



# St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine January 2010

Dear Friends,

I suppose, in the end, it's good news for my bank balance but I am still coming to terms with the closure of Borders bookshop.

Not only that, but the latest news as I write is that Wesley Owen, the Christian bookshop, is in administration. And to add to all of this we are being told that the existence of bookshops in general are under threat, the main reason for this being the internet. More and more people are shopping on line, bargains are offered which cannot be equalled by the shops, so the traditional outlets suffer.

Now I have to admit that while one of my favourite pastimes is browsing in a bookshop, and I would be devastated if they all disappeared, if there is the possibility of buying an expensive book online for less than half the cover price, as happened recently, then I will leap at the chance. Moreover, it's becoming more and more clear that you can buy things online which the shops just don't have. The disadvantage in all of this is the simple joy of browsing and having contact with people like yourself who love books.

It's another example of change and how we respond to it. When you think of it, it's change that lies at the root of so many human problems. We are shaken to the depths of being when health changes, when relationships change, when employment changes, when the ultimate change takes place and we are bereft of loved ones. We will never be the same but as Christians we are called to go forward into the future with faith. And that is possible because as the writer of the Letter to The Hebrews says: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.' He has promised to be with His people always; He has promised His forgiveness in days of failure and strength in days of frailty; He has promised all those who love Him, when death is behind them, a place in the eternal home.

How we manage change will always be our greatest challenge in the Church and on a personal level but we can face this with confidence in the strength provided by the One who never changes.

Yours,

*Fergus C Buchanan*



*Dear Friends*

Greetings from Japan where we have just gone into the Year of the Tiger – a new year and a new decade. Something that happens in Japan at the end of each year is that they choose the Chinese character which best represents what people feel about the year. For 2009, the chosen character was the one which means 'new'. We've had a new government, lots of new regulations came into place and H1N1 is in Japanese called 'new-type' flu.

We focused a little on things 'new' during our Christmas worship on 20th December. It was a great day. The highlight was Sambi's baptism – our first believer and the first baptism in our new church. She had invited many friends and our house was full. During the message, David shared about new birth, new life and the believer in Jesus being a new creation. We trust and pray that many seeds were sown in the hearts of those who were there.

We had a Christmas party for some of Alistair's friends (and a few mothers too) which was fun and during which Lorna was able to share simply the Christmas story. Calum's party had to be postponed because several of his friends were sick. Hopefully we will hold that this month instead. We were able to host a number of our neighbours and other guests for a time of sharing about Christmas, singing one or two well-known carols, and eating together. This was a great way to continue building up relationships with those around us and we met one or two for the first time.

We are enjoying having Daniel and Matthew home from Hebron for the holidays. They travel back separately this time as Daniel needs to go back earlier for mock GSCE exams at the end of this month. As we enter this new year, we are thankful for the support of many at home as we seek by God's grace to see a church built up here in Hiragishi.

*With our love and thanks*

*David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## The Guild

Our coffee morning on 14th November was very well attended and we thank all who supported us.

We had a very interesting talk on the R.N.L.I. by Roberta Young, then Eleanor Easton updated us on the progress of the Kimo Project. She showed slides of the latest visit. It was good to see the Project taking shape.

Our annual Allocation of Funds and Bring and Buy Sale was followed by a talk on Advent by Alex McEwan.

We ended the first half of our session with a Christmas Dinner followed by excellent entertainment from 3 Committee Members and a singing group of a few Guild members. The evening closed with Bible readings and carol singing.

We re-commence on Monday 4th January 2010.

Isabel Lyle.



## Hearing the Word

This is the name of a course devised by Rev. Nigel Barge of Torrance Parish Church. It is designed to help us connect with God's Word, to understand it better and to be more confident in sharing it with others. Nigel himself has written that the aim of the course is "...to enable ALL who read the Bible to "handle the word of truth correctly" (2 Timothy 2: 15)"

It is hoped that we will run the course on two successive Saturday mornings, 20th of February and 27th of February 2010 beginning at 10am. Further details will be available in a hand-out which will be distributed early in January.

Nigel writes this in his introduction to the course:

*"We used to think that what the minister did on Sunday was clever but now we know how he does it!" So said a member of a church who had used 'Hearing the Word' on a church weekend.*

*'Hearing the Word' is a tool for use in the local church which helps members understand the Bible for themselves. It has four sessions of about an hour which are enjoyable, instructive and interactive. It appeals to folk at any stage and has been used successfully with Bible College students and Youth Fellowships. It requires no previous bible knowledge so can be used in a group of mixed ability and knowledge without any embarrassment.*

There has never been a greater need for Christians to have a more firm grip on the truth of God's Word. This is a unique opportunity to increase our sensitivity to the Word and deepen our understanding and to do this under the guidance of Nigel who devised the course.

Please consider attending.

FCB

The Congregational Board and Kirk Session have been aware that the General Fund was running in deficit from April last year and as a consequence we had to use our reserves which are in place to cover any emergencies which might occur. While we have tried to keep our spending to a minimum, our expenditure this year was higher than anticipated with several larger than usual invoices being presented, particularly general repairs and heating and lighting, and as a result our income was exceeded by our expenditure.

**General Fund  
Income**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Offerings	175,234.95	181,322.08
Tax Recovered	38,570.43	39,749.12
Other income	<u>7,220.85</u>	<u>6,480.06</u>

	<b><u>221,026.23</u></b>	<b><u>227,551.26</u></b>
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**Expenditure**

Ministry & Mission	117,324.64	115,510.91
Local Staffing	55,593.41	55,647.80
Buildings	33,595.22	29,413.02
Other Costs	<u>15,032.60</u>	<u>15,073.68</u>

	<b><u>221,545.87</u></b>	<b><u>215,645.41</u></b>
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Income Less Expenditure	(519.64)	11,905.85
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Income from Offerings shows a marked decrease, in the order of about 3.5%, while our expenditure shows a 2.75% increase over last year. Our income projection does not show any improvement in the situation and if the deficit continues our reserves will be eventually used up.

The Stewardship and Finance Committees will be meeting early in January to discuss a Giving Campaign. While these discussions are ongoing, we would ask that you give prayerful consideration to your giving.

Chris Scott  
Congregational Treasurer

One beautiful Sunday morning, a minister announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

## 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Milngavie Company Boys' Brigade



The Company Section Boys have been continuing their recent run of sporting successes in the National Competitions. The second round of the badminton was held in St Paul's and the Boys' victory over East Kilbride earned them a place in the third round. The Senior 5-a-side Team played very well in the recent tournament in Gourrock and the Boys will now play in the semi-finals in Wishaw. The second round of the table tennis will take place in Kilmarnock in early January.

The Company Section was joined by the Junior Section Boys for the recent Battalion Swimming Gala which was held in the Vale of Leven Swimming Pool. Well done to the Boys from St Paul's - Gordon Maclean and Fraser McIntyre - for their participation in the Gala.

All three Sections joined together to attend the Battalion's Annual Carol Service in Abbotsford Church, Clydebank.

Christmas outings were organised for all Sections - the Anchor Boys and Junior Section attended the Mugdock Theatre Pantomime, while the Company Section had an outing to ten pin bowling.

The Company Section held its mid-year Prizegiving in December, with the Recruits being presented with their Compass Badge (the introduction of the new Company Section Award Scheme saw the old Target Badge being replaced by the Compass Badge) and the older Boys receiving their Interests and Physical Badges. Thanks to Mr Graham Mill, one of the Elders from St Paul's on

the Churches' Representatives' Committee, for making the presentations.

History was made in the Company when Green Badges were awarded for the first time to the Anchor Boys. The Badges form part of the new Anchor Boy Programme pack that was introduced in the Section in September. Later that evening, the first year Junior Section Boys were presented with their Target Badges.

### **REMINDER**

**Our Boys' Brigade Company is still keen to track down the 1st and 2nd Milngavie trophies and shields that have been mislaid over the years.**

**If you are able to help identify the present location of any of them, please contact the Captain, Euan McKay (956-6125).**

### **Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts 2009/10**

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	St Andrew's
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	United Free
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	St Luke's
1 <sup>st</sup> May	St Paul's
5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Allander

# Start the New Year with

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## Start the New Year with SUN KIDS



COME ALONG  
AND BRING A FRIEND

FOOD

CHALLENGE  
S

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010

4.30 - 6.30PM

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

ACTIVITIES



### World Mission Prayer Diary - from the CWM website

- Zimbabwe's steadily crumbling infrastructure and political and economic decline over the past ten years has caused untold suffering for its people. As another year goes by without respite we're asking you to keep the people of Zimbabwe in your prayers as they continue to be pushed to their limits physically, financially and spiritually.

Robert Mugabe went to Copenhagen, supposedly to the Climate Change talks, but in fact spent his time Christmas shopping with his wife and 58 person entourage instead, while at home his people suffer hunger every day.

- It is now 4 months since Typhoon Morakot struck Taiwan and caused untold devastation among rural mountain communities. Many people are bewildered and traumatised, whole villages having been wiped out in the flooding and landslides which occurred. Pray for the long term future of these people now that the publicity has died down that they are not forgotten.

- Pray that despite the seeming failure of the Copenhagen Climate summit, world governments will take the opportunity to make unilateral emissions reduction targets in an attempt to slow global warming



## Update on Kimo Peru Project

It is good to have the opportunity to bring you up to date with the state of the Kimo Peru Project finances; as you may remember we started fund-raising in June 2008, needing to raise £60,000 to build a home at Kimo, in the Peruvian jungle. The home will be for abandoned street children who are living in the sewers and cemeteries of the towns and cities of Peru.

We had hoped to raise the money in 3 years but are delighted to announce that, due to the generosity of many people, we have exceeded our goal in less than 18 months. A huge 'thank you' is extended to everyone who has given money, participated in the events or has organised their own activity to support the project. The Kimo Peru committee and the Vine Trust are very grateful to you all! We also thank you for your prayers which have supported the project since the beginning.

We were delighted to discover that the target covers the cost of furnishing and equipping the home whereas we had initially thought that only the actual building would be paid for. The home will be completed by the end of the year, on time and within the budget. Scripture Union Peru, who run the homes, now need to appoint staff for Kimo, particularly houseparents; they will be a Christian couple and we are asked to pray that the right people will be found.

In April 2008 Rev. Willie McPherson preached on Mission Sunday at the launch of the project; he plans to return this April, two years later, to thank the congregation personally for all that has been achieved and to give us the latest news from Kimo. A lunch will be organised after the service.

Where do we go now with our fund-raising?

The Christmas Tree Festival and the Concert were the last events we have planned and the money raised, together with cash in hand, will go directly to the upkeep of the boys in the home - this costs about £65 per month for each boy. The Vine Trust and Scripture Union Peru have a scheme to encourage people to contribute regularly to the upkeep of the boys – it is called KidSpace and leaflets are at the back of the Church explaining how it works.

I feel very privileged to be involved in such an exciting and worthwhile project and realise that it could not have succeeded without the enthusiasm, hard work, generosity and prayers of many people – thank you again to you all!

Eleanor Easton

### News .... 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 09....

**Tearfund is dispatching £20,000 to help recovery efforts in Malawi after a series of earthquakes brought devastation to thousands of people.**

Nearly 800 homes were destroyed and more than 1,100 others have been left uninhabitable after tremors in the northern district of Karonga.

Three people died and 250 others are recovering from injuries following three weeks of seismic activity, which included one quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale.

More at [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

## Refugee Week



Refugee Week is a UK wide programme of events which celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK supported by a number of partner agencies.

During Refugee Week hundreds of events exploring refugee experiences take place across Scotland. These range from small community and school activities to art exhibitions, political debates, film screenings, conferences, big music festivals, sports events etc. You can find out more at [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk) nearer the date of 14-20th June 2010.

### Simple Acts Campaign

Refugee Week have been running a campaign which aims to change the way refugees are regarded in this country by asking people to do a very simple act every week. This could be anything from learning a few words of a refugee language or cooking a dish from another country or reading a book by an exiled writer. The idea is that with every person who joins in on the idea and does a **small thing** with and for refugees, we get a little closer to removing barriers between communities and to creating the kind of world we all want to live in.

From the 400 original simple acts suggested by friends of refugee week, 20 have been chosen which give a flavour of what it's all about. The refugee week website gives details of all 20 and *Life* will be featuring a different one each month with ideas about how we in Milngavie can get involved.

### Watch a movie about refugees

It's easy: nip down to your local library or go to [www.lovefilm.com](http://www.lovefilm.com) and pick up some foreign dvds, then make some popcorn and invite some friends round. You'll find that in this way you can save money and at the same time open your mind to new horizons and bring some amazing characters into your life.

Here are some suggestions:

**Persepolis** (2007). Hit animated coming-of-age story about an outspoken Iranian girl during the Islamic Revolution. Nominated for Academy Award in 2008

Syria is a country with six cinemas, and state censorship sometimes permits movies to be made but not shown. The prize-winning **We Will Live To See These Things, Or Five Picture Of What May Come To Pass** (2007) pieces together five competing visions of Syria's future to create a compelling portrait of Syria today.

What's the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker?

An asylum seeker is someone who flees their place of origin and formally applies for asylum in another country but whose application has not been decided (by the Home Office in the UK).

A refugee is someone whose asylum application has been successful and who has been granted leave to remain on the basis that they would face persecution if sent home.

Back in 2003/4, through the Kirk Session's Overseas Committee remit, a traidcraft outlet was set up & in that time many projects have benefited, Traidcraft was set up as a Christian response to world poverty, so that people, through fair trading practices, could help themselves. We have sold in excess of £9000.00 of goods & have donated some £700.00 to Traidcraft Exchange & other projects that our church supports.

The Traidcraft team asked for & received the full support of the Kirk session in the scheme entitled **"Eat someone out of Poverty - it only takes 90kg."** This is organised by Just Trading Scotland which operates from Paisley. Selling 90kg of rice from Malawi allows one child to have secondary education for one year. The facts are that in Malawi only 1 in 3 children can access that level of education which is one of the most effective ways to lift families out of poverty.

Janice MacLean, one of our team, who helps with the Junior Bible Class decided to ask Babs Frame, the chief buyer of our Traidcraft goods to speak to them about the scheme. They wanted to be involved in this and so **'Rice Sunday'** happened.

After Janice & Gordon (her son) had spoken so movingly, the congregation responded so magnificently that another 90kg had to be ordered--which has likewise all been sold. There is talk of buying another 90kg--- but not until after Christmas.!

We still have the Swaziland pickles, curries marmalades & jams on the stall which are also under the 'Just Trading' banner.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rosemary Fraser & Babs Frame

### Highlights of January Issue

#### **Scotland: The Reformation and The Enlightenment**

One of Scotland's leading historians, Prof Tom Devine, explains why he believes Calvinism inspired the Enlightenment.

#### **Exclusive extract from 'Reformation' by Dr Harry Reid.**

In the first of a series on the key figures of the Reformation, Prof Peter Howie examines the life of George Wishart.

#### **Tartan Ecumenism**

Scotland's role in this month's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



## Brigade Blethers



This past Brigade session has to have been the fastest on record! It felt like we had our enrolment parade one week and our Christmas party the next.

Many thanks to all the folks who sent along bags of goodies for those children in Glasgow who don't get many presents. Janice and Norman came along on behalf of Chanan and Janice thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness. I think it brings it home to the girls how lucky they are when they hear the difference that their gift can make to others.

The girls have all worked really hard over the months and we had a really good party to celebrate. Santa turned up of course and we sent him on his way with "Jingle bells" which is his favourite song.

Our first night back in January is not till the 14th because on the 7th we have our annual visit to the King's Theatre for the Pantomime. Then we really do get on with the badgework and all the practising needed for the Display. If there are any girls out there who would like to come and join us on a Thursday evening we would be delighted to see you. Just turn up and join in the fun.

Anne Goodlet.

## Thanks

Thank you to everyone for all the cards, letters, phone calls and flowers sent to me and especially for all your prayers. They have uplifted me over these past months. I am so blessed to be part of such a caring church. Thanks also to Fergus and Ken for their concern for me. God's blessings to everyone.

Margaret McDowell.

Ishmar Gunn

wishes to pass on her thanks to the congregation of St Paul's for their prayers and flowers. Thanks also for visits, telephone calls and cards received after her recent operation.

She is now making good progress and hopes to be back at St Paul's shortly.

## Book Club

The book we have been reading is *The Shack* by William Paul Young. The story relates the tragic disappearance of Mackenzie's daughter, Missy, who has been abducted during a family holiday. Evidence is found in an abandoned shack of her brutal murder and four years later Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him to go back to the shack to meet him. The story is allegorical and the three people he meets in the shack represent God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The big question the book asks is "Where is God in the midst of sadness and pain?" Mack's faith has been more than tested by the disappearance of his daughter and the trilogy enable him to work through the pain and begin to trust in God again.

Our reaction to this book was either for or against – no in between! Some of us thought it a trivial, badly written and irreverent book which portrayed the Trilogy in pretty bad taste while others had found it a remarkable book, full of meaning and they had recommended it to friends. There were echoes of *Pilgrim's Progress* with Mack's "Great Sadness" representing Pilgrim's heavy load. The book certainly generated plenty of discussion.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26 January 2010 when we are reading our own choice of a Scottish book which should result in quite a variety of subjects!

Why not make 2010 the year when you decide to join us? Please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue if you would like to come along.

Joyce Clark



## Flower Donations : January

My thanks to everyone who gave donations for the flowers in the church each Sunday in 2009. They are much appreciated by the members of the congregation who receive them because of bereavement or illness. My thanks also go to my team of arrangers, I couldn't manage without them.

January donations: Mrs E. Adair, Mrs Daniels, Miss E. Forbes. Mrs J. Wilson

All contributions are very welcome, please contact me if you would like to donate.

Please send donations to Mrs Wilma. Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave. Milngavie, G62 6LJ or phone 956 2630



## CHURCH REGISTER

### DISJUNCTION

Mr & Mrs J Ross, 46 Falloch Road, Milngavie 63

### BAPTISMS

*'In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8*

Zoe Elizabeth Hill, 68 Main Street, Killlearn 70

Gregor Samuel Bates, 82 Castlemains Road, Milngavie

### DEATHS

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

28 November 09 Mr William MacFarlane, 58 Ellangowan Court 14a

8 December 09 Mr Ian D Smith, 114 Craighdu Road, Milngavie

11 December 09 Mr William Higgins, 44 Craighton Road 58

14 December 09 Mrs Irene Batey, 3 Braefoot Ave. 35

17 December 09 Mr William Duthie, 52 Braeside Ave., 36

Please note copy date for February edition is Sun 24<sup>th</sup> January for church pigeon hole or Wed 27<sup>th</sup> for email. Send to [Rona.dawson@go.uk.com](mailto:Rona.dawson@go.uk.com) or post to 123 Garscadden Road, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

*(Please note the editor is on holiday for a week in January so if you get an "out of office" message in response to your email, then you can assume your article has been received OK.)*

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
10 Jan	M Conway, M Macpherson	Richell, McKinnon, Martin	J McIntyre, M Fewell	Team 10 D Muirhead
17 Jan	A Galloway, J Townson	Whitelaw, Wallis, Berry	No stall	Team 2 D Martin (c )
24 Jan	M McIntyre, M Spencer	Baxter, Chapman, Smith	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 R Fraser
31 Jan	P Dudgeon, S Lindsay		S MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 I MacCalman
7 Feb	M Thomson, E Izatt		L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 I Torbet