

# Life



*December 2005*

## **Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's**

<b>Saturday 3 December</b>	9.30am	Advent Service
<b>Sunday 4 December</b>	11.00am	Morning Worship for the Second Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
<b>Thursday 8 December</b>	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday 10 December</b>	9.30am	Advent Service
<b>Sunday 11 December</b>	11.00am	Morning Worship Third Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
<b>Thursday 15 December</b>	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday 17 December</b>	9.30am	Advent Service
<b>Sunday 18 December</b>	11.00am	Christmas Gift Service
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
<b>Thursday 22 December</b>	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday 24 December</b>	4.00pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
<b>Sunday 25 December</b>	11.00am	Christmas Morning Celebration in St. Paul's (No Evening Service)
<b>Sunday 1 January 2006</b>	11.00am	Morning Worship (No Evening Service)

Dear Friends,

Some of you have been asking if I was at the recent Bob Dylan concert in Glasgow. What a silly question! As if he would even think of performing in Glasgow if I wasn't there. Actually, I had a live link to another concert he gave in Milan the week before. That needs explanation. My son Stephen is studying at the University of Pavia in Italy. He attended the Dylan concert in Milan and during the first song he phoned me on his mobile phone to let me hear some of it. Yes, daftness runs in the family.

Call me old-fashioned but I still marvel that we can do things like this which would have been unthinkable 10-15 years ago. It is not the fact that things change. That has always been part of human experience. It is the speed at which things change that is truly astonishing. Think about it:

- 1 There are very few jobs these days where a working knowledge of computers is at least desirable.
- 2 New supermarkets and shopping malls spring up at an incredible rate.
- 3 Satellite and cable communication systems mean that we can watch the 'news' almost as it happens.

And yet, with all this technological advance we have to ask if the human condition has advanced in any way:

- 1 An eminent historian described the twentieth century as the most blood-thirsty on record and the twenty-first is not shaping up to be any better.
- 2 In Africa 30,000 children die each day from extreme poverty.
- 3 In our own country drug and alcohol abuse have reached frightening levels.

With all this in mind, the story of the baby who was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago still has crucial relevance and needs to be heard. He was given the name 'Jesus' which means 'Saviour'. He was sent by God to save humankind from the sin which was ruining the world, setting us at odds with one another and disturbing our relationship with God.

The world today needs this Saviour. Let's make this Christmas a time to renew our commitment to His message and His ways.

# CHURCH REGISTER

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

<b>Mrs Jean Sinclair</b> , 23 Homebrae House now Buchanan House, Bearsden	3a
<b>Mrs Susan Berry</b> , 14 St. Andrews Drive, Bearsden now 67 South Mains Road, Milngavie	62 29
<b>Mrs Fiona Holt</b> , 4 Main Street Torrance now 13 Stockiemuir Ave., Bearsden	70 48

## DEATHS

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

31.10.05 Dr David Clark, 21 Nethermains Road, Milngavie	40a
03.1.05 Miss Peggy McPherson, Heatherbank Nursing Home	5
04.11.05 Mrs Helen Ried, Iona House, Quayside Nursing Home	18a
17.11.05 Mrs Elizabeth Leiper, 12 Hazel Ave, Milngavie	44

### World Mission Diary for December

We will focus our prayers on Thailand this month.

**Mike and Jane Fucella** seek prayers for the continuing work in Sangklaburi of the projects with which they were involved - leadership training, the centre where they lived, the Candlelight enterprise for the disabled and the AIDS ministry.

The Church of Christ in Thailand has invited them to work in Bangkok with the Mekong Ecumenical Partnership. addressing common issues of the churches in southern Asia . They will be working with Interserve and are seeking funding for the position.

We would pray for all these concerns in Thailand.



## COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on Sunday 18th December.

This year the proceeds will be donated to The Disabled Trust for Scotland.

Donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.

Please contact Liz Traill (956 1479) or Frances Ireland (956 1030).

### THE DISABLED TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

The Trust was established in 1997 for people who found difficulty in obtaining equipment from the NHS. Recently the it has been forced to concentrate most of its resources on wheelchairs. In many cases the NHS takes six months or more to supply standard model wheelchairs to patients who desperately need them. These people often feel like prisoners in their own homes and such delays can sometimes impede the healing process. This is where DTFS can help. It provides patients with a wheelchair until they receive their own from the NHS. This allows them to get out and do the things that most of us take for granted – like going to the shops and visiting friends and family. In the past six years over 6,000 wheelchairs have been distributed. The Trust has also helped terminally ill patients with much needed equipment..



## THE GUILD

On Tuesday, 1st. November, we paid our annual visit to St. Luke's Guild. There was a very interesting talk on leprosy by Stuart Macarra. Our Bible Study was held on Monday 7th. November, when the Rev. George Vidits was the guest speaker.

On Monday 14th. November, we were joined by members of the congregation and of the Men's Association to hear Mr.Horn speak about the refurbishment of Kelvingrove Art Galleries and Museum. About ninety attended.

Our speaker on 21st. November was the Rev. Dr. Marjorie MacLean, Depute Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. She gave a very amusing account of her time as a parish minister in Orkney, and of events at various Assemblies.

Allocation of Funds night is on Monday 28th. November, when there will be a speaker from Lakeland Plastics.

We look forward to our Christmas Dinner on 5th. December, and the following week sees our closing meeting, which will be an evening of Readings and Carols, and a Bring and Buy Sale.

The Lunch given by the Guild to mark the opening of Guild Week was very well attended.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**See you all on Monday 9th. January!**

### CHURCH VISITOR

There is an **URGENT** need for a Church Visitor for District 15 (Mugdock Road)

Please telephone Elizabeth Bragg (956 2480) if you can help

## Brigade Blethers

We need a *BIG* page for November and our first event was a Fancy Dress Party. We had quite a few healthy looking skeletons, a couple of "Belles" the odd witch etc and one little girl covered in ivy. When I asked if she was the Ivy Fairy I was informed with a withering look that she was Poison Ivy !!

Then Mr Vidits led us in a lovely enrolment service during the course of which Sarah Gibson was commissioned as an Officer. Welcome aboard officially Sarah. We hope we will have our band to lead us at the next parade. Mr Norval is wielding his baton (or is it drumstick?) again on Thursdays and we have lots of enthusiastic members.

Sunday 13<sup>TH</sup> was Remembrance Sunday and Brigade paid their respects at the war memorial with the other youth organisations. Then we went back to St Paul's for a service of remembrance.

Badgework continues of course and the girls have been making Christmas Cards to send to the Open Doors Trust; baking Gingerbread biscuits; practising 5-a-side football for a Competition and learning some Scottish country dances for our St Andrew's night coffee evening. The proceeds of this go to the Meningitis Trust so we hope you all come along.

Finally - last Saturday St Paul's played host to Girls' Brigade Scotland when we launched our new Craft book. About 80 women attended and (as always) they enjoyed working in our nice clean, well set out halls. The new kitchen was much admired (and envied) and I was asked to pass on their thanks and appreciation to everyone at St Paul's.

Yours Anne Goodlet



# THE BOOK CLUB

The book we have been reading and discussing this month is Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi. This is Azar Nafisi's true story of her book group who met every week to discuss western literature which had been banned. The book gives an insight into women's lives in revolutionary Iran together with a fascinating portrait of the Iran-Iraq war. These women met to discuss literature we take for granted – Pride & Prejudice, Washington Square and Lolita and through their discussions give us a picture of what everyday life was like in Tehran at that time. When they walked through the door into Azar Nafisi's house on a Thursday, they were able to freely express opinions, hopes and fears without conforming to the world outside which was revolutionary Iran. While this was a challenging book in many ways, the insight it gives into everyday life in Iran at that time is both fascinating and disturbing. Try it and see for yourself!

Next time we are discussing The Last Legion by Valerio M Manfredi. If you would like to come along please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue. The date is Wednesday 12 January 2006.

JOYCE CLARK

## LETTER FROM LIZ TRAILL

*May I take this opportunity through 'Life' to thank the ministers, and all the members of St. Paul's, for the many cards, visits, telephone calls, and the wonderful home baking that I have received following my accident.*

*The kindness and concern that has been shown me has been overwhelming, and most importantly, your prayers have been a great comfort and strength to me.*

*I look forward to joining the family at St. Paul's in the not too distant future, albeit in a wheel chair!.*

*Kind regards, Liz Traill*

# Finance Report

## Church Organisations - Annual Audit

Would the Treasurers of all Church Organisations please note that the **Annual Audit** of their Accounts will take place in the **Centenary Hall (please enter by lane)** on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> **January 2006** from **7.30pm** onwards. If Treasurers of the larger Organisations wish to give me their books a few days before this date I will allocate them to and Auditor prior to the meeting and this will expedite the process on the night.

## South Asia Earthquake Appeal

The final sum collected for this Appeal was £2784.00. Those who gave by Gift Aid enhanced the total by £504.02 in tax recovery making the total given to Christian Aid £3288.02. Thanks to all who contributed to the Appeal.

## Budget 2006

In the next few weeks, I will be setting the budget for next year. As far as local expenditure is concerned this will be in the region of an increase of 3%. Our commitment to the expenditure of the church nationally has increased from **£100974** to **£107531**, an increase of 6.49%. As members prayerfully review their giving for the year ahead, I would ask you all to bear these increases in mind.

**Angus Maclean**

Congregational Treasurer.



## **DECEMBER LIFE AND WORK**

### **Music of the season**

Music critic Michael Tumelty examines the enduring qualities of Christmas music and why it continues to touch the soul. The Rev Douglas Galbraith highlights some old and new carols which have been included in the recently published CH4.

### **Try and try again**

Fame Academy finalist Lemar travels to Ethiopia with Christian Aid and tells John McKie about the impact of the emotional trip.

### **The day the earth shook**

John Hayward reports on the effects of the recent earthquake in Pakistan. A consultant development worker he is also the Liaison Officer for a group of organisations including the Church of Scotland working with the Church of Pakistan.

### **Letter from the Holy Land**

The Rev Clarence Musgrave, minister of St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem, offers some seasonal thoughts from Israel.

### **Desert Padre**

The Rev Louis Kinsey, a Territorial Army chaplain, describes his deployment with British troops serving in Iraq.

### **Eldership**

This month's page for elders includes an account of how a Glasgow church began an after-school club. Sheilah Steven, national organiser of elder training, writes about young people and how they may be more integrated into the life of the local congregation.

### **Gaelic milestone**

The Rev Roddy MacLeod, Editor of the Gaelic Supplement of Life & Work offers an insider's view of its history as it celebrates 125 years of publication.

**AND LOTS MORE LIVELY LETTERS, BOOK REVIEWS,  
TRAVEL, CROSSWORDS AND COMMENTS - ALL FOR £1.50**

# Japan Jottings



## Dear Friends

The snow is now beginning to fall and winter is upon us again. There's not much lying yet but that will change over the coming weeks. The boys are already looking forward to skiing during the long winter holidays.

Christmas will soon be upon us too and as always this is a big outreach opportunity in Japan. This year during our Christmas worship on the 18<sup>th</sup> we will have the added joy of the baptism of 74 year old Mr Sasaki. We hope that this will also be an encouragement to others to take that same step of faith.

We usually have a very lively time at our Family Christmas with lots of kids from the area – this year it is on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Things are a little quieter on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> when we have a simple service of readings and carols by candlelight. This is always a time when people invite friends and family. Christmas parties for our kids' English classes (on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>) will also give the chance to have fun and share the Christmas story in a simple way.

Last month we saw our church grave completed and held a dedication ceremony (it's high up a mountain-side and we were glad it was ready before the winter snows started). The grave (and all the ceremonies associated with it) is very important for the Japanese. This church grave will serve as a kind of communal grave for our church people (just the bones go in!) One of church members who is an artist came up with the design.

*May you know the joy and peace of the Saviour as you  
celebrate Christmas in St Paul's  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

## **ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP**

**With the agreement of the Minister and the Kirk Session, it is proposed to set up the St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship. Its purpose will be to organise holidays for the congregation and their relatives/friends and to provide fellowship on these trips. The holidays will be booked through reputable agents to ensure that monies are secure.**

**Cabins have already been set aside for us, without obligation, on the river vessel, the Viking Burgundy, for a week's cruise on the River Rhone in France in the autumn. This is a special offer. Dates and prices to be confirmed.**

**There is also the possibility of another trip earlier in the year.**

**PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN THE WEEKLY INTIMATIONS OR IN THE MAGAZINE.**

**Anne Ritchie, who has worked as a Tour Manager, will be organising these holidays. If you wish to speak to her, she is in the church choir or can be reached on 956 5027.**



*We wish all our readers  
a Very happy Christmas and Good New Year*





# FLOWER ROTAS- DECEMBER

## DONATIONS

Mrs. R. Douglas  
Sunday Club

## DELIVERIES

Dec. 4 Mrs. A. Galloway Mrs. J. Townson  
Dec.11 Mrs. M. McIntyre Mrs. M. Spencer  
Dec 18 Mrs. P. Dudgeon Mrs. S. Lindsay  
Dec 25 Mrs. M. Phillips Mrs. E. Law  
Jan 1 Mrs. J. Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson



# CRECHE ROTA- DECEMBER

4 Dec Martin, Kerr, Moffatt  
11 Dec Wilson, Baxter, MacKinnon  
18 Dec Reid, Bolton, J Deuchar  
25 Dec No Creche  
1 Jan No Creche  
8 Jan Hughes, Sillars, MacAulay

## TRAIIDCRAFT

*Traidcraft Rota for Dec/Jan*  
*Dec.4th. B.Frame B.Barr*  
*Dec.11th B Watson M.Conway*  
*Dec18th. M Thomson M Fewell*  
*Dec.25th None*  
*Jan.1st. None*  
*Jan 8th. A Begg J McLean*  
*Jan.15th Communion*

*A Very Happy Christmas  
to All Our Readers*

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for JANUARY'S issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by 22nd. December. Editor- Morag Thomson, 36, Roselea Drive (956-2801) e mail [mthomson@beeb.net](mailto:mthomson@beeb.net)