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Copy date for the January issue is Sunday 25th December if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 28th October if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine this year. All articles are gratefully received!

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas,

Carla MacAllister

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th Dec	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Wilson MacKinnon	C. McKinnon E. Burns	Team 6 R. Easton
11th Dec	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Richell Wallis	R. Raeburn H. Reid	Team 7 M. Boyd (EC)
18th Dec	M. McLean A. McLeod	Chapman Sillars	M. Conway B. Watson	Team 8 G. Rogerson
25th Dec	J. Ford C. Tanner	No Creche	No Traidcraft	Team 9 G. Getty



Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's



- Saturday 3 December
- 8.00am Prayer Breakfast (St. Paul's)
 - 9.30am Advent Service– Mary's Song: What is God Like? – Fergus Buchanan**
 - 10.00am Tree Festival commences
 - 2.00pm Nativity Scene- Nativity Story in Precinct**
- Sunday 4 December
- 11.00am Morning Worship
 - 7.00pm Milngavie Churches Christmas Celebration**
- Thursday 8 December
- 8.00pm Prayer Meeting
- Friday 9 December
- 1.00pm Tree Festival Ends**
- Saturday 10 December
- 9.30am Advent Service Zechariah's Song: Why do you need God? – Robin Easton
- Sunday 11 December
- 11.00am Gift Service**
 - 7.00pm Evening Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- Thursday 15 December
- 8.00pm Prayer Meeting**
- Saturday 17 December
- 9.30am Advent Service - The Angel's Song: How did God come? – Douglas Muirhead
- Sunday 18 December
- 11.00am Family Worship followed by Coffee & Mince Pies**
 - 7.00pm Christmas Readings and Music
 - 7.30pm Douglas Academy Christmas Concert**
- Monday 19 December
- 7.30pm Douglas Academy Christmas Concert**
- Saturday 24 December
- 9.30am Advent Service - Simian's Song: How did God do it? – Stephen Thoms
 - 4.30pm Carols in the Precinct**
 - 7.00pm Christmas Eve Family Service
 - 11.30pm Watchnight Service**
- Sunday 25 December
- 11.00am Morning Worship
 - NO Evening Worship**
- Sunday 1 January 2017
- 11.00am Morning Worship
 - NO Evening Worship**

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

December 2016



At this time of year you may have seen slogans put out by Christian organisations along the lines of: 'Put Christ Back Into Christmas' or 'Jesus Is The Reason For The Season.' This is usually accompanied by criticisms of the excess that is often displayed at Christmas. Recently, however, there has been a backlash from people who do not share our faith. They say: 'Well, actually 25th December was a Winter Festival long before it was hi-jacked by Christians and given a new meaning. So just leave us alone to celebrate it in a way that we are comfortable with.'

It is not easy to argue against this. Ancient peoples all over Europe held their Winter festivals with great feasting and anticipation of future days of light and warmth. The Roman festival of Saturnalia carried on into the middle of the fourth century AD before it was superseded by the Christian celebration of Christmas.

These apparent pagan roots, along with the attendant excess, made some Christians uneasy and for many years Christmas was banned in Scotland. Things changed, however. A growing appreciation of the Christian Year and how it provided a structure to tell the story of Jesus birth, death and resurrection, and the coming of His Spirit to the Church, has brought us to our own time.

So where are we today? I don't think we should grudge anyone celebrating the Season in whatever way they wish. But as we tell the story of Jesus' birth and what it means to the world we extend an invitation to everyone to explore a deeper meaning. Like every Church throughout the country and the world we will have special services throughout the month of December when there will be celebration of God's love for us shown in the gift of Jesus, when we can experience the Christ in Christmas, that He is our reason for the Season.

Wishing you all the best of times this Christmas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'May Nicholson'.

Faith Leaders Call for Action on Climate Change

As you may remember, the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid held a Care for Creation conference in early September. Here partners from all over the world came together to share stories of the devastating impact climate change is having on their congregations and countries. We also learnt about actions we can take as a church to combat climate change.



The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. Russell Barr has joined faith leaders from around the world to sign a statement calling for urgent action to make the Paris agreement work. He said: "*The Church of Scotland has heard the cries for help from churches around the world, from Africa, India, South America and the islands of the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans...I call on world leaders to listen to these voices and commit to the actions set out in this statement*".

You can read the full statement on the COP22 faith website—<http://www.interfaithstatement2016.org/>

Letter From Preshal



Dear Friends,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your most kind donation of foodstuff for the people of the Preshal Trust brought in by John Macpherson.

We are busy with all our various programmes and activities where we encourage our people to take part and participate, to push their boundaries and to try new challenges. We are all about HOPE. Helping Our People Excel.

These programmes are open to everyone and we also seek to help those who are lonely and need care, comfort and support.

Once again, thank you all so much for your continued support of our work here in Govan and we pray that you will be blessed in your service for the Lord in Milngavie.

With love and thanks,

May Nicholson
Project Director

World Mission



Reflections on America

Having recently returned from the USA, The Moderator, Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, reflects on the mood of the country in the run up to the election, and the implications of its result.



Rev Dr Russell Barr said: "For many years the Church of Scotland has enjoyed a partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUSA) as well as the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and the United Church in Canada (UCC).

The common thread throughout our visit was anxiety. Anxiety about the tone and conduct of the Presidential election, anxiety about the rifts it was revealing in American society, and anxiety about what the future held for a country so deeply divided.

In the coming days it will be important to breathe deeply as the dust settles and the world comes to terms with Mr Trump's election. However abhorrent many people find him, the American people have spoken and we need to respect their choice. More importantly we need to listen carefully because in the USA and the UK, there is an evident disconnect between people and politicians, and an alarming loss of trust in what has been the accepted political process.

We are living through challenging times and as Moderator I will be encouraging people to keep faith in the Christian values of grace, hospitality, compassion and love."

Come all You Faithful...

Christmas is coming and many are reaching for their Advent calendars in anticipation. If you are looking for something interesting to do this Advent, you might be interested in our Come All You Faithful resource which can be found on the church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

This Advent resource provides the opportunity for you to journey to Palestine, to hear the stories of Palestinian people and their culture, to be led in prayer, and to contemplate peace in a land of occupation.

As well as providing personal reflection, there are four small group study guides within the booklet which open up an opportunity for discussion.

Contact us on world@churchofscotland.org.uk to order your free copies.

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 Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. Do come and join us for festive fare and fellowship.

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

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity

160,000 babies, children and young people are treated at the Royal Hospital for Children every year. Money raised by Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity (formerly Yorkhill Children's Charity) helps to fund:

Enhanced medical equipment to help doctors, nurses and surgeons treat the young patients;

Innovative play programmes that help to distract, teach and treat children during their stay;

Family support services that care for parents, family and carers during difficult times;

Groundbreaking paediatric research to help future generations of Scotland's children.

Frances Ireland and Liz Traill



Gardening Thank You

Once again it is time for the volunteer gardeners to have a well earned break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work in what was a very difficult year for gardening because of the weather. We have such a great team and I look forward to another year with your help in keeping the garden weed free and colourful for everyone to enjoy. I would also like to thank Hugh for all his work in keeping the grass and hedge cut. I have had numerous comments about how well the hedge is cut and "how does he do it?"

Once again my sincere thanks to you all.

Sheila Dickson
Garden Convener

BreakAway @ St. Paul's

BreakAway is a volunteer-based group supported by St. Paul's Church of Scotland and has been provided information by Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Friends programme. Our aim is to provide a relaxed, dementia-friendly and sociable environment with opportunities for members to enjoy chat, share in activities and make new friends.

The group will meet on Tuesday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3.30pm in our large hall.

There have been a few stops and starts since the introduction of this new project in St. Paul's in early 2015 but we are delighted that BreakAway is about to open in November. Our committee have been busy preparing for the first three 'start-up' gatherings and look forward to welcoming our first new members on the 22nd November, finishing with a group visit to the Christmas Tree Festival on the 6th December. We hope to restart again in late January 2017 and arrange regular weekly Breakaway gatherings.

As you will recall, many of you attended the information morning and workshops last year and indicated your interest in this project. To help in preparation for January's re-launch of Breakaway we ask that you re-confirm your availability to help out by adding your name, phone number and email address to the list on the table at the back of the church. New volunteers are also welcome and we hope to arrange another training session in January. More details soon!

If you are interested in supporting Breakaway in any way and want to learn more or get involved please speak to **Gabrielle Buchanan** or **Peggy Barlow**.

Flower Donations - December

Mrs E Easton
Mrs W Douglas
Mrs H Kelly
Mrs M MacKay
Mrs Margaret Laws



Please forward any donations to Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Avenue, Milngavie G62 6NN or place in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the church. Cheques should be made payable to St Pauls flowers

It is helpful if your name and address are supplied for acknowledgement purposes.

Thank you to all who have donated over the past year. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas.

Lodging House Mission (LHM)



The Lodging House Mission is a lifeline for some of the city's most vulnerable people. It is open Monday to Friday, and on average see 100 homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people on a daily basis. In the winter months the night shelter opens at LHM from 1st December, and this year LHM would like to extend their opening hours to include a Saturday, allowing people to use the space instead of leaving the building at 7.30am with nowhere to go until the shelter reopens at night.

The existing staff and volunteers work tirelessly at LHM and, like many charities, they are always grateful to have more individuals volunteering, as you can see from our Presbytery website which often has information on volunteering for LHM. LHM have thought about the different ways they could extend the service and have developed a unique opportunity to allow congregations to directly support LHM: they're asking congregations to arrange a team of volunteers to allow the service to operate on Saturdays (separate from any individuals who already volunteer on weekdays). They need four people from 9am-3pm to volunteer with a LHM staff member who will be responsible for the overall running of the day. The six hours per person can be shared by two people who choose to split the hours or it can be one person, that is a choice for congregations to make.

They hope to have support from at least 12 congregations to volunteer their time for this vital service for vulnerable and often excluded people. 12 congregations working together with LHM would mean that a congregation would only need to commit to one Saturday every 12 weeks to make a huge impact on the lives of people in their city. Six hours from a congregation's time would allow this service to support people for an extra day every week.

What would you be doing? You would help with breakfast and lunch and clearing away dishes. You would also be engaging with the service users and would, of course, be supported by a LHM staff member.

If you would be able to help or would like more information, please contact:
Ann Begg 956 5551

Thank You

Having had two long stays in hospital in the past few months. I enjoyed the visits from our minister and members of the congregation. The beautiful church flowers which I received each time I returned home were very much appreciated.
Thank you.

Jean Prosser.

St. Paul's Church Society 50th Anniversary Celebrations

In May members of the society enjoyed a weekend of fellowship. We stayed in an excellent hotel in Mull and attended worship in Iona Abbey on the Sunday morning which was very special.

On a Saturday afternoon in October members and invited guests enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea in the large hall. Mary Hutchison, one of the founder members, cut the "Church" cake and was then given a bouquet of flowers. Alex McEwan had realised the substantial amount of £500 from making and selling his pound cards. £250 from the society's funds was added to this and Alex presented a cheque to our minister who accepted it on behalf of the Preshal Trust.

Next day at the morning service the Church Visitor Stand, our gift to the church, was dedicated with members of the committee taking part in the service.

A 50th Anniversary celebrated well!

Guild News



The Guild year began in entertaining style with a return visit from Yvonne Waring. She gave several renditions from the repertoire of the late Joyce Grenfell, taking on the role of the nursery teacher with fearsome reality.

On the 10th. October, Valerie Kinghorn, one of our members gave a moving account of her childhood experiences in a Japanese internment camp. It left us all feeling thankful that we had been spared such suffering during World War 2.

Hilary Wildman, of Waitrose was our third speaker on the 17th. We heard about the beginnings of the store and the philosophy that underlies its operation and that of the parent company John Lewis.

On 24th Douglas and Stuart Annan reminded us of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Both of them helped guide visitors to Hampden park. But we also were reminded of the summer of sport and the various venues, as well as the friendly atmosphere that could be felt all over the city.

Valerie Paterson was our guest speaker at the end of the month, with humorous reminiscences of holiday 'near disasters'.

November 7th. saw a return visit of the Exalt Choir, with its choice mix of songs and readings from poetry and scripture. At that meeting we were joined by ladies from St. Luke's and other churches in Milngavie.

Guild week was celebrated on November 14th. with afternoon tea, preceded by a 'Songs of Praise', with hymns chosen by our members. A collection was taken in aid of our Guild's chosen project 'Let's stick together'.

Helen Arnold

November saw the end of Helen's time as Church Secretary. Over the past fifteen years she has been the friendly face in the office and the helpful voice at the end of the phone. Many tasks were undertaken that were well beyond the call of duty but in everything her patience and understanding shone through, not to mention her commitment to give her best for the strengthening of the Kingdom.

On too many occasions to mention she has been an invaluable support to the Minister, especially when Presbytery duties mounted up and letters and reports had to be written.

In the day to day work of the Church, her timely reminders were always appreciated as well as her ability to anticipate how I might react to certain situations.

Helen has been a gift to St Paul's in her work as Secretary and we wish her the best of all things in her continuing work for her Lord.

FCB

Aileen McColl

No sooner does Helen Arnold step down as Secretary than we welcome Aileen McColl as her successor. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and we look forward to her contribution to the work of St Paul's.

Men's Association



After a diverse and interesting programme of speakers in the first half of our session we will finish on Tuesday 6th December with a presentation from Robin Easton entitled "Street Pastors".

Our Annual Christmas lunch will be held at Cyan Restaurant on Tuesday 13th. Members wishing to attend this event should contact Ian Marshall or any committee member for further details.

Our meetings start again on 10th January with a talk by Rev Fergus Buchanan entitled "A Talk of Interest" and a fortnight later on 24th January Rev Bill Ferguson's presentation will be "Robert Burns - Saint or Sinner"

We shall be delighted to welcome members, friends and members of the congregation to any or all of our meetings.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued prayers and interest for us here in Japan, in particular for the Lord's hand to be upon David as he undergoes the stronger chemo. There are many ups and downs along the way and things can intervene to take plans off track. The best information at the time of writing is that David will be having the third round of the stronger chemo (and seventh chemo cycle in total so far) in December.

This is of course a time when the thoughts of many turn to Christmas and we have shared before how this is often a big opportunity in Japan where so few know anything of what Christmas is really all about. A German colleague made David a special Advent Calendar which we hope will become a talking point in David's room (or rather his space in the 4 bed room) and open up chances to speak with nurses and other staff about the meaning of Christmas. For us as a family this will be a very different Christmas as David will almost certainly be in hospital. We will have to come up with an alternative plan! Matthew will be back from Glasgow for the holidays so we will all be together in the same place for a while.

OMF Japan continues with our prayer goal of seeing 200 by 2020 - looking for 200 workers in Japan by the year of the Tokyo Olympics. It's an ambitious goal. It doesn't just mean long-term missionaries like we are though that will comprise the majority. We are more and more seeing Christians who come to Japan for employment seeking to link up with OMF. They are reaching areas of society that we missionaries don't reach. We are also excited to see the potential in workers coming increasingly from other Asian countries which enriches the diversity of our team here.

We send you Christmas greetings and thank you for your support for us, both prayerful and financial, through the past year.

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

LIFE AND WORK: December Edition



O Come Let Us Adore Him

The Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith reflects on the history of some of the best-loved Christmas carols.

Plus: seasonal story from Kenneth Steven, reflections by Ron Ferguson and the Very Rev James Simpson, Christmas prayer.

'I Absolutely Believe in God'

Jackie Macadam meets Boyd Tunnock, managing director of the world-famous confectionery company and Church of Scotland elder.

Helping the Vulnerable

Thomas Baldwin reports on the major funding crisis facing Borderline, the Church-supported charity which helps homeless Scots in London.

SOLAS – 'Saving of lives at sea'

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean on life aboard a Royal Naval vessel rescuing migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

A Visitor's View

Richard Ellis shares his reflections on the 885 services in 200 churches he attended in the course of his work as Fulton Lecturer in Speech at New College, Edinburgh.

'You are Beautiful'

In the third part of a series centring around prison life, the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan describes the hope from the events which led to Jesus' crucifixion.

'A Lovely and Undervalued Part of Scotland'

John R Hume profiles a parish church in an area with strong Covenanting links.

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