

St. Paul's Matters

June 2015

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church (part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion),
Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY

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From the Rector:

'God, if you really exist, then show me.'

This was the first prayer that a 26 year-old man had ever offered to God after his 29 year-old sister died from cancer. He was not a Christian and didn't go to church. Not long afterwards, he met a prayer guide who gently helped him to build up his faith.

A 17 year-old single mum was on the bus in Edinburgh. Making ends meet was getting more and more difficult. Along the route, she spotted another bus with a strange logo on the side. It read, 'trypraying'. Her reaction was, 'You're going to have to do better than that to get me started.' The bus then stopped outside a church. There was a large banner hung on the railings. It also read, 'trypraying'. She got the message.

trypraying is a Christian initiative whose aim is to help non-Christians to open a door to God. Even though we know that Jesus calls us to share our faith with people we meet in everyday life, we're really not very good at it. What trypraying has come up with is a booklet. It is a 7-day starter course in prayer. It's simple, inclusive and direct. Although trypraying only seeks to reach people who don't yet believe, let alone come to church, it's something we can all benefit from using ... at least once! The way that trypraying hopes that the booklets work is like this:

- use it (work through the booklet for a week.)
- lose it (ask God to show you who might benefit from it next and give it away.) All that needs to be said to the person receiving it is, 'Try praying for a week and see what happens.' That's it!

I will leave a copy of the booklet at the back of church as a sample for you to look at. Please let me know if you would like a copy (or copies) for yourself. **They are free.**

St Paul's geographic position in Kinross would be an ideal spot to hang a trypraying banner. I hope this will be possible in the near future.

And what of the man whose first ever prayer was, 'God, if you really exist, then show me.' He's now the Priest-in-Charge of the All Souls' Fife Churches. His name is Dean Norby.

How to contact our Rector

David can be contacted on 01577 863795 or via e-mail at frdavidkinross@gmail.com

The Rector's hour is usually 3:30pm-4:30pm every Thursday in the Church Office beside the Church. Changes to this will be notified on the Church's website.

David normally takes Friday as his day off

The St Paul's website is www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk

Services during June

St Paul's is open, friendly and welcoming **to all age groups** (whether regular churchgoers or if you're simply inquisitive about who we are and what we do.)

We are excited about the ways in which God is calling us to grow as a community, for the community. Our aim is to express our deep appreciation of

both the spoken and sacramental Word with a lightness of touch and a smile.

Children are equally welcome to stay in church during the service or go to the Meeting Room for Sunday School and everyone is particularly invited to stay together during our monthly 'Whole Church' services.

We predominantly use the 1982 Liturgy on Sunday mornings but create experimental devotion for special events throughout the year. If you would like to give us a try, we look forward to meeting and greeting you and hope that you might enjoy becoming part of this faithful family of Christ.

Mondays and Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer, said quietly in the side chapel. All very welcome.

Wednesdays

(except 3rd week) 2.30pm Midweek Holy Communion.

(3rd Wednesday) 12.30pm Lunch, Meditative Reflection and Holy Communion.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Thursdays

10am for 10.15am Morning Discussion Group. Please contact Jan Campbell for more information (01577 862391)

3.30pm – 4.30pm Rector's Hour in the Church Office

Services and Events in June:

Sunday 7th: Pentecost 3

8.30am Holy Communion

11am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14th: Pentecost 4

8.30am Holy Communion

11am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21st: Pentecost 5

8.30am Holy Communion

11am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28th: PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

8.30am Holy Communion

11am Sung Eucharist

Dates for your diary

June 27th

PM: Church Quiz

June 28th

AM: Church photo & Picnic

July & August will be normal AM Sundays throughout.

Pat Payne has asked me to remind you all that the 3rd Sunday of every month is a Fair Trade Sunday when a selection of Fair trade goods will be available to buy in the meeting room.

From the Vestry

The Vestry meeting last month spent most of its energies on two related, but diametrically opposite issues. I was going to say problems but one issue is a wonderful opportunity we have and the other is a major problem we must face, and failure to address the problem will nullify the opportunity.

Let me expand this statement. Using the money raised by the Auction of Gifts and Talents we have a golden opportunity to redecorate and refurbish St. Paul's and develop our worship style into a modern outward looking church, a keystone of the local community. BUT, this will be wasted if we fail to increase our commitment to St. Paul's and ensure its long term viability.

Vestry recently conducted an exercise to compare current costs and income with that of 10 years ago. The results are very interesting:

Income from open plate, gift aided and non-gift aided envelopes, and standing orders has risen by 44%
Expenditure, on Clergy, insurance, utilities and quota has risen by 129% over the same period.

Omitted from these figures are income from gift aid recovery, fund raising and donations, these vary greatly from year to year. Similarly, expenditure on repairs and large projects has been left out as these also vary from year to year. If, for completeness we include these omitted categories then:

Total income increased by 92%
Total expenditure increased by 143%

Clearly, for the long term viability of St Paul's this cannot continue, but analysis of current financial situation shows that it is:

It costs £175 per day to run all aspects of our church
Our current income is £133 per day

57% of our expenditure is for clergy and Ministry costs, 27% are fabric costs.
89% of our income is provided by the congregation

These figures are extracted from our audited accounts for the year to end September 2014.

The current year to 30/9/15 will not be as bad due to the recovery of monies owed to the church by the Inland Revenue. The projected budget for 2015/16 however shows another anticipated deficit of over £8,000.

What can we do to help ourselves? The Stewardship Campaign has not yet been the success we hoped, it is still expected to improve matters but not by enough, and how do we increase our missionary and education aims which currently only account for 2% of our expenditure.

Vestry are very open to ideas for the improvement of our financial situation, how can raise additional funds, is/are there anything that we could cut back on?

If you value St Paul's, if you think it truly does matter, then please give it some thought and come and talk to us.

A vision for the future of St Paul's

This article introduces an idea for the future development of St Paul's. It is very much a "starter for ten" article and is intended to promote discussion and perhaps further ideas. It is NOT a completed plan, in fact it is far from it, but it is a starting point. Vestry are aware of these ideas and consider them important enough to open the discussion to the rest of the congregation and these ideas will be the basis of the presentation planned by Vestry for the sermon slot on Sunday May 31st. Here is the article.

It is already agreed that the internal decoration of St Paul's is in need of extensive improvement. A great deal of progress has been made already but we want to do our utmost to draw up plans that properly reflect our common goal of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. There's no point in tackling something as major as the list below if we're not clear and decisive about why we're doing it in the first place.

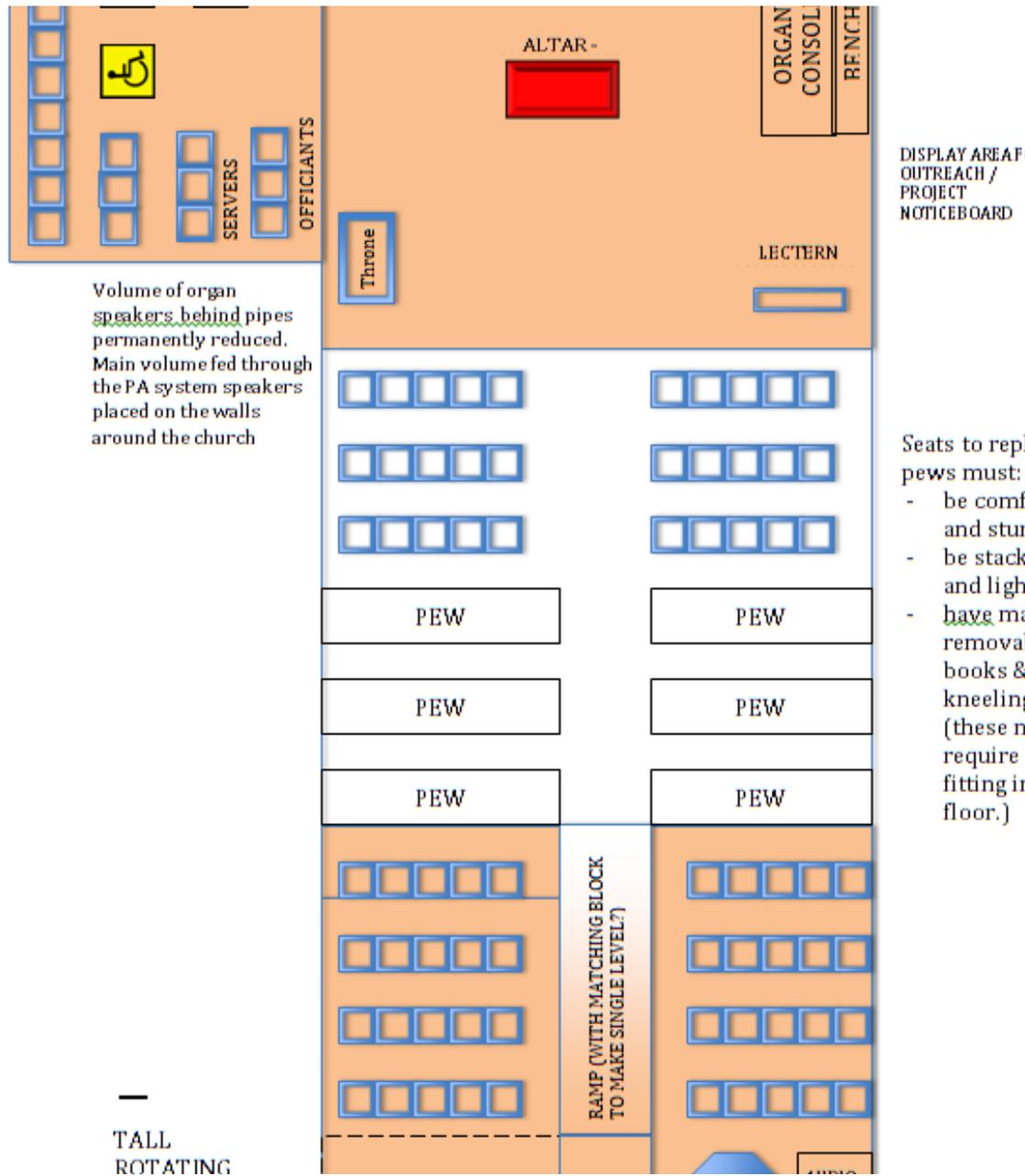
Here are some initial thoughts and suggestions to begin our thinking together:

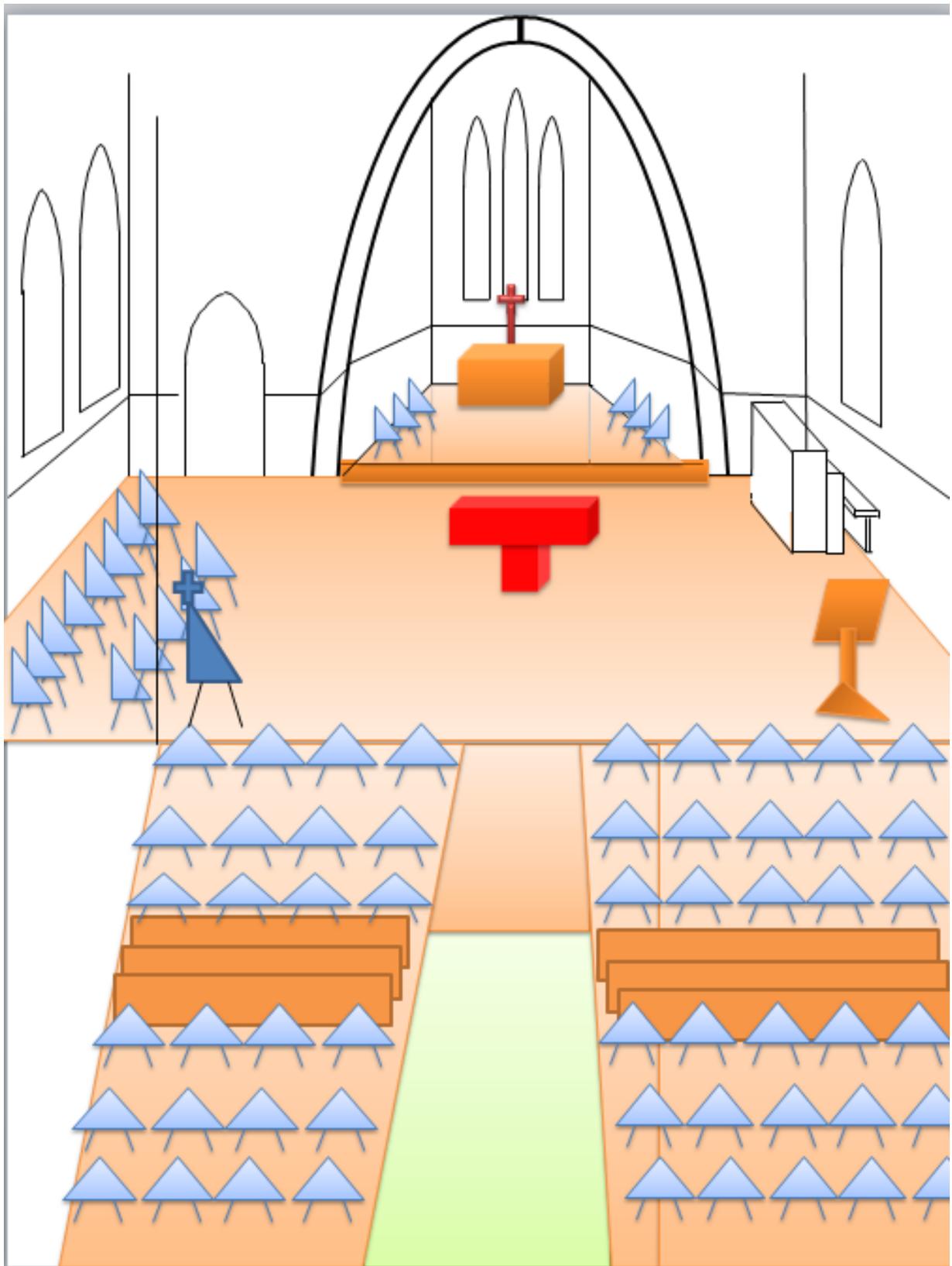
- A far more flexible, welcoming, brighter and accessible worship space for different kinds of services and community events. For example, this may involve considerations including:
 - o removing the majority of the pews
 - o reducing the number of different floor levels around the church to allow easier access for wheelchairs
 - o using the existing pink seats until we source an ideal individual seating solution
 - o replacing the existing external window covers with protection that will allow more light into the building and won't discolour on the outside
 - o replacing the existing external window covers with protection that will allow more light into the building and won't discolour on the outside
- A dedicated 'soft' area of the church for mothers and toddlers so they can feel included in the worship we offer to God
- An area for musicians or a small choir to provide music during worship
- A more comfortable and cost-effective method of heating the church- A brighter and more flexible lighting system for services and concerts
- Modernising our ageing PA system which is long overdue a complete overhaul

Of course, completing all this will take a great deal more money than is currently available in the Fabric fund. We can make a start but whatever we begin with must be seen as part of an overall programme to transform our building into a place more welcoming and useful to the wider community.

It is hoped that people may be more willing to contribute to specific parts of the plan, taking each part as a separate project within the overall programme. However, the ongoing effectiveness of such donations will be time limited and without a sufficient regular income as well we may come up with a lovely new look for St Paul's but be unable to keep the newly refurbished doors open and the seats warm?

Here is what St Paul's could look like in the future if we have the courage to dream dreams:





These ideas are at their very earliest stage and input from members is welcomed, you may love them or loath them, but let us know. This could have a hugely positive effect on our worship style(s) and community involvement, it is ambitious but so was man's quest to fly to the moon and while we are not in that league we should not be afraid of ambition, we built the meeting room didn't we?

Sunday School

Birthday wishes to:

Danny Hodge who celebrates his birthday on the 15th of this month, and to **Bella Mackenzie-Mills** who celebrates her birthday on the 20th of the month.

And a happy birthday to any grownups who may be too shy to share their birthdays with us.

Thursday Morning Group

The current study is based on the classic film *Casablanca*. Meet at 10am for a 10.30 start at 16 Station Road on Thursday mornings. All are welcome.

Soul Survivor



Soul Survivor Scotland is coming to Kinross from 1st-5th August! Soul Survivor is a Christian youth festival, aimed at young people of secondary school age. The festival has been running in England for 22 years, and held its first event in Scotland last year. This year, they are moving to Lendrick Muir (where I work), which makes it really accessible for us.

They are hoping to have 800+ people come for 5 days of worship, teaching and fun. It costs £119 for the week, or there will be day/evening tickets available nearer the time.

They have loads of information on their website, www.soulsurvivor.com so if you think you (or a young person you know) might be interested, go and have a look. They have lots of videos in their resources section like talks, interviews and video diaries that might give you a taste of the week.

If there are a few people who would like to go, it'd be nice to arrange something that'd mean we can all go together. As it's so close, there might be options to visit for a day or evening, rather than going all week (or even to go every day, but sleep in your own bed at night, if camping isn't your thing). Let me know if you're interested- either catch me on a Sunday, or email vic_stig@hotmail.com If you're a bit too old for secondary school, but might like to accompany some of our young people to the event, let me know too.

200 Club draw

The winners of the May draw were

1 st prize	Mrs J V Campbell
2 nd prize	Gael Graham
3 rd prize	Linda Anderson

Congratulations to all.

When your membership is due for renewal you will receive a renewal notice. Many thanks to those people who return their forms and cheques promptly, and if you haven't yet returned yours, could you please do so as soon as possible. There are still plenty of numbers left if anyone else would like to join the club

Church Flowers

The Diary is at the back of church if you want to give flowers on a certain Sunday.

Christina Rodger 01577 863785 or christina@westerloan.plus.com

Church Action on Poverty

I think the "mail trail reproduced below is self-explanatory, please try to help, when I learned of these practices I was appalled.

Good afternoon,

May I commend this request to you from the Church Action on Poverty campaign? This issue has direct relevance to people in serious financial difficulties in our local community. Our local MP, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, is already aware of this but we can help by adding our voices to hers in Westminster.

Kind regards,

Fr David

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Church Action on Poverty communications** <liamp@church-poverty.org.uk>

Date: Thu, May 21, 2015 at 3:03 PM

Subject: 100,000 children hit by benefit sanctions last year - time to rethink sanctions

To: frdavidkinross@gmail.com

[If this email does not display correctly, click here to view it in your browser.](#)

Dear David

[Call on the new Government to rethink benefit sanctions - click here to email your MP now](#)

Today's benefit sanctions system is unjust and damaging to some the country's most vulnerable people. It is clear that it punishes people who need support and drives many into desperation and hunger. Please help make MPs aware of this grave injustice.

Benefit sanctions are a system of penalties imposed on those who have not obeyed, in full, detailed instructions from the Jobcentre related to finding work. They are imposed for fixed periods, from one month up to three years, and are frequently given out for a first "offence" such as being late for an appointment. More and more people across the UK are being forced to use food banks to feed themselves and their families because they have been sanctioned.

people joined our campaign and emailed their MPs before the election, drawing their attention to the serious injustices of the benefit sanctions system, particularly on the most vulnerable in society.

The election may be over, but the need for action is even more urgent. We have a new Government and many new faces in Parliament, which brings us both challenges and opportunities. You can act now to keep up the pressure on Government.

[Click here now to email your MP and call on them to support a rethink of benefit sanctions.](#)

Best wishes

Liam Purcell, Church Action on Poverty

Kinross Churches Together

This Christmas the churches in Kinross-shire are hoping to be able to give out to local under-fives groups a knitted nativity set and a nativity book. To do this we need various bits and bobs. Please can you help us in this project?

Have you any Double Knitting wool in these colours lying around.

1 Ball of Each Sky Blue, Royal Blue, White, Dark Green, Light Brown, Yellow, Rust, Pink, Rose, Orange, Purple, Bright Blue, Lavender, Light Grey, Dark Grey, Bright Green, Nutmeg, Black, Pale Yellow

2 balls of each of Cream and Red

3 balls of Flesh

25cm narrow gold cord and transparent thread

Fabric glue

If you have any of the above please hand them in at church with NATIVITY written on the bag or give to Sue or Jan.

Calling all knitters

Please can you knit at least one figure or animal, we have the patterns all we need are the knitters.

If you can't knit

but can sew please let us know if you would be able to sew the figures together because I know some knitters find this difficult.

Or

Would you like to donate towards this project if you are unable to do any of the above, please put a donation in an envelope with Sue or Jan's name on it and give it in with your collection on a Sunday this will go towards the books, stuffing, threads and wool.

Thank you Sue & Jan KCT Reps.

As part of the **Church AUCTION held in February** Sue and Jan promised to host an afternoon of Tea, Cake & Chat at 5 George Drive on the 5th of May 2-4pm. Please let Jan or Sue know if you would like to come to give them an idea of numbers for catering. Donations will be going to St Paul's Church. Please bring a friend.

Sue and Jan would like to say thank you to all who came on the 5th of May and thank you for the donations which have been passed on to the treasurer.

Attention all Facebook users

St Paul's has a Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross

We list all our services and events, and there are some photos too. If you are on Facebook please take a moment to "Like" our page, join any "Events" that we create and share these on your timeline and with your friends. The more page likes, shares and event members we have, the more publicity we will get on news feeds of folk in the local area. So much is being publicised in our local community via Facebook these days. There is a well used Facebook group for Kinross and Milnathort parents, and a lot of community events get much of their publicity via Facebook. It makes sense for us to make the most of this opportunity to reach out to local people in this new way. All it takes is a few clicks.

Busy People

To continue on the theme of "busy" as contained in my previous article my thoughts turn to busy people in our church and how aware are we of who they all are. I cannot progress without name dropping but firstly an apology if I embarrass anyone by the mere mention, only it is unavoidable, and also the order they are mentioned is purely down to the random way my brain can work.

Who cuts the grass? Norman Smith, who also keeps the church grounds tidy and carries out all those odd jobs that are so easily forgotten. Then there's Margaret Smith – hall lets, key holder, help with altar frontals, help that is very much appreciated.

Next, step forward Rosemary Walker who transports members to church, launders the church linen used during communion and is a key member of the hospitality rota. And what about Sharon, who cleans the church and meeting room, who would recognise her if she sat among us in church.

Now would be a good point to finish this list of some of the valuable, and busy, people who help our church run so smoothly. Here's a clue to the final entries – flowers. Yes, of course, it's Christina Rogers who fills our church each week with the loveliest flowers, but who knew that June Lindsay and Margaret Smith (yes the same Margaret Smith who manages the church hall and who is married to Norman) also help out.

There are many more and we should give thanks the all who help with the running of St Paul's, as with so many things it is the "little" people, the unsung heroes who make the organisation work.

Since last I wrote I have attended a number of services and meetings in the diocese, the most important of which was the annual service for clergy and lay preachers to renew their vows, held in St Ninian's Cathedral. I thought this a particularly moving Eucharist service. I attended a service in Glenrothes to install a new Priest in Charge and to ordain a new Deacon to her charge, for this occasion Father David was Bishop David's personal priest. I have to say that hymns at these services were great, and so nice to be sung by a choir, perhaps one day at St Pauls? My personal thanks to Father David and to Anita for making it possible to go these services, it is a long way to cycle to Perth or to Glenrothes.

Lastly, a piece of important news just heard on the radio, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland has voted in favour of gay ministers, who are all now very welcome in church. I truly hope that our church will follow suit eventually. Remember, the people who Jesus Christ picked out of the crowds, do please think on. As I write, ascension Sunday is nearly here so here the words of God within you and may the words of God surround you.

Jim Henry (Sacristan)

From the Editor

Like many organisations, and unfortunately, families, we are in dire financial straits (see the “From the Vestry” article above). Our expenditure exceeds our income by a considerable amount and there is no social security safety net for us to fall back on. I read the Vestry article with an increasing sense of doom, what can we do apart from ask for still more from our small congregation if we are to avoid bankruptcy? I think, and I hope you agree, that our vestry have been very skilled in managing our expenditure and recovering tax and VAT payments to keep us financially viable but now it seems that all that can be squeezed has been squeezed and new money has to be found.

Three years ago, after much deliberation, we took the bold decision to employ a full time minister. Three years ago our confidence in the future was such that we believed we could, and would, increase our income level to support such a bold venture. What has happened? Inflation is at an all time low and investment interest rates are correspondingly low (and so our investments produce very little income) but inflation is measured on expenditure items that do not appear in our budget (air and ferry fares!) so **our** inflation is still quite high, think domestic fuel bills – one of our largest costs, and we have to recognise that fact. We have to increase what we give to St. Paul’s, even if we think that we give enough now.

To be frank, many of us can afford to give more to our church. We can, and should, try to give to St Pauls the cost of that extra meal out, that day trip, the upgrade to our mobile phone, the bout of retail therapy that seems to be a large part of many peoples’ lives. Singly, each of these is a small amount whose removal from our daily lives would hardly be noticed, but taken together they represent a potentially large boost to St Paul’s income and a much more worthwhile use of the money. So please, think deeply on this and perhaps give just that little bit more that may make a huge difference to St Paul’s and to our community.

And Finally

The defence of our country was a hot election topic and one that elicited conflicting and strongly held views from all who chose to comment. Here is a new option from the letters pages of the Daily Mail, lateral thinking and “Britishness” at its best.

Sir,

To the enormous relief of the Admiralty, my mates and I can save the Royal Navy from the embarrassment of having two shiny new multi-billion pound aircraft carriers but no aircraft. In true Dunkirk spirit every member of our local micro light aircraft club has volunteered to fly his “trike” off the Navy’s

mighty 60,000 ton carriers, and it's very likely that our friends from the Little Snodingham club will join us, making nine planes in all.

What a stirring sight and sound that will be – our little two-stroke engines buzzing like a swarm of angry lawnmowers as the colourful wire and fabric contraptions leap from the heaving decks of the Queen Elizabeth or the Prince of Wales and soar skywards to strike fear into the hearts of Britain's enemies. If the sheer spectacle of these avenging butterflies does not terrify any potential terrorists, we might paint threatening slogans under our wings or tow banners saying, "Go away" or "Stop that immediately".

If we meet an especially recalcitrant enemy, our brave pilots will buzz them (at their maximum speed of forty-five miles per hour), shake their fists and glare fiercely. Naturally, the lethal weaponry carried by these "trikes" is a state secret but if I mention the code words, "custard pies" and "rotten eggs" you'll get some idea of the immense embarrassment these little planes can cause.

So just as the "little ships" rescued the British army at Dunkirk, these "little planes" will save the Royal Navy from becoming an international laughing stock.

David H Lewis, Caerphilly, South Wales

That's the stuff David, Captain Mainwaring would be proud of you and your fliers!

for July/August

Next Magazine is the July/August issue, the cut-off date is week commencing 12th June, absolute and final cut off is 19th June..

Comments, articles or suggestions for future news sheets are always welcome, please speak to me in church or e-mail them to me at jonsearle@btinternet.com