



# Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

December 2024



## A Christmas Letter of Hope

Dear Friends,

As we enter this season of Advent, our hearts are drawn to the familiar themes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. These are the themes of our **Saturday Advent Services starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November at 9:30** and we have a wonderful line-up of guests to lead these services.

'**Hope**' is the theme this year of our community Christmas card that will be sent out to around 1800 people within the Parish – and we hope and pray that people take up the invite to join us this Advent and Christmas season.

Keeping with the theme of **Hope**, I read recently that reports from the Mental Health Foundation tell us that many people in our nation are feeling overwhelmed by stress, anxiety and a pervasive sense of hopelessness. It's a stark reminder of how easily we can feel trapped in darkness, with the future seeming uncertain, and the weight of despair heavy on our hearts.

Yet, as Christians, we know that our hope is not a fleeting wish or bound to our circumstances, but a living hope grounded in the promises of God through Christ Jesus. This is the hope we celebrate during Advent — a confident trust that God will keep His promises, both now and forever.

In the Gospel of Luke, we encounter Simeon, a righteous and devout man, who had spent his life waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. He had been promised that he would not die before seeing the Messiah.

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Simeon's story teaches us what true hope looks like. It is not abstract or distant. **Hope is a person** — and that person is Jesus.

When Simeon finally held the infant Jesus in his arms, he declared,  
**“My eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:30).**

For Simeon, hope was no longer a distant dream but a present reality. His hope had a name: Jesus. And in Jesus, Simeon saw God's promise of salvation revealed — a light for all nations, a glory for Israel.

**This is the hope we can know today too.**

Simeon's waiting wasn't like the dull waiting we experience in the mundane moments of life — waiting in line at the supermarket or for the washing machine to finish. His waiting was full of anticipation and eager expectation. A hopeful waiting that is alive with joy.

Like Simeon, we too live in the tension of waiting. But our waiting is not without purpose and should not be without joy. We wait with the certainty that God will keep His promises — just as He did for Israel throughout history. God promised deliverance to His people, and He fulfilled that promise. He promised a Saviour, and that Saviour has come.

This Advent, let us remember that our hope is not based on our circumstances but on **the person of Jesus Christ**, the One who has come to make all things new. His first coming was not just a cute story of a baby in a manger we can recall each year with sentiment.

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Jesus' coming as a baby was the beginning of God's plan to restore the world to Himself. And because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we have a **living hope** — a hope that transcends our present struggles, our grief, and even our fears about the future.

Simeon's hope was in Jesus, and so is ours. As we celebrate Christmas this year, we are reminded that Jesus is not just a sentimental figure in a nativity scene. He is the **light in our darkness**, the One who brings salvation and healing to a broken world. He is our hope — both for the present and for the future.



This Advent, as we wait in expectation, may we, like Simeon, see the blessings of Christ in our lives and declare with joy,

**"My eyes have seen your salvation."**

May this Christmas bring you a renewed sense of hope in the living Christ.

With love and blessings in Christ,

**Your Minister, Lynsey**

email: [LBrennan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:LBrennan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Manse telephone no: 0141 588 6023

The next Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfast is on  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**at St. Paul's**  
**from 8:00am until 9:25am.**



All welcome — breakfast from 8:00am and a time of prayer from 8:45am.  
Join us if you can.

### **Saturday morning Advent Services**

The Saturday morning ½ hour Services will start  
on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am.

The services will be led by:-

- \* 30<sup>th</sup> November      Lynsey Brennan
- \* 7<sup>th</sup> December      Jenny Walley
- \* 14<sup>th</sup> December     Roland Collen
- \* 21<sup>st</sup> December     Gordon Maclean

All are welcome to start the day in a quiet and reflective setting.



Our Minister Lynsey Brennan will be on holiday  
from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> December until Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January.

If you require pastoral assistance at this time please contact  
Rev. Ramsay Shields ( 0141 577 9171)  
or the Session Clerk, Graham Mill (956 5155).

Lorna Ferguson will be joining us for the morning services on  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

### Prayer Group

Each week  
members of our congregation meet for  
prayer  
praying for our church family,  
our local area and people,  
and  
issues in the wider world.



**We meet on a Monday evening, 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall.**

We are always happy to see new faces, so please come and join us  
we would be delighted to see you.

On **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December**, we will have a guest speaker  
**Andrew Rooney** at our prayer group.

Andrew is the Regional Partnerships Manager for **Compassion UK**.

*Compassion UK* is a Christian charity and it has the huge aim to end child  
poverty, by partnering with local churches, with Christ at the centre of all  
that they do, and a trust in a God who does great things.

We are delighted that Andrew will be with us to share what the work  
involves - challenges as well as answers to prayer.

Please come along on 9<sup>th</sup> December and hear what *Compassion UK* does  
and how we can get involved.



## Advent and Christmas Worship at St. Paul's 2024



*Milngavie Churches Christmas Tree Festival  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfast 8am  
9.30am **Advent Service**  
*Hope* - Rev. Lynsey Brennan

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec**

10.30am **Morning Worship**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec**

9.30am **Advent Service**  
*Peace* – Jenny Wally

Christmas Coffee morning 10am-12noon

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10.30am **Morning Worship**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

9.30am **Advent Service**  
*Joy* – Rev. Roland Cohen

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10.30am **Family Gift  
Service**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec**

9.30am **Advent Service**  
*Love* – Gordon Maclean

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec**

10.30am

Family Worship  
&  
Mince Pies  
afterwards

7.00pm

Readings and Music  
Choir

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec**

7.00pm

Christmas Eve  
Family Service

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10.30am

Christmas Day  
Family Service

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec**

10.30am

Morning Worship

*There will be no Watchnight Service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.*

**As always, all are welcome to join us  
at any or all of the services**



## *In The Bleak Midwinter*

*In The Bleak Midwinter is based on a poem  
by Christina Rossetti.*

*It has been set to music many times, with the most famous  
versions being Harold Darke's in 1911  
and Gustav Holst's in 1906.*

## **Christmas Gifts and Donations**

The gifts received on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December will be given to  
*Bags Full of Love*  
and the retiring offering donated to *Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry*.

The retiring offering from the Christmas Eve Family Service  
will be donated to *Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry*.

In addition gifts, such as hats, gloves or similar for parents/grandparents of  
the children, plus donations of food (tinned, packets or fresh)  
donated by the congregation in December, will be presented to  
*Dalmuir Barclay Community Pantry* and *Bags Full of Love* as appropriate.



There will be Mince Pies and Shortbread  
after the Family Service on  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
and donations can be brought in the morning  
or left in the kitchen from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## *O Holy Night*

*O Holy Night was originally a French carol composed by  
Adolphe Adam in 1847  
to a poem written by Placide Capeau.*

## Japan Jottings



As I write this article, I am surrounded by boxes, rubbish bags and cases as I prepare to move out of my house and leave Japan for my Home Assignment. I will spend a few days in Bangkok on the way for Daniel and Yada's wedding celebration after they got married last year. I am looking forward to catching up with some family members there, and then heading to Scotland in early December.

Six of us have lived in this house over the past eight and half years, so there is a lot of stuff to sort through. I regularly text the boys with photos asking, "Do you want to keep this?". I have also gone through photos, graduation certificates, birthday cards they made and the like, each one with a special memory attached.

I generally like to live in the present, looking towards the future, and don't usually think a lot about the past. However, going through all our things has forced me to look back and remember, sometimes with a smile and sometimes with tears. In particular, I came across all of David's medical records from his year battling with cancer, together with cards and messages of support and prayers which many people sent. Although there was sadness, it was also a reminder of how many people walked with us, prayed for us and helped support us through that year and afterwards.

From the first morning we moved into this house, two cats visited us each day. We called them Orange and Brownie. The owner of the house used to feed the cats and left some of the food, so we started to feed them too. They came each day, sometimes more than once, for several years. One day Orange stopped coming. I wondered if his owner had perhaps moved away. Brownie gradually got older, and then stopped coming too. Then last week, out of the blue, Orange suddenly appeared again, asking for food as he used to do. It felt like God was telling me He remembers too.

The Bible encourages us to remember the past, and not just live in the present. In Psalm 143 verse 5 David wrote, "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands."

And so I am grateful for this time to remember all that God has done as well as looking forward to all He will do.

**With love and prayers from Lorna and Alistair**

## Christmas Coffee Morning at St. Paul's



There will be a Christmas coffee morning in the Large Hall  
on  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 -12:00

There will be tables of gifts, cards etc sold on behalf of  
Tearfund (Gavin's Mill), Embrace the Middle East and Lodging House Mission

All welcome to join us for a time of fellowship.

### Guild News

At our meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, we had a very enlightening talk from the Rev. Marnie Johnston and on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we were entertained by The Anderson Singers which proved to be a very entertaining afternoon.



Remaining speakers for November were:

John Broadfoot -23 Bridges of the Clyde and Iain White - Flags and their Origins.

Our visiting Elders joined us on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

The Guild Ladies also received an invitation to join Cairns Ladies Group on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Dates for December:

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Allocation of Funds and Christmas Bingo.
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> Carol Haugh: Surnames
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> Dunbartonshire Guilds Together Carol Service (Dumbarton Riverside Church -2pm)
- ◆ 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch -1pm in the Large Hall

We have welcomed 8 new members this session and as always everyone is most welcome to join the ladies on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for fellowship and of course a cuppa in the Large Hall.

**Elizabeth McEwan**

## The Men's Association

The Association would like to thank all members and friends who so willingly supported and helped the annual coffee morning be the success that it was.

The donations of food meant that everyone had sufficient and not only that, but there was enough left over to allow for the coffee fellowship after Church the next day, to provide delicious home baking for eating and also some for selling.

Thanks also to the Coffee Fellowship for donating the funds received that day to our Charity.

The final result was a grand total of **£995.00** which we were delighted to hand over to Fiona Hennebry, the organiser of *Bags Full of Love*, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, when she shared her experiences of looking after displaced children in West Dunbartonshire.



Christmas Lunch in Andiamo

(across from the church)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

The cost will be £40.00

(Arthur Wylie, as Treasurer, will be at the back of the Church each Sunday to receive payment, if members wish to attend)

No advance payment then no attendance!

Timings: meet at 12.30 for socialising

sit down at 1.15

and conclude when we're finished!

The Association wishes all friends in St. Paul's a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace and Blessings.

**Brian Adair**

## *Gabriel's Message*

*This is a very old carol, composed in the 13th century in the Basque Country, between France and Spain.*

### **Church Choir**

**Still time to join us for Christmas!**



Rehearsals for the Christmas programme continue as follows:-  
Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December  
from 7.45pm until 9.15pm.

Several singers have already joined us for Christmas but there is still room for more and still time to learn some seasonal music.

Do come along on any of these Thursdays if you are interested.

For further information please speak to Derek Norval (0781438926) [Derek.Norval@ntlworld.com](mailto:Derek.Norval@ntlworld.com) or to any member of the Choir.

## *Silent Night*

*On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818 Father Joseph Mohr walked three kilometres to visit his friend Franz Xaver Gruber. He needed a hymn for the Christmas Eve mass that evening and hoped Gruber would be able to set one of his poems to music. Thus, 'Silent Night' was written in a few hours and the two men sang it that evening to a simple guitar and choir accompaniment.*



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

30<sup>th</sup> November - 6<sup>th</sup> December

At the time of writing we are making the final arrangements for the Festival and everything seems to be falling into place. We are really grateful to the many members of the congregation who have signed up to help in various capacities, whether in the church or in the tearoom, and also as performers in our lovely music programme.

There will be 31 decorated trees in the church, from many sections of the community – these include other churches, schools, youth organisations and a wide variety of other groups. Like last year we will conduct a poll to see which is the favourite tree in the opinion of our visitors; we are also repeating last year's popular quiz for children based on the decorations on the trees.

Please take a good look at the music programme on pages 14 & 15 in this magazine, to see if there might be a particular item which you would like to hear, and make sure you don't miss it; but you should also realise that you are welcome to come multiple times!

Remember the tearoom which will be in the Jubilee Hall as usual; delicious home baking will be available and also a welcome cuppa.

Members of most of the other churches in the village are helping on different days, so you will have a chance to get to know them too.

We are looking forward to hearing a little about our chosen charities at the opening ceremony at 10.15 on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. Two are already well known, CHAS and the Glasgow City Mission. Funding Neuro was new to many of us: Bryn Williams, a local man, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2007 at the age of only 36 and he decided to raise funds for research into the illness. The work of the charity now includes other neurological illnesses.

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to the Festival.

We hope that this special event at the beginning of Advent will bring something of the real meaning of Christmas to all our lives.

**Eleanor Easton and Jean Scott**



**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**  
(Association of Milngavie Churches)  
in St. Paul's Church

**30th November – 6th December**  
**10am – 4pm**  
**(Sunday 1pm – 4pm)**

Refreshments and musical entertainment

**2024 Christmas Tree Festival – Music Programme**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10.15 Opening Ceremony Piper: Ally Mulligan  
10.30 St. Paul's Church Choir  
12.00 Rachel Rutherford, Clarsach  
1.00 Brennan Brass  
2.00 David Crooks and Pupils, Classical Guitar  
3.00 Douglas Academy Instrumental Ensemble

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

- 2.00 Close Shave Chorus

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

- 11.00 Angela Welsh, Cello and Esther McColl, Piano

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

- 11.00 Janet and Adrian Bowman, Piano and Voice  
2.00 Jordanhill Handbell Ringers

## 2024 Christmas Tree Festival – Music Programme (cont.)

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

- 10.30 Esther McColl, Piano  
2.30 Christine Furnish, Organ



### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

- 10.00 New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band  
10.30 Noah's Ark Toddler Group, Singing  
11.00 New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band  
1.30 Milngavie Primary School Choir  
2.30 Julian Pombo, Guitar and Voice

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

- 11.00 Group from Milngavie Choir  
2.30 Derek Norval, Organ

All donations to:  
Glasgow City Mission, Funding Neuro & CHAS



## Book Club

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 when we will be discussing *The Break Down* by B A Paris.

If you would like to join us please contact the Church office for more details.

**Joyce Clark**

## Praise Band

We are delighted that the Praise Band contributed successfully to the morning service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.



Additional players would be most welcome to join us for either or both of the two Christmas events at which we will be playing.

Details are as follows:-

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:**

practice in the hall from 9.30am, play (in the hall) after the morning service.

**Christmas Eve:** practice at 6.15pm then lead the music for the Family Service at 7.00pm. in the church.

Music will be provided for any instrumentalist who wants to be in the band and this music will be edited to suit individual standards of playing ability.

Copies of the music will be made available before the practice on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

If you (or anyone you know) would like to join us, please contact Derek Norval (07814389262) for further information.

## Safeguarding

**Disclosure Scotland** has requested that all Safeguarding Co-ordinators carry out a “Data Cleanse” of the Congregational Safeguarding Register.

**This means that any volunteers currently on the register who are not actively involved with Church organisations with children or protected adults have to be removed from the register and will have to re-apply if they wish to be involved in the future.**

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service has prepared a letter to be sent to those being removed from the register.

**Elizabeth McEwan, Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

## St. Paul's Church Garden

I feel I am repeating myself every year regarding the weather and how it impacts on what can be done in the Church garden, nevertheless the volunteers still managed to keep the Church garden looking at its best for another year!



thank  
you

May I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for all they do year in year out.

I would also like to thank Hugh for the great job he does in keeping the grass and the hedges cut.

As I have now resigned from the Congregational Board, I will no longer be the Garden Convener.

I wish whoever takes over from me all the very best.

**Sheila Dickson**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

*In Dulci Jubilo is another very old carol, with text dating from the medieval times.*

*It has been arranged many times over the years, including versions from Bach, Liszt, Holst, and of course Mike Oldfield. It is also known as Good Christian Men Rejoice.*

**St. Paul's Church Society Cards**

The present total for Ronald McDonald House Glasgow now stands at **£235**

Many thanks for your continued support.

Multiple orders of particular cards can be placed.

Some examples of individual Christmas cards are available on the card stand outside the office.



All cards still priced at £1.

**Elizabeth McEwan**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful was originally written in Latin as Adeste Fideles.*

*The composition of this piece is attributed to many authors including King John IV of Portugal!*

## ***Guild Childhood Christmas Memories***



Building a snowman & playing on a sledge in the snow. We fell off so many times!

Having snowball fights with my brothers!

Getting to the bottom of my stocking to see if there was any money.

Getting an orange in my stocking, it was a treat after the war.

Watching my brother eat brussel sprouts. He hated them but was made to eat them as they were good for him!

Eating turkey for the first time

Singing with all the family, after dinner.

The first time I saw the lights in George Square

Going to Lewis' to see Santa and then going to George Square to see the Christmas Lights. It was an adventure taking two buses! Lewis' shop window displays - amazing!

Seeing Santa for the first time - I cried!

Going to a party in my dad's work - great presents!

As I was a war-time child, memories for me were the Air Raid Warnings and partying in Air Raid Shelters, singing hymns.

Going to my first Christmas Party - we had cake!  
Unwrapping a book - I loved reading!

My first doll's house, there was furniture inside that I had never seen before.

A beautiful blue-eyed blonde doll called Deborah.



Secretly watching my dad attempting to build a bike on Christmas Eve for my younger brother. It was fun to watch him as he couldn't manage!

Putting up the Christmas Tree - we had lights for the first time!

## Gordon Campbell

Gordon Campbell was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1936 in Cambuslang to Richard and Jean Campbell, the middle child with sisters Jenny and Christine.

His schooling was at Busheyhill Primary in Cambuslang before passing his 'qualifying' exam to attend Rutherglen Academy. He was a member of the Cubs and Scouts in the 150<sup>th</sup> Glasgow troop playing the side drum in the pipe band.

Gordon started his working career as a clerk in Colville's Limited and then in Singer's. He joined the Lanarkshire Constabulary in May 1958 before transferring to Glasgow City Police. Over his career in the police, he served at several locations and departments finishing in the rank of Chief Inspector at Alexandria in 1989. Thereafter, he joined Comet the electrical retailer as their Security Manager, covering Scotland, the North of England and Northern Ireland, before finally retiring in 1999.

Gordon met Rena in 1961 at the Majestic Ballroom in Hope Street, Glasgow. They went on their first date to see *Guys and Dolls* at the pictures. They married on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1963 at Yoker Parish Church – a romantic memory was returning back there for their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to renew their vows with their children and grandchildren being present. Gordon and Rena moved into a police house in the village of Crawford, Lanarkshire where their first son Gregor was born. In 1966 Gordon transferred to City of Glasgow Police, and they occupied a police house in Drumchapel before buying their first house in Hardgate where their second son Stuart was born. On retiring from the police, they moved to Lynn Drive, Milngavie.

In time they were blessed in abundance with five grandchildren, Roddy, Zoe, Calvin, Ewan and Nathan. Their great grandson Joshua was born in June this year.

Last year Gordon and Rena celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their family and friends. This was so important to Gordon! Because family was everything - he loved and adored his children, grandchildren and great-grandchild - and they him!

Rena was the love of his life but Gordon also loved his football - he followed Hamilton Accies Football Club, attending matches there as a boy with his father. When he transferred to Glasgow with the police, he also transferred his allegiance to a team based at Ibrox on the south side of the city. In his forties he took up running - he joined Clydesdale Harriers and progressed to compete in a great many road races, including ten marathons. Gordon was also a keen snooker player.

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However, golf was his greatest sporting love - the friendship, etiquette and polite code of behaviour suited his personality perfectly! He was a long-time member of Clydebank and District Golf Club and played an active part in the running of the Seniors Section within the club. Up until the beginning of this year he was still playing regularly with his golf pals.

Gordon along with Rena was a member of Milngavie Ramblers and they spent many walking holidays with friends at home and abroad.

The holiday highlight over the years was the annual family holiday in North Berwick and spending the happiest of times with his children and grand-children, enjoying legendary picnics on Seacliff Beach and golf at the Glen Golf Club.

Gordon also had a lifelong interest in New Orleans jazz music and had a particular talent for completing cryptic crosswords. Even in his final days in hospital, he had the *Herald* crossword completed and lying at the side of his bed.

Gordon also had a great love for the works of Robert Burns fuelled by Burns' social commentary and the elevation of the 'honest working man' displayed in much of his writing. For many years Gordon helped organise the Golf Club Burns Supper and he spoke on a number of occasions. Gordon was a man of deep faith. His first encounter with the church was at the Plymouth Brethern Hall in Cambuslang and later at Duntocher Trinity Church while in Hardgate.

On moving to Milngavie, he joined St. Paul's. His faith definitely deepened and grew at St. Paul's over the years - a large part of that was down to the ministry of Rev. Fergus Buchanan who would become a great friend over the years. Gordon served his church faithfully serving on the Congregational Board and becoming an Elder in 2001. He served as Chairman and Treasurer of the Milngavie Churches Christian Aid Committee, co-ordinating the door-to-door collections on behalf of St. Paul's during Christian Aid Week. Gordon also helped out for many years at the Lunch Club.

Gordon prayed with his family in hospital and with the hospital chaplain. When the chaplain asked him if there was anything in particular he would like to pray for - it was simply this - that his passing would be dignified and that his "*wife and family would be safe and happy*".

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Colleagues spoke of his integrity and his sense of fairness. His warmth, affection, good humour, his decency, his caring attitude, his politeness and his 'gentlemanly' nature - the word 'gentleman' was the most recurring term used by family, colleagues, neighbours and friends in the last few weeks.

However his courteous and urbane manner belied a quiet determination and a commitment to 'standards' - if something had to be done, he always 'tried' to do it 'properly' - it extended not just to his job, but throughout his life.

### **Tearfund Big Quiz Night**

Thanks to all who took part  
and/or donated.

It was a fabulous evening  
of fellowship, food and fun.

It was so good to see people relax and  
have a good time.



We made a magnificent **£667!**

There were lots of faces that we haven't seen for some time, some new ones and old ones. We had 10 teams, and all did really well with winners being "My Favourites" closely followed by "The last shall be first".

The steak pies from the butcher in Milngavie went down well as did the macaroni cheese. There was plenty left over for seconds.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success, with a special mention to those who helped in the kitchen and with the clearing up after.

Looking forward to next year's already!

**Janice Maclean**

### *Joy to the World*

*'Joy to the World' was written by Issac Watts  
and set to Antioch by Handel.*

## Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal



The Church of Scotland

# STAMP APPEAL 2024-2025

**Firmly Planted - collect your stamps to support Malawi project.**

Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

**HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:**  
Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2024, Keith Scott, Dene Hard, Garelochhead, Helensburgh, G84 0EL.  
For other options and more information visit: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps)

Scottish Charity Number: SC011303  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/churchofscotland](https://www.facebook.com/churchofscotland)  
[@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

Christmas is almost here!

Please could you remember the Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal and collect the used stamps from cards and parcels that you receive.

The collection box is in the Strathblane Road entrance and is there throughout the year to receive donations (the poster detailing the appeal is attached to the collection box).

**The total raised by the Church of Scotland, so far is £15,071.50.**

Thank you for the donations that were received during the year.

**Irene Strang**

## *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* is one of the oldest well-known carols, dating from the 16th century. It is mentioned in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the full quote being:  
"... at the first sound of 'God bless you, merry gentlemen! May nothing you dismay!', Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action that the singer fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog and even more congenial frost."

## **Baldernock Church**

### **Annual Coffee Morning and Sale**

at Balmore Golf Club, G64 4AW,  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
from 10am - 12 noon.



As well as tea/coffee and mince pies there will be various stalls including crafts, cards, books and home baking.

All welcome to come along!

## *Let It Snow*

*Let It Snow!* was written in 1945 by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne in California during a July heatwave. The writers were dreaming of colder weather. ..



## Carol Service at Baldernock Parish Church

The Annual All Age Community  
Carol Service  
at Baldernock Parish Church  
starts at 6pm  
on Friday 20th December.  
All welcome.

### *White Christmas*

*White Christmas reminisces of an old fashioned and far colder Christmas than one would experience in Beverly Hills L.A, which is where Irving Berlin supposedly wrote the song. He is also quoted saying to his secretary, "I want you to take down a song I wrote over the weekend. Not only is it the best song I ever wrote, it's the best song anybody ever wrote."*

### Flower Donations

Thank you for the Flower Donations given in Memory:

Mr Brian Adair

Please address donations to:

Treasurer, Mrs Barbara Lawson  
(clearly marked: *For The Flower Fund*)



Donations can be left in the Flower Guild pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or in the offering plate marked *For The Flower Fund*.



**Jesus said,**

**"I am the light of the world.**

**Anyone who follows me will never  
walk in darkness.**

**They will have that light.**

**They will have life." (John 8:12)**

### **Advent Bunting**

Our Advent Bunting is the perfect gift. It looks beautiful hanging up as a decoration, but each day also has a short Bible reading and a simple activity to do together to prepare for Christmas.

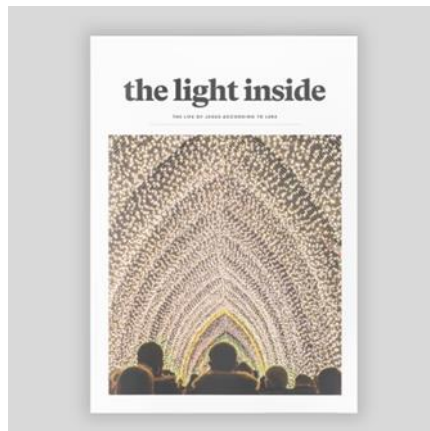
What could you do?



Some churches are putting bunting in gift bags or envelopes with five meters of Christmassy string and then giving them to families, toddler groups, Messy Church or even away at local Christmas markets.



***the light inside*** is a contemporary edition of Luke's Gospel printed in a magazine-style format with photo illustrations. It is an ideal Gospel publication to give away at Christmas services, and community events.





### *There Is Light*

Have you seen this year's Advent Booklet?

With twenty-four carefully selected Bible readings, each with a reflection, this year's Advent booklet is designed to bring the Christmas story to life, helping us take a deeper look at the true meaning of Christmas.

Created with the theme "There is Light," this little booklet can be given away to any in your church or community, to bring light and hope into this Christmas season.

These resources are designed to be shared with your family, friends, and community and so are sold as a minimum order of 20.

**All of our Christmas resources are priced at just £1 enabling churches and groups to buy in bulk and give away over the Christmas period.**

Order at <https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/shop/seasons>

You can also follow along online and listen to our Advent reflections from our Advent Booklet read on Instagram (@scottishbiblesociety) from 1 December 2024.

# CHURCH REGISTER

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*A little child, A shining star,  
A stable rude, The door ajar.  
Yet in that place, So crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all  
The world was born.*



## Copy Date

The copy date for the January *Life* is  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January**  
for issue on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January



Please send any articles to  
[st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com)