

St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine January 2013



Happy New Year!

Dear Friends

Having declared my immunity to the Tolkien bug on more than one occasion I still allowed myself to be conveyed to the cinema to see the first installment of *The Hobbit*. I am still not totally enchanted but there is something timeless and appealing about the basic plot. A very conventional and settled life is suddenly disrupted by a call to go on a journey which will involve personal challenge, perhaps even danger, but in the end there is the promise of great benefit coming to a large number of people - or rather, dwarves, hobbits etc.

The subtitle of the movie is *An Unexpected Journey* and when you examine some of the greatest stories of faith you will find that an unexpected journey is involved. You can start with the 'spiritual father of us all', Abraham, probably leading a comfortable life but unexpectedly hearing the voice of God to go on a journey to a land which will be the base for the descendants of Abraham, destined to become 'a great nation.'

There is also Moses, raised as an Egyptian prince yet becoming aware of his Hebrew roots and eventually being called to lead his people on a journey of liberation out of slavery and into the Promised Land.

In a sense the earliest followers of Jesus were called to a journey. There is something quite dramatic about the way Jesus seems to break into people's lives while they are going about their daily business, fishing, collecting taxes, even in the case of the Pharisee Saul on his way to arrest Christians! He calls them all to follow as He seeks to build His kingdom.

As we face the future together we have to be prepared for The Unexpected Journey, the call to go into an area of service, perhaps previously unknown, but a need is presented and the pressure to meet the challenge is not easily resisted. It is always daunting but like Abraham, Moses and the early believers we have the promise of God's presence and His resources as we go forward.

David was asked to go on many unexpected journeys and there were times when he was stretched to the limit but he was still able to say:

You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning;
My God turns my darkness into light.

With your help I can advance against a troop;
With my God I can scale a wall.

Psalm 18: 28-29.

May this God be with you on all your unexpected journeys in 2013 and beyond.

*Best wishes for 2013,
Fergus C Buchanan*

Prayer quotes...

If you are sick, fast and pray; if the language is hard to learn, fast and pray; if the people will not hear you, fast and pray, if you have nothing to eat, fast and pray.
Frederick Franson

Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell God your troubles, that God may comfort you; tell God your joys, that God may sober them; tell God your longings, that God may purify them; tell God your dislikes, that God may help you conquer them; talk to God of your temptations, that God may shield you from them: show God the wounds of your heart, that God may heal them. If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. Talk out of the abundance of the heart, without consideration say just what you think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with God.
Francois Fenelon

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task. --Phillips Brooks

Rich is the person who has a praying friend. --Janice Hughes

Book Club



This time we have been reading *Gillespie and I* by Jane Harris. This is the second novel by Jane Harris, the first being *The Observations*, a novel in the Victorian Gothic tradition of Wilkie Collins.

This time the author chooses to have as her central character, Harriet Baxter, who embarks in 1933 on the memoir of an artist she describes as a “forgotten genius.” Her story takes us back to 1988 and the international exhibition in Glasgow where the young Harriet meets the artist, Ned Gillespie, for the first time. She befriends the Gillespie family and very soon becomes part of the family.

The book hinges on the disappearance of the youngest of the Gillespie’s children and the subsequent criminal trial occupies the second half of the novel. Although the language was good and the book was fairly well written, the group felt it was over fussy. At the end of the book we find that Harriet is actually an unreliable narrator, all is not what it seems.

Harriet Baxter is an uncomfortable mixture of superiority and neediness and while the intensity of her friendship with the Gillespies is oppressive, it is at least at the start, impossible to fault. Harriet is not a likeable narrator but she is a compelling one. While this is a clever and unusual book, the majority of the group would not recommend it.

Next time we are reading *No Great Mischief* by Alistair Macleod and we are meeting on Tuesday 22 January 2013.

JOYCE CLARK

Annual audit of Church Organisations’ Accounts

A reminder to all Organisation Treasurers, the Annual Audit of their accounts will take place in the Centenary Room on Wednesday 16th January, 2013 from 7.30pm.

Please enter via the side lane.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer



Dear Friends

New Year greetings from Japan where we have just gone into the Year of the Snake or Year 25 (counted according to the number of years that the present Emperor has reigned). We have also gone into this year with somewhat more snow around than we have had in recent years by the end of December. It might be a long winter for our last one in Hokkaido.

Christmas seems a long way ago now but once again we enjoyed welcoming many children and parents to our Family Christmas event. Quite a number have come each year we have held this and we trust that the seeds which have been sown will in time bear fruit. Later in the month we had a special Christmas service with some games and food afterwards. It was good to welcome some friends at that time too. New Year is also a big holiday here and many churches would have a service on the 1st. Most Japanese people would visit a shrine at New Year so it is important that for Christians that there is an opportunity to gather together to worship and reflect on God's Word at the beginning of another year. We held a simple service in our house on the morning of the 1st and afterwards our church people headed to their family homes for the traditional New Year meal.

We are conscious as we go into this New Year that many changes lie ahead. Daniel is about to head back to university in Glasgow as we write this. Matthew will return to Hebron later this month. We had thought Calum would be joining him but he will now remain in Japan and move with us to Tokyo where he has been able to join the youth academy of a professional football team there. Alistair will spend his last two or three months at the local school here. And we will prepare to pack up and leave Hiragishi after four years here. We are thankful for your support for us so far and look forward to continuing our partnership in the gospel over coming years. Many thanks once again for the gifts to our support last month.

*With our love
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*

Coffee and Mincepies Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee and Mince Pies event on 23rd December, with a special thank you to the musicians whose playing helped to create the festive atmosphere. Thanks also to our willing band of helpers, both in the kitchen and in the hall. The sum of £496 was raised for BEAM.

**Frances Ireland and Liz
Traill**



The social event of 2012?

The Girls' Brigade quiz night - winners and losers – old and young: we all enjoyed it!

It was a great night but still debating about some of the answers!

Thank you girls.

Book early for 2013.

Rachel Douglas.

FISH 'n' CHIP BABIES

In parts of the world newborn babies, some of whom are suffering from Aids, are being called "Fish 'n' Chip" babies because they are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth.

When they heard about this a number of ladies in our church responded and knitted lots of small jumpers which have now been sent out to Africa. Just before Christmas we received a card from the organisers of the appeal asking us to pass on their deepest thanks and appreciation to the "ladies who knit" in St Paul's for all their beautiful jumpers.

Well done everyone!

ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP ROME 6th -10th October, 2013

I am delighted to report that the Rome holiday is now full. If anyone else wishes to be included, I would request another room in the hotel through McCabe but cannot promise that this would be successful.

Anne Ritchie

The Rev. Fergus Buchanan - 25th Anniversary Gift

Our minister was inducted to St. Paul's Parish Church on 20 April 1988 and will have served the congregation for 25 years on 20 April this year.

In this connection a committee of the Kirk Session has been appointed to make appropriate arrangements to celebrate the occasion and members of the congregation will be kept advised.

It has been agreed by the Kirk Session that there should be an opportunity for members of the congregation to show their appreciation of Fergus's dedicated and distinguished ministry by contributing to a gift. Envelopes for this purpose are located at the back of the Church and can be returned by handing to an on-duty elder or placing in the offering bags at Sunday worship.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

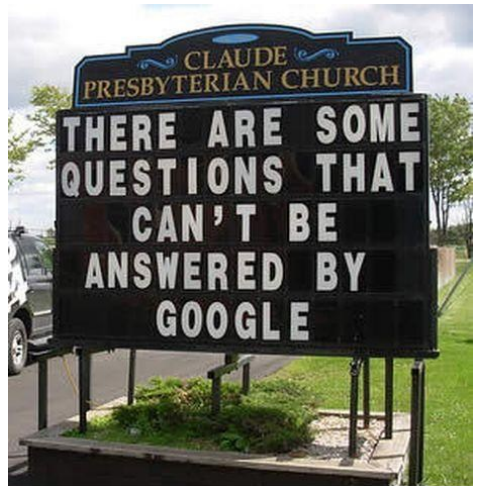
Flower donations—January

Mrs E Adair, Mrs. M. Cooper, Miss Forbes, Miss E. Watson



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

My best wishes for 2013 and hope you had a great festive season.



Editor's note

If you have any comments, criticisms or queries regarding the content of Life magazine, we respectfully request that you address them in the first instance to the editor, Rona Dawson, as she is responsible for all articles featured. Contact details on the back page.

The Guild

26th November

After the allocation of funds we held a bring and buy sale followed by Musical Entertainment provided by the Gibson family. Two talented young men, David and Ian entertained us song and in music, one on trumpet and one on flute. They were accompanied by mum Carol on the piano: a wonderful treat enjoyed by all.

3rd December

Dumbarton Presbyterial Council organized a Carol Concert and despite poor weather conditions we had a really good attendance. The programme was a varied mix of carols, poems, bible readings all reflecting on the time of Advent. A peaceful space in this busy season much appreciated by everyone.

10th December

The ladies of the Guild enjoyed an excellent Christmas dinner, some carol singing and much hilarity as the ladies of the committee, appropriately disguised, mimed to excerpts from a few Pantomimes. Our evening was complete with devotions and closing carol Still the Night.

A reminder that the Guild resumes on **7th of January** at 7.30 We look forward to hearing "Melody Box."

Please come and join us, you will be made most welcome.

Margaret McFarlan



Lunch Club

We ended the last session with a distribution of our funds which is only possible because of the many people who come week by week and the support of the many volunteers who bake and give of their time and talents to prepare and serve the lunches.

A big thanks is due to them all. Many charities are feeling the pinch this year and we divided the funds to give half of our funds to St Paul's and small donations to several mainly The Ferguson's our missionary's serving in Japan, NBS, Lodging House Mission, Christian Aid, Tear Fund and Preshal Trust.



The new session of the Lunch club starts on 9th January from 12-00 noon serving a light lunch in good company and all are very welcome.

Ann MacLeod

The Bible Class

The Bible Class had an excellent 2012. February saw our 'Fun Night' which was excellent and thanks to Mairi McCreddie for letting us run riot in her house and providing the snacks.

In the first part of the year we studied the Gospel of John, you may remember our 'eye witness' accounts which were read out during the service in March.

In April we had our annual visit to Teen Ranch in Perthshire, which as always was so much fun and in May we had our 90kg Kilombero rice challenge. After the summer holidays we came back to study some of the people in the old testament. We discovered some very diverse characters from Job to Deborah and had a great time setting our own country's laws when studying Moses.

In November we held a lunch to aid the work of Tearfund and were delighted with your support. We were able to send a cheque for £735.10 and information allowing them to claim £92.40 back via Gift Aid. In December, we had our second 90kg Challenge along with Eswatini sauces and chutneys, which was again excellently supported.

Christmas wouldn't be the same without the Bible Class drama, our performance of 'Have you seen Christmas' was great fun and we will never forget Ian's performance as the drunk with his 'Christmas Cheer' or Chris in his pinny and headscarf.

We would like to thank you and look forward to your future support of our ventures of 2013 and if you should know of any young people from 1st - 6th year that would like to join us they would be made very welcome.

Thank You

Janice MacLean





Noah's Ark

Restarts for mums/carers and children up to age 3 on Thursday 10th January
For more information go to the Church website or phone Rosemary Fraser at 956 3222

Brigade Blethers

Our Christmas Party and the visit to the pantomime are now happy memories and it seems incredible that we are already well into January. Brigade doesn't start back until the 10th and by the time we get ourselves back into the swing of things we will be selling tickets for our annual Coffee Morning and Jumble sale. It is on Saturday 9th February and we hope to see you all there. Two of our trainee officers have volunteered to do most of the organising of this which makes my life much easier.

As soon as we come back after our Christmas break the girls start getting excited about the Company weekend to Auchengillan. It's not till the middle of March but it is obviously one of the high spots in the Brigade year. It is a time when we can forget about 'phones and television, school and work and just enjoy each other's company.

We try to give the girls new interests and encourage them to work as a team but I have to say that the old phrase "a giving hand is aye getting" is still relevant because we as leaders come home feeling that the girls have opened our eyes and widened our horizons.

That's what makes it all worth while.

**God bless
Anne Goodlet**



Church news from around the world

Christians jailed in Iran

From www.christiantoday.com

Two Christians from the Church of Iran denomination, Behzad Taalipasand and Mohammadreza (Johann) Omidi, were detained on New Year's Eve in the northern city of Rasht. The arrests are the latest developments in a December crackdown on house churches by the Iranian government.

In an annual ritual ironically referred to by local Christians as a "Christmas gift," the Iranian regime generally intensifies its campaign of repression during the Christmas season. In 2010, 70 Christians were arrested during this period, while in 2011, the authorities in the southern city of Ahwaz aided and detained an entire Assemblies of God congregation, including the Sunday school children.

This year has been no exception. On 25th December Pastor Yousef Nardkhani of the Church of Iran, acquitted of apostasy in September, was jailed again in Rasht at the instigation of prison authorities to serve the remaining 45 days of a three year sentence for evangelising Muslims.

Then on 27th December, around 50 Christians were arrested at a residential home in Tehran where they had gathered to celebrate Christmas. According to reports received by Iranian news agency Mohabat News, the majority were released after being interrogated and handing over mobile phones, full contact details and passwords to emails and social networking sites.

Coptic Church condemns attack on Libyan Church

The Coptic Pope Tawadros II has condemned an attack on a coptic orthodox church in Libya on 29th December in which two people died.

He said, "We condemn in the strongest possible terms these terrorist acts that target houses of worship and we appeal to the peoples of the world and their governments to fight such terrorism ...religions are founded on love and peace and forbid aggression against innocent people."

Social media in China a vehicle for sharing faith

Chinese Christians are sharing their faith on Weibo, China's giant, state-regulated, social network – and some are beginning to challenge the censor by speaking out against religious persecution.

When Christian band Rainbow Come appeared on China's equivalent of "The X Factor," Christians turned to social networking to drum up votes for the band so their music could reach more Chinese.

As with Twitter, Weibo postings are restricted to 140 characters. But that is less of a limitation than it sounds. In Chinese languages, 140 characters are equivalent to 70 or 80 words in English – enough to spark a debate or begin to tell a story.

How far will China's cyber police permit that movement to stray from the official Party line? China's Christians are starting to mobilise prayer, even to discuss

religious freedoms. But on this monitored and regulated social network, would China's ever-watchful authorities allow Christians to rally support against religious persecution in their own land? China still ranks among the top 50 worst persecutors of Christians in the annual Open Doors World Watch list. And China is well aware that social media was used to powerful effect to muster protest in the Arab Spring. Yet it permits these microblogs.

Nigerian worshipers killed on Christmas Eve

In two separate attacks, gunmen shot and killed 12 worshippers who had gathered for Christmas Eve services. One attack occurred in the northeastern Nigerian state of Yobe. Among the dead was the church's pastor, accord-

ing to news reports.

The second attack occurred at a Baptist church in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state. Though no person or group has yet publicly claimed responsibility for the killings, news accounts have immediately placed the militant Islamic group Boko Haram under suspicion. Yobe state is the western neighbour to Borno state, the home of Boko Haram, which has been attacking Christian churches and government institutions in an attempt to impose an Islamic state across northern Nigeria

From www.opendoorsuk.org

Church of Scotland Vocations Conference

The Church of Scotland Ministries Council runs an enquiry process for those who sense a call to any of the ministries of the CofS to consider this further in a supportive environment. Through the enquiry process, the council intends to help potential ministries candidates to:

- have an opportunity to explore and test their sense of call together with the wider Church;
- find opportunities to evaluate the personal implications of their call
- examine their personal faith and motivation;
- expand their experience of congregational life and explore their understanding of the way in which the church is organised;
- be enabled to make a serious assessment of the gifts needed for the variety of forms of ministry of the Church;
- obtain a direct response to their questions and concerns in a structure of caring, supportive relationships.

The Enquirers' Conference is open for anyone to attend and will take place on **1-2 February 2013, Scottish Police College, Tulliallan**
For more information contact Ian McKinnon the Session Clerk.

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBER

Joined by Certificate

Mrs Sheila Young, 7 Craighton Gardens, Milngavie 24

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Doria Chalmers, 42 Edgehill Road, Broomhill 70

Dr Pamela McMahon, 12 West Ave., Carluke

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr Rona Raeburn, 8 Schaw House, 69 Schaw Drive now 5 Craighdu Ave., 48
30

DEATHS

Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

30.11.12 Mr Edward Cabbage, 5 Craighton Ave., 23

03.12.12 Mr Duncan Kelly, 60 Keystone Quadrant 42

07.12.12 Mrs Elizabeth Watson, Birdston Nursing Home 37

01.01.13 Mrs Dorothy Sheret, 18 Dougalston Gardens 52

Please note copy date (the last date for submissions) for February Life is Sunday 20th Jan if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 23rd if emailing. Email to rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
13 Jan	S Anderson M Adams	Chapman Sillars	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 3 E McEwan
20Jan	M Conway M Macpherson	McCreadie Wilson	No stall	Team 2 R Barlow (Comm)
27Jan	A Galloway J Townson	Stark Goodlet	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 4 M Donaldson
3 Feb	M MacIntyre M Spencer		C MacKay R Fraser	Team 5 F Ireland