

# St Paul's Church Life Magazine

## January 2007

[www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)



## Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

The Scottish poet Alastair Reid has written of a morning in Summer when his soul was filled with gladness that he was part of a beautiful creation. The birds were singing, the sun was dancing on the flowers, there was colour and fragrance all around. He happened to meet a lady of his acquaintance and remarked on the loveliness of the day. She replied: 'We'll pay for it!'

The title of the poem is *Scotland* and I suppose that Reid feels he is getting in touch with something deep in the Scottish character. We are suspicious of happy and good times. We feel they are only given to us so that they can be harshly taken away. So let's not get too carried away when things are going well. It could be that we are being set up for a painful fall.

I am not convinced that this kind of attitude is peculiar to Scots but we can all recognise it. To be fair, it probably arises out of hard experience. Life has its painful lows as well as its exhilarating highs and often the latter are short-lived. That can also be true of our spiritual lives. There is evidence in Paul's letters that he had some intense experiences of the presence of Christ and was even given glimpses into eternity through visions. However, the everyday reality of Paul's life was often demanding and harsh. Read 2 Corinthians 11: 21-33 and see the challenges that Paul had often to face and overcome: imprisonment, flogging, betrayal, impoverishment. But he never doubted the reality of Christ in his life and that through every experience God was working out His purpose for good.

It is my hope that we can go forward into a new year with this faith. Grateful for the blessings which assure of our Lord's love but knowing that whatever our experiences nothing will ever separate us from the love of God.



Wishing you God's Blessings,  
Alastair Reid

## **The Girls' Brigade – 82 Glasgow Company**



Calling all ex-members of the 82 Glasgow Company.....  
An ex-members reunion is being organised for Saturday  
31 March 2007 for all former Girls, Officers and  
Auxiliaries. As individual invitations are not being sent,  
please convey this invitation to past members of the Company and ask them to contact Marlyn  
McKay (956 3269) as soon as possible for further information. It is difficult to believe that it is  
now over 20 years since the last reunion – so please ensure this invitation is extended to any  
ex-members known to you.

## **The Men's Association**

The Men's Association celebrated their 50th Anniversary on Tuesday 19th December in fine style. As well as all our present members and their wives, we were delighted to welcome Past Presidents and one of the founder members, Bob McMillan. Unfortunately, one of the other founder members, Archie McKenzie couldn't be with us. After everyone was welcomed by our President, Alex McEwan we had a lovely buffet meal prepared by a few of "the wives" for which we thank them very much. After scrumptious desserts we were entertained in humorous fashion by Alex, and our "Honourable" President, Rev. Fergus Buchanan. Our Session Representative Mrs. Ann Begg brought the good wishes and congratulations from the Kirk Session. We also had a surprise visit from "Santa" Goodlet who congratulated the Men's Association in fine poetic style. Our Session Clerk, Ian Mackinnon, proposed the vote of thanks to everyone concerned comparing the Association to the television programmes, "Last of the Summer Wine" or "Grumpy Old Men" or "One Foot in the Grave" and even thought some of the men turned up at our meetings with slippers and dressing gowns!!! Ian was definitely in fine form and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his comments. Our evening concluded with a few readings and Christmas Carols.

Everyone enjoyed our Anniversary evening and a great time was had by all. Here's to the next 50 years!!!

## **Chris Scott, Secretary**

A note for the members - a reminder that our next meeting is on Monday 15th January when we visit the Guild to hear Dr. David Lawson and on Tuesday 30th we meet in the Jubilee Hall for a Burns Supper.

## **Coffee and Mince Pies**

Thank you to everyone who supported this fund-raising event on Christmas Eve. The total sum raised was £517 which will be donated to the Colorectal Surgery Fund at Gartnavel General Hospital.

## **Liz Traill, Frances Ireland**

## Presentation of Long Service Certificates

At the December meeting of the Kirk Session the rev Fergus Buchanan presented Bibles and Long Service certificates signed by the Right Revered Allan MacDonald, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to two of our senior elders, Mr Donald Macritchie and Mr William N Gilchrist, in grateful appreciation of their dedicated service as elders for thirty years.



**Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk.**

## Brigade Blethers

Since last month the girls have had their wee St Andrew's Night; brought lots of lovely gifts for our friends at Open Doors (thanks to all the mums); collected our Avon parcels (thanks to Janet Cockburn); had a talk about looking after our bodies by dressing properly (thanks to Susan MacLeod) and the Explorers and Juniors have enjoyed a smashing Christmas party (thanks to Santa).

We always finish early in December so that the girls will be free to attend all the other parties on offer at this time of year so we felt really touched when a couple of the older girls wanted to carry on for another few weeks! (a big AAWW!)

We start again next year with our usual visit to the Panto, then on 11<sup>th</sup> January the Brigaders go out for their Christmas meal. Their social calendars were too full to fit this in before Christmas!

I hope that all our friends in St Paul's have just as much to look forward to. Have a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Anne Goodlet.

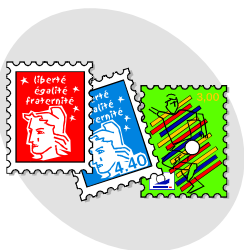


## Stamps

Please remember to bring your used stamps to Church. You will be helping Church of Scotland missionaries with their projects. This year the golden jubilee project of the Church of Bangladesh will benefit. The project is run to help the elderly in the community, providing social services for them.

(More info on Bangladesh elsewhere in the mag)

May Phillips.



## Fact File on Bangladesh (from the Council for World Mission website) [www.cwmission.org.uk](http://www.cwmission.org.uk)

Following May Phillips's appeal for your old stamps, we thought you might like to know a bit more about Bangladesh and the Church's work there.

### **Main religions:**

Islam (83%), Hinduism (16%), other (1%)

### **Government:**

Republic, parliamentary rule since 1991 after 16 years of presidential and military government. An alliance led by the Bangladesh National Party won the October 2001 elections, prompting worries over Islamic extremism entering mainstream politics.

### **National and community concerns:**

- Low literacy levels, lack of education.
- The need for respect between different communities and faiths.
- Dependency on overseas aid.
- Heavy summer rains followed by hurricanes and floods have devastating consequences.

### **Church priorities and programmes:**

- Social Development Programme is involved in income-generation, health education, community development, adult literacy, vocational training, tree conservation, and savings schemes.
- Women's development project.
- Education - the literacy rate of church members is 80%, against 42% nationally.
- Child & Youth care, providing hostels for children in poor rural slum areas.
- Health care and nutrition.
- Disaster support.
- Training of trainers.
- Relating faith and work in all church programmes.

### **Members/Congregations:**

16,000/74

### **Prayers:**

- That Christian families will live & raise their children according to God's will.
- That the church serve people of other faiths with humility.
- For political peace and an end to growing terrorism and violence.
- For women to be respected and have dignity in their work.

A great deal of hard work goes into making the sanctuary beautiful for Christmas – here's a wee insight...



### **Church Christmas Tree**

Members of the Congregation might be interested in knowing a little more about what happens prior to Christmas to decorate the sanctuary.

Firstly, the black candle holders all require to be cleaned and the wax from the preceding year's candles needs to be removed. Also the stock of candles needs to be checked and this year, new candles were purchased which were slightly smaller in diameter meaning that a small rim of cardboard needed to be wrapped round the candle to ensure each candle was tight in its holder.

Secondly, holly, in abundance, needs to be gathered. If anyone watches the Mistle thrush during November, you will know how hungry these birds are for holly berries and so those who provide the holly invariably have it cut during mid-November and stored in water, indoors in order to retain the beautiful red berries. The branches of holly are tied together and then hung over the candle holders when in position on each of the archways.

Thirdly, a tree needs to be obtained. St. Paul's has been fortunate to have had a number of anonymous donors who pay for the cost of the tree. There are a number of willing suppliers of trees but the actual source must remain confidential to avoid a queue of prospective purchasers!

Lastly, a team of volunteers attends at the Church (and it should be noted that some of those attending are entitled to long service and good conduct medals!) and with much pushing and shoving and a degree of brute force, the tree is installed in a metal plinth which is then erected in its customary position. Many hands are needed to erect the tree but thereafter the decorating can be left in the hands of the artistic experts. Thanks to a very clever invention from Bill Law, all the lights can be plugged into a master board which is discreetly hidden by the tree so only one wire needs to be used to connect to the electricity supply. No one has actually counted but it is reasonably estimated that there are well over 1,000 lights on the tree.

It is a one-off task which has generated great friendship among the volunteers, beautifying the sanctuary and enabling the message of Christmas to be expressed in visual form.

### Stage 1

The tree lies the back of the Church while Faither/Son Adair give each other advice about what to do next.



### Stage 2

Hedgehog-like the tree (and boy is it prickly!) is carried down the aisle to the front of the Church and has its metal foot attached. It is then hoisted upright – this is where the brute force comes in!

### Stage 3

Wires and ropes secure the tree upright and some precarious ladder work ensures that the star is fixed and the lights are arranged.



Finally... the church lights are turned off and the full effect is seen as the finishing touches are added.





# Japan Jottings

**Dear Friends,**

New Year greetings from Japan where we have just entered the Year of the Wild Boar. This will be our last full year in Otaru as we will return to Scotland for our next home assignment in March 2008.



It is good to have Daniel here with us for the winter holidays. His long trip back went smoothly and he will return again to India at the end of this month. The other boys have a slightly shorter holiday (but longer than Scottish winter holidays!) and will spend a good deal of their time skiing on the local mountains.

We were pleased to have around 65 kids at our Family Christmas last month. A missionary couple who work in Thailand shared in a really effective way as they told the kids about that country and also shared the hope of the gospel. The kids all listened well, sang well and had great fun with the different games.



Each year in Japan, people vote for a Chinese character which they think best sums up the year. In a year which has seen the long-awaited birth of a male grandchild to the Emperor and, more sadly, much-publicised suicides among teenagers, the character which was chosen was the one meaning 'life'. What a great choice! We, and many others here, will take the opportunity to build on that in Christmas and New Year messages as we point people to the one who is life, the one who gives life and the one who gave up his life for us.

We look forward to your partnership with us through another year. There are many challenges here in Japan – but opportunities too. Pray that many more in Otaru would not only hear, but respond in faith to the gospel message.

**With our love and thanks for all your support for David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

## **Unreached people**

With less than 1% Christians Japan is considered as one of the biggest un-reached people groups.

Find out more about what the Fergusons do at [www.omf.org.uk](http://www.omf.org.uk)





## ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP : Burgundy and Provence cruise, November, 2006.

Stunning blue sky and sunshine; Roman remains in Vienne and Arles; stuffed quail on stewed lentils; accordion music and dancing on the sundeck; tartelette au chocolat at the pastry demonstration; walking the traboules in Lyon; sock hunt; descending into deep locks; wine tasting at Tain l'Hermitage; Palais des Papes in Avignon; multicoloured tiles on the Hotel-Dieu roof in Beaune; silk scarves; medieval streets in Viviers; Vincent van Gogh; Pont du Gard; Avignon's colourful indoor market; printed Provençal cottons; friendship and fellowship. Bonnes vacances!

DO JOIN US NEXT TIME!  
Anne Ritchie



### 'LIFE and WORK' Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' for 2007 are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £15.60 – a reduction of 30 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

### Editor's note and copy date for February issue

Happy new year to all readers and thanks to those of you who have contributed articles or items this year – please keep them coming.

We had intended doing a colour edition for the end of the year, but the holidays have made this an impossibility. Instead, those of you who can view the magazine online on the Church's website will see some **extra features** including a report of Gemma Stoddart's recent trip to Malawi and some of the fun and games which have taken place recently in and around the Church. Please check this out at

[www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk)

Copy date for February is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> for items being left in the pigeon hole at the back of the Church, or Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> by email to

[rona.macdonald@scotent.co.uk](mailto:rona.macdonald@scotent.co.uk)

## Illness During the Morning Service

With the onset of winter weather, members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board recently requested some medical advice on the management of illness during morning service. This is always a rather worrisome topic and one which exercises members of the duty rota at the back of the Kirk.

Whilst theoretically, members of the congregation could fall ill with any problem, in reality most of the common illnesses can be managed by the individual concerned themselves, usually by leaving service. In the last 40 years, catastrophic events such as coronary artery thrombosis or stroke have hardly ever affected anyone during a service. By far and away the most frequent problem is **fainting**. This occurs when a person becomes over-warm; their blood vessels dilate; leading to insufficient circulating blood being available to fill the space within the blood vessels. When this occurs and the person stands up (eg to sing a hymn), gravity supervenes, blood falls to the lower extremities and away from the brain, the person then feels 'light-headed', looks extremely pale and sags at the knees before falling down. The very act of falling down (and becoming horizontal) once again re-establishes circulation to the brain and aids recovery. However there is a time lag to this recovery during which much panic can ensue amongst both on-lookers and the duty team!

**Can we predict the type of person who might be affected?** Fortunately we can, although it might not be quite politically correct to do so! With the exception of those at the end stage of pregnancy who can faint at any time, the typical person is:

- a lady of above average age,
- taking medicines to lower blood pressure,
- often over weight,
- considerably over-dressed (for the inside of a heated church, albeit not for the outside weather conditions),
- sitting in the middle of a pew,
- sitting on one of the pews with heating pipes underneath

Not all of these criteria need apply, three or four usually suffice.

**How do we treat such people?** The answer is quite simple – they are removed from the sanctuary and taken to the vestry where they can recover rapidly and in private. It all sounds so simple! In practice it is often far from being so since those who faint have a propensity to occupy the middle seats in pews making access difficult, tend to resist assistance until it is rather late to make a dignified exit (“I’ll be all right, really, I’m just a little light-headed!” is the usual response when help has been called timeously) and become quite difficult to extract when they become completely unconscious.

**What can one do to prevent fainting occurring?** Basically the answer is to wear loose clothing (particularly around the neck, take off warm winter clothing and hang coats up during the service (coat racks available outside the toilets and in the toilets themselves). If you have fainted during a service in the past, please also think of sitting at the end of the pews to facilitate rapid exit if necessary and calm the ruffled nerves of those on duty that day!



## Strange Goings-on one Sunday at St Paul's...

If you thought you were just coming to a regular service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, then you'd be a bit surprised to find the minister metamorphosed by aliens and "the Professor" (brother of "the Doctor" and newly arrived from Gallifrey in his Tardis) in charge of proceedings!

It was a strange world where time seemed to be elastic and the Professor took us on a historical tour from place to place during the last 100 years or so. In the first scene we were whisked back to 1914 to meet a soldier in the trenches writing home to Milngavie telling his mum that he'd given a German soldier his balaclava as a Christmas present. During the singing of Silent Night, we were then transported forward to 1930 and the Bennie rail plane era – although it only travelled less than half a mile, the service was judged superior to Scotrail's current service! There were then some traditional Gallifreyan carols (which bore remarkable similarities to our own) sung by the Beginners and Seekers which took us to 1954 (birth date of a famous member of this parish!) Domestic Bliss round the wireless listening to Dan Dare, gave way to the Moon Landings as experienced by Donald and Iain in Macrihanish and the Record Shop in Milngavie in 1984 was the final scene when we were reminded that the money raised by Band Aid was a sticking plaster on the troubles of the world.

Apart from having lots of fun and dressing up, was there a point to all this? Well, yes. The message that Jesus is with us through all life's experiences, that he understands our happy times and our sad times and that he has a purpose for us in this life is relevant to everyone of all ages at all times in history. We were urged to remember others at this time of year especially.

The children's gifts for the Open Doors Trust were presented (or at least they were whisked in aboard the Tardis) and Hugh McKenna was there to receive them. He thanked the congregation for their prayers and the long association we have had with the OD trust who care for people leading a lifestyle of despair, whether through drug or alcohol addiction, family break-up, poverty, neglect or homelessness. You can find out more about their work at [www.glasgowodt.org.uk](http://www.glasgowodt.org.uk)

Well done indeed to all the Time Travellers who put so much hard work into organising and taking part in the service – there are too many to name them individually – but they did a superb job.

Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Centenary Christmas so memorable. There was a lot of work involved in preparing our *Christmas Time Travel*: finding costumes, making props, organising music, not to mention the time and energy which went into the rehearsals. Linda Muirhead made a fine job of the direction and brought the best out of all our actors.

As always the contribution of Derek Norval and the Choir was much appreciated at all our services not least the Service of Christmas Readings and Music which provided an atmosphere of quiet reflection much needed at that time of year.

Our Advent Services on Saturday morning were well attended with Eleanor Easton and Jean Scott providing musical accompaniment which enriched the worship. Mention should also be made that one of our elders, Alec McEwan, conducted the first of these services. Finally, it would be wrong to take for granted all the work done by members of the Kirk Session during this Season. There are extra services and events which require stewarding and we are blessed in that we are never short of volunteers.

FCB



## Child Protection News

As we enter another year in God's service, there are a few matters that I would like to share with the congregation where child protection is concerned.

I am conscious that leaders of church organisations have asked me whether I have "spare" people tucked away who have completed the child protection procedures and are eligible to work with children. Regretfully I have to tell leaders that the pool of eligible people is largely those people who are currently engaged with children's and young people's organisations within the church.

What I would like to do would be to build up a pool of "reserves." I would hope that these reserves would be able to assist in, for example, a case of sudden or unexpected absence. Reserves might also be able to help with one-off events, such as those we have had during the centenary celebrations.

I would therefore ask members of the congregation to consider helping in this way. I would envisage putting the names of the reserves on a list that I could circulate to the organisational leaders or to have these reserves available for occasional or special events. Should anyone wish to discuss what the child procedures involve, I would be happy to talk it over.

Members of the congregation will be interested to know that the Department of Transport has issued a new leaflet on drivers' responsibilities when transporting children in private vehicles. Further information is available on:

[www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/pdf/law-leaflet.pdf](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/pdf/law-leaflet.pdf) Any church member transporting children as part of a church event should be aware of these guidelines.

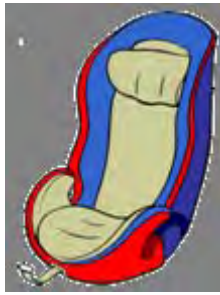
Finally I hope to arrange some additional child protection training. Due to holidays and other commitments last August, I regrettably had to cancel the last scheduled training. Hopefully a further event will be arranged early in 2007.

Douglas Martin, Child Protection Co-ordinator

## Think Safety

A new law came into force on **18 Sept 2006**, which the government says could save up to 2,000 children per year from death or injury in road accidents. All children under the age of 12 will have to use some form of child car seat, unless they are taller than 135cm (4ft 5in). This means you may have to buy a new car seat or booster cushion for your child.

The reason for the new rules is because surveys show three quarters of children are wearing adult seat belts before they are tall enough to do so safely. In other words, the belt could hurt their neck or their internal organs if the car stops suddenly. Or they could slide underneath it.



### Booster seat

For children weighing 15 - 25 kgs (33 - 55 lbs) roughly 4 to 6 years.

They can be used in the front or rear of the car, but it is safer to put them in the rear, especially if there is a passenger airbag in the front.

Some Booster seats are designed to be converted into a booster cushion by detaching the back rest.

### Booster Cushion

For children weighing 22 - 36 kgs (48 - 79 lbs) roughly from 6 - 11 years.

They can be used in the front or rear of the car, but it is safer to put them in the rear, especially if there is a passenger airbag in the front.

Booster seats and booster cushions do not have an integral harness to hold the child in place. The adult seat belt goes around the child and the seat. So it is important that the seat belt is correctly adjusted.

The basic points to note are:

- the belt should be worn as tight as possible
- the lap belt should go over the pelvic region, not the stomach
- the diagonal strap should rest over the shoulder, not the neck. \_



### Who Needs to Wear a Seatbelt?

The driver must wear a seatbelt.

Children under 3 must wear a child restraint.

Children aged 3-11 and less than 5 feet in height must either wear a child restraint or an adult seatbelt.

Children aged 12-13 (or younger children over 5 feet tall) must wear an adult seatbelt if available.

Over 14s are responsible for wearing an adult seatbelt. (As the driver you are responsible for making sure that all passengers under 14 wear a seatbelt).

### I am confused about how the height and age rules work together...

These examples will help you to decide whether a child is subject to the new rules or not:

➤A 7 year old boy who is 120cms tall must use a child restraint - he is under the height limit.

➤A 9 year old girl who is 140cms tall is over the height for a child restraint and may use an adult seat belt - she is over the height limit.

➤A 12 year old boy who is 130cms tall is over the age threshold and therefore may use an adult belt - he is over the age limit.



## Kirk Photographer of the Year?

The Church of Scotland is looking for a winner in its Photographer of the Year competition. Could it be you? Capitalising on the success of the last year's Photographer of the Year award, which was held last year, the Kirk is now looking for entries for the 2007 competition.

Last time around, hundreds of entries were received from throughout the world. Lynsae Tulloch, the Church's website editor, is hoping for an even bigger response this year.

"We are keen to encourage entries which look at the church outside of its buildings, so ideally photographs representing the work and mission of the Church in practice. We want to hear from amateur photographers from Scotland, Europe and beyond. Wherever you are, we want to see photographs that represent what your church means to you and to your community."

The closing date for this year's competition has been extended until Wednesday 31 January 2007. Online voting will be available from 1 to 28 February 2007. Full information about how to enter is on the Kirk's website at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

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A Santa had to cope with the Ayrshire accent at the weekend when he asked a five-year-old Ayrshire boy brought to the grotto in a shopping centre: "Who's your teacher?"

The little lad answered: "She's fine."



## St Columba's Helensburgh

Dear Ian,

I am afraid this is a long overdue letter, but now I have got around to writing it.

We would like to thank you, the Kirk Session and the congregation for the tremendous support we received throughout our time at St Paul's. It has been a constant encouragement and source of strength. We are very grateful for the many expressions of love and friendship we were blessed with at St Paul's. The farewell gift was especially generous and most kind (I haven't spent it all in one shop!)

To serve alongside Fergus was both fun and an inspiration. I learnt a lot from him that I find immensely helpful here in Helensburgh.

The amazing support of the congregation at the induction in October was a powerful testimony of your love and friendship that we dearly treasure. Fergus's kind and amusing words of introduction of "the Count" at the social were deeply imprinted on the minds of the people here – they still recall it with great fondness.

It was a real privilege to be part of the ministry and life of St Paul's and we wish you every blessing as you continue to serve him in Milngavie.

With every blessing,

George Vidits



## St Paul's Book Club

Our usual "skilled correspondent" was unable to attend our meeting on Wednesday so they brought in a substitute!

As an antidote to our last Book Club choice (which none of us enjoyed) we turned back to the classics and read Dostoevsky's novel "Crime and Punishment." To our modern taste it was a wee bit slow to start, but once we got used to the style and pace, it was a great read. The book is well written and has some very deep characters who provoked a good going discussion among the group.

We meet again on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January and our next book is "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. If, like us, you feel like reading and discussing this with a group of friends, please phone the church office for details of the venue.

Anne Goodlet.



## TraidCraft

Thank you for all your support in buying fairly traded goods over the past year. It may seem like a drop in the ocean, but the impact globally is making a great difference to the problem of poverty. To receive a fair wage for your daily work, & also to have the opportunity to earn a decent living must surely be the goal that we as Christians should strive for, for others.

Rosemary Fraser

## The Kirk and Trident – a word from the Moderator

Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4 December, the Church of Scotland has expressed its continued opposition to weapons of mass destruction. The Moderator, the Right Rev Alan McDonald, and the convener of the Church and Society Council, Morag Mylne, responded as follows.

Morag Mylne said: "The decision on whether or not to replace Trident is a unique opportunity to change the way the world thinks. It appears from its White Paper, that HM Government is determined not to take this opportunity – and to keep spending obscene sums of money on a defence system that has no conceivable use."

Alan McDonald continued: "The Church of Scotland has for quarter of a century held the view that Trident should be scrapped, and that view has certainly not been changed by any recent events. Maintaining a nuclear weapons system, with its potential to cause gross and indiscriminate suffering, is morally and theologically wrong. We sincerely hope that MPs will see the irrelevance of Trident to the modern world, and vote to rid the United Kingdom of its weapons of mass destruction, and will be responding to the Consultation to say so."

Morag Mylne concluded: "We also hope that all parties represented in the House of Commons will trust their members sufficiently to allow a free vote on this issue of personal conscience and moral importance."

The Moderator is a fierce opponent of nuclear weapons and took part in *The Long Walk For Peace* in September when religious leaders, campaigners and trade union activists joined him on an epic 85 mile cross country walk from Faslane to the Scottish Parliament to highlight the nuclear weapons issue. The Moderator has previously spoken on the Trident issue saying: "The statistics about Trident are chilling. One Trident submarine can carry the equivalent of 750 Hiroshima bombs. The potential for indiscriminate destruction of countless men, women and children is almost beyond belief."



## World Mission Diary for January

**Please pray for continued progress at Chigodi's Women's Centre and the Mulanje Mission Hospital where a new outpatient department and staff accommodation is being built.**

**We would also pray for the Girl's Secondary School, Elewenden in Malawi where Helen Scott is supervising the building of new premises. Please pray for the mission partners in Malawi, Helen Scott and Andy and Floss Gaston.**

**Please pray for peace in Sri Lanka where more than 3,500 people have been killed this year during the renewed fighting taking place in that country.**

**We would pray for John and Patricia Purves in Colombo and Saman Perera and all the Scot's Kirk people in Kandy where there has been recent fighting**

# Gemma Stoddart's Trip to Malawi

*During the summer, Gemma, a member of our congregation, went to Malawi to find out how money from Scotland is helping make things a little better. This is her report including all the photos that we were unable to reproduce in the paper magazine.*

It's been seven days since I touched down in Heathrow after my trip to Malawi and I have just got some of my thoughts together to write to you.

My trip was AWESOME: that is the only word I can find to describe the seven days I spent in Africa. The people I met in small villages had prepared songs to welcome us and treated us like royalty, when they didn't even understand how much their humility and depth of faith was challenging us. We took part in about six projects which the Bible Society of Malawi is involved in and some of our money went to support.

On Sunday we visited, Ndirande, which was about five minutes from our accommodation where we spent about half an hour handing out portions of the Bible to people who were wondering up and down the dirty road.

We also visited an AIDS orphanage called Kondanani meaning 'Love One Another'. This was home for just over 100 children who were infected with the virus. It was amazing how homely a place which was surrounded by illness and sometimes death could be. Every child had a house mother and loved to be held and played with (which was the opposite of the children we met in small rural villages). Memory was one of the babies I met, she was only two months old and had recently got tests results back which diagnosed her with 95% of her blood being infected with HIV. On this I asked the assistant what the future held for Memory and she answered, 'We pray for a miracle and believe that one day one of our children will be healed of this disease'. Her faith summed up the trip for me. Christians in Malawi see and live in horrible poverty and depravity everyday, but continue to believe that God will and is answering their prayers for change.

Thanks so much for giving me the privilege of being changed by visiting this AWESOME country.

Gemma





## THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The Anchor Boys' Team (P2 & 3) will be resuming at 6.15 – 7.15 p.m. on Monday 15th January 2007 at the St Luke's Church Hall, Kirk Street. New boys may come along to enrol with their parents or member friends on any Monday evening in January.

Further details from Mrs Gail McGill, 0141 563 8424.

Junior Section (P4, 5 & 6) resumes at 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. on Monday 8th January 2007 also at St Luke's Church Hall, Kirk Street. New boys of this age group may also enrol on any January Monday evening.

Details from Mr Alan Dougan ,0141 956 1908.

The Company Section meets regularly on a Friday evening and resumes at 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. on 12th January 2007. Drumming Practice, 6.45 – 7.15 p.m. on the same evening , boys involved please attend promptly. Company Parade Fall-In as usual 7.30 p.m. followed by badge work, fitness training and a programme of recreational activity until 9.30. New or former members of P7, S1, 2, 3 & 4. are most welcome to enrol during January evenings.

More details from Mr Stuart Sharkie, 0141 956 2027.

All Company unit officers and instructors are requested to attend a Staff meeting of one hour on Tuesday 30th January 2007 at 7.00 p.m. being held at St Luke's Church Hall.

All Members of the Churches Management Committee are requested to attend a Business meeting of this group at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 30th January 2007, also being held at St Luke's Church Hall. Any members unable to attend please appoint another representative of that church to attend instead.

Strong Support makes Fun and Success.

Ian M.W.Taggart, MBE, TD.     Tele 0141 956 2985  
Secretary, Management Committee.

Saturday 24th February 2007 is **JUMBLE SALE DAY** in **The B.B.Hall, Sinclair Street 10 am – 1p.m.**

Parents of B.B. boys and congregational members of all six supporting Milngavie churches are invited to assist the officers and Management Committee members in making this important event an even greater success than last year. Volunteers please contact their own Church Sale Convener. Cairns Church, Sale Convener, Elspeth Cunningham, 570 1221 to help gather goods and assist on the day. Allander Church, St Andrews, St. Luke's St Paul's and United Free await their Jumble Sale Supporting Convener announcement by Order of Service Intimation. Ian Taggart 956 2985 for more details. Collection and uplift of goods has started and will continue throughout January and February.

**Milngavie Churches**  
**Prayer Breakfasts**

Breakfast 8am, Prayer 8.45am  
Close 9.30am

3 <sup>rd</sup> February	St Andrew's Episcopal
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	United Free
31 <sup>st</sup> March	St Luke's
5 <sup>th</sup> May	St Paul's
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	St Andrew's

## CHURCH REGISTER

### New Members Joined by certificate

Mrs Enid Smith, 7 Mannofield, Bearsden 62a

### Joined by Resolution

Mr & Mrs Robert McGowan, 68 Campsie Drive, Bearsden 48

### Change of Address

Mrs Elizabeth Stephen, 9 South Glassford Street, Milngavie now 2

Buchanan House, Bearsden

Mrs Marion Weir, 3 Vivian Ave., Milngavie now 30

Flat 9 Homebrae House, Milngavie 3a

Mrs Doreen McLeod, 13 Dalnottar Gardens, Old Kilpatrick now 70

Almond Court Nursing Home, Drumchapel Terr Glasgow

### Deaths

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

26.11.06 Mr John Craig, 61 Lennox Ave., Milngavie

6.12.06 Dr A M Chalmers, Canniesburn Nursing Home 38

12.12.06 Dr Morton Jones, Whitefield Lodge Nursing Home 54

## Rotas

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crêche	Traidcraft	Vestibule
7 Jan	A McLean R Cameron	Whitelaw Baxter Reid	A Begg J Mclean	Team 9 John Macpherson
14 Jan	J Ford C Tanner	Bolton J Deuchar Smith	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Ian MacIntyre
21 Jan	J Clark M Taggart	Sillars MacAuley Laurie	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 2 Calum MacNeill (communion)
28 Jan	I Torbet P Barlow	K Deuchar Chapman Goodlet	C Mackay R Fraser	Team 3 Jean I M Scott
4 Feb	S Anderson F Fraser	Cockburn Richell Hughes		Team 4 David Lawson