

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2016



Dear Friends,

The New Year is traditionally a time when we remember the Magi who journeyed from the East to pay tribute to the newly born Jesus. They were late arrivals in Bethlehem having travelled a great distance, probably from Babylonia. It is something of a mystery as to what exactly set them on their way. We are told that they saw a star when it rose in the East and they connected this with the birth of 'the king of the Jews'. Something about this star spoke to expectations they had that one day a significant figure would be born in the land of the Jews.

It is doubtful if they would have made the journey to pay tribute to a foreign king unless they were convinced that this particular king would give them some insight into the great mysteries of life. Magi were scholars who studied science, philosophy and religion. Sometimes this led them into areas that today we would call the 'occult' but at their best these men were honest seekers after truth. It is possible that copies or fragments of the Hebrew Scriptures had come to their hands and they were familiar with the expectation that one day a special person would emerge from the nation of Israel who would offer hope not just for this life but also the life to come. Then they saw the star and it touched something profound within them. Joseph Ratzinger wrote this:

'All kinds of factors could have combined to generate the idea that the language of the star contained a message of hope. But none of this would have prompted people to set off on a journey, unless they were people of unrest, people of hope, people on the lookout for the true star of salvation.'

A colleague recently said to me that he is convinced that there are many people in our country who are interested in Jesus but who just do not see the point of the Church. This is not new. There will always be 'people of unrest, people of hope, people on the lookout for the true star of salvation.' That is the way we are made. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. And the Church has a point for it is within the community of faith that the story of Jesus is told, that His significance is drawn out, that the hope He brings for this life and the next is emphasized, that His love is demonstrated for those who need Him most.

Another year stretches before us. Let us never lose this vision of whose we are and whom we serve. Not just for our own sake but for the honest seekers after truth who God is seeking to gather into His purpose.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leguer' followed by a horizontal line.

St Paul's Christmas Outreach

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee of St Paul's, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who so readily participated in delivering Christmas Cards to every household in our Parish. The Christmas Card carried the message "You are warmly invited to join us this Christmas" and listed details of the December services at St Paul's.

Without the help and support of the volunteers this important outreach could not have been undertaken. Your help is very much appreciated.

Gordon Fairbrother
Stewardship Convener

Could you help?

Every Sunday morning after the service we meet in the large Hall for tea/coffee and fellowship. This is made possible by a team of volunteers willing to provide this service. We are looking to add more volunteers to this rota so we are asking for your help. There are always two persons on duty every Sunday morning and as your services would only be called upon once every three months it is not an onerous commitment. If you would like further information please speak to **Margaret Conway (956 4700)** or **Margaret Maclean (956 4071)**

Book Group



Not only could you read a book this month but you could also go and see the film! Brooklyn by Colm Toibin is the story of Eilis, who travels to America from her home in rural Ireland to live in Brooklyn in New York. Set in the 1950s, Eilis journeys from a small rural community where everybody knows everybody else (and all their business) to bustling New York where she has a job and a place to stay all organised by the local priest, Father Murphy.

period, then this book is for you. Some of us who had read other works by Colm Toibin were surprised at the lightness of touch in this book. Most of the group enjoyed the book and its depiction of ordinary life in Ireland and America.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26 January 2016 when we will be discussing Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky.

The story takes a sudden turn when Eilis has to go home unexpectedly and make decisions which will shape the rest of her life. If you are looking for some light reading over the Christmas

Joyce Clark

Kimo Boy's Home

It was with sadness that the Kirk Session heard at its November meeting that the boy's home in Kimo was to close at 31 December 2015. SU Peru can no longer sustain their provision of Homes for abandoned children and Kimo is one of many affected by a programme of closures.

The reason for this is not solely financial. A letter to our Minister from Willie Macpherson, Chief Executive of Vine Trust, explained recent developments in Peru:

' . . . lot of things have changed in Peru since 2008 when the request to build a new home at Kimo for SU Peru was first shared with us. At that time the social services environment in Peru was far less developed than it is now and the number of children in abandonment or semi abandonment still continued to present itself as a significant need within the country as a whole. Since 2010/11 that situation began to change rapidly as Peru witnessed a major step forward in its economic position, a halving of the number of people nationally living in absolute poverty and the introduction of legislation and regulations for the care of children in residential establishments.

'In many ways these changes which were quite simply a world apart from the country I first visited in 1990 on behalf of SU Scotland are good news for the country as whole, but equally placed on the part of non-government agencies a significantly increased cost in the delivery of care within their residential centres, SU Peru included. At the same time Vine Trust along with SU Peru could see that the days of extra home building for SU Peru was really now at an end as the task of funding the ongoing cost of the homes already built was challenge enough.'

Assurances have been given that provision will be made for all the Kimo boys. Some will be placed within his own extended family while others will be settled in one of the five existing homes. None will be subject to any danger or abandonment.

Gratitude has been expressed by the Kimo staff to the congregation of St Paul's for their generosity over the years and Willie Macpherson writes:

'We are profoundly grateful for the part played by St Paul's Milngavie in making and marking the difference in funding the home that was created at Kimo and all that was made possible through the congregation's generosity and the involvement of so many in volunteering and actually going to make the project a reality.'

While regretful that the congregation will no longer be involved in this project, the Kirk Session was grateful that we have had this opportunity, that boys have been given a better quality of life through the ministry of Kimo, and that circumstances for abandoned children have changed for the better in Peru.

FCB

Brigade Blethers



As you will have seen in the last copy of Life the quiz was a great success once more. Neil blinded (some) of us with science. You do not realise how ignorant you are until someone asks you a question. Mind you a lot of the questions were about things which happened long before my time!!! However, joking apart, because of the input from Church organisations and friends, we were able to send a cheque for £325 to SensationAll to help in their work. The Ark team were great and someone is going to have to swot a bit harder to beat them next year. Well done folks.

The next thing on the Brigade calendar was the collection of gifts for Chanan and our thanks go to everyone who donated such lovely things. Janice and Norman thanked the girls for remembering to “follow Christ” by thinking of others.

The session came to a close with our Christmas party and although it was a cold, wet, windy night Santa managed to come along to give the girls their presents. The wee ones really did have stars in their eyes when he turned up. Thank you Santa. I hope that your reindeers were not too tired after battling with the elements.

Speak to you again next year.

God's blessing,
Anne Goodlet

Lunch Club

The LUNCH CLUB restarts on Wednesday 6th January and all are welcome for a lunch of home made soup, a variety of rolls and delicious home baking all for just £2-50.

A big thank you is due to all who help in many different ways but also to the many people who come every week. Due to your generosity we have been able to make gifts to our church to help with costs and small gifts to the following charities OMF to our missionary's the Fergusons, RNIB, Medicine san Frontiers, and Clober Farm a local charity which helps in the recuperation of those with spinal injuries including service people.

We are desperately short of a lady to help serve food every second week from 11-30 to 2-00 If you can help please contact Ann Macleod 0141 942 8339

Thank you all so much and do join us most Wednesdays during term time.

Guild News January



On Monday 23rd. December, Ingrid Naismith, representing 'Help for Heroes', gave an interesting talk, tracing the history of the charity, which grew out of the needs of wounded service personnel from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was a touching account of the breadth of its provision, not just for the soldiers or airmen, but also for their families.

The following Monday (St Andrews) had been set aside as 'Allocation of Funds' night, when the members are given information about the recipients of money from the Guild. These include the Church, and various organisations like the project we are supporting this year.

Entertainment was provided by Marion's Belles, giving a graceful display of Scottish Country Dancing, and Ryan Corbett, Milngavie's own virtuoso accordion player, who is a great favourite with our members.

Our season ended in grand style with our Christmas dinner, held again at Clober Golf Club. After the festive meal, the ladies who had attended the Royal Garden Party in July paraded in the finery of the day, giving an account of a memorable experience. That was followed by some much appreciated snippets of TV comedy shows.

Our weekly meetings resume on 4th. January, when Fiona Marks will tell us about the charity 'Let's stick together', which we have chosen as our project this year.

Monday 11th January 'Turkey- cradle of Christianity' Andrew Scott

Monday 18th January Ecumenical service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Monday 25th January 'Burns-Saint or sinner' Rev. B. Ferguson

'LIFE and WORK' Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £24.00 – a reduction of 20 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the **end of March**, if possible. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

Frances Ireland

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Japan where we have just gone from the Year of the Sheep to the Year of the Monkey. Another way of saying it is we have gone into Year 28 - that is the number used on many official documents as the year is counted according to the number of years the present Emperor has reigned. Of course 2016 is used too but you have to know the Japanese system too when filling in forms (of which there seem to be many here) when family details are required.

Just now Calum is working hard for special entrance exams for Japanese High School. It is a somewhat convoluted system with many of the children spending long hours studying on their own and going to cram schools. Many apply for both a public and a private school and there are different exams for each. The competition is higher to get into the public schools. Calum will sit exams for private school (which is the back-up option) mid-January and the public school next month. We hope he will get into the public school as that is significantly cheaper. One curious part is that the results of the exams are posted at the school and hundreds of pupils gather on a certain day to find out if they have passed or failed. All a new experience for us.

We have also decided to move house in the spring to a place nearer to where the boys will be for their football as Alistair is also joining the same academy as Calum has been in for the last three years. Calum will be part of their youth team from this year. We will still be able to commute fairly easily into the OMF offices here. House moves are never fun but an amazing place has been provided for us with an equally amazing story - but we'll save that one for another time.

Our older boys will be back in Glasgow this month, Daniel for his final semester before graduation in the summer and Matthew to continue in first year. Meanwhile we continue to serve here seeking to share the gospel with the people of Japan and overseeing the small part of the work that OMF plays in that great task.

Thank you for your financial gifts to our support and your prayers for us here.

With our love,

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair



Breaking Taboos

The Church of Scotland Guild has partnered with Feed the Minds, a project playing a key role in tackling the taboo subject of female genital mutilation. Jackie Macadam meets a Kenyan campaigner against the practice.

A Tabloid Elder

Profile of Andrew Nicoll: Church of Scotland Elder, bestselling author and political editor of the Scottish Sun.

Fifty Years of Women Elders

The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald looks back on the lengthy debate that eventually led, fifty years ago this year, to the decision to ordain women as Elders.

Two new columnists

The Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, Hannah Mary Goodlad, considers faith and science.

The Rev Alastair Duncan considers ways of opening doors to the Church.

Scots Kirk 'Stunned' by Paris Atrocities

How the Church of Scotland in Paris and Edinburgh reacted to the terror attacks.

Without a Script

The Rev Ewen Gilchrist describes how a chaplaincy team responded to a tragedy in an Aberdeen school.

The Healing Power of Laughter

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the importance of humour in our lives.

A Great Ambassador for the Church

Ron Ferguson looks back on the visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly to Cowdenbeath.

Charity in Action

Reflecting on CrossReach week, the Moderator calls for increased support for the work of the social care arm of the Church.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

Moderator delivers a message of hope for the New Year 2016

The turning of the year is a time for reflecting – reflecting especially on the relationships that make us who we are: our relationships with family, friends, colleagues, neighbours and, most importantly, with God.



We can be thankful that we have access to strength and wisdom greater than our own.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as Moderator is meeting so many wonderful people in so many different places.

These past months have brought their share of bad news stories in our world.

But I have been inspired to see at close quarters something very different: Countless examples of extraordinary dedication and courage, of selfless service to others and to God's kingdom, sometimes in the face of formidable challenges. The living Jesus is building his kingdom with his living stones.

So we can look to the New Year with a sense of hope and anticipation, as we humbly long and pray for the Spirit of God to work even more.

Minnie Haskin's famous poem says it all for me:

'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God" That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way".'

I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Right Reverend Dr Angus Morrison

Flower Donations - January

Mrs. E. Adair, Miss E. Forbes

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



World Mission News

Nepal Blockade Update

The crisis caused by the blockade of the India-Nepal border continues. Our mission partners in Nepal have already written about how it is impacting, you can read more about this on the Church of Scotland website.



Our partners United Mission to Nepal have shared a report from UNICEF that indicates that a significant number of Nepal's children under 5 are at risk of dying due to the lack of medicine. This is another consequence of this blockade.

Our mission partners and UNM urge us all to pray for a quick resolution to this crisis.

Flooding in Chennai, South India



Our partner the Church of South India (CSI), have written about the impact of serious flooding in Chennai in recent days. Local churches responded immediately. The church and institution premises in many places have been used to accommodate people displaced by the flooding and they have distributed food packets, drinking water and blankets.

The CSI is coordinating relief efforts in several areas with plans to open more relief centres.

It is estimated that at least one million people are impacted. The demand for supplies and assistance will remain high even after the waters recede. Dry rations, non-food items and hygiene kits will be required. People will need to be resettled, and homes and infrastructure will have to be reconstructed. "The need is enormous. The community has great expectations from the local church. The local church has already stretched beyond its limits in responding immediately," stated Rathnakara Sadananda, general secretary of the CSI.

World Mission Council has sent an emergency grant to support the relief work being carried out by Church of South India.

Please continue to remember our partners and the people of Chennai in your prayers at this difficult time.

St. Paul's Holiday Fellowship 11th-14th August, 2016

Members of the congregation, their friends and relatives are reminded that the deposit for the above holiday is due at the end of January. The cheque (made out to McCabe Pilgrimages) and booking form should be sent to me in the first instance. Only when I have a minimum of 10 participants will they be forwarded to McCabe. The details are in the brochure available at the back of the church. I do hope you will join us.

Anne Ritchie

12 Norwood Park, Bearsden G61 2RF

Glasgow Winter Night Shelter

The Glasgow Winter Night Shelter is a partnership of charities, organisations and housing associations concerned with tackling homelessness.



During the cold winter months, many people sleep rough in the streets of Glasgow.

Rough sleepers and people with nowhere else to sleep are welcome to use the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter for emergency accommodation. In the mornings, we'll connect them to Glasgow City Council's homelessness case team in order that homeless accommodation can be found.

This year's Glasgow Winter Night Shelter will operate from December 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016, an extra month due to demand. The service will operate from Lodging House Mission, **35 East Campbell Street, G1 5DT.**

In the morning, users of the service can remain in Lodging House Mission and take advantage of free food, accommodation, warmth, and a host of support facilities such as health improvement, legal advice, social services, form filling and many other services and activities.

In 2014-15 (3 months only), a total of 407 individuals used the shelter, between them accessing the service some 1,501 times.

Further information can be obtained from :
Gus.smeaton@lhm-glasgow.org.uk

Thank You

Stephen and Mary Buchanan

On behalf of the congregation a cheque was given to Stephen and Mary to mark their wedding on the 24th October, 2015. The following reply has been received.

I would like to thank you for your generous gift to Mary and I on our wedding day. We have had so many lovely cards and such kind wishes from members of the congregation. It was very touching and made the day all the more special. We look forward to sharing all the memories when we're next in Milngavie.

Best wishes,

Stephen & Mary

Christmas Thanks

Once again December was a very busy month in St Paul's and I wish to express the thanks of the Kirk Session to all those involved. A number of people work hard throughout the year often behind the scenes, and contribute greatly to the smooth running of the Church. You know who you are and we thank you.

The Church tree never fails to receive comment and thanks to the donor as well as those who erected and decorated the magnificent tree. December began with the most enjoyable Salvation Army Carol Concert. This year the Choir took part in the Concert and provided a contrast to the Band in the programme. The Choir led by Derek Norval, contribute significantly to worship throughout the year especially during Advent and the evening service prior to Christmas was particularly special.

The Praise Band were in fine form during the Family Service and in the hall afterwards and thanks to the Bible Class for their thought provoking contribution. Christmas really begins with the two services on Christmas Eve which are always greatly appreciated by members, visitors, family and friends, and this year it was St Paul's turn to hold the service on Christmas Day which was also well attended with an assortment of new toys proudly on display.

Thanks to all the stewards and those who supplied and served the refreshments after the services providing a welcome time of fellowship.

Last but not least, thanks to Fergus, Helen, Hugh and Sandra for looking after us all throughout the year.

Finally a very special thank you to you all and may the Lord bless you and yours in 2016.

Graham Mill

Session Clerk

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Copy date for the February issue is Sunday 24th January if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 27th January if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd Jan	M. Conway K. Edwards	No Crèche	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 D. Muirhead
10th Jan	A. Galloway J. Townson	Wison Bates	J. MacIntyre L. Cowie	Team 3 R. Cameron
17th Jan	G. Chisholm A. Shiels	McKinnon Wallis		Team 2 W. Ritchie (C)
24th Jan	P. Dudgeon A. Gillies	Tracey McCreadie	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 Allister Clarke
31st Jan	F. Ireland N. Caldwell	Berry Chapman	C. Mackay R. Fraser	Team 5 F. Ireland