning they were engaged in Christian service together.

After their marriage, following a spell in Holland, they went to Pune in India, where he was engaged in seeking to develop an Indian branch of Philips which would use Indian materials and staff, to bring light and other electrical advances to the sub-continent. While there, their two older sons, John and Andrew, were born. And while there, too, they were deeply involved in the life of their church and grew in their commitment to world mission, and especially to the work of

the Bible and Medical Missionary Fellowship (BMMF), which became Interserve.

After six and a half years, they returned to Europe and after a further time in Holland, in 1971 they came to Galashiels, Milton becoming manager of BEPI Electrical. Various other jobs and consultancies followed. Although they were committed members of this church, they shared their encouragement across to Langlee and came solidly behind all that we were then doing in Langlee. Whether it was carol singing round the scheme, or ferrying young folk to meetings, or providing a site for barbecues, or supporting Holiday Clubs, Milton and Margaret, John and Andrew would be around... Stuart arrived during these years in Galashiels and much prayer was made and answered which sees him as he is today. It is said that Milton mellowed with the years, but in those days everything was done at pace!

Milton took every opportunity to encourage local churches to take advantage of BMMF missionaries who were coming around and could take a service in St John's... he, it was, who I am sure suggested that I should be on the Council of Interserve, and indirectly through him one of our members became a partner with Interserve and went to Pakistan.

He himself was finding that business life no longer had the appeal that it once had and the call to the ministry became clear. I remember clearly a discussion which he initiated with me about whether he should put his name forward as a candidate for the ministry. He was 42. A vacancy on a school turned up unexpectedly and he was accepted as a candidate, did an abbreviated course at New College and his probationary year with his respected 'bishop', Jack Brown, before accepting a call to North Berwick Abbey linked with Dirleton, where he served from 1985 to 1998 until he retired to his beloved Grantley on Abbotsford Road, only for that to become again a centre for mission, Bible study and prayer.

Does this give a picture? Perhaps a little. But what of Milton, the man? Of course, he could be - especially at meetings - very outspoken and dogmatic. There were times when his friends would do their best to tug at his coat tails. Even at Interserve Council meetings, the Chairman could be a bit on edge about what Milton might say. But there were things that we could never be in any doubt about. He was passionate about the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and did all he could to be a worthy ambassador for Christ.

He was deeply and personally engaged in the work of the local, national and international church. It was this total engagement that made it so difficult for him to remain silent if there was something that needed to be said, even if it was unpopular.

Perhaps less known or even expected, he had a pastor's heart with an engagement and commitment to families and individuals, especially in North Berwick, but also here.

It is impossible to speak of him without including his beloved companion of these years, Margaret. She has been likened to the sail, and possibly the rudder that kept the boat on course, and the analogy is a good one.

And of course, his commitment to his children, and then his grandchildren. He would travel many miles and go to great inconvenience to cheer on a boat race or a football match.

And above all he embodied, so it seems to me, together with Margaret, the generosity which we see in Jesus Christ. He gave his substance, but even more, he gave himself in a multitude of acts and words of kindness. He was above all, a big man, with a big heart for God, for His people, for his own family...

We give thanks in every memory of him.

Adapted from the tribute written by Rev. Alastair Morrice, a great friend of the Cashmans since his time as Minister of St John's Church.

A word of thanks

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

I want to express my warmest thanks to all the many friends at Old Parish and St. Paul's who have been so faithful in remembering the Cashman family in prayer in recent weeks. Milton felt much loved and supported by the concern and prayers of many after he was admitted to hospital following a fall at the end of September, and through his ensuing period of hospital treatment.

However, it was the Lord's will to take Milton peacefully to Himself on October 29th, and he is now safe with the Lord he loved and served. Since then we have known as a family so much love and support not simply from Dr. Donaldson and Rev. Neil Combe, but from the Session and Board and so many members of the Congregation. I know I speak for Andrew, John and Stuart and their families when I say how grateful we all are. It would be impossible for me to thank you all individually, so I would ask you to accept these words from the heart to each one. The expression 'the Church Family' has taken on a new and special significance for me.

Margaret Cashman

Treasurer's Report - October 2019

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| Budgeted Expenditure for 2019 | | £77,812 |
| Budget for January-October | | £66,370 |
| Income from offerings to date | £31,411 | |
| Gift Aided offerings tax reclaimed to date | £7,528 | |
| Investment income to date | £2,164 | |
| | | <u>£41,103</u> |
| Voluntary income | | -£25,267 |
| Income from use of premises | £11,134 | |
| Other donations to date | £7,809 | |
| Legacies to date | £1,000 | |
| | | <u>£19,944</u> |
| Income to date, against budget | | -£5,324 |

Actual General Fund income to date: £61,006
 Actual General Fund expenditure to date: £68,206
Income to date: -£7,200
 Average weekly offerings compared: **£770** (January-October 2018)
£730 (January-October 2019)

Autumn Fayre Saturday 16th November 2019 in the Volunteer Hall



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped at our Autumn Fayre: to stallholders, helpers and ticket-sellers; those who baked and served refreshments; those who donated money or goods; and those who sold crafts and paintings, and to all who attended.

The net total so far is £1,105.45, but some £100 to £200 will have to be paid in Hall fees. The picture on the left shows the Hall ready to receive the influx of visitors, who enjoyed looking for bargains and enjoying the refreshments and baking.

Shirley Sandison and Irene Glenfield

FLOWER ROTA AND FLOWER FUND

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who arranged or donated money towards flowers in the Church over the past year.

The new Flower Rota list for 2020 will soon be up on the board in the passage. If anyone would like to add their name to the list it would be much appreciated. Alternatively, if you would like to donate to the Flower Fund this would be very gratefully received.

It is so nice to have our church decorated with flowers and then have them distributed to our members who may be sick, elderly, housebound or given to mark a special occasion.

You don't need to worry about arranging the flowers, as I am always happy to do this for anyone who is not able: just call me on 01896 755688.

Betty Thomson



Church of Scotland - Structural Change Agreed

A MAJOR reorganisation of the central structures of the Church of Scotland will take effect from the New Year. A Commission of Assembly held in Edinburgh on November 21 approved the thanking and discharging of the Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Church and Society and World Mission Councils, with their work to be combined into two new agencies on January 1st. The main changes are as follows:

- ♦ Ministries Council and Mission and Discipleship Council to be merged into Faith Nurture Forum
- ♦ Church and Society Council and World Mission Council to be merged into Faith Impact Forum
- ♦ New agencies will have 15 members each, serving three years
- ♦ Work to be overseen by small implementation groups, with authority delegated to staff to 'get on with the work'
- ♦ Detailed remits to be discussed and presented to General Assembly in 2020, with some areas of work to be devolved to new presbyteries and others discontinued
- ♦ Ecumenical Relations Committee and Theological Forum will sit within Faith Nurture and interfaith work within Faith Impact, but each will report separately to the General Assembly
- ♦ The Forums and Assembly Trustees will hold joint meetings at least twice a year to share work and learn from each other
- ♦ Fewer meetings and better use of technology predicted to save £60-70,000 a year

Life and Work has released a free four page guide explaining these changes at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/church-reform-special-supplement>