



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine January 2011 Happy new year!

Dear Friends,

As I write we are in the grip of the most severe Winter for many year and inevitably people are asking why we were not better prepared. The response from the powers that be also has a whiff of inevitability:

'How could anyone prepare for this?'

'We don't always get it as bad as this!'

You have to have some sympathy with this but when life freezes to a halt to the extent that funerals have to be postponed then questions have to be asked. It is not just preparation for Winter that bothers me, however. As another year passes I am concerned about my preparation for the rest of my life. Like everyone else I like my life to be as smooth and uncomplicated as possible but challenges come and sometimes our resources to cope can be stretched to the limit.

I have been thinking about this since I learned that Joni Eareckson has been living with breast cancer since last Summer. Joni has been a great inspiration to me for many years. She is one of the longest living quadriplegics since a diving accident left her in that condition at the age of 17. For more than forty years she has been a unique Christian witness through her paintings, her many books and her campaigning for the rights of disabled people. She has learned to live with chronic pain and has come to terms with her dependence on others for her quality of life.

What is astonishing about this woman's life is her complete conviction that everything that has happened to her is according to God's will and that she is a far better person in a wheelchair than she would have been able-bodied. But then you hear about the cancer and think that surely this is just too much for anyone.

In a recent interview Joni was totally frank about her feelings but is determined not to be overwhelmed by doubt and despair. She was asked: 'How can you just keep believing in a God that would let all that happen?' She replied:

'I pray a lot, and I sing a lot. I sing because I have to sing. There's something good about talking to yourself, reminding yourself of things you believed in the light but you're so quick to doubt in the darkness. And I've seen too much of the light to not choose the Lord.'

Now that is the way to prepare for the rest of your life. Pray a lot and if you can't sing then at least talk to yourself and remind yourself of the great promises that fall to those who love the Lord. When the Psalmist prays he is talking to God but he is also talking to himself and seeking to bring to life the Word planted in his soul.

The icy blasts of human experience will come but a soul in communion with God and sustained by His Word will radiate the warmth of His hope and peace.

I hope you and all those you love will have a good New Year.

Wishing you God's peace in 2011,

Fergus C Buchanan



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Saturday 22nd January 2011

4.30 – 6.30 pm

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

FOOD

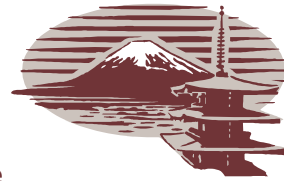
COME ALONG AND BRING

A FRIEND!

CHALLENGES

ACTIVITIES

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

As we write this, it is not yet Christmas – and there is probably less snow lying on the ground than you have! It seems as if the usual winter weather patterns have been reversed this year. Our boys are hoping that the snow comes soon enough as they always look forward to skiing on the local mountains at this time of year. School finishes on Christmas Eve and the younger two boys don't go back till later in January. Daniel and Matthew arrived safely from Hebron so the house is once again filled with six bodies.

We were really encouraged by our Christmas events. Lorna was hoping for ten ladies to come to a small gathering held in our home and exactly that number came. All were contacts through the school apart from one who is one of our neighbours who learns French (!) each week with Lorna. Then we were amazed to find 93 people coming along to our Family Christmas (73 children and 20 adults). It was such a great opportunity to be able to share the Christmas story with so many who were hearing it probably for the first time. The challenge now is to build on these events and trust that some of those folks will have a real desire to hear what the Bible says and receive in their hearts the message of Christmas – a Saviour came into the world.

We are looking forward to seeing what God will do in this coming year in Hiragishi. It is exciting to know that he is working out his purposes. We will have another couple of years here to help lay the foundations of this church as we have been asked by OMF to take on a different role in Japan from the end of 2012 which will mean a move to Tokyo. We will share more about that through this year.

As we move into the Year of the Rabbit, we send you our best wishes for the New Year and thank you for all your support for us here in so many ways.

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

The Guild

Unfortunately, due to the weather we had to cancel two of our meetings, the presentation about Oberammergau and our Christmas Party.

I'm delighted to say that the Oberammergau evening has been re-arranged for Monday 14th February so put that date in your diary!!



Our Bring & Buy was also to be on the 29th November, so bring your gift along to our first meeting on Monday 10th January when we will be hearing about Mary's Meals (weather permitting, of course!).

We look forward to seeing you all then.

Jean Scott

100 Years Young

Mrs Catherine (Cathie) McGregor, a faithful member of St. Paul's for many years, was 100 years old on 15th December, 2010.

Cathie celebrated her very special birthday that day, at Buchanan Castle Golf Club, with a lovely lunch and birthday cake for almost 50 family and friends. She also was presented with her birthday card from the Queen by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, Jill Aitkenhead.

Judith Townson

World Mission Diary for January

On 1st January The Church of Scotland HIV Programme will be launched. It will have the same aims as the previous project

- 1 to break silence on HIV
- 2 to stand together with partner churches
- 3 to offer practical support
- 4 to speak for the voiceless
- 5 and to involve every member of the Church

The Church of Scotland is the only denomination in Britain to with a dedicated HIV programme



Let us give thanks

for all the work that has been done in the past to bring medication to those who need it and support for families who have been devastated by the illness.

Let us pray for

- 1 That the work will continue so that many more people who are in need of medication can obtain it. This is especially true in the poorest countries of the World .
- 2 Marjory Clark, the Coordinator and Mary McGinley, the Administrator in their work
- 3 That Souper Sunday 2011 will raise more money so that the aims of the programme may come to fruition.

Brigade Blethers

Just a wee short blether this month because, like so many other organisations, Brigade was cancelled because of the weather. We will just have to hold our Christmas party in January.

We had a very busy and very successful quiz at the end of November. Congratulations to the badminton club who topped the bill again this year. I have now sent a cheque for £300 to St Margaret's Hospice and the Company hope to be able to donate a further cheque next Spring.

Our next ploy was to take part in the Tree Festival and it was lovely to see all the different ideas for decorating the trees.



Obviously lots of love and thought goes into each tree and there was a lovely warm Christmassy atmosphere in the Church.

Because our meetings had been cancelled we worried that we would not get so many gift bags to send to Chanan for the families they support but lots of red bags stuffed with goodies have appeared and we would like to say a big thank you to the families who helped Brigade to send out our gifts as usual.

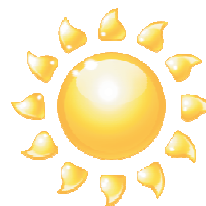
By the time you read this we will be into a new year and our prayer is that 2011 will be a happy and peaceful year for everyone.

Anne Goodlet

Prayer is not the least you can do for someone, prayer is the most you can do for someone. **Billy Graham**

Sun Kids

Volunteers are always needed to help with Sun Kids. The January Sun Kids is usually a very busy event, so we would appreciate as much help as possible on this occasion.



Sun Kids will run on Saturday 22 January 2011 from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, open to all primary school age children. We need helpers, among other tasks, to assist with the crafts, the games and serving food. Volunteers are also needed as 'meeters' and 'greeters' on the door from 4.00pm to 4.45pm, and from 6.00pm to 6.30pm particularly in view of how busy Sun Kids was last January.

If you can help in any way, please contact **Ross Deuchar (955-0429)** or **Douglas Martin (942-7184)**.

Coffee and Mince Pies

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on the 19th December – it was great to see the hall so full on such a wintry day! Thanks also to the musicians whose playing helped to create the festive atmosphere. The total sum raised for Riding for the Disabled £434.50.



Frances Ireland and Liz Trail

Souper Sunday

The Overseas Committee are organizing a soup and crusty bread lunch in the large hall after the morning service on Sunday 23 January 2011 in aid of the Church of Scotland project focusing on HIV Aids. We hope you will come and enjoy the fellowship while supporting such a worthwhile cause.



This project began in 2002 and has now exceeded £1,000,000. Congregations can choose any Sunday in the year to hold their Souper Sunday and last year £107,000 was raised by the 320 churches taking part.

A report by the World Health Organisation, UN Aids programme and UNICEF states that only half of the people worldwide that need HIV drugs are actually receiving them. It is in the poorer countries that the need is greatest.

The Overseas Committee look forward to seeing you on **23 January 2011** for your cup of soup and crusty bread!

The Kimo Peru Project

We were thrilled to hear that the official opening of 'our' home in Peru was going to take place on Saturday December 11th. Rev. Willie McPherson from the Vine Trust was present and has sent some photos and film which we hope to show soon. The first boys will arrive shortly and will experience the love, care and safety which they have been lacking.

Thank you for your prayers and support throughout the project and praise God for bringing it to this stage!

Book Group



This month we have been reading *Mornings in Jenin* by Susan Abulhawa. The year is 1948 and the Abulheja family are forcibly removed from their ancestral home in Ein Hod and sent to live in a refugee camp in Jenin. Through Amal, the granddaughter of the patriarch, we witness the stories of her brothers – one stolen and then raised by a Jewish family who then becomes an Israeli soldier, and the other who will become his brother's enemy as he fights for the Palestine cause.

The description of the family's hardship and perseverance during the fighting between Israel and Palestine is very movingly described and strong family loyalty is evident throughout the book. We travel through three generations of the Abulheja family, sharing their lives as they struggle to come to terms with their increasingly dangerous situation in the refugee camp.

We are all familiar with the Israel/Palestine situation but this story brings it closer to home as we hear about the day to day struggle of one family caught in the conflict. We found the story both enthralling and sad and sometimes it was difficult to remember this was a novel and not a documentary on the conflict. We also felt was particularly poignant that the Israeli Jews were inflicting brutality on the Arabs much as they themselves had been subjected to during the time of the holocaust.

Our first meeting of the New Year is on Tuesday 25 January 2011 when we will be discussing the *Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery.

Joyce Clark

Sunday Tea and Coffee—thank you

We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service.

We are delighted to let you know we were able to give £1000 to St Rollox Church Project for the Asylum Seekers. This would not be possible without the help of our trusty tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2010.

The milk and biscuits for the morning coffee are being donated by **Bob at Milngavie Mini Market**. We are most grateful for his kind gesture.

We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2011.

Many thanks once again.
Margaret and Margaret



Prison Fellowship Scotland

During the past year, I have had the great privilege of visiting prisoners twice weekly in Barlinnie Jail, along with other volunteers (a retired prison officer and a retired head teacher), representing Prison Fellowship Scotland. This is a non-denominational Christian charity whose purpose is to take the Good News of Jesus into each of Scotland's jails.

For me, that has been a thrilling and at the same time a very humbling experience. In particular to see God's mighty hand at work in the desperately chaotic lives of such needy people has been a revelation. Volunteers with PFS work under the supervision of the prison chaplains.

2011 sees the completion of a brand new jail at Low Moss Bishopbriggs which, unlike the previous establishment, will not be a low security prison. It is due to open for 600 convicted offenders and remand prisoners, in the spring of 2012.

The new prison management has already recognised the important role which **Prison Fellowship Scotland** could fulfil, so much so that we have been actively encouraged to approach **potential volunteers** (men and women) for this new outreach.

So that suitable men and women can be identified, vetted (including Disclosure Scotland) and informally trained well in advance of spring 2012, we have already had very helpful preliminary discussions with local ministers. Rev John Craib, Pastor of Bearsden Baptist Church, is kindly arranging an informal evening meeting on 31st January 2011 at Bearsden Baptist Church for anyone interested in the possibility of sharing this vital work. No previous experience or previous training are required. What is needed is a burden for the needy souls whom God seeks to reach behind bars, linked to a non-judgemental attitude and a sympathetic ear.

The Low Moss outreach will very probably comprise both daytime and evening sessions, usually in the form of small group meetings. Clearly some volunteers may be able to devote more time than others but it should be possible for both working and retired people to volunteer.

If you would like to hear more about this project, please call me on 942 1831 or speak to me at St Paul's.

Many thanks for your support in prayer.

**Ramsay Vallance,
Elder.**

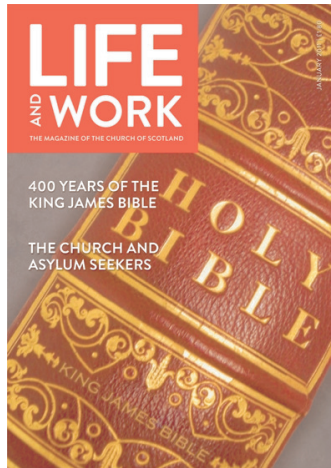


Flower donations—January

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

Please put donations in flower rota pigeon hole at back of church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave, Milngavie G62 6LJ
Phone 956 2630

Life and Work



400 years of the King James Bible

A new campaign encouraging people to experience the Bible afresh. Ian Campbell considers the cultural impact of the Bible on Scottish literature

Bridging the Gap

Jackie Macadam learns about the church's work with asylum seekers in Glasgow

New Features

View from the Pew Andrew Williamson looks at the vexed topic of presbytery planning

A Month in the Life of a Workplace Chaplain.

Bible 'Oddbits' The Rev Laurence Whitley explains the mystery of the missing verse in Luke's Gospel.

The Big Question What are your hopes for 2011?

Music and Worship The Rev Alastair Cherry explains the history of the Music Committee

New Writers

John Purves reflects on the value of New Year promises

Fiona Mathieson looks at the role of volunteers in congregations

Life and Work Needs You Please send submissions and suggestions for parish news, Growing Church, View from the Pew and The Big Picture to Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN or magazine@lifeandwork.org

Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted to announce that this year's Christmas Tree Festival proved to be very popular and attracted many visitors, despite the wintry and difficult conditions. The trees looked beautiful and provoked much discussion and admiration; once again the musicians provided a wonderful accompaniment to the lovely trees and the tearoom was a favourite meeting place.

The two charities for which we were fund-raising, Bobath and The Maxie Richards Foundation, have each been sent £1,000 from the generous donations.

We are very grateful to all those who were involved, both from St. Paul's and the other churches in Milngavie. It was an inspiring start to the Advent season!

Eleanor Easton





Not Ashamed



In November's issue you may recall we reported on the "Not Ashamed" campaign which provides an opportunity for Christians across the UK to stand together and speak up for the Christian foundation of our nation.

We quote from the **Not Ashamed** website:

"Christianity is the basis of many of the laws and fundamental values of the British state, yet the truths, values and behaviour consistent with that foundation are under attack...There is mounting pressure to exclude Jesus Christ from the public domain, consigning Him instead to the realm of the 'private and personal'. Increasingly, Christians are encountering attempts to restrict their freedom to speak and live in accordance with biblical teaching in the workplace and in public life.

In light of all this, it would be easy for the Church to shut herself behind closed doors and for her voice to the nation to fall silent. In many quarters, such a crisis of confidence has already taken root..."

The official launch of the **Not Ashamed** campaign took place on 1st December when former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey presented his newly written leaflet and a declaration of faith signed by thousands of people to MPs at Westminster. There was a lot of media coverage of the event when Lord Carey claimed that Christianity is "being airbrushed out of British society" particularly in the run up to Christmas. He highlighted Councils who had re-branded Christmas as "Winterfest" and

cards that proclaim "Season's Greetings" rather than the Christmas message.

The campaign has sparked a huge response on the BBC website with over 1400 comments posted since 1st Dec on the "Is Christianity under attack" debate blog. www.bbc.co.uk/blogs

It would be wrong to suggest that British Christians are facing persecution such as that endured by the church worldwide, (which we will focus on next month) however in many subtle, seemingly insignificant ways our faith is being challenged and eroded by an unstoppable tide of secularism and active vociferous atheism. We offer the following examples in the hope of sparking a reaction:

- In December 2008 nurse Caroline Petrie from Somerset was suspended because bosses said her **offer to pray** for a patient broke "equality and diversity" rules.
- Staff at a chain of care homes will **not be paid overtime for working on Christmas Day** because the chain says the move would discriminate against other religions.
- A Norfolk fire chief **decided to ditch Christian prayers** during his brigade's annual Remembrance Day service. New chief Nigel Williams replaced prayers with poetry readings after he was told that some staff were "uncomfortable" with the religious aspects of the service. Terry Sanderson, President of the NSS, called for the secularisation of Remembrance Day services, insisting: "It's time for the vicars to stand aside and for new, non-religious events to be introduced."
.../cont

- In 2008 Bideford Council faced bringing to an **end its tradition of praying before meetings** when a Liberal Democrat councillor proposed to ban the practice. Conservative MP Geoffrey Cox, criticised legal advice given at the time as “proof of a disturbing tendency to try to use spurious legal arguments under the Human Rights Act and equality legislation to eliminate the Christian faith from the fabric of our public life”. (BBC)
- More than half of young adults have **never heard of the King James Version** of the Bible, according to a new survey. The poll has revealed that 51 per cent of under-35s have never heard of the King James Bible, compared to 28 per cent for those over the age of 55. (BBC)
- **Tesco routinely supplies halal meat without informing customers.** In a very defensive email from Tesco customer services to the editor they say, “We do not feel that all product information can reasonably fit on a single label. However, we always try to respond as best as we can to our customers' concerns, whatever faith they adhere to.... Hence we would like to reiterate that *all fresh meat we sell is not Halal, except for lamb and chicken* and of those ranges we can absolutely assure you that if you buy British organic lamb and chicken as well as the Willow Farm and Finest Free Range lines, these will not be Halal either.”
- Earlier this year the BBC was forced to defend an **EastEnders storyline** after outraged viewers accused the corporation of anti-Christian bias. The complaints centered around a plotline on EastEnders which portrayed Lucas Johnson, a Christian Pentecostal pastor, as a deranged killer whose deeds were motivated by his Christian faith.
- Inverness minister Douglas Clyne made a strong plea in his November sermon for retention of a centuries-old annual church ceremony following a surprise announcement by Provost Bob Wynd that the **Kirking of the Council** would in future go into abeyance until the start of the next council four-yearly cycle in 2011. (Christians Together)
- Heathrow check-in worker Nadia Eweida was sent home after refusing to **remove a crucifix** which breached BA's dress code. She said her treatment was all the more extraordinary as she and fellow employees had just undergone "diversity training" - including receiving advice on how to treat gays and lesbians in the workplace. The airline's uniform code states that staff must not wear visible jewellery but it makes exceptions for Muslim and Sikh minorities by allowing them to wear hijabs and turbans. (Daily Mail)
- Last year an ex-presenter claimed that the BBC is keen on programmes which attack churches, and that there was a **wider secularist campaign** “to get rid of Christianity”. Don Maclean said: “you don't see any programmes on Anglicanism that don't talk about homosexual clergy and you don't see anything on Roman Catholicism that doesn't talk about paedophiles. “They seem to take the negative angle every time. “(Mail online)
- In March this year it came to light that Shirley Chaplin, a Christian NHS nurse, was told she **could not wear a cross** on hospital wards. She later lost a claim for discrimination.

C H U R C H R E G I S T E R

BAPTISM

'In the Name of the Father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8
 Samuel Glen Carrick, 44 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie
 Struan Donald Gibb, Campsie View, Southmains Farm

WEDDINGS

27.11.10 Lynne Stewart, 69 Whittingham Court and
 John Dow, 1 Naseby Ave., Broomhill

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr & Mrs A Laird, 12 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie now	38
19 Keystone Quadrant, Milngavie	42

DEATHS

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

30.11.10 Mr John Shields, 27 Elm Court, 97 Main Street	
11.12.10 Mrs Jessie Kennedy, Flat 4/2 9 Prince Albert Road, Hyndland	
14.12.10 Mrs Rowena MacKinnon, Ashley House,	15
14.12.10 Mrs Jean Gibson, Four Hills Care Home	36

Copy date for February Life— Sunday 23rd January for the pigeon hole or up to Wed 26th January if emailing. Please send to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or 123 Garscadden Road, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
9 Jan	M Thomson E Izatt	MacKinnon Whitelaw	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Maureen MacIntyre
16 Jan	A Gibson A Macleod	Richell Wallis	No stall	Team 2 (Communion) Andrew Mitchell
23 Jan	A Abbott R Douglas	Berry McCreadie	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 3 Gordon Campbell
30 Jan	M McLean R Cameron	Wilson Chapman	C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 Elizabeth Bragg
6 Feb	J Ford C Tanner	Reid Sillars	L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 5 Ramsay Vallance