



St Paul's Milngavie

Life Magazine
January 2009

Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

Robert Murray McCheyne was a Church of Scotland minister in the 19th century. He devised a Bible reading scheme which in the course of a year would take a reader through the Old Testament once and the Psalms and the New Testament twice. It is quite a commitment for anyone to undertake since it involves at least four chapters every day but for anyone who is keen to leave no part of the Bible untouched it is a useful discipline.

The readings for the first day of the year are chapters 1 of Genesis, Matthew, Ezra and Acts. All of these speak of new beginnings: Creation itself, the life and ministry of Jesus, the rebuilding of the Temple after the exile and the birth of Christian mission. It is a reminder to us that our God is a God of new beginnings and that His power is able to revitalise even those things that appear to be beyond all hope.

This is an important truth to carry with us into a new year besieged as we are with dire prophecies concerning the future of the planet, fears concerning humankind's continuing slide into barbarism and despair at the Church's relentless decline – in the West at least. We worship a God of new beginnings who by His grace and in His power can turn around even the most hopeless circumstances.

There is one more important thing, however. If we are to be committed to prayer for renewal then we have to be prepared to be part of the answer. Let the transformation begin with us.

Having left predicted gales and rain behind in Scotland, we eventually arrived in Prague in glorious autumn sunshine. Our only responsibility had been to report to Milngavie railway station after which we then left it all to Anne. It was Saturday afternoon and Prague was very crowded, but we enjoyed our lunch and stroll by Charles Bridge and through the old town with our excellent guide.

Owing to lack of water (an unbelievable thought for this summer) we were taken by coach to Dresden to embark on our ship, the Frederic Chopin, where we enjoyed culinary delights at every meal. Moored only a ten minute walk from the centre of Dresden, we explored the beautiful city centre and marvelled at the treasures of the Green Vault. The more active also enjoyed the walk which linked three of the castles high up in the hills overlooking the Elbe.



One of our favourite places was Meissen, the porcelain town, which has a lovely market place with specialist shops where we certainly helped the local economy. A small group of us enjoyed an informal tasting of local wines in attractive surroundings, much to the delight of the shop owner.



As we headed for Wittenberg, we occasionally heard ominous sounds as the ship scraped the river bed! Wittenberg of course is the town where Martin Luther lived and worked. A superb guide brought Luther to life for us. Here was a man who wanted to reform his church. He made his famous protest against the sale of indulgences by pinning the 95 theses on the church door and was excommunicated by Pope Leo X when he would not retract. He was gifted part of an Augustinian monastery by the Elector where he lived with his wife, Katharina von Bora, and family. His enlightened attitude towards his wife and women in general surprised us. He continued with his main work, the translation of the Bible from Latin to make it more accessible to the people. A close friend of Luther's was the painter Cranach the Elder whose house and studio we also saw.





Luther pins his theses to the church door in Wittenburg

From Wittenberg we sailed to Magdeburg. Every school child in Scotland knows about the Magdeburg hemispheres (*for the ignorant among us see next page – ed*) but that was the best kept secret there.

From there we took a right hand turn into the Havel Canal through an amazing set of locks from where it was a gentle sail to Potsdam. Our visit to Postdam was a huge bonus to compensate for the missed sail before Dresden. Our tour took us to the Dutch and Russian quarters and the Glienicke Bridge, where spies were exchanged between the American and Russian sectors.

Our main destination was Sans Souci, the summer palace of Frederick the Great, where we had an excellent guided tour. Some of the party wished to visit the Cecilienhof where the Potsdam Treaty was signed. This we viewed from the outside as it is now a luxury hotel.

As we sailed, we passed miles of rolling wooded landscapes with very little sign of habitation. These glimpses of the former East Germany with its memorable cities and towns added greatly to our enjoyment of the trip.

On the last night of the cruise we enjoyed a lovely concert before our gala dinner of ten courses, all very light. The next morning we took our coach to Berlin from where it was a quick hop directly across to Glasgow.

Were there no hitches? Of course there were! Anne had to deal with a change of ship and docking place the day before departure. Lack of water in the river led to a few itinerary changes. A member of our group broke her arm at Prague airport – thank goodness there was a doctor on board! In spite of these problems, the holiday was voted a great success. Even the organiser enjoyed it. The friendliness of the staff on board was a huge bonus and the fellowship within our group was heartwarming. It was a wonderful holiday and we are all grateful to Anne for her planning and careful preparation.

(Written by various group members)



The Magdeburg hemispheres were designed by German scientist Otto von Guericke in 1650 to demonstrate the air pump he had invented and the concept of air pressure. The hemispheres, about 20 inches in diameter, consisted of a pair of large copper hemispheres with mating rims. When the rims were sealed with grease and the air was pumped out, the sphere contained a vacuum.

One of them had a tube connection to attach the pump, with a valve to close it off. When the air was sucked out from inside the hemispheres, and the valve closed, they were held firmly together by the air pressure of the surrounding atmosphere. Von Guericke's demonstration was performed on 8th May 1654 in front of the Reichstag and Emperor Ferdinand III in Regensburg. Thirty horses, in two teams of 15, could not separate the hemispheres until the vacuum was released.

Anniversaries issue

John Calvin – 500

Harry Reid explodes some of the myths surrounding the great reformer.

Robert Burns – 250

Donald Smith takes a fresh look at Robert Burns. Ron Ferguson and Jim Simpson assess his attitude to religion.

Scottish Bible Society – 200

Fiona Stewart traces the society's history. PLUS – Parables for Today, £500 short story competition.

Glasgow Lodging House Mission – 100

Jackie Macadam on the work of the Mission.

The Cross and the Crescent

Jackie Macadam meets Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, a convert from Islam to Christianity and expert in Christian-Islamic relations.

Mercy Mission

A Scottish doctor who works for Mercy Ships.

A New Song

The Moderator looks forward to a new year and reflects on the blessings of the old.

Buildings and belief

John Hume introduces a new series on the Kirk's historic places of worship.

Plus – Our Presbyteries focuses on Angus, all the regular columnists, news, letters, book reviews and crosswords



1st/2nd Milngavie Company, the Boys' Brigade

The first term of the session drew to a close for the Company Section on Friday 12th December. For the first part of the evening, the Section attended the Milngavie Churches' Carol Service with the Salvation Army in St Luke's Church. One of the Boys, Gordon Maclean, delivered the first reading.

After the service, the boys retired to the Hall for a short prizegiving during which they were presented with the Interest and Physical badges that they had been working towards during the term. The Interests activities were Bible Knowledge (the boys had studied a series of parables) and Drill. The boys had participated in a wide range of physical activities, including: unihock, boxercise, rocketball, football, sumo wrestling and circuit training. In addition, they had taken part in the national badminton and table tennis competitions and the battalion five-a-side football.

A new Squad Challenge Trophy was presented for the first time to the Squad with the highest number of points in the weekly uniform inspections. A special prize was awarded to Matthew Ferguson - the only boy to have scored 100% for his uniform. The evening concluded with the promotion of Andrew Muirhead to the rank of Lance Corporal.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section finished for the term with their Christmas Parties. They have also been busy during the past few months. The Junior Section participated in the Battalion Swimming Gala and undertook their Sponsored Walk from Milngavie to Carbeth. We are grateful to the Junior Section for decorating The Boys' Brigade Christmas Tree for the Kimo Peru Project.

The 1st/2nd Milngavie Company is attached to St Paul's and other Milngavie Churches. It meets in St Luke's Church Hall on the following evenings:
Monday - Anchor Boys (P2-P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6) and
Friday - Company Section (P7-S6).

For further information contact Euan McKay (956-6125).





The winning BB squad with the newly presented Squad Challenge Trophy

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.

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

We seem to have done so many things over the last month that I think I should just list the details !

1. 27th Nov. THE QUIZ : We had an excellent turn-out of teams from St Paul's and it was great to see 1st Milngavie Guides come along to have a go. Brigade is really grateful to Neil Rankine, the quizmaster who kept the whole thing rolling along with Colin Sinclair and Neil Rollings keeping the score. The winning team was The Bible Class so well done Sheila Harrison, Douglas Martin, Sheila Robertson and Hilary, Rachel and Robert Rutherford. We managed to raise £207 for the Peru Project and Folks enjoyed it so much that we have been asked to organise a return match next year. So start mugging up on your general knowledge now to beat the St Paul's Eggheads.

2. GIFTS for the "Open Doors" families. A big thank you to all the parents who filled about 40 gift bags for needy young folk in Glasgow.

3. CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Three of our Brigaders, Alison, Alanna and Lily, came along to decorate the Brigade Advent Tree then the whole company trooped through the church on the Thursday to see all the other beautiful trees. The church looked lovely and suddenly it felt like Christmas had arrived.

4. CHRISTMAS PARTIES: If you were passing St Paul's on Thursday 11th December you could not help but hear the noise. 30 Explorers and Juniors All chattering away like budgies and enjoying the games (and the food.) The Brigaders chilled out with crisps, nibbles and a good blether but we all enjoyed our annual visit from Santa.

5. Then on Saturday 13th we took some of the Explorers down to Finlayson Estate to visit Santa at home. We went for a walk in the woods, played on the "death slide", did a bit of craft and received a lovely present from Santa himself. The parents came along too and we finished up in the café with juice and cakes. Now there's a surprise !

Meantime we are still running the Brigade bookstall every Sunday after the morning service. Please come and support us.

So that's my wee blether for this month. Have a wonderful Christmas and I'll speak to you again next year.

Yours, Anne Goodlet.



24 Hour Board Game Marathon

Imagine the scene...it's a family party and you are all sitting having a fun game of Monopoly...it's getting late and people are still haggling over building a hotel on Park Lane when someone says "let's do a turn each and see who has the most money to decide who has won." It's all a bit of an anti-climax when you knew that 3 more turns later and you would have made the decisive breakthrough that would wiped out all the other competitors.

Well...the opportunity has arisen when that 11.00 pm curfew can be ignored and the game can be brought to a *real* conclusion!! (and raise money for the Kimo Project at the same time).

On **Friday 13 and Saturday 14 March 2009**, (8pm to 8pm) the congregation will be hosting a 24 hour sponsored board game marathon to raise funds for the Kimo Project.

Further details will soon be available from me (contact details below). The event will be open to people of all ages although the long watches of the night will be restricted to the adult players.

We would like to see as many people as possible to come along with their board games to help raise money for Kimo. If you are not a board game player and would like to support the event in any other ways (for example serving tea, juice and food), please let me know.

Douglas Martin
942 7184 or wdmartin@btinternet.com

As you can see from Angus's article we are delighted to report that we have passed the £40,000 mark in our aim to raise £60,000; a big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed in any way to this magnificent achievement!

That includes a great many members of the congregation and we are delighted that so many people have been involved in various ways.

We are particularly pleased that so many members of the wider community came to the Ceilidh and Christmas Tree Festival and also that St. Luke's Church plan to give their Christmas offering to the project.

The danger is that we become complacent at this stage, however, because there is still quite a long way to go! We are always on the lookout for other ways to fund-raise and will be very grateful for suggestions from the congregation. One such idea is Douglas Martin's Board Games Marathon, a first for many of us! Please note the dates.

We also plan to hold a sponsored climb of Ben Lomond on **Saturday May 9th** in which all ages can take part; it will not be necessary to complete the climb to earn money! Again please note the date.

A final suggestion is that some people may still wish to take out a standing order for the Project; it is never too late to do this and Angus Maclean will be very happy to give you any information you may need.

Thank you for your interest in the Project; we really value your prayers for it and for the building work which is going on at Kimo.

Eleanor Easton

Kimo Update

The Kimo Peru Project Committee are humbled by the progress of our Fund raising and wish to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to its success so far. There are too many to name individually and contributors come from far and near. I am sure Eleanor Easton will be addressing this in her report. The amount contributed so far is as under noted:

	£
Gift Day	19,532.00
Donations	11,032.00
SOs, Envs and Chqs	1,372.00
Calendar & Ceilidh	3,026.00
Tax recovery	5,244.00
Subtotal	40,206.00
St Paul's donation	2,500.00
Total	42,706.00

Included in Donations is the £2800.00 raised by the Tree Festival and £1,100.00 received from the Sunday Morning Coffee People. The sum of **£35,000.00** has so far been forwarded to SU Peru enabling the project to progress.

The long term contributions in response to the pledge form is as under noted: -

Standing Orders	23
Cheques	6
Envelopes	4

In addition there have been many one off donations. If any members have lost/mislaid their pledge form or if any members are willing to give in this way please ask us for a Form.

As we move into the New Year there are other fund raising events planned and they will be publicised nearer the time.

Angus Maclean
Kimo Peru Project Committee

At its November meeting, the Kirk Session approved a child protection complaints procedure for the congregation.

These procedures do *not* take the place of the Church of Scotland's Child Protection Policy. The Church of Scotland's policy sets out what to do when:

- a child or young person discloses abuse by someone else
- there is a suspicion that a child or young person is being abused
- any allegation of abuse by adult is made

In all of the three cases above, you must record the facts and report these to the Minister and/or Child Protection Co-ordinator without delay. Please remember in all cases you must refer the matter to me or the Minister: **you must not** investigate.

Our own complaints procedures cover any areas relating to the handling of child protection within the congregation. This might be about the procedures that we use in the congregation or how we have interpreted the central church policy. A copy of the procedures will be issued to all children and youth organisations with a copy held in the church office. Further copies can be provided on application to me in 'hard copy' or by e-mail.

All volunteers working with children and young people within the congregation are issued with a guidance card giving advice on the protection of children and young people. If any other member of the congregation would like a copy of this card, I can make this available.

There will be a child protection training course on Monday 16 February at St Paul's at 7.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall. This course is open to any member of the congregation, but as places are restricted to a maximum of 30 priority will be given to those working with children and young people who have not previously attended such a course. More details will appear in the church intimations and the February Life.

I am happy to discuss these and any other matters relating to child protection within the congregation.

Douglas Martin
Child Protection Co-ordinator

Scottish Bible Society

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 January 10th 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.

To date a figure in the region of £11,000 has been raised.

2009 is a special year for The Scottish Bible Society . On the 4th August the Society will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary – 200 years of making the Bible available to people in Scotland and around the world. Various events and other items are being planned including performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, an art exhibition, and some Bicentenary merchandise. The Society is also hoping to raise an additional £200,000 to provide a vehicle which will take holistic mission i.e. medical, dental, material, and spiritual aid to the people of north-east Brazil, around Recife.

Details of the events planned will be available on the Society's website at www.scottishbiblesociety.org.

The Bearsden and Milngavie Branch's Walk for the Word on 25th October has realised the sum of £1,163- thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Frances Ireland

Traidcraft

A big "thank you" to all our customers over the past year. I shall soon have the figure that we have spent to hand, & will let you know, hopefully in the next edition of *LIFE*.

We are happy to take orders at any time- not just Christmas.

Rosemary Fraser

Sun Kids and Jump

Sun Kids and Jump are for all children and young people at Primary School and in Secondary 1

Come along for games, food, Bible stories, songs, and much more... – come along and bring a friend (remember to bring £1.00 to cover expenses)

Saturday 24 January 2009

4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

St Paul's Church,
Baldernock Road,
Milngavie

For more information contact:
Douglas on 0141-942-7184

"It's an Adventure..."

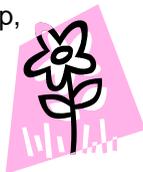
Sun Kids and Jump

Flower Donations and Rota - January

My thanks for all the donations sent for the purchase of the flowers which adorn St. Pauls each Sunday throughout the year. Sadly, during last year, two of the ladies who helped with arranging the flowers, have passed away and are sorely missed. As a result I am appealing for some new helpers to add to the rota and would very much appreciate any volunteers.

Please give me a call if you can help,
Wilma Douglas, 956 2630

January Donations Mrs Cooper,
Miss E. Forbes



Church of Scotland Writing Competition

Why not try out your literary skills in the CoS story writing competition?

Parables for Today: the idea is to retell one of three parables in a contemporary setting. The three parables are the Prodigal Son, the Parable of the Talents, and the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

The overall first prize is £500, best entries from the other two parables will win £100 and there are goody bags from the Scottish Bible Society for the runners up.

The closing date is March 13



The Guild

We ended the first half of our session with a Christmas dinner followed by carol singing and entertainment by the committee.

Prior to that, we had our allocation of funds evening, a bring and buy sale and entertainment by Anne Goodlet. She gave a very amusing reading about a Guild outing, which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

The Guild recommences on Monday 5th January when we are having a talk on the King's Theatre by Mrs Anne Harvey. Our programme for the remainder of the month is as follows:

12th – Preshal Trust – May Nicholson

19th – Visit to Peru – Eleanor Easton

26th Scottish Night – Hector Cruickshank and friend(s)

We look forward to all these evenings.

Isobel Lyle.

Dear Friends



As we move from 2008 to 2009, in Japan they are also moving from the Year of the Rat to the Year of the Ox, as well as from Year 20 to Year 21! While they do use the same calendar year as we do in the West, the Japanese also continue to measure years, especially in official documents, according to the number of years of the present Emperor's reign.

Whatever the number, there will be many in Japan, just like here, who approach a New Year with concern about numbers of another sort as the worldwide economic downfall hits there too. It will be interesting to see whether more people end up on the margins of society – jobless, homeless, hopeless. As people seek answers, we know where they can find meaning and hope – so do keep on praying for all those who are involved in sharing the gospel in that land where so few know Jesus.

As we go into 2009, we know that this will a time once again of moving on. Daniel and Matthew will enjoy their last few weeks in Scotland for some time before they return to Hebron School at the beginning of February. Then in the middle of March, we return to Japan with the younger two boys. Between now and then, we will have opportunities to share with you what we will be doing when we get back and look forward to your ongoing partnership with us.

We would like to record our grateful thanks for the financial support we have received through the last year. As many have given generously here, so we have been able to share in ministry in Scotland and prepare for our return to Japan in the spring.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Japanese Evening on 31st January. More details will be in the intimation sheet.

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

Dewdrops

This month the dewdrops will be on Paul. Week commencing the 4th of January the study will focus on Paul his life.

W/C 11th of January the study will focus on Paul -his legacy.

W/C 18th of January the study will focus on Paul his example

W/C 25th of January the study will focus on Paul, the way forward

Christian Aid prayer for Zimbabwe

Find out more at

www.christianaid.org.uk

Lord of justice and wisdom, in whom we place our hope, we place before you the crisis facing the country of Zimbabwe.

We pray for immediate aid, wise leadership and an end to injustice at this critical time, as disease and extreme food shortages threaten to grip the nation.

Compassionate God, we know of your special love for the poor. We pray for relief for those who suffer, and action from those who watch their suffering.

As we stand alongside the people of Zimbabwe in prayer, we passionately oppose the social injustice and oppression affecting that nation.

We know that your love extends further than we can ever ask or imagine and pray for your protection, healing and close presence there.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

'Many dead' in Sri Lanka battles

Heavy casualties have been reported after fierce clashes this week between troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka. Both sides say they killed scores of each other's fighters. On Wednesday the military said it had launched a series of air strikes against rebel positions. Fighting has gone on for weeks around the key rebel-held town of Kilinochchi.

Independent reporters are banned from the war zone and it is impossible to confirm either side's claims. Each is accused of routinely understating their own casualties while overstating those of the other.

We would pray for all peoples in Sri Lanka that peace may come to this troubled land .

let us also remember John and Patricia Purves who serve in Sri Lanka on behalf of World Mission

Milngavie churches Prayer Breakfasts

7 Feb

St Andrew's

Church Register

NEW MEMBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mr & Mrs A Mitchell, 44 Ellangowan Court, Milngavie 14a
Mr & Mrs D Reid, 47 Ellangowan Court, Milngavie 14a

DEATHS

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

03.12.08 Mrs Jess McColl, Canniesburn Nursing Home 14
12.12.08 Mr D Allsop, 5 South Glassford Street, Milngavie 2
14.12.08 Mr D McLean, 53 Ashburn Road, Milngavie 60

Copy date for February issue is Sun 18th Jan if using church pigeon hole or Thu 22nd if emailing to rona.dawson@go.uk.com Posted articles to 123 Garscadden Rd, Old Drumchapel, G15 6UQ please. 0141 944 4198

The editor would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last year – in many ways: with articles and practical help, encouragement or suggestions for topics and most of all prayers.

Thanks so much. Keep 'em coming!

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
11 Jan	J Ford C Tanner	Richell, MacKinnon, Martin	J McIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Bill Marshall
18 Jan	J Clark M Taggart	Whitelaw, Wallis, Berry	No stall	Team 2 Suzanne Stenhouse (C)
25 Jan	P Barlow R Buchanan	Baxter, Chapman, Smith	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Colin Grant
1 Feb	S Anderson R Fraser		C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 Patricia Knaggs
8 Feb	M Conway M McPherson			Team 5 Gordon Fairbrother (EC)