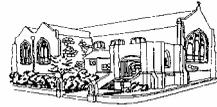


Life



February 2006

Dear Friends,

Many of you have remarked on the very special atmosphere which we enjoyed on Sunday 15 January when we gathered at the Lord's Table to commemorate the dedication of our Church building in 1906.

Emily Campbell's ministry was a blessing to us and the sense of being God's people together, grateful for the past and looking forward to the future, was powerful. It has caused me to reflect on the importance of worship for the maintenance and growth of our faith. I am bemused and indeed saddened when I hear people say quite confidently that they don't need to attend worship regularly in order to keep their faith strong.

My normal, perhaps glib response to this is to say that these people are doing better than both Jesus and Paul who apparently needed the worship of God's people in their life of faith. But this is perhaps to make light of what is a real problem for many people. Even in the early days of the Church there was a problem of 'drifting away'. It is evident in the Letter to the Hebrews where the unknown writer says at one point: 'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...' (Hebrews 10: 25).

It is the issue of 'encouragement' that is important here. How can we keep our faith strong unless we are enjoying Christian fellowship, unless we are praying together, unless we are receiving teaching from God's Word?

One man discovered the truth of this in a painful way. The singer Johnny Cash overcame a massive drug and alcohol problem through a conversion experience. He became a high profile Christian in the United States and often appeared on a platform with Billy Graham. At one point, though, his faith seemed to crash. There was a return to the drugs and occasional outrageous behaviour. When he looked back on this time he believed that his failure was largely caused by the loosening of his connection with his Church. He wrote:

My policy of aloneness and severed fellowship from other committed Christians would weaken me spiritually...Jesus never meant for us to try to make it on our own.

It may be imperfect, at times it makes disastrous mistakes but the Church will always be Christ's means of sustaining and promoting faith.

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMEMBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mr & Mrs T Gray, 13 Strathblane Road, Milngavie 4

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr & Mrs A Forbes, 35 Braefoot Ave., Milngavie 35

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Cathy Bell, 8 Garwhitter Drive now 1
112 Henderland Road, Milngavie 68

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'
22.12.05 Mr Arthur Provan, 7 Corbie Place Milngavie 61
17.01.06 Mrs Elizabeth Welch, Edinbarnet House, Cochno Road

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Our services will be at the usual times of 11 am and 7 pm throughout the month of February.

On 5 February the Sacrament of Baptism will be administered and members of the SU Action Group will take part.

On February 12 the annual Presbytery Exchange will take place with Rev Elizabeth Houston leading the worship in St Paul's and our own minister leading the worship in her church, Alexandria Parish Church.

Our annual Bible Sunday is on February 26 and we are delighted that Rev Doug Campbell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society, will be preaching at the morning service

World Mission Diary for February

The ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches is taking place in Porte Alegre , Brazil from Tuesday the 14th. Feb. until Thursday 23rd. Feb.. There will be over 700 delegates from 340 churches attending. They will work through programme of prayer, Bible study, plenary sessions .hearings and closely - thought committee work. The theme of the Assembly will be "God in your grace transform the World"

The representatives from the Church of Scotland will be Sheilagh Kestery, Ecumenical secretary, Norman Shanks, as a member on the retiring central Committee, of WCC, Paul Cleland ,a youth worker with Christian Aid, Glasgow and Graham MacGeoch who is based in Brazil.

Let us remember the Assembly in our prayers this month. praying for the people who are engaged in the preparatory work. praying that the Bible study and worship will inspire the delegates and that in the work in the committees there may be a thoughtful input and gracious hearing. We would pray for the health and well- being of all the delegates.

Dear Friends,

May I thank you all for kindness in visiting me and for flowers and gifts given over these past months whilst I was ill. I am now settled in Buchanan House, Baljaffray, and appreciate your continued visits, prayers and good wishes. I am able to get out occasionally in the mini-bus, & when I am back on my feet again, I hope to see you all in Church one Sunday morning.

Jean Sinclair

With love from Jean Sinclair

Finance Report

General Fund (31.12.2005)

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Congregational Board to thank all our members for their contributions throughout the year that resulted in a surplus compared with a deficit the previous year. You will get the full details in the Annual Accounts that are at the Audit stage at this time. In the year ahead there is going to be a substantial increase in the cost of Electricity and Gas supplies, possibly in the region of 100%. Our present Contract will protect from the increases until 31st march 2006. I would ask you at this time as you review your giving to the Church to be mindful of this.

Treasures Auction & Gift Day – 31st March 2006

On behalf of the Congregational Board, I thank the Centenary Committee for organising this event targeted to reduce our Loan with all the monies realised. We have only made one repayment of the Loan plus interest so far and the amount outstanding is £108000. This, as far as I know, is the only appeal to the Congregation for the Centenary Celebrations and I will attend on the day if anyone wishes to make a donation in lieu of a treasure.

Angus Maclean

Congregational Treasurer

Church Visitors and W.F.O. Envelopes - Advance Notice

The new W.F.O. envelopes for the coming year will be available at the back of the Church on Sunday 5th March and the W.F.O treasurer would be grateful if the Church Visitors, as in previous years, would deliver them along with Life.

‘LIFE and WORK’ SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions for ‘Life and Work’ for 2006 are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £15.60 – a reduction of 30 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the end of March, if possible.

THE GUILD

Our new season began on the 9th. January with Dorothy Dobson music and exercises led by Helen Robertson. Everyone enjoyed the night very much. The following week we had a talk on 'Life after St. Paul's' by the Rev. Kenneth McDonald. It was nice to welcome him back. On the 23rd. January the community policeman, Andrew Smith gave us the benefit of his advice on home security. Our Home Night is on 30th. of January when we look forward to a selection of Scottish music and dancing. On the following weeks, 6th. February sees a visit from Douglas Annan, giving a talk on old Glasgow, and a Bible study with Rev. Fergus Buchanan on the 13th. We welcome you to join us on any of these evenings.

BRIGADE BLEATHERS

January 2006 and still blethering on ! We have only met once since Christmas and that was our annual outing to see Cinderella in the King's Theatre. We had a super night but it all proved a bit much for some of the Explorers and they fell asleep on the bus home !

The next item on the Brigade agenda is our Jumble Sale/ Coffee Morning. Since it is on Saturday 4 February it will be all over by the time you read this and who knows - we may have *retrieved* a valuable antique for the St Paul's Auction in March! Meantime badge-work goes on and we are beginning to give serious thought to our Display items. The month of May seems a long way off at the moment but it will be here *before* we know it. But it is only January so I'll see you next month. Yours, Anne
Good let

Many Thanks from the Centenary Heritage Appeal

We would like to thank the members of the congregation who so kindly contributed to our appeal. A good number of interesting and exciting materials arrived so far. They grant us a unique insight into the life and activity of our church in the last one hundred years. In the same time we are still looking forward to some further items that might be stuck in the loft or a box somewhere so the picture we might gain of this particular century of the church would be even more complete. Heritage Appeal leaflets can be found at the back of the church. We intend to have a series of displays in the course of the year that all who are interested might become more familiar with the rich past of the congregation. We firmly believe that such an encounter can be inspirational for the future. For ten months beginning with February we will focus on this loaded century. Each month we will look at a decade of the period: in February we shall have the years 1906-1915; in March 1916-1925, etc. on display. In December we plan to have a grand display when all the materials will be brought together. The displays will be exhibited in the Large Hall on Sundays, throughout the week they can be attended in the church itself during office hours. Thank you again for your valuable contribution.

From the Centenary Heritage Appeal Coordinators

COFFEE and MINCE PIES

As reported in January 'Life' £424 was raised at this event Thank you again to everyone who supported it.

The following letter of thanks has been received from the Disabled Trust for Scotland. Liz Traill and Frances Ireland.

Dear Miss Ireland

12 January 2006

The Disabled Trust For Scotland would like to thank you and your congregation for your very kind donation of £424. The trust is self-funded so it relies on the generosity of people like yourself to help us raise funds. Your donation will go towards buying more equipment like wheelchairs and commodes.

Once again thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely

Louise Phillips Administrator

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is on Sunday 26th February. This gives us an opportunity to think again about the importance and place of Scripture in the church, home and heart.

This year we hope to have the Rev. Doug Campbell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society with us. There will be an opportunity to give to the work of the Society, the focus this year being on the children of Romania. It is hoped to support the work of the local Bible Society in that country in its Bible distribution ministry among young people. £10 will provide 3 Romanian orphans with Children's Bibles or give 10 youngsters with AIDS a special scripture booklet offering hope.

Grace Rogerson

St Paul's Church Society – Annual General Meeting

Saturday February 25th February 2005 at 10.00am – Centenary Room

The St Paul's Society was inaugurated for the purpose of enhancing the beauty of St Paul's Sanctuary as a place of public worship and private devotion.

Membership involves one Meeting per year. A Spring/Summer Annual Outing is arranged to visit other Churches of Historical & Spiritual interest, plus a further afternoon/evening outing in Autumn/Winter.

This year's Annual General Meeting will discuss among other items the direction and allocation of funds with regard to Project 2006.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 25th February, with Tea/Coffee, etc. served in the Large Hall on arrival. The Committee assures new Members of a very warm welcome, and looks forward to greeting existing Members.

Iris T. Torbet

Secretary/Treasurer

BOOK CLUB

Our first meeting of the New Year took place recently when we discussed *The Last Legion* by Valerio Massimo Manfredi. This book is about the last days of the Roman Empire. The general opinion was that it was an easy read, sheer escapism and great for holidays and airport lounges!

Our next book is *The Hour before Dawn* by Sara Macdonald and we are meeting to discuss it on Tuesday 21 February at 8pm. If you have been thinking about joining us at the start of our session we would be really pleased to see you. Try the book and come and tell us what you think. New members are always welcome and good chat and coffee is always guaranteed. Please phone Helen at the Church Office for the venue.

JOYCE CLARK

ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

The trip to Montreux is cancelled owing to lack of support.

A further trip is being organised by Anne Ritchie on the hotel-ship MS Viking Burgundy on the Rhone and Saone rivers in France. The tariff is approximately 50% less than normal. The dates are 5th-12th November, 2006.

Journey along the rivers, explore the famous vineyards of Burgundy, the lovely scenery of the Ardeche region and the hills and towns of Provence. Visit a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites and discover Roman buildings in Vienne and Arles.

Details are available at the back of the church and from Helen in the church office.

FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY 17th FEBRUARY. No deposit required at present.

Below is a letter received by Milngavie Christian Aid Committee

Christian Aid

Dear Mr Campbell

Many thanks for your kind donation of £600.00 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your gift will help support our work in more than 50 of the worlds poorest countries.

One such country is Tajikistan which suffered a devastating civil war which killed almost 50,000 people and left many displaced. Tajikistan is the poorest of the central Asian republics and one of the poorest countries in the world.

Our partner Ghamkhori, which in Persian means 'care', has been working since 1996 in one of the poorest regions in Tajikistan. They aim to help the most vulnerable sectors of the population. They founded a women's centre in 2000 and they also work with neighbourhood communities. Ghamkhori offers workshops and training to help communities to identify problems and to self govern.

Christian Aid believes in strengthening people to find their own solutions to the problems they face. We do whatever is needed to support poor people and their communities, whether it's speaking out against the causes of poverty or funding vital work on the ground. The generosity of our supporters means we are currently able to support over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference.

Yours Sincerely

Angela Gorman (National office Administrator, Edinburgh)

I would like to thank St. Paul's - ministers and members of the congregation for my Christmas gift and also for the church calendar for 2006. It is so good to be remembered.

Joan McKenna (Whitefield Lodge)

Beyond belief

life in the west bank

Beyond Belief is a sensitive, reflective, multi media road show written and produced by singer songwriter Martin John Nicholls and performed by Martin and a team of volunteers. This breathtaking experience tells the real life stories of ordinary, peace loving people living in extraordinary circumstances

- > Inspiring personal stories
- > powerful Images
- > moving music
- > thoughtful original songs

Come and share In the hopes and struggles of those living under military occupation with the threat of violence In the land we dare to call holy.

**For 1 night only: Wednesday 15th February at 7.30
pm Bearsden Baptist Church, 14
Roman Rd, Bearsden**

Tickets £5.00 available from Christian Aid-phone 0141 221 7475
Glasgow@christian-aid.org Or
Bearsden South Church Office 0141 042 0507

Christlan Aid Scotland

Japan Jottings

Dear Friends

You may have seen on the news pictures of some rather heavy snow in different parts of Japan. Thankfully we are not in the worst affected areas, but so far this year Otaru has had plenty snow (about 3 metres) and we are still only half way through the winter. It's amazing what they do to keep things moving and life goes on, albeit at a slightly slower pace.

The boys are now back to school and Calum will be back at kindergarten by the time you read this. David has just been with Matthew to his latest karate exam. It's quite an event as the kids do their stuff in front of the examiners – all very ordered and controlled with due respect for ceremony and everyone by and large doing exactly the same routine for their level. In many ways that broadly reflects Japanese society which so often manifests orderliness, respect and conformity among the people. So often we are reminded of just how difficult it is to be a Christian here – the pressures to conform and not to be different are very real. As the proverb says, 'the nail that sticks out must be hammered down'.

We face many challenges in Otaru which is a very traditional town with many temples, shrines, Shinto festivals and customs. Please pray on for us and the believers in the church here as we seek to bring the gospel message to the people of Otaru.

Thank you for the support gift we received from the church at the end of last year. As always we greatly appreciate your love and care for us in this way.

*May you know God's leading in the coming year
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*



FLOWER ROTAS- FEBRUARY

DONATIONS

Mrs.Clark Mrs. Weirham
Mrs. T. Hamilton Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Morrison,Knagg, Adair,
Pirie, Mrs. E. Farmer,
Mrs.J. Ferguson

DELIVERIES

Feb.5th. Mrs. J. Clark Mrs. M. Taggart
Feb 12th. Mrs. S. Anderson Mrs. K. Edwards
Feb 19th Mrs. M Conway Mrs. M. McPherson
Feb 26th. Mrs. A Galloway Mrs. J. Townson
Mar.5th Mrs. M. McIntyre Mrs. M. Spencer



CRECHE ROTA- FEBRUARY

5 Feb Martin, Kerr, Moffatt
12 Feb Wilson, Baxter, MacKinnon
19 Feb Reid, Bolton, J Deuchar
26 Feb Hughes, Sillars, MacAulay
5 Mar Lawrie, K Deuchar, Chapman

TRAIIDCRAFT

Feb 5th Chris Mackay Rosemary Fraser
Feb 12th. Shirley Dunlop Linda Cowie
Feb 19th. Buntly Barr Hilary Reid
Feb 26th. Betty Watson Margaret Conway
March 5th. Morag Thomson Marilyn Ure

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for the MARCH issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by 16TH.FEBRUARY *. Editor- Morag Thomson, 36, Roselea Drive (956-2801) e mail mthomson@beeb.net

* Please note that this date is earlier than usual.