



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine January 2012

Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

Over the years many of you have told me about rituals that you like to observe at this time of the year, many of them for sentimental reasons. One of mine is to have a look at *The Church Mice At Christmas*, a book that was a favourite of the boys when they were small. It's a very funny story but there is a message about generosity and sharing which never palls. And the pictures are just magical.

I also like to dip into *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge is one of Dickens' most memorable creations and has had countless re-workings on stage and screen. We never seem to tire of the story of the hard, bitter miser who was changed at the core of his being and became a byword for warm-hearted kindness.

Dickens himself was a complex character. He was capable of extraordinary acts of goodwill to the poor and disadvantaged and yet was strangely neglectful of his family. We'll be hearing a lot about him in 2012 which is the two hundredth anniversary of his birth.

One thing that no one could ever deny about Dickens was his enormous appetite for his work. Claire Tomalin's recent biography ends with this image:

'After he had been writing for long hours at Wellington Street, he would sometimes ask his office boy to bring him a bucket of cold water and put his head into it, and his hands. Then he would dry his head with a towel, and go on writing.'

Dickens never claimed to have an orthodox Christian faith but I believe this kind of commitment and perseverance has been at the heart of much powerful Christian witness. Paul once spoke of his life like this: 'I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me . . . I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3: 12-14).

Great words to take with us into a New Year.

Fergus C Buchanan

Gift Aid Convener

After a period of 12 years Liz Trill is retiring as Gift Aid Convener. Over this period Liz has given sterling service and we should be proud of the fact that she has managed to reclaim Tax on offerings amounting to more than £400,000. The Congregational Board have already thanked Liz for the amount of work she has carried out on our behalf. When Liz became Gift Aid Convener everything was paper and pen controlled, but over the past few years it has become computerised and Liz has had to learn the new way of working, which she has done admirably.



I am delighted to let the Congregation know, that Mrs. Jill Foggo has been appointed as the new Convener. Jill has been shadowing Liz for many months now and as from 1st January, 2012 Jill will be dealing with all matters pertaining to Gift Aid.

If you have any queries or wish to contribute using the Gift Aid Scheme please speak to Jill or myself at Church as we will be more than willing to discuss this with you.

We wish Jill every Blessing as she carries out this very important task.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer

We're back in 2012 with Sun Kids

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COME ALONG AND BRING A

FOOD

Saturday 28th January 2012

4.30 - 6.30 pm

St. Paul's Church Hall

Cost: £1.00

ACTIVITIES

CHALLENGES

Book Club



Many of you will be familiar with the book we have been reading this month – **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett. A film of the book has also recently been released.

The story is about African American maids working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi during the early 1960s. The narrative is told mainly from the perspective of three women: Aibileen, Minny and Skeeter. Skeeter is the daughter of a prominent white family whose cotton farm employs many African Americans in the fields as well as in the household. When Skeeter returns from college with ambitions to become a writer, she finds that the maids are treated very differently from the white people and decides that she wants to reveal the truth to the world from the maids' perspectives by writing a book. The maids are encouraged to tell their own story to Skeeter, who struggles to gain their trust, but she eventually overcomes the barriers of race and class.

This book was well received by the group and generated a lot of discussion particularly with regard to the black/white class issues. Although this book has been very well received here, it is interesting to note that the reaction in America appears to be very different with the Association of Black Women Historians commenting that “they find it unacceptable for either this book or film to strip black women's lives of historical accuracy for the sake of entertainment”. Why don't you read it and see what you think?

Our next book is *Our Glasgow* by Piers Dudgeon and we are meeting on **Tuesday 31 January 2012** at the usual time of 7.45pm.

Joyce Clark



Words For Life

St Pauls Parish Church Milngavie

It has been decided to revamp the “dewdrops” that appear on the internet and that are available in print in Church each Sunday.

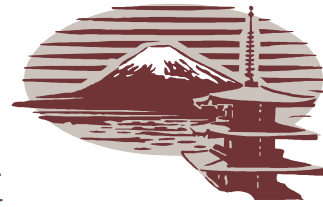
From the 8th of January a printed version of WORDS FOR LIFE will be found exactly where the dewdrops used to be except they will be available in print on a monthly basis, not weekly. Inside you will find a more simple format with the usual reading, a reflection on the reading and a short prayer for the day.

Extra copies will be available at the back of the church and outside the office window for any newcomers who wish to take them.

The dewdrops on the internet will be changed eventually to the new “Words for Life” so watch this space for a future announcement.

Alex McEwan alexjmcewan@gmail.com

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

Here we have just gone into the Year of the Dragon. Everyone here exchanges New Year cards (no tradition of Christmas cards) so the dragon will feature prominently. People usually buy special blank postcard-size cards and do their own design. This will be a year of many changes for us (and that is just thinking about the ones we already know about!) After a year of great tragedy for Japan, we remember too that many thousands will face a new year living in temporary accommodation and continuing to bear the suffering that came in the wake of the tsunami which devastated their communities.

December started off well for us with Hiroko's baptism. It was a great day – her father came and a number of friends too. Then the next weekend we held our second ever Hiragishi Family Christmas. This time we had around 80 children and over 20 adults so the place was packed. On Christmas Day we were able to welcome a number of guests to our service which we followed with a low-key time of food and games. It was good to have both older boys back for Christmas, even though Daniel's journey ended up being somewhat longer than expected.

This month Calum and Alistair are off school till the 17th while Daniel and Matthew are here till the 30th. All of them have work to do over the holidays though. The older two have exams coming up and the younger boys always come home at the end of term with many sheets of work to be done during the holidays.

We continue to study with Wataru and help him in his young faith. Hiroko is planning to be in Italy for some study for three months from February so we are eager to help her too as much as we can during this month. We trust that the Lord will be leading even more to faith over this coming year.

**Every blessing for the New Year
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

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 11th January, 2012 from 7.30pm.

Please enter via the side lane.

Chris Scott, Congregational Treasurer

Sunday Coffee

Thank you

We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service.

We are delighted to let you know we were able to give £1200 to "Pershall Trust".

This would not be possible without the help of our trusty tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2011.

The milk and biscuits for the morning coffee are being donated by Bob at Milngavie Mini Market. We are most grateful for his kind gesture.

We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Many thanks once again.

Margaret and Margaret



Thanks

Doreen Scott passed away on the 22nd of November.

On behalf of the Scott family, I would like to thank all who gave us support, love and prayer over a long period of time.

We did not know when she would go, we did not know how she would go, but we knew where she would go. In life and death that is by far the most important of all questions.

There is a hymn that says

We shall meet but we shall miss her
There will be one vacant chair
As we linger to caress her
When we breath our evening prayer

Thank you all,

Alan Scott.

Scottish Churches' Responses to Consultations

Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office writes: we have a section on our website called "Official Responses," where we upload responses made by Scottish Churches to Government consultations, Parliamentary Committee enquiries and calls for evidence. We'd like to draw your attention to this useful resource, which shows that Scottish Churches are engaged and interested in a very wide range of issues.

The Baptist Union of Scotland, Methodist Church, Religious Society of Friends, United Free Church of Scotland, Salvation Army, United Reformed Church, Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church have all sent SCPO the responses that they have submitted to the Scottish Government's consultation on Civil Partnership Registration and Same Sex Marriage.

Several denominations have also responded to the Health and Sport Committee's call for evidence on the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill. You can view all these at www.actsparl.org/official-responses.aspx

National Stewardship Programme.

As reported in the October edition of *Life* the General Assembly instructed all Presbyteries to instruct their congregations to participate in the National Stewardship Programme.

The Stewardship Committee in St Paul's has proposed that February each year be dedicated as "stewardship" month covering, over a 3 year cycle, – time, talents and money.

The Church of Scotland has produced a leaflet with an introductory letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly, to be distributed to all members and this will be carried out by the district Elders prior to the January Communion. I hope you will take time to read the leaflet and reflect on its contents.

As a new year dawns I pray each member will review their own giving of time, talents and money and adjust as necessary.

Graham Mill

Flower donations—January

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



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

My best wishes for 2012 and hope you had a great festive season.

World Mission Diary for December

Joel Githiniji and his wife Agnes were born in Kenya. They have two children Grace and Francis. Joel is a mission partner working in Nepal as the integral Mission Advisor for HIV in that country.

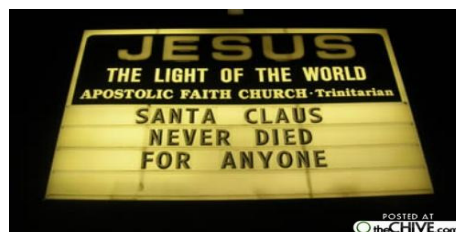
Joel has asked us to pray for

- Christian communities and leaders in Nepal
- Christian believers who fear persecution from their families.
- Nepal peace process and drafting of the new constitution
- Nepal security - there has been an increase of petty criminal activities
- Children who are infected or affected by HIV

Gift Service

We want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who brought presents to the Gift Service this year - the number of presents was staggering and obviously many members of the congregation apart from the children contributed parcels.

As was very clear from May Nicholson's words to us the Preshal Trust works among those with huge needs and the gifts she took away would be greatly appreciated.



The Guild

We finished the first half of our Guild session with our Christmas Dinner. This was a super night, food was excellent and, of course, the entertainment by members of the Guild. Our Pantomime, Cinderella and our version of Good King Wenceslas was met with many laughs. Our singing group led us in some carols and Christmas songs which everyone enjoyed.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this night such a success.

We start the second half of our session on Monday 9th January and, as always a warm welcome is extended to all the ladies in the congregation to join us. Our programme for January is :

- 9th The Three Crows – Musical Evening
- 16th Captain Lucy Mann – Salvation Army
- 23rd New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Dancers and Ceilidh Band
- 30th Mr. Hutcheson – Who would be an Organist.



Jean Scott

Lunch Club

It is a New Year with a new start and we are all to aware of the pounds we have put on over Christmas. Come along to the Lunch Club which resumes on Wednesday 11th January and enjoy some health filling soup to start you on all these good intentions. You can always miss out on the other delicious goodies if you aren't too tempted.

A big thank you is due to all the many helpers who make the Lunch Club possible and due to the generosity of everyone we have been able this year to give a donation to St. Paul's and smaller donations to Tear Fund, Christian Aid, The Lodging House Mission, Scottish Bible Society, Salvation Army and Preshal Trust. Thank you for your support and hope to see you on the 11th.



Ann MacLeod

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.

Musical Reminiscences

Dear Friends,

Didn't you enjoy the Christmas music thanks to Derek Norval and choir? Imagine the church without music!

My father and I were in the choir of Liberton Parish Church in Edinburgh during Dr Ewan's time. He was a gentle giant of a man – the only minister to toss the caber at the Braemar Gathering before the Queen. My father was a small man and sat at the bottom of the pulpit steps giving Dr Ewan a helping hand to the vestry when he took a bad turn (he had been gassed during the war).

One night at choir rehearsal we were singing the hymn "As pants the hart for cooling streams" and our very young organist said "...and when it comes to pants, make it short" Well, I burst out laughing in the church. As usual I was home first, but when my father came home he was exceedingly angry at me for laughing in Church at the rehearsal. I loved the choir but I could not go back again although I sang in other choirs.

We had a kist of whistles which had to have a cloth cover of a Sunday. My Dad tried and tried to get it at the evening service and eventually it was used at nights as well as the morning service.

Meantime I chummed my mother walking with her to North Morningside Church where she took her violin quartet to play for the service. Coming and going my mother told me about the stars - no TV then!

We have my mother and father to thank for all their efforts to get music in the Church of Scotland. My Uncle was a member of the Education Board in Edinburgh backing my father too.

Hope your Christmas was a happy one. Best wishes to all.

Dorothy Sheret.

Frankincense

Today, the Magi would have a tough time finding frankincense.



The world may still have gold and myrrh, but it's quite possible that frankincense could become a thing of the past, given ecological pressures on the arid lands where it grows in Ethiopia.

The storied resin - known to millions as one of the three gifts of the Magi, the wise men who visited Jesus after his birth - is made from gum produced by the *boswellia papyrifera* tree. It is used as incense in religious rituals in many cultures, as well as an ingredient in perfume and Chinese traditional medicine.

Today via Religion News Service. Dutch and Ethiopian researchers studying populations of the scraggly, scrub-like trees in northern Ethiopia found that as many as 7% of the trees are dying each year, and seedlings are not surviving into saplings.

Source: ENI News. www.eni.ch

New Year's Resolutions which may not inspire you...

- I will be more imaginative: I will not bore my boss with the same excuse for taking leave. I will think of some more excuses.
- I will do less laundry and use more deodorant.
- I will read the manual... just as soon as I can find it.
- I resolve to stop poisoning my family with my cooking.
- I will rethink the wedding budget
- I will embrace my curves.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!

Brigade Blethers

It does not seem so long ago that we were telling each other how different things were going to be now that we were in the 21st century but suddenly we seem to have ended up in 2012. Time doesn't "pass" any more. It "flies."

Here in the Company it felt like we had just got the enrolment service over and then we were putting all our Christmas plans into operation. The girls had a lot of fun making snowmen to decorate our Christmas Tree for the Festival. This just seems to get better and better each year. The trees were inspirational, the music and carols brought us closer to the real meaning of Christmas, and through in the tearoom the home baking was wonderful. Looking forward to next year already!

We held our Christmas parties on the 15th of December and the Explorers could hardly contain themselves as they waited for Santa. They nearly lifted the roof singing Jingle Bells and a very happy Santa didn't let them down. No snow and ice to worry his reindeer this year.

The girls brought along their gifts for Chanan Trust that evening and we would like to say a big Thank You to the parents and friends who send along all those presents. They will have made some boys and girls very happy I'm sure.

We are off to the Pantomime in January then it is back to auld claes and purridge as we get back to the badgework and get ourselves organised for our Big Jumble Sale on **Saturday 10 February**. Keep us in mind when you do your post Christmas clear out.

See you all next year
Anne Goodlet.



Christmas Tree Festival 1st—7th December



We want to thank everyone once again who was involved in any way with the Christmas Tree Festival. The array of trees was stunning, 34, with a huge variety of themes and beautiful decorations. This year saw several new groups joining us, some of whose trees were most imaginative and amusing such as the 'Workies', Slimming World and the Aerobics class.

As usual the music programme was most enjoyable with many of the favourites back again including the New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band, the Jordanhill Handbell Ringers, pupils from the Music School of Douglas Academy, groups from the Milngavie Choir, several school choirs, our own Playgroup children and several members from the congregation. This year we appreciated the clarsach once again but also the smallpipes proved most entertaining and a novel experience for many people.

As before, members of all the churches worked together most amiably and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of

Wee funnies

*A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' she asked,
"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"
Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill!"*

*A police recruit was asked during the exam,
"What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"
He answered, "Call for backup."*

getting to know folks from other fellowships. We even discovered we met some members of St. Paul's for the first time too! The committee is most grateful to everyone who helped in any way, whether by stewarding, serving in the tearoom, providing delicious baking or simply by coming to admire the trees and enjoy the lovely atmosphere in the Church; many visitors commented on the beauty of the building and how it is such a wonderful setting for the Festival.

We were thrilled by the number of visitors, especially at the weekend, and by the very generous donations. The amazing sum of £3,200 was available for our chosen charities which meant that we have been able to give £1,600 to St. Margaret's Hospice and Tearfund. This is a most heart-warming total in these hard times and makes all the effort really worthwhile - thank you again to everyone!

Eleanor Easton

A picture of the team of volunteers will appear in the online version of Life



Members of the Christmas Tree Festival Team and detail from decorations of just a few of the trees featured during the week.



Holy City

Holy City is a monthly workshop and worship events in Glasgow city centre. It's currently in its 10th year. Those who attend come from Glasgow and further afield. They are drawn from the whole spectrum of Christian denominations (and none), and marvelously come in all shapes, experience, ages and sizes from sixteen to ninety.

The Holy City planning group are an unruly bunch of lay people, harnessed (admittedly in vain) by the **Wild Goose Resource Group** of the Iona Community. The group's proclivities lean towards a progressive vision of ecumenical, Christian faith that is critical, questioning and curious. They wish to discover forms of creative discipleship which encompass tradition and develop new insights into what it means to be faithful and fully human in a contemporary world. Their vision is global, aiming

to stretch beyond sometimes parochially narrow, judgmental and self-satisfied Church expressions.

It takes place between **6.30 and 9.30pm** on (mostly) the last Sunday of each month from October to May, in Renfield St Stephen's Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow.

The closing time of **liturgy** is participative, allowing time and space for head, heart and body, drawing on a variety of ecumenical and our own practices. There are no sermons or sacraments. Leadership comes almost exclusively from lay people (as does the conception and design). We use the singing voice of the congregation as opposed to the performances of 'expert' choirs.

Further information: email wgrg@iona.org.uk; or phone 0141 332 6343

The 'call' to ministry: enquiry process

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 **3 – 4 February 2012, Scottish Police College, Tulliallan**

Registration for this conference closes on Friday 13 January 2012 - please note that registrations received after this date cannot be accepted.

C H U R C H R E G I S T E R

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mr James Dobson, 78 Clober Road, Milngavie 20

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Ruth Mathieson, 34 Tannoch Drive, Milngavie 6

Dr Margaret Harris, The Firs, Strathblane 65

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Douglas Martin, 43 Durness Ave., Bearsden now 46

42 Clifton Gate, Lytham, Lancashire FY8 4QX 71

Dr Nancy Conn, The Pentlands, 1 Dumgoyne Ave., now
Buchanan House Care Home, 5 Grampian Way 27

Mr J W Baird, Buchanan House Care Home, now
Erskine Home, Red Cross House 41

DEATHS

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

21.11.11 Mrs Scott, 98 Main Street, Milngavie

25.11.11 Mrs C Young, Quayside Nursing Home 34

26.11.11 Mr John Vincent, 16 Cloberfield Gardens

01.12.11 Mrs Anne Kemp, 40 South Mains Road, Milngavie 28

Please note copy date (the last date for submissions) for February Life is Sunday 22nd Jan if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 25th if emailing.
Email to rona.dawson@go.uk.com or ph 944 4198.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
8 Jan	J Ford C Tanner	Chapman McCreadie	A Begg J McLean	Team 10 I Strang
15 Jan	J Clark S Stenhouse	Sillars Goodlet	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 2 Elaine Adair (Comm)
22 Jan	P Barlow C Buchanan	Deuchar Cockburn	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 3 Ian Ferguson
29 Jan	S Anderson M Adams	McKinnon Richell	C MacKay E Izatt	Team 4 M Taggart
5 Feb	M Conway Macpherson	Wallis Berry	L Cowie C MacKinnon	Team 5 Douglas Martin