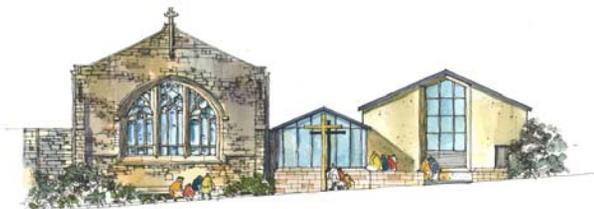


# St Paul's Church Life Magazine December 2006

[www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)



Saturday 2 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 3 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 7 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 10 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Thursday 14 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday 15 December	7.30pm	Carol Concert with Salvation Army Band, St Luke's
Saturday 16 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 17 December	11.00am	Christmas Time Travel
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 18 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Carol Concert
Thursday 21 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 23 December	9.30am	Advent Service
	4.00pm	Carols in the Precinct
Sunday 24 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Monday 25 December	11.00am	Christmas Morning Celebration in Cairns Church

## Letter from the minister

Dear Friends,

I often find the giving of gifts a problem. I like a gift to be appropriate and personal – something that the receiver will take pleasure in. More often than not, however, I don't give myself enough time and end up having to get *something* rather quickly. It's especially a problem for me at this time of year. I have no sooner faced the challenge of what to give my wife for her birthday at the end of November than I have to think about what to get her for Christmas. Oh, a man's life is tough!

The receiving of gifts can be a problem too. Sometimes we really do get what we have always wanted or what we desperately needed at that particular time but there are other times when our smile becomes rather fixed as we view a gift that totally misses the mark. For me at a certain age that was always something to wear! In all the giving and receiving which is so much part of this Season we are called to remember the greatest gift of all. A gift which was appropriate and personal. A gift which was exactly what the world needed. God gave us a Saviour, His Son Jesus.

The problem is that the world still does not realise its need of a Saviour. Recently, in a morning service we were thinking about John 3: 19: 'Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.' You may say, 'How can anyone love the darkness over the light?' But is that not the tragedy for humankind? So accomplished, so gifted, so admirable in so many ways and yet what a mess we make of our own lives and the lives of others. We never quite get things right. That is why we need a Saviour. A wise man in the early days of the Church's history said: 'Jesus came down to our level so that He could raise us up to His.'

God has given us hope in the gift of His Son. Let's make this Christmas a time when we renew our commitment to live in the Light and also to pray that others may realise their need of the Light.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Coffee and Mince Pies**

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on **Sunday 24th December**.

This year the proceeds will be donated to the Colorectal Surgery Fund at Gartnavel General Hospital. This fund is used to fund further education and training in diagnosis and treatment in this field of surgery.

Donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.

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

### **Heritage Exhibition.- Saturday 9th December**

The Heritage Exhibition has been running decade by decade since February. The full exhibition will be on show in the Large Hall on Saturday 9th December from 10 am -4pm. There will also be items from our Centenary Year - 2006- to complete the story to date. If you have missed any of the instalments or would like to re-cap on the story of St Paul's this would be an ideal opportunity to do so.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. Admission free – all welcome.

### **Men's Association 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A buffet meal celebrating 50 years of the Men's Association in St Paul's will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Jubilee Hall.

### **Sunday Club Christmas Parties**

This year the we are holding our parties on Saturday 16th December in the Large Hall.

BEGINNERS and SEEKERS                      2.30 - 4.00pm

ADVENTURERS                                      7.00 - 9.00pm

Please put the date in your diaries!

### **The Guild**

4th December                      Ewan MacKay will be speaking about 4 Weddings and a Funeral! There will also be a Bring & Buy stall.

11th December                      Guild Christmas meal and party will take place, ending the 2006 session.

The Guild will resume on Monday 8th January 2007, when Dr Stockwell will talk on - Life is a Gas!

### **"Lighting Up" Service St Margaret's Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 6.30pm

Info at the back of the church on sponsoring a light on their tree

## 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 16th January 2007** 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 an Auditor prior to the meeting and this will expedite the process on the night.

### **Budget 2007**

In the next few weeks, I will be considering 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 will increase from **£107531** to approximately **£114385**, an increase of **6.37%**.

**Last year we faced a similar increase but very few members increased their giving. If we appoint a new Assistant Minister, the present amount of giving will not cope with the situation. I would ask all members prayerfully review their giving for the year ahead bearing in mind the increases locally and nationally. At the end of October 2006, the General Fund was showing a deficit of £3348.00.**

*Angus Maclean*  
*Congregational Treasurer*

### World Mission Prayer Diary for December

Taiwan

Membership in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) has grown by nearly 4 per cent in the last year. Last year's final number was 222,381 members on its rolls. The Church has been identifying with youth and university students and this has helped young people to return to the Church.

The Church of Scotland welcomed the incoming Deputy General Secretary of PCT, The Rev. Pan Ching Chang to Scotland in November.

We would pray for the continued growth of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan as it reaches out to new members of all ages.

## Letters

Dear Rev Buchanan,  
Thank you very much for the very kind donation of harvest goods that we have received from your church and congregation. These were distributed amongst our 52 residents and were very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,  
Gilbert Esson,  
Wallace of Campsie House,  
The Salvation Army.

## How to Know the Spirit of God

From the Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

We can be sure that a man is a true religious and has the spirit of God if his lower nature does not give way to pride when God accomplishes some good through him, and if he seems all the more worthless and inferior to others in his own eyes. Our lower nature is opposed to every good.

<b>Milngavie Churches</b>	
<b>Prayer Breakfasts</b>	
Breakfast 8am, Prayer 8.45am Close 9.30am	
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	St Paul's
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	St Andrew's Episcopal
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	United Free
31 <sup>st</sup> March	St Luke's
5 <sup>th</sup> May	St Paul's
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	St Andrew's

The pages following are an account of Dr John McArthur's visit to the India Ministries Fellowship earlier this year which we are sure you will find most interesting.

## Visit to the work of India Ministries Fellowship, January 2006

My family and I lived in Vellore, South India, at Christian Medical College Hospital, where I was a cardiologist, supported by the Church of Scotland, between 1968 and 1973. All of us, with the exception of Duncan, our middle child (of three), had been back to Vellore on at least one occasion and Duncan and I resolved that, after my retirement, we would go to India together, see some of the famous sites and spend some time in Vellore. Therefore, we set about making plans for a visit in January of this year. Knowing that Vellore is, in Indian terms, quite close to Bangalore (about 200km to the west) and Chennai (140km to the north-east), and Tiruttani is roughly in between Vellore and Chennai, an important object of our trip became that of visiting the India Ministries Fellowship (IMF) work in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), Tiruttani and the Madhavaram district of Chennai. As you know, our church, together with the other churches in Bearsden & Milngavie, has long contributed to the support of IMF.

After visiting several tourist sites in and around Delhi and, of course, seeing the Taj Mahal, we flew to the burgeoning 'IT capital of India', Bangalore, where we enjoyed the hospitality of my former medical students, Stan and Ragini Macaden (now occupying senior positions in Bangalore Baptist Hospital and St. John's Medical College respectively.)

We were then escorted to the IMF work by Mr. James, the correspondent/accountant. Duncan and I were 'taken aback' (but, on reflection, should not have been!) at the preparations which had been made for our visit, even extending to the erection of a 'pandal' (temporary awning) on the flat roof, where we were greeted, garlanded and treated to a programme of Indian singing and dancing. This is the most developed of the three sites where IMF is working, with an impressive array of programmes. The main work is the 'Educational Assistance Programme' where needy youngsters are identified and supported, with fees, books, clothes, etc. in getting a good education. These girls come to the centre at week-ends and have a time of recreation and classes in 'Current Affairs' and Biblical Knowledge. Other programmes include tailoring (manual sewing machines mainly!), basic computing and a one-year course for auxiliary nurses.

After an emotional return to Vellore, which brought back a surprising number of memories to Duncan, who was just over 5 years when we left, we travelled by taxi to Tiruttani. By now having realised that NOT to be greeted in the lavish fashion in which we were received in KGF would be considered most inhospitable, we were prepared for (but no less embarrassed by) the welcome we received. The hostel boys, who would normally spend their lunch hour at their schools, had been summoned to entertain us, as did the little children from the primary school. The construction of the new dining hall and kitchen – we could see that the latter is very much needed, given the inadequate kitchen presently in use – was well underway (and is now completed). Duncan & I were struck by the size of the compound at Tiruttani, with the boys' hostel, new kitchen and the primary school (presently 3 classrooms) at one end and the library/guestroom etc some distance

away at the other end of the compound. The trust which supervises the IMF work in India is considering how to make best use of the available space – Rev. Malcolm Duff recently reported to our Elders' Conference a proposal to develop a much-needed medical clinic there. Mr. Babu shared with us the need for another classroom – they seem to be planning to add on another classroom each year in order to accommodate the top class when it is due to move up. I indicated, in a report published in the IMF Newsletter, that £5000 would add a nice classroom with a RCC (moulded) roof and I have since learned that that money has been donated! Other initiatives planned include a laboratory technician course, tailoring and candle-making.

I must confess that the work at Madhavaram most tugged at Duncan's and my heart strings. Perhaps it was the situation of the premises, in a very rundown part of Chennai, characterised by grinding poverty, plagued by the brewing of illicit alcohol and much alcoholism: perhaps it was the fact that we visited towards evening and for the first part of the visit we were entertained by candlelight as the electricity had gone off: perhaps it was the disappointment shown by Vimala & John Wesley as they showed us the original little two-storey building, rendered unusable by the exceptionally high (but otherwise generally welcomed) winter monsoon rainfall, leaving only the newer single large room in front, in which to carry out the work, with no indication as to if and when repairs to make it watertight would be carried out. (However, I was happy to learn, again from Malcolm Duff, that comprehensive repairs are about to start.) A notice board on the wall indicates that there are over 50 children in the Educational Assistance Programme, with, in addition, in excess of 100 others who come in of an evening for free tuition – the place must be extremely crowded if even half of those numbers turn up. The notice also states that 20 destitute senior citizens are looked after during the day and given their one square meal of the day, financed by churches in Chennai. We were assured that accommodation for them overnight is not a problem, since 'anyone will let them sleep on their premises'. After all, all they look for is a few square feet on the floor of even a hovel or outside on the 'veranda'. Some of these old folk are Christians and some have become Christians through their contact with the centre.

What impressions were we left with, after our visit? It was clear that, in all three centres, much very worthwhile work is being carried out and many people are being helped. Not only are the children given opportunities for schooling which they otherwise are unlikely to have had, but they also learn something of the faith which motivates the staff. What was less clear to us was how the work might develop in the future. Is the work at KGF reaching saturation point? How best can the extensive land available at Tiruttani be exploited? Does Madhavaram need much more input in the way of resources and Trust attention? But it is not for us to try to provide the answers – BUT God could be calling us to help provide the resources to bring about the answers!

***John D. McArthur***

## Life & Work magazine: December 2006 issue contents

### 'All I want for Christmas'

A range of contributors from all walks of life have offered their seasonal wishes. The wishers include:

- A call by the Moderator to remember the true meaning of the season.
- A plea for the existing Trident programme not to be renewed by Cardinal Keith O'Brien.
- A call by the Most Rev Dr Idris Jones for all Christians to be able to receive Holy Communion in any Christian church as well as that of their own denomination.
- A plea for a world where every child has more than enough to eat and a loving home by *River City* actress Deirdre Davis.

### The Christmas caroller

Composer and conductor John Rutter, is profiled this month and is scathing of some of the simple words and music that are the hallmarks of contemporary worship. He comments, "What one hopes to find in church is something that raises you up; something that's above the level of the every day, inspiring from the every day and if all you hear in church on a Sunday morning is the sort of music that you heard at the disco on Saturday night, only not so well performed, then there's nothing in that to raise you up."

### Trust and solidarity

To mark World AIDS Day on December 1, the work of the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS project is profiled.

### Presidential Reflections

Jimmy Carter, former US president talks about his book Faith and Freedom

Plus all the usual letters, comments, columns and political comment.

### Flower Donations for December

Mrs R Douglas  
Sunday School

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Sign on the outside wall of a Maryland convent: "Trespassers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

— *The Sisters of Mercy*

# Japan Jottings



## Dear Friends

What do the following have in common - salt dough Christmas tree decorations; sticky caramel; curry rice; twenty four teenagers singing in Hebrew? Answer – all were in some way linked to outreach events in Otaru Church over this past weekend.

At our monthly Saturday Sun Kids, as well as sharing a Bible story with the kids, we always have fun (and food) which this time involved the kids making the decorations as well their own yummy caramel. The next day our church J Kids helped to make a large batch of Japanese curry for some hungry Christian teenagers from a school in Tokyo who had just given a superb concert in the church (singing anything from Black Gospel to classical and ranging from Japanese to English to Latin to Hebrew!) We and our church folk had invited many people and it was great to see a number coming along. Several of the youngsters also shared their testimony during the concert.

Here we too are preparing for Christmas. Our main children's outreach is the Family Christmas on the 16th. Daniel should be back from India just in time for that. Like you we have morning and evening services on the 24th, the latter being a time for reflection and meditation on the Christmas story as well as singing the traditional carols (in Japanese of course!) and the opportunity for a short message to the many guests who usually come.

As well as Christmas, this month is an important one for us as we consider a possible Japanese pastor to work with us at the church from next April. He will preach here on the 10th and we will decide during December whether we will invite him. Do pray with us in this significant step for Otaru Church.

May you all know joy and peace at this Christmas time.

**With our love and thanks for your support for us here  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

## **The Praise Group**

The Praise Group has regrettably come to the end of its life in its present form. Three or four members have been in it since the beginning and have been instrumental (pardon the pun!) in its success over the years, and to these we would give grateful thanks.

I know we, as a group, have always felt privileged in leading the worship and it has been great fun and a joy (mostly) to be members. But, now too much depends on too few people coming along every month, some of whom are not even members of our congregation so it is time for new ideas & fresh faces.

So if there is anyone reading this who has any thinking on the subject, talk it through with Robert Rutherford or the Minister, or get in touch with the editor. Over & out.

*Rosemary Fraser.*

### **Note from the members of the Praise Group**

We would like to heartily thank Rosemary for all her hard work on our behalf over the years. We have had a lot of fun and enjoyed the group, without having to work out the programme, sort out the music and tidy up afterwards. It's sad that the group is finishing, but perhaps someone and something else will come along to fill the gap.

## **Brigade Blethers**

It seems a long time since our enrolment service at the beginning of November - probably because we have been doing so much lately! This is how our programme has looked.

9 Nov Brigaders studied Fibre Power; Juniors looked at new dance.

12 Nov Attended Remembrance Parade to War Memorial.

Katie Dougherty and Katie Hunter laid our wreath and they were very smart.

16 Nov Carrying on with our healthy body, healthy eating, the younger girls made Traffic Light Pizzas (which looked and smelt very good). The Biggies made Christmas cards for Open Doors and a couple of them went to serve tea at the Civic Trust. Everyone planted a daffodil bulb ready for our Marie Curie Coffee Evening in March and they all took a Christmas bag home to fill with some goodies for Open Doors.

The next two or three weeks are pretty action packed too but I'll tell you about that next month.

Yours,

Anne Goodlet

## Editor's Note

Christmas greetings to one and all and best wishes for a prosperous new year.

I regret the magazine is rather thin this month at a season when there should be lots of things to mention. Very quickly after the first flush of enthusiasm, contributions from members seem to have dried up and I now find myself having to seek out information about events and articles of interest and write much of the mag copy as well which I didn't expect when I took this job on.

If the congregation wish the magazine to continue to be a current, relevant source of information and of interest to housebound members and those unable to attend Sunday services, then please send in your information, articles and forward notices or reports in plenty of time.

By this we mean if you are organising an event, phone or send notification in the **month prior to the event** so that people find out in time – not out of date 3 months later when no-one is interested. It doesn't have to be well written or even in sentences – time, date, brief description is all that's required. Or phone and leave a message.

It's your magazine, so use it or lose it!

**Copy date for January's issue is Christmas Eve** for both items left in the pigeon hole at the back of the Church and also for email contributions, because the finished article has to be photocopied and folded in the week between Christmas and New Year. Please note there is no flexibility this month as the New Year holiday intervenes to prevent late contributions being included. It would be much appreciated if stuff is sent well before Christmas.

Rona Macdonald

[rona.macdonald@scotent.co.uk](mailto:rona.macdonald@scotent.co.uk) ph 946 8624. Work number 0141 242 8361.

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Baptism

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

Joanna Lily Wallis, 7 Dunellan Road, Milngavie 66a

### Deaths

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

19.10.06 Mrs Agnes Pollock, 2 Dumgoyne Gardens, Milngavie 32

27.10.06 Mr David Carr, 9 Cairns Drive, Milngavie 16

11.11.06 Dr Sandy Elder, 13 Craigharnet Road, Milngavie

## Rotas

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crêche	Traidcraft	Vestibule
3 Dec	M Thomson C Tanner	Laurie K Deuchar Chapman	C Mackay R Fraser	Team 4 Maureen Donaldson
10 Dec	J Anderson A Gibson	Goodlet Cockburn Richell	S Dunlop L Cowie	Team 5 Iris Torbet
17 Dec	T Abbott T Douglas	Martin Hughes Wilson	B Barr H Reid	Team 6 Margaret B Hamilton
24 Dec	L Hughes R Buchanan	Arrangements tbc	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Scott Adair
31 Dec	M McDowall	Arrangements tbc		Team 8 Douglas Rogerson
7 Jan	A McLean R Cameron			Team 9 John Macpherson