



St Paul's Milngavie

Life Magazine
December 2008

Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's

Saturday 6 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 7 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 11 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 13 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 14 December	11.00am	Gift Service
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Monday 15 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Thursday 18 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 20 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 21 December	11.00am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism followed by Coffee & Mince Pies
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Wednesday 24 December	4.30pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Thursday 25 December	11.00pm	Christmas Morning Celebrations (St. Paul's Parish Church)
Sunday 28 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship

Dear Friends,

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This is a terrible thing to confess but I recently discovered a DVD collection that one of the family gave me last year for Christmas and not only has it not been watched but the cellophane wrapper has not been removed. The strange thing is that it is a complete series of *Frasier* which is one of my favourite TV programmes.

This is a bit like the Christmas experience for many of us. It is never fully unwrapped to the extent that it makes a difference to our lives. We attend the services, hear the story, sing the carols, perhaps even make some resolutions for the coming year about our Christian service. Then it is all behind us and many of the insights gained and lessons learned are forgotten. Christmas is still essentially unwrapped.

What is needed is a deeper experience of the story. Have we fully realised what happened when Jesus was born 2,000 years ago? This was not just the beginning of life for a great man who was to influence the course of history. This was God in human form who had come to remove the barrier of sin that existed between God and humankind, to give humankind the hope that renewal is possible in this life, and to assure humankind that death opens up the way to eternal life in the presence of the Eternal Father.

Cut through the sentiment, commercialism and mythology that clings to Christmas and these are the monumental truths that confront us in Christ. They have the power to change lives but they need to be unwrapped. I would like you to pray that this is what will happen in St Paul's this Christmas. In our Advent, family and carol services the truth of Christ must be made known so that deeper insight might be gained and faith awakened in some lives for the first time.

Mary can be our model. Luke describes her response to all the events of the first Christmas: 'Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.' (Luke 2: 19) It is obvious that her experiences would never remain unwrapped.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas,

Wishing you God's Peace,

John Z. B...

Dewdrops

The season of Advent will be celebrated in December with four weekly special editions of dewdrops.

- On 7th December. The Joy of God
- On 14th December The joy of Jesus
- On 21st Dec Joy to the world.
- On 28th Dec The Joy of a New Year.

A prayer for times of conflict

God of peace, you forget no one.
Be gracious to the people of Congo and bless them.
May we who have been given so much, strengthen our resolve to work and pray for reconciliation
in all parts of the world bloodied by war.
Give us the grace to watch with those who weep
and the endurance to stand with those who wait for a safe return home.
Work through us to hold all suffering people in the palm of your hand
and to heal your broken world.
So roads scarred by the suffering of your people,
are made into perfected paths to peace.
Amen.

(Christian Aid/Kate Tuckett)

Milngavie churches
Prayer Breakfasts

- 6 Dec St Paul's
- 7 Feb St Andrew's

Zimbabwean Christians vow prayer offensive until crisis ends

Zimbabwean Christians have vowed to press on with weekly prayer vigils "until something happens" after efforts at forming a unity government to resolve the country's economic and political crisis faltered. About 300 worshippers, some of them carrying giant placards, gathered during the time of Sunday services on 16th November in a parking lot adjacent to the venue of failed talks to end tensions between long-ruling Robert Mugabe and his political rivals Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara.

"People are dying because our hospitals, social and physical infrastructure are collapsing," said Elliot Mandaza, a spokesperson for the church groups told journalists. "We are monitoring the situation. If there is progress we will gather again to give thanks. If there is no progress we will gather and continue to pray and petition political our leaders."

May we also pray for this situation earnestly hoping for a positive outcome.



Dear Friends,

Just like here, Christmas decorations are beginning to appear in Japan. In recent years it has become something of a trend to have lights around or outside houses – when we first went to Japan ten years ago, rarely did we see any Christmas lights. For many people, the highlight of Christmas is the cake which is eaten on the 24th – nothing like the cake we would have here though! The 24th is also the time for young couples to have a romantic night out on the town. And the 25th – well, that’s just another working day.

Many Japanese would enjoy this time of year but most are really looking forward to the New Year which is the main holiday with special meals. It’s also a time of year when around two-thirds of the population (some 80 million people!) will make their way to a Shinto shrine to offer ‘prayers’ for the year to come. Many are seeking but sadly looking for answers in the wrong place.

Yet, as it is here, Christmas is a great opportunity for presenting the gospel and throughout the churches in Japan there will be special concerts, outreach events for children, and many other occasions where the message of Jesus can be shared with Japanese people. Last year, a young man arrived at our church with his girlfriend on Christmas Eve (just as a special service was ending!) and we were able to chat with him and share something of what Christmas is all about.

Why did he come? Because some 15 years earlier when the church had just started he’d attended an English class there and felt drawn back at Christmas time. God is at work through our conversations, through friendship shown, through English classes or whatever it is we do to engage with people. And he is drawing people to himself.

Please pray with us that many in Japan would not only find their way to a church this month – but would take one step nearer finding the Saviour.

With our love and thanks. for all your support this year
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

As you might expect the Minister took many photographs on his Negev Cycle ride. There has already been a presentation to the Kirk Session but if you would like to see the photographs and hear something of the experience of cycling in the desert there will be opportunities on **Saturday 10th January, 2009** at 10.30am in the Large Hall and **Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm** in the Jubilee Hall.

Tea and Coffee will be served at both meetings.

Mr Buchanan has been overwhelmed with the level of financial support which will be greatly appreciated by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society in their efforts to support the Nazareth Hospital. To date a figure in the region of £10,000 has been raised.

Negev Cycle Ride





If anyone feels like following in the minister's tyre tracks(!), next year's cycle challenge is in Malawi, "the warm heart of Africa."

This bike ride offers unique scenery, rare wildlife and stunning valleys. The national parks are attractive places for wildlife and game viewing in the most unspoilt of settings, safe from the tarred roads and convoys of tourists. Large parts of Malawi exist as they have done for centuries untouched by the western world. Find out more at www.emms.org/events

Book Club



We have been reading the Grass Arena by John Healy.

This book was by no means an easy read; dealing with life on the streets of London 20 years ago when begging was still a crime. In his autobiography John Healy guides us through his teenage years when he was physically abused by his father, overwhelmed by alcoholism and isolated on the edge of society. On into the army and the boxing ring, and now dependent on alcohol, he finds himself on the streets where the law is enforced with the boot and the knife.

The language of the book is the language of the streets. Although the book itself is well written and descriptive the author does tend to repeat himself while telling the story which is understandable given the seemingly never-ending cycle of drinking and violence. While he is in prison he learns to play chess, he becomes a tournament champion, plays grand masters and the reader hopes that perhaps he has at last broken the cycle of addiction. The group did feel however that he had swapped one addiction for another as chess was not in itself the answer to his problems.

Ultimately the book offered no real hope and was a bit depressing as his aptitude for chess made no real change to his life. A challenging book telling us of another world of which we thankfully have little or no knowledge.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 January 2009 @ the usual time of 7.45pm when we will be reading Dark Enchantment by Roland Vernon. Please phone Helen as usual for the venue. Why not make a New Year's resolution to join us in 2009?

Joyce Clarke



*Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath
shined the light of knowledge upon
the world; for thereby they that
worshipped the stars were instructed
by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of
Righteousness, and to know Thee,
the Dayspring from on high. O Lord,
glory be to Thee.
Dismissal Hymn of Nativity*

Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

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A special welcome is extended to all members of the Church Family of whatever age, their families, neighbours and friends to join us for this popular short service of favourite Christmas Carols held in the Church on **Christmas Eve**.

Come and view the magnificent tree and enjoy seasonal refreshments and fellowship after the service in the hall.

Sunday Club Party 13th December

A party will be held for the Beginners and Seekers on **Saturday 13th December** from 2.00 p.m. till 4.00pm.. All children in these groups will be very welcome; please contact the teachers, if you have not done so already so that they know numbers for catering.

We have decided not to have a party for the Adventurers this year but instead will have a special event in the New Year

Coffee & Mince Pies



The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on **Sunday 21st December**. This year the proceeds will be donated to The Way Ahead Group - a Stroke Club which caters for people from Bearsden, Milngavie and the West End of Glasgow. Do come and join us for festive fair and fellowship.

The Club meets once a week in Killermont Parish Church and gives members the opportunity for social contact and some outings. Two physiotherapists give exercises and also some one-to-one treatment. People who have had a stroke often feel isolated and coming to the Club helps patients to gain confidence and also gives their carers some time to themselves.

As usual donations of mince pies and shortbread will be very welcome.

Frances Ireland and Liz Traill

Flower Donations - November

Please send all donations for Church flowers to Mrs Wilma Douglas,
34 Braeside Avenue. Tel 956 2630

Donations for December: Mrs R Douglas, Mrs M Mackay,
Sunday Club.



We are well into our stride now and this session is whizzing past. As I write it is only about three weeks to our Christmas parties. However we still have a lot to do before we break up for Christmas.

As usual we are collecting presents for needy young folk in Glasgow and the girls have to make cards to pop inside the bags. The Juniors will be making Christmas table decorations as well. Four of the Brigaders have agreed to decorate one of the Christmas trees for the festival in the Church so look out for our creation!

Then we plan to take our Explorers to see Santa in his grotto round the beginning of December (need to go early before he gets too busy.)

Our second hand book stall is doing well during morning coffee each Sunday. We had to miss it because of two church parades and it was nice to hear that folk had been looking for us. So far I have banked £138 which is great – so keep on buying folks, we are here till the end of the session in May.

We are beginning to get excited about our fundraising quiz for the Kimo Project and I have it on good report that some folk are actually swotting!

Me, I'll stick to pouring the tea.
See you next month,
Anne Goodlet.

Church Christmas Tree

On Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm the usual volunteers are required to assist in erecting the church tree, decorating it and the sanctuary.

For a long number of years an anonymous donor provided the funds for the tree which is installed at the front of the church but unfortunately this donor has died and I wonder if there would be anyone interested in providing funds to enable us to continue with this kind of tree.

The cost should not exceed £100.

Please speak with me or the minister on a confidential basis.



Brian Adair
956 3070.

Thank you

A big thank you to all the kind people who gave me wool (as per appeal in last month's mag). It is much appreciated.

I am always looking for wool so if you come across any please pass it on.

Margaret Maclean

956 4971

Thank you

I wish to thank everyone who visited with (or without) flowers very much, and those who sent letters and cards with kind words regarding Tom and myself, with the deepest gratitude. I thank particularly Fergus and Ken for their kindness and prayers during Tom's illness and beyond. Also the Boyd family and the MacRitchies for their kindness.

I wish all a happy Christmas and look forward to joining you again in St Paul's soon.

Margaret Hamilton.

Thank you

Thank you so much to everyone for the cards, flowers, goodwill wishes and prayers following my son Michael's accident/incident a few weeks ago and then again for my sudden spell in hospital. We are both now very well.

Thanks.

Glenys Ritchie x



Behold the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son.

They shall call his name Immanuel;" which is, being interpreted, "God with us."

The Commission 09

Scotland's Day of Challenge and Encouragement for Men will be held on Saturday 7th February 2009 in the Strathclyde Suite, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall from 10am – 4pm.

The speakers are Steve Brady and Tommy MacNeil with Stuart Townend leading the worship. Cost £20 includes teas/coffees but NOT lunch.

For more information visit www.thecommission.org.uk or contact Graham Mill. This event comes highly recommended by those who have been in previous years. Note the date in your new diary now.

Why not invite others to join you and go as a group?



23-25th January at
MacDonald
Aviemore
Highland Resort

Deep Impact is a training event for Christians involved in youth work, whether as volunteers or paid employees in whatever capacity. It provides both practical and Biblical input from skilled practitioners to equip you with the knowledge, skills and connections that will enable you to reach young people in Scotland with the love of Christ.

If you are interested in finding out more, log on to www.deep-impact.org.uk or go to the Scottish Bible Society website and download the booking form.

Weekend rate is £130
Day rate £65 including meals

Hogmanay at the Cathedral

Following the success of last year's service HOPE alba, the new name of HOPE 2008, are holding a service of worship and praise in Glasgow Cathedral on 31st December starting at 11pm. Help launch the second year of building communities and bringing hope to Scotland in 2009. ALL WELCOME.

Prior to the service teams will distribute bottles of water to those who party in the City Centre.

Your prayers and support are requested for the challenges of the New Year.

More information on the HOPE alba initiative and the above events from the web-site www.hope08scotland.org.uk

Scottish Bible Society



On the very wet morning of Saturday 25th October 19 walkers from 5 churches in Milngavie and Bearsden assembled at Mugdock Country Park Visitor Centre to take part in the 'Walk for the Word'. After an initial, "shall we go or not" everyone decided, despite the weather, to head off for the 6 mile round trip to Carbeth and back. After the heavy rain earlier in the week the going was very wet but not as muddy (except in a few places) as we had feared. Anyway, it is amazing how quickly the time passes when one is walking in good company and it didn't seem **too** long before we were back at the Visitor Centre rather damp but pleased that we had completed the circuit.

At the time of writing the total raised is not to hand, but thanks are due to everyone who supported the walk, either by sponsorship or by taking part.

Frances Ireland & Grace Rogerson.

Koffee and Kake for Kimo

A very large THANK YOU to the ladies of St. Paul's and friends, who came for Koffee and Kake for Kimo. Donations amount to £431 with more to come from Gift Aid, and one more coffee morning to which I have invited (bullied) a few of my ex-colleagues.

Mary Wood

The Guild

We are well into the first half of our session and have enjoyed the various topics from our speakers so far. At the beginning of November Issy Sanderson showed slides and spoke of Cloths of Heaven. She is a voluntary overseas worker and teaches sewing, knitting, crochet etc.

Lorna Ferguson showed slides of Japan and gave an interesting and amusing talk. We are looking forward to talks on Jane Austen and Music in Hospitals.

December 1st is our allocation of funds evening followed by a bring and buy sale and talk by Anne Goodlet. Our Christmas meal is on 8th December with entertainment following.

We re-commence on Monday 5th January when we are having a talk on the King's Theatre by Mrs Anne Harvey.

12th January is Preshal Trust by May Nicholson,

19th Visit to Peru by Eleanor Easton,

26th Scottish Night with Hector Cruickshank and friend(s).

Before then we wish all members a happy Christmas.

Isabel Lyle

We were very encouraged by the success of the ceilidh in Milngavie Town Hall in November; a large number of people outwith the St. Paul's family was present, and everyone showed real interest in and enthusiasm for the Project. We made a superb total of £2,374 and are very grateful to everyone who supported the evening.

The calendar is continuing to sell well but if you need any more copies you should still be able to buy them. It's a bargain at £6 and would make a splendid little extra present for someone at home or abroad.

The next event is due to start on Wednesday 3rd December so, in fact, it will be almost over when most people read this magazine. It is our Christmas Tree Festival, when 32 decorated Christmas trees will adorn the Church. These will be contributed by all the churches and schools in Milngavie, by organisations within St. Paul's and also by various other groups in the community. While visitors are looking at the trees they will be entertained by a wide range of musicians, and tea and coffee will also be available. We are not charging an entry fee but hope that visitors will make a donation towards the Kimo Peru Project.



The festival will run from Wednesday 3rd December till Tuesday 9th, from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. each day except Sunday when it will start at 1.00 p.m. after the Morning Service. We are looking forward eagerly to this new venture and hope that everyone in the Church will be able to support it.

We also must mention one member of the congregation who has been doing her own bit for the Project – Mary Wood has invited friends and neighbours for coffee on five mornings, and has discovered that they, too, give generously! Is this something that other members of the congregation could also do?!

A last request is for boys of all ages, and parents, to rummage in their wardrobes for football strips which might have been outgrown. Instead of giving these to a charity shop could you please give them to us and we will take them for the boys in the S.U. homes when we go to Peru in the summer.

They will be thrilled! Thank you in anticipation!

Eleanor Easton

International Christian College

The spring series of Monday classes runs from 19th January to 23rd February 2009 in the College at 110 St James Road, Glasgow (near Glasgow Cathedral).

The sessions are:-

10:15 – 11:15am

Issues facing Evangelicalism Today

Rev Dr Geoff Grogan Principal Emeritus, ICC

12:00 – 1:00pm

Insights from the Minor Prophets

Elizabeth Clark, Associate Lecturer, ICC

7:30 – 9:00pm

Leading Small Groups

Graeme McMeekin, Lecturer in Youth Work, ICC

OR

Using the Bible with Children

Vicki Shaver, Lecturer in Children's Ministry, ICC

Coffee is available from 9.50am.

Between the morning classes there is a chance to join the college students for morning worship and also to have coffee or tea.

Lunch is available from the student canteen from 1pm.

For further information or to enrol contact the college

Tel 0141 552 4040

email Sandra.Mcsporrان@icc.ac.uk

Lodging House Mission

- New from the LHM is a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting activities and forthcoming events. This month you can read about the Homeless World Cup, an international football tournament founded in 2001. Scotland won this year, beating Poland 9 goals to 3. A copy of the newsletter is on the table at the back of the church.

- The Christmas carol service will be on **Thursday 18th December** at 2pm. I hope to attend and have three spare seats in my car if anyone would like to join me.

- Christmas shoe boxes will be welcomed again this year: toiletries, socks, chocolates etc. Please bear in mind most recipients are men.

- Christmas cards are for sale at the back of the church and in the large hall.

Ann Begg

Congregational rep to the LHM

Church Register

NEW MEMBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mrs Edna Campbell, 38 Homebrae House 3a

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Peter Robertson, 34, Glasgow Road, now 55

Lillyburn Nursing Home, Milton of Campsie

Mrs Margaret Fraser, 27 Burnside Court, Bearsden 38

34 Drymen Road, Bearsden G61 2RG 69

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

31.10.08 Mrs Muriel Robertson, Canniesburn Care Home 55

24.10.08 Mr Ian McColl, Canniesburn Nursing Home 53

18.11.08 Mr Allan Nimmo, 46 Dougalston Gardens South 54

Copy date for January issue is 14th Dec if using church pigeon hole or Fri 19th Dec if emailing to rona.dawson@go.uk.com Posted articles to 123 Garscadden Rd, Old Drumchapel, G15 6UQ please. 0141 944 4198

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
7 Dec	M Thomson E Izatt	Berry, Baxter, Chapman	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Gordon Hamilton
14 Dec	A Gibson A McLeod	Smith, Wilson, McAuley	B Barr H Reid	Team 6 Robin Easton (EC)
21 Dec	M Abbott T Douglas	Reid, Bolton, J Deuchar	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Marjory Kennedy
28 Dec	L Hughes R Buchanan	Lawrie, Sillars, K Deuchar	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Ann Begg
4 Jan	M McLean R Cameron	Goodlet, Bates, Cockburn	A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Helen Arnold