



St. Paul's Matters

February 2015

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church (part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion),
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From the Rector:

I recently received two bits of particularly encouraging news during our diocesan Clergy Conference. The majority of the population in the United Kingdom consider themselves aligned to basic Christian values and principles. Although it's clear that there is a diminishing number of people who regularly attend organised acts of worship that the national Church currently offers, there remain very rich fishing grounds into which we can all show people Jesus through works of healing, by our prayerfulness, through loving acts of service and when we share our stories about our mission with other people.

The other bit of good news is that Anglicans already have a great opportunity for mission through a better, more creative understanding and wider sharing of the worship we offer to God through sacrament, symbol and mystery. The language of candles, procession, participation and silence is second-nature to the Anglican Church and, as we have seen in recent months, people already use a similar sort of language during times of national distress. This is just the kind of thing to which St Paul's is now able to contribute more fully following the congregation's decision to support the work of a full-time Rector.

By the time you read my latest missive, the chances are that two fat envelopes will have fallen on to your doorstep. One is an invitation to a fun evening of food and frolicking, the other more serious and thought provoking about the future of St Paul's. They are both connected with raising money so that the ongoing successes that have already been achieved over the last two years can be built on for our mutual benefit and, more importantly, to God's glory.

The cold, hard truth is this. Without this necessary push towards Stewardship in 2015 **and beyond**, St Paul's won't be able to afford a full-time Rector, let alone undertake vital maintenance work and develop our active, missional relationship of love with and to the community in which we are placed. The figures in the stewardship pack you should have already received speak for themselves.

This being said, the Vestry were very keen to clarify in the Campaign's covering letter that meaningful stewardship isn't just about money.

Ensuring that the life and health of St Paul's flourishes can never be dependent on any one individual, ordained or lay. Last year's Vestry came up with a very imaginative way of looking at who we are and what we are about as a worshipping and serving community. As Jesus chose a number of fishermen as his closest disciples, we realised that, turned upside down, every church including St Paul's looks a bit like a boat. Before we go out fishing (which ties in nicely with the diocesan theme of 'Casting the Net!'), we have to make sure that:

- the boat is physically ship-shape
- there are enough willing members of the crew on board to make the trip worthwhile
- the right kind of fishing gear is available and is strong enough to bring in a good catch
- we have some kind of idea what we want to look for and the places we need to look for it

Successful stewardship will of course need the gifts of money from those who can provide it, but it will also benefit from time and talent that we hope will also be offered as part of this year's Campaign, a Campaign that will not merely need to see us through the year we are now in but also re-launch St Paul's on her voyage of healing, praying, loving and telling for many years to come.

From the Rector – again!

A bonus this month we have a second article from Fr David. This is a sermon delivered by Fr David to Fossoway and Cleish Church as part of the pulpit exchange programme, many members of F&C Church have asked for copies to be e-mailed to them but we, his "home" church, will not have had a chance to hear it. So here it is, a very good sermon:

A sign found on the Ship of Fools website:



Last week I spent a few days with ordained colleagues from across the diocese of St. Andrews, Dunblane and Dunkeld at our annual Conference. The theme for the few days we spent together was, 'Seeing in a new way.' Not for the first time, we discovered that we so easily see, understand and communicate what we want to see, understand and communicate from our shared picture of the church in the world. It's good to know that we're not alone; at the end of another day's gruelling travelling, Jacob wearily and probably very grudgingly simply regarded the desert floor and jagged stone boulder that he nestled under his head as well below four star standard accommodation. The cameo appearance of Nathaniel in John's gospel begins with his amused incredulity at Jesus' rather dubious background. In Nathaniel's eyes, folk from Nazareth were no better than residents of Perth! (Sorry, Muriel...). Even though he'd spent three years as a close, personal witness of Jesus Christ's ministry to Jews as well as Gentiles, Acts records the time when Peter was totally flummoxed by God's request to meet, greet and eat with Cornelius, a Gentile Roman soldier, a person not merely soaked with religious impurity but a symbol of an occupying military oppression to boot. It hadn't taken long at all for this fisher man of elevated status to forget all that his patient, forgiving Lord and Master had taught him. No matter what I've come to

experience of the Holy Spirit's grace and power to transform and renew our little bit of Christ's church, I so often find myself reverting to type at the drop of a hat. And I'm sure I can't be alone on that!

Twelve months since we last did so, we commemorate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The first verse of Psalm 133 are lovely, easy words of encouragement as we begin these days of reflection on our unity; 'how good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.' Such a sentiment is all well and good but what does living together in unity really mean? Before we begin to try and answer this question, we need to understand why we exist as those little bits of Christ's Church in the first place. What is this or any of our church buildings really for and why do we gather inside them each Sunday, or perhaps more often than that...? You and I constantly battle against the lure of seeing ourselves as members of an exclusive club or clubs, seeking comfort and shelter from the outside world. We unconsciously work hardest at conserving and preserving what we have inherited – an ever changing list of fee paying individuals who help keep the roof up and the heating on. We slip into identifying ourselves as those who **don't**, whether it's don't swing incense, don't religiously grovel and scrape or don't sing and wave during worship songs. The older we get the harder and harsher the world seems to become until we simply retreat into knowing what we like and liking what we know. That's when God causes us to realise that we've been telling the world around us that we love hurting people.

A Syrian slave and Latin scholar known as Publilius Syrus who lived just before Jesus was born is quoted as having said, 'Where there is unity, there is always victory.' It almost sounds as if it's something we need to fight for together. He didn't say, 'Where there is uniformity, there is always victory' because if everyone lived and worked and worshipped in the same way, humanity's soul would soon die. Put simply, Christian unity finds its voice and purpose in the world through the undeniably hard work of healing, praying, loving and telling. Although my natural instincts are to attempt these from a fairly high liberal catholic, sacramental kind of way, I rejoice greatly that others try hard to show Jesus to the world through such expressions of Christianity as charismatic renewal and the Talking Donkey project. God calls the Church in all her wonderful diversity to champion issues of justice and peace for people and the rest of creation and to embody God's endless, boundless, reckless love through our sacrificial service that has no need for any payback.

When we leave here this morning, life will carry on for you and I much as it has done. Like Jacob, Nathaniel and Peter, I will certainly need to hear this message again next month, not just next year if I am truly to change my ways. Let me know if you would like to read any of this again - e-mail is a wonderful thing! Maybe in the days, weeks and months still to come before next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we can all carry on helping one another in our different churches and across our traditions to love hurting people in the best way possible. Amen.

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 February

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.

8am Morning Prayer (Mondays and Wednesdays)
2.30pm Midweek Holy Communion (Wednesdays)
3.30pm – 4.30pm Rector's Hour in the Church Office (Thursdays)

February Services and Events:

Sunday 1st:

8.30am Holy Communion
11am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 8th: Epiphany 5

8.30am Holy Communion
11am Whole Church Sung Eucharist in preparation for Lent
4pm Noisy Praise for all ages. Sing and dance to world music and take part in dramatic story telling from the Bible.

Sunday 15th: Epiphany 6

8.30am Holy Communion
11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 18th: ASH WEDNESDAY

12.30pm Simple Lent lunch, reflection and 15 minute silent Meditation for Lent and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament with the Imposition of Ashes.
(Meeting Room & Church)

Sunday 22nd: 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am Holy Communion
11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 25th:

12.30pm Simple Lent lunch, reflection and 15 minute silent Meditation for Lent and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. (Meeting Room)

Friday 27th GIFTS & TALENTS AUCTION (Masonic Hall, Muirs)
(see separate advert for the event for more details.)

Sunday 29th: 2nd Sunday of Lent (N.B.: B.S.T. begins today!)
8.30am Holy Communion
Breakfast Bible Study for Lent
11am Sung Eucharist

Dates for your diary

March 8th

AM: Sea Sunday

PM: Sports, activity & worship

April 5th (Easter Day)

AM: Easter Story drama

May 10th

AM: Gift Sunday

PM: Gifts & Talents Ceilidh

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

This is the first issue of our magazine since the AGM and the election of the new Vestry so there are a couple of regular “first issue” items to report. Number one is names and duties of the Vestry members:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Vestry Chair | Fr David |
| Vice chair and Rectors Warden | Nan Kennedy |
| Treasurer | Peter Croft |
| Secretary | Jon Searle |
| Sacristan | Jim Henry |
| PVG co-ordinator | Christine Croft |
| Peoples Warden | Beryl Searle |
| Education portfolio | Ann Melville |
| Outreach | Vicky Stigent |
| Member without portfolio | Alan Seath |
| Member without portfolio | Pippa Morrice |

The function of Fabric Convenor has not yet been assigned and for the present is being dealt with by the secretary with help as required from other Vestry members. The Photo-board with details and photographs of all vestry members will be updated shortly.

The second “first issue” item is the schedule of future Vestry meetings:

Monday March 9th
Monday April 27th
Monday June 8th
Monday July 20th
Monday August 31st
Monday October 5th
Monday November 16th
Sunday December 6th – Church AGM

All meetings start at 19:45 and last about two and a half hours, they are not “closed” meetings and if you are curious about what goes on at a vestry meeting then please feel free to attend, even contribute to the discussions, the more views we have on the issues faced by St Paul’s the better will be our decisions.

Since the AGM there have been two Vestry Meetings, these have both concentrated on Finances and the Church fabric. Finance discussions have revolved round the forthcoming Stewardship campaign, and there will be more information on this available soon, and, following a question at the AGM, the condition and expected lifetime of the south facing roof. Both these issues are continuing and we will keep people informed of progress as it happens.

Minutes of vestry meetings, once approved and signed off by the Vestry Chair will be posted on the noticeboard.

From the Diocese

The Gathering 2015
Saturday 30th May
10am – 4pm
St Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth

This year’s Gathering will focus on **Mark of Mission 8. Serving the community in practical ways, reaching out to others, especially those in need**

We are planning an interesting and varied programme for both young and not so young from across the Diocese. Lots of our churches and individual members are already busy serving the community in various ways. They are in themselves a helpful source of information for the wider Diocese. We would like each congregation to bring a poster, A3 or A4, with pictures and text in order to share these important service initiatives. More about that and the programme later.

Booking forms will be available from the end of April from your Casting the Net Liaison Officer or on the diocesan website (www.standrews.anglican.org). In the meantime, **please keep the date!**

Val Nellist
Convener
Congregational Growth Group

Sunday School

Just one lucky birthday girl this month, Libby Kinninmonth whose birthday is on 15th February

Thursday Morning Group

Discussion topics for the next five weeks:

- Questions concerning Homosexuality and the church
- Questions concerning Islam
- Questions concerning Freedom of Speech
- Questions concerning Gender Issues
- St Paul's place in the community

We plan to discuss one topic every week with bible study arising from the topics.

First meeting will be on Thursday 22nd January. Meet at 10am in the Meeting Room, for a prompt 10.15am start. Finish by 11.45am.

All are very welcome to this friendly group. Do come along if you can.

200 Club draw

The winners of the December draw were

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st prize | Gael Graham |
| 2 nd prize | Elizabeth Webster |
| 3 rd prize | Jane Beveridge |

And the winners of the January draw were

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st prize | June Lindsay |
| 2 nd prize | Maggie Strang-Steel |
| 3 rd prize | Nan Kennedy |

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

Auction of Gifts and Talents

Maggie Strang-Steel is planning an Auction of Gifts and Talents to be held on the 27th of this month. We held a similar function some years back and raised a considerable amount of money for St Paul's, it works like this:

At the back of the magazine there is a form which should be completed with details of the gift or talent to be auctioned. It may be an actual "thing", for instance an

unwanted gift or possession, something you no longer need or use but which may be of use to someone else, or it may be a talent you have for doing something – interior decoration perhaps, or mowing a lawn, clearing a garden if you have access to a trailer. Think about what have or could do and enter details on the form then send it to Maggie, she will produce a catalogue and then on the day of the auction people can bid for your item.

This year the auction evening will be preceded by a supper and followed by a ceilidh, I think this will be a story telling and singing ceilidh, more info will be available nearer the time Anyway, here's the advert:

**Supper, Auction of Gifts and Talents followed by a Ceilidh
at 7pm in the Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross
Friday, 27th February, 2015.
Admission £8.00p (Concessions on request)**

The last page of the magazine is the form to complete for any articles or services you wish to include in the auction, contact Maggie Strang Steel for any further information or offers of help on the night.

Tel: 01592840 459

Mobile: 07814094818

Email: maggie@greenheadfarm.co.uk

Church Flowers

For more details contact Christina Rodger 01577 863785 or christina@westerloan.plus.com or 14 Westerloan Milnathort.

Kinross Churches Together

LENT COURSE -Starts end of February

This year we will be using the new York course called 'Praise Him' - songs of praise in the New Testament. We are used to singing hymns of praise in church but often miss the hymns and poems that are there in the New Testament. This course explores five different Songs of Praise from the New Testament – what they tell us about God and Jesus, but also reflecting on what they tell us about ourselves and our faith.

The five sessions are:

- 1 **Gratitude** (Ephesians 1. 3-14)
- 2 **Image of God** (Colossians 1. 15-20)
- 3 **Humility** (Philippians 2. 5-11)
- 4 **New birth** (1Peter 1. 3-12)
- 5 **Word made flesh** (John 1.1-14)

If you can't make it to all sessions please feel free to come along as and when you can.

Further information on WHERE and WHEN will be found later in the pew leaflet.

A Small Article from and Old Retired Treasurer

At our last AGM Sandy stepped down from the Vestry after many years as our Treasurer. We all owe a debt of thanks to Sandy for managing our finances so skilfully during some very difficult times, Peter Croft has taken over from Sandy and, although he has big boots to fill I am sure he will do as fine a job as Sandy.

Sandy wrote, in his words, a small article for publication in our magazine. I cannot think of a better title so here it is, I'm honoured to publish "A Small Article from a Retired Treasurer"

Now that the AGM is over, I officially cease to be Treasurer of St Paul's after 22 years (as someone said to me that's longer than some marriages!!) I would like to thank all the Rectors, Vestry Chairs and members and especially my fellow members for all the support I have received over the years. I have continued the record keeping until 31 December 2014 before handing over to Peter Croft who I hope you will support in the same way as you assisted me.

I would just like to notify you that in the period October to December, St Paul's have made donations as undernoted from special collections :-

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Perth Food Bank | £122.91 |
| Feed the Minds | £108.15 |
| Aberlour Child Care Trust | £107.00 |
| Medicins Sans Frontieres | £203.00 |

I have received letters of thanks from the above but especially moving was one from a doctor who has just returned from Sierra Leone where he has been assisting in the Ebola epidemic and he just wanted us to know that our donation does make a difference to these unfortunate people.

I say well done members of St Paul's and I wish you all a peaceful and joyful 2015

Sandy Smith (Old retired treasurer)

Thank you Sandy

Are we not fortunate at St Paul's?

Fr David and family had a well earned break after our usual busy Christmastide to go to Warwickshire to visit his family and celebrate Christmas with them. This statement enables me to answer the question posed in the title to this article with a resounding YES. We are indeed fortunate for during Fr David's break we enjoyed the preaching of another really good minister, the Reverend Jeanette Allan, who celebrated both the 08:30 and the 11:00 service with us. It was good to see Jeanette again, her last visit was during one of our recent inter-regnums (they seem to run into each other and become one long inter-regnum!) and it was a joy to have her back with us. We extend

our thanks to her, especially so when we remember that she has to travel from Dunblane.

Continuing my theme of good fortune, how nice it was to have the east wall re-painted in time for Christmas, and to have it finally finished by 2nd January. Once again thanks are due, this time to Patrick and his team of painters for all their hard work, our church looks much better for it.

I thank Good for the good fortune that led me to decide to dress the altar on Saturday 3rd January ready for the services on Sunday 4th. Normally this is a relaxed 20 minute job and is done on Sunday morning, but for some reason I decided to do it this time on the Saturday. This was a good decision, when I entered the church I saw that the altar had been moved to within a foot or so of the altar rail and all the altar dressings had been removed and left in the side chapel. OK, it was no trouble getting it all back as it should be, it just took time, time I would not have had if I had left the work till Sunday morning. How fortunate that the Lord was with me that day.

Finally, we should give thanks to Mr Brian Ogilvie for preaching at St Paul's on the 18th January using "The Service of the Word". Brian is the reader at Cleish and Fossoway Church and had swapped pulpits with Fr David as part of Pulpit Exchange Sunday. One cannot deny that his interest in crime novelists put a most interesting slant on his sermon.

Thank you, and apologies to, all who endured the very cold church, this was due to a failure of the underseat heaters, which we are currently addressing. I come to an end; all that remains is to remember that the love of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy spirit is always with us.

Jim Henry

Thoughts on the loss of a good friend

By the time you read this the funeral of my mate Dave will have taken place. Dave was a mate for nearly 50 years, he was my generation, he and his wife Jen were neighbours when we bought our first house and we have remained friends ever since. Now Jen is on her own and I have become aware of a new phase in life.

I have viewed life as a succession of phases for some time; the infant phase, when you are helpless and totally dependent on your parents, the childhood, the adolescent, the young adult, the young parent, and so on, each with its own challenges and rewards. Now I have been made aware of the saying goodbye phase. The goodbye here is a permanent goodbye, not the temporary "I'll see you next year" sort where even if this "next year" appointment slips it doesn't matter because you could still go and visit but higher priorities often dictate otherwise. No, this goodbye is the final goodbye, Dave will no longer be a Facebook friend, an e-mail mate, and a drinking buddy, there'll be no more visits. Dave is the first name I'll cross off my Christmas card list because he's dead.

And it's hard.

Dave is the first of my friends of my generation to die of natural causes. I thought I was tough, I thought I could cope with death, I coped when my parents died and even coped when my grand-daughter died, though that really was hard, but Dave, dying of natural causes, brought

into focus my own mortality. In my twenties, thirties and forties death was a long way away, it happened to other people, it was for insurance salesmen to talk about and undertakers to cope with. In my mind I **was** immortal. In my fifties death was still remote, I had too many exciting things still to do, I was still fit with boundless energy, I coped with whatever was thrown at me. But now, on the downhill run to my seventies, as I lose my energy and find I can no longer do the things I used to do so easily, it's suddenly here. OK, it's not exactly staring me in face but it has raised its ugly head, and made me think.

There is much for me to learn and understand; what would it feel like to be the survivor when a long term partnership is ended by death, what happens at death – physically, spiritually? All I can say at the moment is that I'm not afraid of death, it is our last great adventure, but please Lord NOT YET.

Jon

From the Editor

A New Year and a new development in the evolution of our magazine, I hope you haven't failed to notice that our magazine now has a new name – "St Paul's Matters". Yes, I'll admit it is a play on words; St Paul's does matter, we are now an important part of the Kinross social network, and our magazine is intended to contain all things that matter to St Paul's. Like all magazines though we still depend on our contributors for articles and information, more so now that Zebedee (to whom I extend my thanks for his entertaining and sometimes controversial articles) has decided to hang up his quill. Remember, if it matters to you then it probably matters to others, if you enjoyed something then others will want to hear of it, and if you disagree with some aspects of life at St Paul's then it matters that you have an avenue to air and discuss your views. That is what "St Paul's Matters" is for, so please use it.

Is there any end to the talent we can call on at St Paul's? I ask this question because anyone who was a part of our Christmas celebrations cannot fail to have been impressed by the skills and talents deployed. We are getting used to wonderful singing and over the Christmas period our enjoyment was enhanced by the inclusion of a choir in our Christmas Carol service, it was wonderful. At the same service we also learned that Fr David can play the drums, Anita can play the violin and recorder and Ann Melville can play the recorder. Then at the Sunday School nativity service we enjoyed a unique nativity play, delivered by two Marys and the entire congregation. Finally, on Christmas day itself we enjoyed wee Bella's one-off interpretation of Hark the Herald Angels Sing using a tin of sweets, bulging cheeks and a relay race up and down the church aisle. If you weren't at the front of the church you may have missed this, my lips are now sealed on this matter but I'm sure Fr David will remember it and include it in his "father of the bride" speech in twenty or so year's time. In short a fabulous Christmas, my thanks to all involved.

And Finally

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit £86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.

4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another £86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL ...

Shocked YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is *TIME*

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds ,as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in pounds. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD...!"

SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!'

.Magazine for March

Next Magazine is the March issue, the cut-off date is 15th February (very early in the month I know but this helps us to ensure the printed copies are available for the 1st of March).

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

Auction of Gifts and Talents

There will be Supper, an Auction of Gifts and Talents followed by a Ceilidh at 7pm on 27th February 2015 in the Masonic Hall, Kinross.

Price: £8.00p (Concessions on request).

Proceeds for the evening will go towards the upkeep of the church.

Please mark this date in your diary as an evening not to be missed!

St. Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kinross

Auction of Gifts and Talents

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:.....

I offer the following gifts and talents to be auctioned:

1.....

2.....

3.....

Signature:.....

Please return the forms to Maggie Strang Steel at Greenhead of Arnot, Leslie, Glenrothes, Fife, KY6 3JQ so that a catalogue can be made up before the auction night.

Email: Maggie@greenheadfarm.co.uk

Telephone: 01592 840 459

0781 409 4818