

# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

December 2014



Dear Friends,

A lady was telling me recently that when she worked in a shop in the 1950s they would start preparing for Christmas two weeks in advance. Compare that to today when the decorations appear in the shops, the adverts are shown on television, and the odd Christmas tree appears in a window – all at the end of October. How often have you said, 'It's getting earlier every year'?

How did this happen? Well, you'll have your own ideas about that but the fact is it has happened. And how do we live with it? We can protest that Christmas has become 'a pagan festival' but someone will no doubt point out that it was a pagan festival in the first place before the Church hi-jacked it. We can deplore the excess of spending and getting but how far have we allowed ourselves to get sucked in? We can be indignant when local authorities actively discourage any Christian content in their 'winter programmes' but how far are we willing to stick our necks out for what we call 'the true meaning'?

I face questions like this every year and when it's all over I'm never entirely sure I've risen to the challenge. This is where I find the Christian Year helpful. In St Paul's we have a tradition of observing Advent in various ways. Advent was originally conceived as a time of self-examination and rededication very much like Lent. Yes, I know that both self-examination and rededication should be a constant in the Christian life but every now and then it's good to have a 'season' when we are encouraged along these lines.

Traditionally Advent has been observed with the Second Coming of Jesus in mind when the whole of Creation will be made new, according to Jesus' own promise. Christians are therefore encouraged to think of their lives and to what extent they truly reflect the coming Kingdom of love and justice and peace. For me that means meditation on God's Word where we see Christ more clearly and understand His ways more fully. Then we are better able to be the witnesses He wants us to be. What better gift can the Church give to the world this Christmas than lives lived more closely to the One whose birth we celebrate.

Wishing you peace this Christmas,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leslie'.

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

Saturday 29 November	10.00am	Tree Festival Commences
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Advent Service – Back to Christmas – And Beyond: ‘One Who Saw’: Anna – Robin Easton</b>
Sunday 30 November	11.00am	Morning Worship
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b>
Thursday 4 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Friday 5 December</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Tree Festival ends</b>
Saturday 6 December	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast (St. Paul's)
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Advent Service– Back to Christmas – And Beyond: ‘One Who Feared’: Herod Douglas Muirhead</b>
	4.30pm	Sun Kids
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>The Ark</b>
Sunday 7 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship with the Sacrament Of the Lord’s Supper</b>
Thursday 11 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday 13 December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Advent Service –Back to Christmas – And Beyond: ‘One Who Thought Deeply’: Mary - Stephen Thoms</b>
Sunday 14 December	11.00am	Gift Service
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service with the Salvation Army</b>
Wednesday 17 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
<b>Thursday 18 December</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>
Saturday 20 December	9.30am	Advent Service — Back to Christmas – And Beyond: ‘One Who Hoped’: Isaiah - Fergus Buchanan
<b>Sunday 21 December</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Family Worship followed by Coffee &amp; Mince Pies</b>
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
<b>Wednesday 24 December</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Carols in the Precinct</b>
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Watchnight Service</b>



## Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's (Cont.)

Thursday 25 December 10.30am

Christmas Morning  
Celebrations (St. Luke's)

**Sunday 28 December 11.00am**  
7.00pm

**Morning Worship**  
NO Evening Worship

### Watchnight Service

Annual Hogmanay Watchnight Service will be held in Glasgow Cathedral on 31st December at 11pm.

Alan Hamilton will explore the theme ***God with Us.***

All welcome

### Coffee and Mince Pies

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will take place in the Large Hall after the Morning Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This year the proceeds will be donated to Revive MS Support – a charity which reaches out to people living with MS.



As usual, donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.

Revive MS Support is a charity dedicated to helping everyone affected by Multiple Sclerosis at every stage from diagnosis onwards. Its aim is to enable people to maintain and improve their quality of life and live life to the full. It provides a range of services which include information, counselling, physiotherapy and oxygen therapy as well as exercise and leisure classes. Anyone affected by MS, including close family members and carers, can use these services.

Frances Ireland and Elizabeth Trill

## Christmas Invitation Delivery



The Stewardship Committee are arranging a special Christmas delivery from St Paul's to every household within our Parish boundary.

The delivery will take the form of an Invitation "to join us this Christmas"

Contained within the Invitation will be a "Peace on Earth" bookmark, detailing all the services scheduled at St Paul's during December. Particular emphasis has been given to encourage families to come along to our Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

Extra "Christmas Invitations" will be made available at the back of the church if you wish to hand these to any other households you may know, that might consider coming along to join us at St Paul's this Christmas.

I am sure that anyone who takes up our invitation to join us this Christmas will experience the warmth and support of a loving and caring family at St Paul's, that will encourage them to come back to learn more.

If you are able to assist in the delivery of our Invitations please contact me by phone on 0141 563 8698.

**Gordon Fairbrother**

## Gardening Thanks



Once again the garden season is at an end and what a wonderful summer this has been. We have made the garden easier to manage and it is paying dividends. Many people have made some very nice comments which boosts our morale. May I take this opportunity to thank all the regular helpers not forgetting the people who help us with our projects. I would also like to thank Hugh (the Church Officer) for doing a sterling job with the grass and hedge. Enjoy the break and I look forward to working again with you all next year.

**Sheila Dickson**

**Garden Convener**

# Life And Work

## December Edition



**Following in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph**  
Iain Connon walks the Nativity Trail from Nazareth to Bethlehem

### **‘God-shaped, angelic and Revolutionary’**

Leanne Clelland of ALTERnativity offers a fresh look at Christmas, with a focus on women, angels and revolution

### **A Life-Changing Moment**

Ten years on from the devastating Boxing Day Tsunami, the Rev John Purves, who was minister in Sri Lanka at the time, reflects on the impact of the disaster

### **Ministry on the Margins**

Jackie Macadam meets the Rev Dr Margaret Fowler and learns about her unique ministry in Jamaica

### **Follow the Money**

In the latest part of his ‘reforming the church’ series, the Rev Dr Doug Gay considers questions of finance

### **A Missionary’s Legacy**

Marion Francis, Chair of The Leprosy Mission Scotland, sees the work supported by the charity in India today.

### **A New Island Church**

John R Hume focuses on a new church which will carry forward the stones of faith in Orkney

### **A Silent Place**

The Rev Professor David Fergusson reflects on the need for contemplation within the busyness of daily lives

**Plus** all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.

**Online** visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Brigade Blethers



Carrying on from last month's Blether! Our Fancy dress party was a great success but have you noticed how "posh" children's fancy dress costumes have become these days? Disney seems to have cornered the market there and we had some lovely little princesses etc. The older girls turned up in their pyjamas - oops sorry, they are leisure suits these days.

Our joint enrolment service with the Boys' Brigade was also extra special this year. The Church was full and Mr Buchanan had made it a real happy family service. It was lovely having a baptism and the girls all "oohed and aahed" over the baby.

This Thursday will be a time for finding out how much we know about all sorts of things. Our Fundraising quiz is proving very popular once again and this year all of the proceeds go to Tearfund. Christmas bags and appeal letters for gifts for Chanan have now gone out and that means that Christmas really is coming up fast. I have even received the Panto tickets for Peter Pan at the Kings next January and we have paid the deposit on a visit to Auchengillan next March.

We do manage to cover our badgework in the middle of all this and I think I told you that this year's theme is "All things Scottish" hence our tartan Christmas tree. But we never forget that our purpose for being here every Thursday is to Seek, serve and follow Christ. We remember all those families that have been affected by war or illness or bigotry. We cannot do very much to help but we pray that God will show us a way to spread peace and happiness where we can.

Have a happy and meaningful Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

**Vivienne, Sarah, Alison B., Alanna, Alison C., Janet, Katy, Sheila, Anne and all the girls.**



### Scottish Bible Society

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sponsored Walk on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The weather was kind to us and we managed to stay dry! Although the clouds were low and we couldn't see the hills, it was a still morning and the reflections on Craigallion Loch were beautiful. Several of the participants enjoyed a welcome post-walk lunch at the Stables Tearoom before going home to put their feet up. The total sum raised from St. Paul's was £157.

**Frances Ireland**



## Milngavie Youth Centre

To enable Milngavie Youth Centre to grow and develop a wider range of activities and subjects of interest for our young people we are seeking to recruit volunteers on a broad basis. We are not seeking to replace the provision by East Dunbartonshire Council, rather we wish to enhance their contribution. Accordingly we are looking for people with skills or attributes which they would like to share with our young people.

Perhaps you are keen on photography and would be willing to run a course focused on developing that skill among our group. You may have skill in creative subjects. We are also hoping that we can recruit volunteers who might be able to assist our executive group with improving our IT capability. If you are willing to help with the occasional decorating or repair work in the Centre, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, perhaps you are unable to see a place for you as a volunteer, but you might have an item of equipment such as a computer, be it desk or lap top, a television set or other equipment which might be of value to the Centre, then in this and all of the areas mentioned above, please contact Gordon McCorkindale on 0141 955 0180. or email [gordon@mccorkindale.me.uk](mailto:gordon@mccorkindale.me.uk)



## Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 29th November - Friday 5th December

We hope you are planning to visit the Christmas Tree Festival with its wonderful array of beautifully decorated trees! Once again the whole community is involved - in the decorating of the trees, in performing a wide range of music for our enjoyment as we look at the trees and also in providing a tempting array of home baking for the tearoom.

As before, the donations given by visitors will go to charities which this year are all local: Chanan Glasgow does sterling work among the homeless in Glasgow; the Fraser Centre is well-known in Milngavie for its valuable work among the older members of the community, and Friendship House is a welcoming centre run by all the churches in Milngavie.

The Church is open for the Festival from 10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m. every day except Sunday when the times are 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.. Please do come and bring your friends - you will be very welcome!



### Dear Friends

It still seems strange at this time of year not to be looking on out on the first falls of snow of the long winter. After all these years of living in Hokkaido, it has to be said that it is not unpleasant to be enjoying the blue skies and crisp days of Tokyo at this time of year. We do miss the cosy insides of the houses in Hokkaido though.

Life is rather chaotic just now and will continue that way right through this month as we get ready to come back to Scotland for a short time. Not only does the work continue here, we also need to prepare to hand over our roles for a time to others and also get on with working out a schedule for our months in Scotland in the early part of the year. Lorna gets back at the end of December and David follows on with Alistair in January. The reason for that is that Alistair's school class has a special ski trip early in January and he did not want to miss it! It is not so easy for Calum to miss school and football for a long period so he will only return for a two week holiday over Christmas and New Year. He will be here in Japan during our time at home along with Matthew, who has a job in his gap year. Thankfully we have some great OMF colleagues here who are happy to look after our boys for these months.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone during our time back. Although we will be based at Lorna's parents' home near Kinross, we will make it

Through to Milngavie on at least a couple of Sundays and hopefully at times during the week too. Lorna is back until the beginning of April and David till early May. The school year here starts in April which is why Lorna and Alistair will return then for Alistair's final year at primary school.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas. Many thanks for all your support over this past year and we look forward to our partnership continuing in 2015.

*With our love*

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

### Flower Donations - December

My thanks to all who have contributed to the flower fund during 2014. Also, to the team of arrangers, great work ladies.



Mrs R. Douglas,  
Mrs M. Mackay,  
St. Paul's Sunday School,  
Mrs. W. Douglas

Please put donations in the Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to Mrs Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave., Milngavie G62 6LJ  
Tel 956 2630





## Christmas At The Lodging House Mission

As has been the custom for some years, the Lodging House Mission would be glad to accept donations of shoeboxes to give out to service users after Christmas lunch. Please find below a list of suggested items:

### Men:

- Toiletries:** Toothbrush/paste; Shampoo; Shower Gel; Deodorant; Razors; Shaving Foam; Comb; Face Cloth
- Clothes:** Hat/Scarf/Gloves; Underwear; Socks;
- Miscellaneous:** Aftershave; Playing Cards; Book; Sweets; Chocolate

### Women:

- Toiletries:** Toothbrush/paste; Shampoo; Shower Gel; Deodorant; Hair Brush;
- Clothes:** Hat/Scarf/Gloves; Underwear; Socks;
- Miscellaneous:** Make Up; Playing Cards; Book; Magazine; Sweets; Chocolate

**The Lodging House Mission will gratefully receive donations in any form, be they loose or boxed goods or financial donations.**

This year in particular, with our finances so stretched, we would especially appreciate monetary donations to help us defray the costs of extending a warm hospitality to service-users over the coming Christmas period.

Be assured that all donations made to the Lodging House Mission are much valued and will be used to brighten the lives of our service users. If help is needed to uplift any donations, please call 0141 552 0285 to arrange this.

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

**Matthew 25: v34-40**

## World Mission

### Prayers for Peace



Once again the eyes of the world are on Jerusalem after four worshippers were killed and eight injured as two men attacked a West Jerusalem synagogue. The Church of Scotland condemns this attack.

This is the latest in a series of clashes and attacks, some of which have been linked to concerns over access to the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif, a site that is holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike.

As the tension in Jerusalem increases and the violence escalates the need for peace is all the more apparent as innocent people on both sides of the conflict are caught up in these clashes.

On the 24th of each month we join together with Christian Aid and Christians all around the world to pray for peace in the Middle East. As we approach the 24th December and remember the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace, in Bethlehem, please remember the Holy Land in your personal prayers and in your church services.

### Buying Christmas Chocolates? Think Fairtrade!

Buying Fairtrade chocolate makes a huge difference to the lives of cocoa farmers and their families around the world, so whether it's a chocolate advent calendar or a box of chocolate truffles think Fairtrade this Christmas!



Life is hard for cocoa farmers as the price of beans has decreased in recent years, and disease and age are damaging many of their trees.

Fairtrade helps to make cocoa farming more sustainable by guaranteeing minimum prices and providing a premium to invest in local communities, so farmers can provide a better future for themselves and their families.

You can help by buying fairtrade chocolate for your loved ones this Christmas!

## The Guild



**27th Oct.** The talk given by Jill Reid on behalf of Women's Aid was very informative, giving us an insight into the work carried out on their behalf. The statistics are alarming, particularly when they do not cover the abuse not reported. This has a devastating effect on women & children and more need to be aware of the services available for a safe & protected refuge. It was good to learn that talks are going on in schools in order to make the children aware of the dangers and perhaps this will enable more of possible abuse brought to light.

**3rd. Nov.** Jill Scott & Bill Hicks, co-authors of the Grand Central Hotel gave us a most interesting talk on how they gathered the memorabilia needed, as past records from the hotel no longer existed. The Central Hotel opened in 1883 and was the 'in place to stay', having many well known film stars & celebrities visiting. After many years it declined to such a sad state, there was a need for closure and total refurbishment. The new owners, Principal Hayley Hotel Group did a £20 million makeover, restoring it to its former glory and it re-opened in January 2011 as the Grand Central Hotel. The book abounds with memories of times past and has over 600 illustrations.

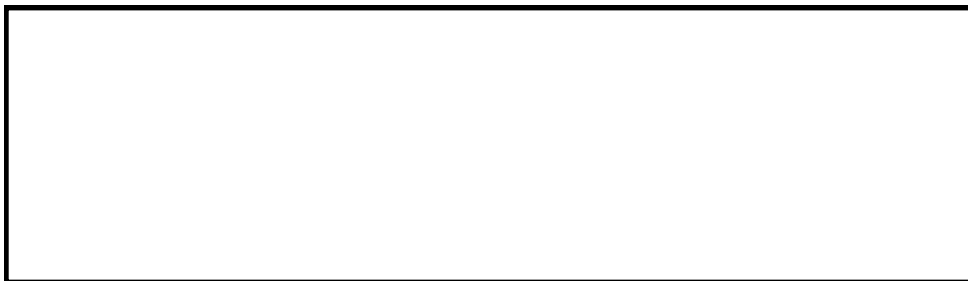
**10th Nov.** We were delighted to welcome our own Minister, Fergus, to speak to us at our meeting. His talk was aptly themed on women who have played a part in influencing him & others in their lives. He quoted Paul's letter to Timothy, being reminded of his sincere faith, which had been inspired by his grandmother and his mother. Other examples of women who planted the seed of encouragement, inspiration & compassion, namely for him personally were his mother and his wife Gabrielle. Fergus always makes a topic interesting and his sense of humour shines through at all times.

## Diary Dates

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Dec 1st.      | Allyson Flett – Christmas Decorations               |
| “ 8th.        | Christmas Dinner - Clober Golf Club 6.30 for 7 p.m. |
| 2015 Jan 5th. | Kessington Singers                                  |
| “ 12th        | Eleanor Easton – update on Kimo (1.30 – 3.p.m.)     |

President Morag Thomson wishes all a blessed Christmas & Best Wishes for 2015

**Margaret Stirling**



### Note from the Editor

If anyone has any comments/suggestions for the magazine, please feel free to send them to the magazine email address: [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com) or speak to me in person! I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Carla MacAllister

Copy date for the January issue is Sunday 28th December if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 31st December if emailing. Please send to [st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
7nd Dec	M. McIntyre M. Spencer	McCreadie Berry	L. Cowie C. McKinnon	Team 6 J. McQueen
14th Dec	P. Dudgeon S. Lindsay	Sillars Richell	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 M. Kennedy (EC)
21th Dec	E. Izatt F. Ireland		B. Watson M. Conway	Team 8 R. Rutherford
28th Dec	A. Gibson A. McLeod		M. Ure R. Mill	Team 9 M. MacPherson