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

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
3rd Dec	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Wilson S. Wallis	Team 6 R. Easton
10th Dec	M. McLean A. McLeod	Goodlet Berry	Team 7 B. Lawson (EC)
17th Dec	J. Ford C. Tanner	MacKinnon Sillars	Team 8 R. Rutherford
24th Dec	C. McKinnon S. Stenhouse	No Crèche	Team 9 J. MacPherson
31st Dec	P. Barlow S. Robertson	No Crèche	Team 10 R. Barlow



Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's



Saturday 2nd December	9.30am	Advent Service – 'Here Comes the King! Our Responsibility' – Rev. Fergus Buchanan
Sunday 3rd December	10.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Saturday 9th December	9.30am	Advent Service – 'Here Comes the King! Our Resources' – Mrs Lynsey Brennan
Sunday 10 th December	10.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship with the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper
Saturday 16 th December	9.30am	Advent Service – 'Here Comes the King! Our Gifts' – Rev. David White
Sunday 17th December	10.00am 7.00pm	Christmas Family Gift Service Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 18 th December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Saturday 23 rd December	9.30am	Advent Service – 'Here Comes the King! Our Life in the Kingdom' – Rev. Fergus Buchanan
Sunday 24th December	10.00am 7.00pm 11.30pm	Christmas Family Worship Christmas Eve Family Carol Service Watchnight Service
Monday 25 th December	10.45am	Christmas Day Service will be held at Cairns Church
Sunday 31 st December	10.00am	Morning Worship

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie December 2017



Dear Friends,

I have just heard of the sale of a Leonardo Da Vinci painting in New York. It cost £351,000,000. No one knows who the buyer is but I doubt if he will have it hanging in his front room. Best to put it in a bank vault somewhere to be brought out only on special occasions.

The painting depicts the face of Christ and is called 'Salvator Mundi' or 'Saviour of the World'. This is not the first time it has been sold. In 1958 it was sold at auction in London for just £45. At that time, it was thought that a follower of Leonardo who could work in his master's style, was the painter. The point is no one knew the painting's true value.

The Bible tells us of a moment in time when the Son of God was born and few people appreciated His true value. The Apostle John writes:

'He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.'

This is amazing to us. The perfect life did not impress. His words bounced off hard hearts. Even His miracles did not convince. Someone once said, 'God walked the streets of Jerusalem. He was hung on a cross and then people went back to work.' We are a strange lot, we humans. The One we needed most was treated worst.

Christmas reminds us that this rejection started right at the beginning. A crowded town with nowhere to be born, a paranoid king seeking His destruction, a time of exile away from the people whose Scriptures pointed to His coming. Few knew his value and that continues today. The door is shut. The powerful follow their own 'truths'. Even the hearts of the faithful can grow cold.

If Christmas has any value it is an opportunity to warm our hearts in the glow of the story. Not the Christmas card cosiness but the blaze of God's fullest revelation of Himself in a human life. Beginning as a single cell in the womb of a young woman, growing 'in wisdom and in stature', becoming a man who would die upon a cross and rise again to show that God still had business with this world. His purpose continues to renew the lives of men and women making us fit for the wonder of His New Creation.

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends,

Japan has four distinct seasons and each is marked with its own climate, flowers, fruit and vegetables, and decorations. Autumn is the time for freshly picked apples, Japanese pears and persimmon. Now that we are moving into winter, strawberries have started to appear in the shops. Strawberries are a winter fruit here, with the season lasting until around April.

Japan also likes to adopt traditions from other countries. Until the 31st of October the shops were full of Halloween decorations. If you went into the centre of Tokyo, on one of the weekends in late October, you would have found thousands of young adults, dressed up in amazing costumes, partying in the streets. The culture here is usually quite reserved but when people dress up, they often find that they feel freer to express themselves and talk to other people. So Halloween has become a highlight for many people, even though almost none of them know its origins.

Then, if you go into the shops on the 1st of November, you will find that all the decorations have changed. Now there are Santas, tinsel, small artificial Christmas trees and snowmen. In the local pet shop you can even buy a Santa outfit for your dog. It's the Christmas season but just like Halloween, many Japanese people enjoy the celebration, without knowing anything about its meaning.

Churches and Christian organisations make the most of the opportunity of this season, to tell people what Christmas is really about. Some will have parties, others cooking or craft classes, or children's events. The 23rd of December is a public holiday for the Emperor's birthday so many events are held then. Most churches will hold a service on Christmas Eve as well and encourage people to invite their friends and family.

If you then go into a shop on Christmas Day, you will find all the Christmas decorations already put away and replaced with New Year ones. Christmas finishes here on the 24th and the 25th is a normal working day. Please pray for all the Christmas outreach events all over Japan, that many people would hear and understand the true meaning of Christmas. May they remember it well after the season has finished and want to know more about Jesus.

Happy Christmas!

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Christmas Eve Offering

The Kirk Session has agreed that this year's Christmas Eve Offering be given to the Charity 500 Miles.

Olivia Giles was a lawyer in Edinburgh in 2002 when she contracted meningitis while in her early 30's. She was in a coma for 4 weeks and when she came out of the coma, discovered her hands and feet had been amputated due to gangrene as a result of her illness. She has had prosthetic legs fitted.

In 2007 she founded the charity 500 miles, which supplies prosthetic limbs to developing countries mostly in Malawi and Zambia. She opened her first clinic in Malawi in 2009 and a second one in 2012 and she works in conjunction with the government in Malawi. Olivia spoke at the Guild in October and she is the most modest of people. She told us that each limb made in Malawi costs £175. To see the joy on the faces of the adults and children who have been given this chance to walk again, was wonderful.

Olivia takes no expenses from any meetings. All gifts go into her charity. She visits Malawi every year and pays for this herself, not out of the charity money.

There will be information leaflets available on this charity and gift aid envelopes will be at the back of the Church if anyone wishes them.

Marion Kerr

On behalf of all the family, I would like to offer our heartfelt appreciation to the St. Paul's family for all the love and care shown to us following our recent sad loss. Also to Fergus for his words at both services. They meant so much to us and gave us great comfort.

It is at times like this when being involved in church life and especially St. Paul's means an awful lot and we know that all the support will help us through the difficult times that lie ahead.

Many thanks once again.

Ronnie Kerr.

By the way, not every expert accepts that the £351,000,000 painting is a true Leonardo. That's what happens when you are a 'Saviour of the World.' Not everyone responds wholeheartedly. But Christmas is a reminder of how far God is willing to go to convince us of His love. He believes we are worth saving. Now that is something to celebrate.



Advent Services 2017

Details of our Advent services for this year can be found on the front of the magazine.

Traditionally Advent gives believers an opportunity to reflect on the Second Coming of Jesus and what that means for us today. There are four parables in the Gospel According to Matthew that enable us to launch into the theme: "Here comes the King!"

Please come to these services which provide a time of reflection in the midst of the seasonal bustle.

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 British Acoustic Neuroma Association. Do come and join us for festive fare and fellowship.

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

British Acoustic Neuroma Association (BANA)

An acoustic neuroma is a benign brain tumour which affects the nerves used for hearing and balance and which can cause hearing loss, tinnitus and unsteadiness.

BANA was formed to give support and reliable information to sufferers and to promote research into acoustic neuromas and the effects of the condition.

Frances Ireland and Liz Trail

Christmas Card 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 a Christmas Card with the message "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and will include an invitation to come and join us at our Christmas services.

Extra "Christmas Cards" 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, 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 Christmas Cards, please add your name and contact details to the sign-up sheets which will be available on the tables at the back of the Church from 6th November 2016. It is anticipated the cards will be delivered during the last week in November.

Gordon Fairbrother
Stewardship Convener.

Flower Donations - December

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



Please forward donations with your name and address to:

Mrs Marjorie Thoms, 66, Braeside Ave, Milngavie, G62 6NN or place in the flower guild pigeon hole at the back of the church. Cheques should be made payable to St. Paul's flowers.

Gardening Thank You



It's that time again when the garden team take a well earned rest until Spring. The weather this year has not been great but we soldiered on and the garden still looked colourful and tidy. We do have plans next year to enhance the garden and are looking forward to getting stuck in.

I would like to express my thanks and the thanks of all the people who have made comments on how nice the garden is kept, to all the garden team. A special thanks to Hugh for the upkeep of the hedge for which we are extremely grateful.

Shiela Dickson

Guild News

At our last meeting in October, Dr. Morag Thow spoke about osteoporosis and bone health. An excellent speaker, she described what osteoporosis was, illustrating her talk with photographs, and real bones. She explained the necessity for exercise and a good diet to reduce the effects of the disease, and finished the evening by setting us a challenge with some vigorous chair exercises.



On November 6th, Malcolm Tilley, Stage Manager of the King's Theatre, told us of the start and development of his career. This included work with local and hospital radio, lighting engineer on cruise ships, and management of stage shows such as Mary Poppins and Billy Elliot.

For our meeting on November 13th, we celebrated Guild Week with an afternoon tea, and some light entertainment courtesy of Mr. Chris Scott.

Our minister, the Rev. Fergus Buchanan, will be the speaker at our meeting on November 22nd.