

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS Joined by Certificate

Mr & Mrs R Sim, 12 Briarwell Road, Milngavie 1

Joined by Resolution

Mrs Norma Coll, 17 Hawthorn Ave., Bearsden 43

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Sandra Jordan, 20 Strathgryse Court, Bridge of Weir 61

BAPTISMS

Harris Gordon Cameron, 25 Westmount Street, Aberdeen

WEDDINGS

Rachel Lynch, 20 Cross O'Cliff Close, Lincoln and
Gordon Kelly, 3/1 123 Shuna Street, Glasgow

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'
26.10.13 Mrs Patricia Simpson, 11 Clober Road 17a
1.11.13 Mr Andrew Menzies, 114 Drumlin Drive 38
12.11.13 Mrs Jean McCaughie, Almond View Nursing Home 18
13.11.13 Prof. John Paul, 25 James Watt Road 22

Copy date for December issue is Sunday 15th December (quite early) if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 18th if emailing. Please send to the church office at st.pauls@btconnect.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
8 Dec	P Barlow S Robertson	Tracey Bates	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 6 M B Hamilton
15 Dec	S Anderson M Adams	McKinnon Berry	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 7 H Murrison
22 Dec	M Conway K Edwards	No creche	B Watson M Conway	Team 8 G Rogerson
29 Dec	A Galloway J Townson	No creche	M Ure J Mill	Team 9 M Thomson
5 Jan	M MacIntyre M Spencer	Chapman Wallis		Team 10 M MacIntyre



Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's

Saturday 30 November	10.00am	Tree Festival Commences
	9.30am	Advent Service – Words for Advent: Expect – Fergus Buchanan
Sunday 1 December	11.00am	Morning Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism
	7.00pm	Carol Service with the Salvation Army
Thursday 5 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday 6 December	2.00pm	Tree Festival ends
Saturday 7 December	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast (St. Paul's)
	9.30am	Advent Service – Words for Advent: Prepare – Douglas Muirhead
	4.30pm	Sun Kids
Sunday 8 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Thursday 12 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 14 December	9.30am	Advent Service – Words for Advent: Trust – Stephen Thoms
Sunday 15 December	11.00am	Gift Service
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Monday 16 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Thursday 19 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 21 December	9.30am	Advent Service – Words for Advent: Respond—Robin Easton
Sunday 22 December	11.00am	Christmas Family Worship followed by Coffee & Mince Pies
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Tuesday 24 December	4.30pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Wednesday 25 December	11.00am	Christmas Morning Celebrations (Cairns)
Sunday 29 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	NO Evening Worship





St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine December 2013

Dear Friends,

This year has seen the birth of a royal baby. If you were given the task of finding a gift for him, what do you think would be appropriate? Certainly he will need all the things that every baby needs. But if you were to get him something special what would that be? Most people would probably think of something very expensive or something highly unusual. That was certainly the case when a group of Babylonian philosopher scientists brought gifts to the infant Jesus.

There is a degree of mystery as to what drove them on the long journey from their homeland to Israel. It is quite possible that their studies had led them to the Hebrew Scriptures and the great hope of Israel that one day a King would emerge who would hold the key to all the mysteries of life. But how did the Magi connect this hope with the unusual cosmic disturbance that occurred on a particular night? We do not know but the 'star' spoke to them of the King's birth and the need for them to make the journey to honour him.

They brought gifts. There is no explanation why they brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Perhaps the gospel writer believed that no explanation was needed. Gold, highly valued, durable, to wish the infant King a long reign. Frankincense, used in religious ceremonies, to wish the King a close walk with his God. Myrrh? This was used to preserve dead bodies. What has this to do with the freshness and the promise of new life? Were the Magi given some insight into the nature of this King's mission? That his death would be in some way significant?

All we know is that all of the gifts were appropriate. This King was destined to reign forever and ever. Of all human beings he was closest to God, indeed God in the flesh. His death opened the way for humanity to be renewed in body, mind and spirit. There is a sense in which the gifts told the whole story of the King. How close are we to that story?

In T.S. Eliot's poem *Journey Of The Magi* they returned to their homeland changed, 'no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation/With an alien people clutching their gods.' Will there be a change in us as once again we are brought to the familiar story this Christmas? The story of a God who became one of us, who lived our life, who died to open up the way for us to be at peace with God, who has risen to assure us that our journey of life will continue beyond death.

Wishing you quality time with the story this Christmas,



MAF 'Every Picture Tells a Story' Event

This has been an event that has touched people both in our church and throughout the community and has been a great success in many ways.

The photographic exhibition clearly portrayed some of the challenges and benefits of MAF's work. Every picture did indeed tell a story from the difficult terrain the flights reached, the joy on the faces of folk receiving aid of various kinds, and the hope their planes bring to many.

All the local primary schools have been learning about the inspiring work of MAF. Andy Martin from MAF spoke at their assemblies. The pupils made paper aeroplanes with messages of hope which will be conveyed to less fortunate children abroad. They also designed amazing and imaginative posters about the work of MAF, obviously well researched. Finally, classes (approximately 500 pupils) visited the exhibition over several days and showed real insight and understanding by their comments and questions.

On Friday evening, folk from the community, St Paul's and the poster winners and their families attended the exhibition. The winning pupils were presented with prizes and certificates. MAF's work bringing relief to desperately needy folk worldwide really caught the imagination of the children and us all.

The Open Day on Saturday was well attended and very encouraging. On Remembrance Sunday Andy Martin was the visiting preacher. MAF started at the end of the Second World War by ex-RAF pilots and engineers keen to use their skills to save rather than take lives.

Many thanks to everyone who prayed for the event – your prayers were answered. Many thanks also to the committee who worked with cheerfully dedication over many months to plan for the event. As usual in St Paul's, there were plenty of willing volunteers to help with catering over the weekend including Sunday lunch. Thanks to all of you.

It is clear that folk have been challenged and inspired by MAF's outreach and this is reflected in their really generous donations. The total to date of donations for the Fuel campaign (including gift aid) is an amazing £3154. In addition the primary schools have donated over £700, and the Sunday Club and Bible Class over £100 by filling empty smartie boxes.

These donations will be an enormous help towards the fuel costs MAF requires to fly their aircraft, and will make a world of difference as they seek to reach needy folk in remote regions. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

Sheila Harrison

Brigade Blethers

As soon as we reach the beginning of November each year I go and put my skates on because we always seem to manage lots of exciting things in November and I have bother just keeping up!

We had our Enrolment Service on the first Sunday and in spite of the fact that we only had a few new members we did have the pleasure of having our Divisional Commissioner, Mrs Jennifer Major along to commission Alanna McArdle as an officer. I get a lump in my throat when I see someone who has come right through Brigade as a girl deciding to stay on as a leader . Alison Cockburn has also agreed to stay on as an officer but we were still waiting for her C.P. number to arrive.

Typically it arrived the week after the service so we can now look forward to seeing Alison being officially commissioned.

The following Sunday saw us out on parade at the War Memorial in the village. There seem to be more young folk there every year and it is good that they feel the need to pay their respects.

Away from the "parades" the Brigaders and half the leaders all went to Lazer Quest in Clydebank. They all had a ball and I can see requests for more in the future.

We do manage to do some badgework and this year whatever we do is fun because we are using the Commonwealth Games as an excuse to do all things sporty. This Thursday (21st) we have one of the Dads bringing along some of his team to demonstrate Karate to the girls. I'll make sure that I sit at the back but I'll tell you all about it next time.

Have a lovely safe and happy Christmas and a good New Year
From everyone in Brigade.

Anne Goodlet

Well done Govan Gaelic Choir for winning the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy at the Mod this year!



Flower Donations— December

Mrs. R. Douglas,
Mrs. R. Gilmour,
St. Paul's Sunday Club



Please put donations in Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave., Milngavie G62 6LJ

Cheques should be made payable to St. Paul's Flowers

The Guild

Oct. 28th Passage from India is the chosen project of our Guild and funded by the Church of Scotland to improve the lives of women in some of the poorest neighbourhoods.

Our Speakers from the Provanmill District enabled us to have a better understanding of how Self Reliant Groups (SRG) work, by using a system which operates in India. Small groups of women from a similar economic background meet, sharing their skills and learning new ones, resulting in income generating activities, becoming self reliant and improving family and social life.

Nov. 5th We visited St. Luke's Guild where the Speaker was Helen Wright- voluntary co-ordinator of **More than Gold – 2014**. The aim is that 2014 Games should be renowned for the level of hospitality offered to overseas visitors and the Church to be at the heart of it. Churches and their members will have the opportunity to host accommodation to family members of athletes, open their doors as Hospitality Centres and encourage youths and children to learn or improve a sport of their choice. Above all, please pray for putting the love of Christ into action.

Nov. 11th We were delighted to have our Minister, Fergus join us for the evening. True to form, he kept us engrossed in his stories and anecdotes, taking many of back to our childhood memories.

Nov. 18th Matt Ramsay. The talented young singer from Govan Salvation Army took us on a musical journey with a splendid selection of songs and praise, making it a most enjoyable and uplifting evening for our members and their guests.

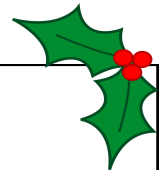
Diary Dates

Dec. 2nd Allocation of Funds/Bring & Buy/ Demo of Table Decorations
by Allyson Flett
Dec 9th Christmas Meal & Entertainment
Jan 6th Mrs. M. Candlish – Happy Hour

Margaret Stirling

Coffee and Mince Pies

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will take place after the Morning Service on Sunday 22nd December. This year the proceeds will be donated to Carers Link East Dunbartonshire – a charity which provides support and advice to carers. As usual donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.



New Editor urgently re-quired

This is Rona's last edition as editor of Life magazine and so far no-one has come forward to take on this job for the church. Please prayerfully consider doing so if you possibly can.

Rona says, "The magazine is a vital communication link to every household in the parish and it needs someone to

take over the editor's job. It's really just like a big jigsaw puzzle. It doesn't matter if you don't have any experience—I didn't when I started. All I can say is that the congregation is a very forgiving audience!"

Rona will provide a full hand-over and ongoing assistance (if wanted/needed) and will be pleased to answer any questions from anyone interested. Please phone her on 07775714649 for an informal chat.

Book Club



It all began with a letter enquiring about second hand books written by Helene Hanff in New York to a bookshop at 84 Charing Cross Road, London. As Helene's caustic and witty letters are responded to by the stodgy and proper Frank Doel a relationship blossoms into a warm and long lasting friendship lasting 20 years.

The book is in two parts – the first part in New York and the second part recounting her experiences and friendships when Helene Hanff comes to London at long last to see the places she has only read about.

The book references, the account of conditions in England after World War II and the slow unfolding of the friendship between Helene Hanff and the staff of the bookshop, all make this book one which everyone enjoyed. We would all like a bookshop like 84 Charing Cross Road!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14 January 2014 when we will be discussing 3 Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson.

JOYCE CLARK



St Paul's Sunkids

The SunKids will meet on Saturday 7th of December from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

This is for all children from P1 and is a fun filled afternoon of crafts, games, stories and songs. We even have football and our own in house Football Manager (he's called Fergus!)

So kids from the church or even kids with no church connection are invited. If you have any questions about this call the church office 0141 956 4405 or **Ross Deuchar**.

Russkaya Cappella Concert

Russkaya Cappella is a chamber choir made up of people who enjoy singing Russian music. Most of our singers, though not all, are of British or Russian heritage: to us, nationality is unimportant. We sing music by composers famous and less so, as well as folk and church music. We give concerts and take part in aspects of Russian life in Scotland. The musical directors are Svetlana Zvereva and Stuart Campbell.



Their next concert takes place on **Friday 6 December at 7.30 in St Joseph's RC Church in Milngavie.**

The programme has two components:

- music for Christmas, and
- music associated with the Romanov dynasty which ruled Russia for three centuries, beginning 400 years ago this year.

As in most of our concerts, you will hear a mixture of folk music and music sung in church as well as secular compositions. On this occasion the composers include several who worked at the Imperial Court Chapel Choir (Bortnyansky, Lvov and Glinka) besides Tchaikovsky and Kastalsky.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concession) and are on sale at Milngavie Bookshop, and at the door. The ticket price includes light refreshments served after the concert.

Website: <http://russkayacappella.yolasite.com>

Ph: 956 2066 (Stuart and Svetlana)

Scottish Bible Society

The local Branch 'Walk for the Word' sponsored walk took place on Saturday 12th October in Mugdock Country Park. The weather was fine and those taking part encountered fairly dry conditions underfoot as they followed a circular route from the Visitor Centre to Craiggallion and Carbeth, walking on part of the West Highland Way, before heading back through the woodlands to the finish. Several of the walkers enjoyed a well deserved alfresco lunch in the Visitor centre courtyard before heading home.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event either by walking or by sponsoring a walker. The total sum raised by St Paul's walkers for Bible Society projects was £201.

Frances Ireland



God Behind Bars-

"Remember those in prison as though you were their fellow prisoner" Hebrews 13:3



On behalf of Prison Fellowship Scotland, I want to say a really big thank you for all your prayer and financial support in 2013, which has been another busy year. Our teams of around 100 volunteers have again been greatly blessed with vital regular access to many prisoners and it has been a great thrill to see the Holy Spirit in action.

Several of our Barlinnie prisoners gave interviews for Channel 4 Television which were broadcast on 4thought.tv during Prisoners' Week in November. Prison Fellowship Scotland was able to fund 43 Scripture Union summer camp places for the children of Scottish prisoners, an increase on last year. Last Christmas, PFS through the generosity of individuals and churches was able to provide more than 700 gifts for the children of prisoners in Scotland. Please pray that the response this Christmas might be even bigger.

Please pray for God's continuing blessing and provision for Christian intervention through PFS so that hearts and minds will be changed and souls saved in Scotland's 18 gaols. Please pray that God will open more doors so that PFS volunteers will be able to reach prisoners in Corntonvale, Saughton, Dumfries and Kilmarnock.

Ramsay Vallance

Many thanks again for all your encouragement. For further info, please contact me at 942 1831 or ramsay.vallance@googlemail.com

Church Garden

Now that winter is here the garden team can now take a well deserved rest. We have worked very hard this year to make the garden less labour intensive and this should help in the future. My thanks go to our team - Renee Campbell, Christine and Jim Forsyth, Sheila Harrison, Christine Inglis, Frances Ireland and last but by no means least Liz Trill.

I also would like to thank Graham Getty for keeping the grass and hedge in tip top condition for many years. Hugh

McGorm (the new Church Officer) has now taken up the challenge to carry on the good work and for that I am very grateful.

My sincere thanks also to the following people, along with some of the garden team, who helped spread chuckies in the garden this year - Alasdair Arnold, Ronald Buchanan and Andrew Thomson.

Sheila Dickson



Kimo Revisited

A small group set out on October 10th on a long trip to Lima; in the event we reached our hotel in the Peruvian capital 24 hours after leaving home. We had an early start for our bus journey to Kimo and were delighted to be there at last after travelling well almost 8,000 miles.

The boys gave us a tremendous welcome - big hugs and enormous smiles for complete strangers! We were very impressed with the houseparents, Henry and Eva, who set the tone of the home. The other staff are also very caring and obviously play an important role in the running of the home - they include a care assistant, a teacher who visits after school to give extra help and a social worker who also comes part-time.

There are now twenty-one boys in the home; extra costs incurred because of the extra staff who are mandatory according to new government guidelines mean that it is too expensive to take in more boys at present, even though there is accommodation for forty. Despite the frustration of empty spaces the staff are delighted that the twenty-one are at Kimo.

Their ages range from 4 to 15. This range also reflects more changes in government rules because it is now forbidden to take boys from the streets - this is kidnapping - even if it is evident that they are homeless and in danger! The new regulations mean that boys are now sent to Kimo by the police or the social work department so the little boy of four came after both his parents went away and a neighbour reported it.

Another difference from the previous system is that occasionally some boys receive visits from a parent, usually their mother; in the past no boy had any contact with either parent.

The boys' schedule is very full; they get up at 5.30 on school days, leaving for school at 6.50 to get the cage across the river and then a bus to the nearby town where they attend a state school. After getting back for lunch at 2.15 they have a variety of activities including doing dishes and some other chores washing their school uniform, for the bigger boys. They have time to play and watch TV, and do their homework, just like children here. At the home they have two dogs and seven delightful puppies (five of which will be given away soon!) The menagerie also includes a sheep, twenty hens, a few very vocal cocks and a dozen chickens.

We were assigned several tasks - it was a work party, after all! We were asked to sand and varnish two of the wooden-clad buildings; these were definitely in need of some TLC which we were pleased to provide. We had taken gloves and masks which were really useful. It was quite hard work, especially because of the heat and humidity. But we had the prospect of cold showers to refresh us afterwards..... At the end of our visit our work had made a big difference - we were just sorry not to have time to do the same to the other buildings.

It was quite emotional to leave Kimo but it had been a real thrill to be there and to see the boys whose lives would have been so very different if the home had not been built.

Henry and Eva asked us once again to thank the members of St. Paul's for your generosity and concern for the boys. Those of us who have had the privilege of going to Kimo feel so grateful to have had this experience. Please remember the boys and the staff in your prayers, that God will bless everything that goes on there and that these boys will grow to love and follow Jesus.

We will have a Coffee Morning in March in aid of Kimo; I will show photos there and speak about our visit, but in the meantime some new photos are on display on the Kimo board in the Large Hall. Thank you again on my own behalf for the marvellous interest and support of so many members of the congregation for the project from the very beginning - it has been truly amazing!

Eleanor Easton

Carers Link

Caring for someone can feel like a huge responsibility, and it is easy to feel anxious when faced with the maze of services and benefits available, wondering how to access the help needed by both the carer and the person being looked after.

Carers Link is the local charity supporting carers throughout East Dunbartonshire. It provides a range of services, and its support workers can help carers to identify what may help them in their particular situation. Amongst the services provided are Carers Call – a telephone support service, Carer Groups – discussion groups on various topics, and also Caring with Confidence - various courses to help carers feel more confident in their caring role.

Frances Ireland and Liz Trill

Watchnight Service Offering

The offering this year will go towards the Barnabas Fund who seek to help Christian children orphaned by the brutal war in Syria.

Christian youngsters are especially vulnerable as Islamic rebels are targeting minority communities. Many have suffered the loss of both parents and dozens are children of martyred Christians.

In refugee camps there is lack clean drinking water and medical care. Lack of immunisation has resulted in the recent polio outbreak. Children are often malnourished, some dying of starvation. Christian girls are especially vulnerable to kidnap and sexual abuse.

With the start of winter, the suffering in Aleppo is especially hard as there is no electricity or any other form of heating. The under 10s are especially vulnerable and in need of warm clothing. Many children are mentally disturbed children having been traumatised by the horrors of war. Barnabas is providing support to nearly 300 Christian orphans of whom 10% are disabled, This includes warm winter coats, milk for under 2s and training in trauma counselling for church leaders and others.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

It is so unusual for us to look out at the window at a clear blue sky and still be enjoying pleasant autumn temperatures. Normally at this time of year we are beginning to look out on white and sliding about as we drive. We are not missing the snow so far!

This year Christmas will be different too as have no responsibilities to plan outreach events and special services. Having said that though, we will still be fairly involved in helping local churches with David preaching at a couple of Sunday services just before Christmas and also having been asked to speak at the Christmas Eve service at the church we usually attend. Lorna is sharing at a special event for ladies at the same church and this also involves making a Christingle together.

We are looking forward to being all together over the Christmas and New Year holiday. Matthew returns first from Hebron and Daniel arrives here on Christmas Eve. We will escape for a while to the OMF holiday home in the mountains. We went there in the summer to get away from the Tokyo heat but this time it will be to enjoy the snow and the hot spring baths.

The recent typhoon in the Philippines reminded many here of the tsunami of March 2011. Many people remain in temporary houses. The rebuilding work in devastated communities is slow. We never know when the next natural disaster will strike. Tokyo has long been waiting for the 'big one' and recently there have been a few strong, if short earthquakes in our area.

Many thanks for all your support for us over this past year. We send you Christmas greetings from Japan and trust that you may know the grace and peace of the Lord through the coming year.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Syrian children have been robbed of their childhood and Christian children are the future of the Church there. By their support Barnabas are helping to give them a glimmer of hope in the darkness that surrounds them and also giving the church in Syria a chance to survive. Please support this needy and worthwhile cause this Christmas, as generously as you can. Thank you.