



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine December 2009

Dear Friends,

Cards on the table. I often reach this time of year and wonder if I will have anything new to say about Christmas. There are always a number of talks and sermons to prepare and it's always a challenge to wring out of the old, old story something that sounds relevant and new. I find myself hoping that there might be a new Christmas movie or song, that I might come across a previously unknown Christmas story with a message, that someone might tell me about Christmas customs in a far-distant land – anything that might give the creative engine a boost.

I'll still be on the look-out for all of this – and if you have any ideas then as Frasier Crane would say 'I'm listening' - but I think I have discovered something more important.

Much better than giving the Christmas story an interesting new 'spin' would be to ask myself where I now stand in relation to this story. It occurs to me that maybe in the past I have been so interested in packaging these great truths that I have become distracted from them and haven't really explored what they mean to me on a personal level.

Certainly I can tell you how in the past I have felt very deeply the impact of the Birth of Jesus, but what does it mean to me now? I am certainly not the same person I was last Christmas. A lot has happened since then which has affected lifestyle, attitudes, thinking. Where does this person, shaped by new and difficult experiences, stand in relation to the Christmas message? What is the message saying to him now?

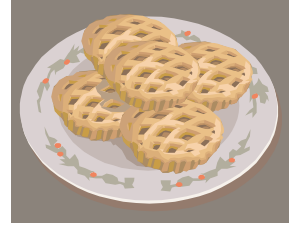
I don't have to space to go into that but I am sure this is the key to a meaningful Christmas for all of us. The story will always be the same but where we are in relation to the story changes. It comes round to that most helpful of principles in studying the Bible: not just looking at the text and asking questions but allowing the text to look at us and ask questions of us.

Young parents with a new baby, women who have just discovered an unwelcome pregnancy, fathers who have difficult family decisions to make, people who have been made homeless, Christians under increasing pressure from antagonistic governments – all of these will be looking at the Christmas story with new eyes. Not to mention those whose souls are paralysed with a sense of failure, the bereaved who can't pull themselves out of the black hole of grief, the suffering who feel isolated – some of these might realise for the first time that in Christ they have forgiveness, hope and understanding.

We don't have to 'spin' the Christmas story to make it relevant. If we bring ourselves to the story, just as we are, we will experience its truth.

*With blessings,
Fergus C Buchanan*

Coffee and Mince Pies



The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on Sunday 20th December. This year the proceeds will be donated to Friendship Circle. Do come and join us for festive fayre and fellowship.

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

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle was brought into being in 1994 by the Management Committee of Friendship House as part of the Milngavie Churches' outreach to the community.

The aim of the circle is primarily threefold:-

1. To provide, on one day a week, an outing for housebound people.
2. To provide respite for carers of housebound people.
3. Through the care, love and friendship offered to show God's love to some members of the community who are most in need of it.

The Circle meets in Milngavie Town Hall (provided free by the Council) on Wednesdays from 10.00am until 3.30pm. and is attended by 35 people. Currently there is a waiting list. Transport is provided by volunteer drivers and a mini bus with a tail lift which is supplied by the Social Works Department. Also the Social Works department supplies two female helpers each week to assist the volunteers with the running of the weekly programme.

Morning coffee (with home baking) is provided on arrival and members might have a game of dominoes or cards or just enjoy a chat.

Lunch (subsidised by the Social Work department) is served, followed by entertainment in the afternoon with afternoon tea.

Two half-day outings are organised along with various treats, such as Christmas presents.

Members pay £3 per day towards the costs of running the Circle, but donations are always welcome to provide the 'extras'.

Frances Ireland and Liz Traill

Christmas Tree Festival

As you saw in last month's magazine we are planning another Tree Festival this year which starts on Tuesday December 1st. The Church will be filled with 35 decorated trees and will be really beautiful! All the Milngavie churches and schools will have a tree and also many other organisations from the community. As you go around looking at the trees there will be musical interludes provided by local musicians - a list of the items is to be found elsewhere in the magazine. Refreshments will be provided in the Jubilee Hall and visitors will be able to make a donation to the Kimo Peru Project.

Please come and support this event and at the same time begin to think about the real meaning of Christmas.

CONCERT

A concert in aid of the Kimo Peru Project will be held on Saturday December 5th at 7.00p.m. in the Church. Sally Magnusson will be our host and the programme includes a string ensemble, handbell ringers, a group from the Westerton Male Voice Choir and a young baritone from Douglas Academy, Magnus Maharg.

It promises to be a wonderful evening and tickets are selling fast so buy yours quickly to avoid being disappointed! They are available in the Church Office, the Milngavie Bookshop, the Iron Chef and from Kimo Peru committee members.



Christmas Tree Festival Concert

**St. Paul's Parish Church
on
Saturday 5th December
at 7.00 p.m.**

**hosted by
Sally Magnusson**

**Featuring
Cathedral Strings
Jordanhill Handbell Ringers
The Westertones
Magnus Maharg**

Refreshments

Donation Ticket £5

Tickets available from all Milngavie churches, The Iron Chef, Milngavie Bookshop.

**Further information from Eleanor Easton
943 0368**

Scottish Charity No SC002737

Music Programme for Tree Festival



Tuesday Dec. 1st	11.15 a.m. 1.30 p.m. 3.00.p.m. 4.00.p.m. 5.00.p.m. 6.30.p.m.	St. Paul's Playgroup Milngavie Primary School Choir Sheila Jones (Piano) Eilidh Munro* (Clarsach) Lorna Holl (Clarinet) Gordon Rutherford (Organ)
Wednesday Dec.2nd	11.15.a.m. 2.00.p.m. 3.00.p.m.	St. Paul's Playgroup High School of Glasgow Junior School Choir Kirsteen and Iain Maclean (Soprano and Bass)
Thursday Dec. 3rd	10.30 – 12.30 2.00 p.m. 3.00.p.m.	New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band Gordon Rutherford (Organ) Group from the Milngavie Choir
Friday Dec.4th	11.00.a.m. 1.30.p.m.	Hugh MacDonald (Organ) St. Joseph's Primary School
Choir		
Saturday Dec. 5th	10.00 a.m. 10.45 a.m. 11.30 a.m. 12.00 – 3.00 3.00 p.m. 3.30 p.m.	St. Paul's Choir Donald Robinson* (Cello) Raffaele Iannetta* (Guitar) Rachel Rutherford (Clarsach) Robert Rutherford (Guitar) Douglas Muirhead (Guitar) Miranda Whitmarsh* (Violin) Sara* and Laura Ayoub* (and Violin) Mary Walker* (Soprano)
Piano		
Sunday Dec.6th	1.00 p.m. 2.00-4.00 p.m.	David Gibson (Flute) Ian Gibson (Trumpet) The Allander Jazz Band with Jeannie Maxwell
Monday Dec. 7th	10.30.a.m. 12.00 3.00.p.m.	Glasgow Academy Atholl Choir Hugh MacDonald (Organ) Group from the Milngavie Choir

* Denotes a pupil of Douglas Academy Music School

The Guild

We continued our session with a Bible Study presentation by Rev. Fergus Buchanan where we were shown slides depicting various biblical characters.

Our next meeting was a demonstration and talk by Sandra Hyslop of Wiltshire Farm Foods. Later we had the opportunity to sample some of the foods - very tasty.

There was no meeting on Monday 2nd November as we were visiting St. Luke's the following evening. The speaker was from Emmaus, Glasgow - a centre for the homeless. She told us of the work they do to help people become independent and eventually manage to get them their own home.

Our next speaker was Grace Jamieson, Educational Rep. on the Presbyterial Council. Her talk was on the Guild Theme, Growth in Faith, What does the Lord do for you? She gave a most interesting talk on the theme and she also brought along her sisters.

The remainder of November we are having a talk on the R.N.L.I., Kimo Project and our Allocation of Funds, Bring & Buy and a talk by Alex. McEwan on 'Advent'.

Isabel Lyle



Boys' Brigade



November has been the month for competitions - congratulations to the Company Section badminton and table tennis teams who are through to the second round of the National Competitions. Congratulations are also due to the Company Section Senior 5-a-sides squad who won the recent Battalion tournament.

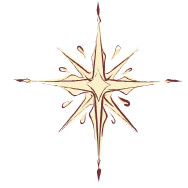
Well done to St Paul's' Andrew Muirhead for his performance in the table tennis and 5-a-sides competitions. The Junior Section Boys are preparing for the Battalion Drama and Bible Knowledge Competitions.

The Anchor Boys have been enjoying the newly launched Programme Pack: recent activities have included a visit to the Section by a crew from Milngavie Fire Station and a visit to the West Highland Gate restaurant for a 'cook-in'. The Boys are looking forward to decorating their Kimo Peru Christmas Tree and have, in fact, already starting making the decorations! The Company's first ever Anchor Boy Green Badges will be presented in December.

The Company is keen to locate the missing 1st and 2nd Milngavie trophies and shields that have been mislaid over the years. It is likely that these were presented to Boys prior to the merger of the two Companies and were never returned. If you can help identify the present location of any of the trophies or shields (perhaps they are hiding at the back of a cupboard or in an attic?), please contact the Captain,

Euan McKay (956-6125).

Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's



Saturday 28 November	9.30am	Advent Service (Rev Ken MacDonald)
Sunday 29 November	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Monday 1 December	10.00am	Tree Festival Commences
Thursday 3 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 5 December	9.30am	Advent Service (Pete Rennie)
	7.00pm	Tree Festival Concert
Sunday 6 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Monday 7 December		Tree Festival ends
Wednesday 9 Decemb	7.30pm	Dumbarton Presbytery Guild Council Carol Service
Thursday 10 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 12 December	9.30am	Advent Service (Andrew Mathieson)
Sunday 13 December	11.00am	Gift Service with the Sacrament of Baptism
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Monday 14 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Thursday 17 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 19 December	9.30am	Advent Service (Rev Fergus Buchanan)
Sunday 20 December	11.00am	Morning Worship followed by Coffee & Mince Pies
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Thursday 24 December	4.30pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Friday 25 December	11.00pm	Christmas Morning Celebrations at Cairns Church
Sunday 27 December	11.00am	Morning Worship No Evening Worship
Sunday 3 January 2010	11.00am	Morning Worship No Evening Worship



Advent Services

Our traditional Advent services will run from Saturday 29 November until Saturday 19 December. These half hour services are designed to help us find some space in the midst of the Christmas 'biz' to reflect on the meaning of the Season. Come along at 9.30 am to the West Transept.

This year two young men from the Cornhill Training Course will be delivering messages. On 5 December, Pete Rennie and on 12 December Andrew Mathieson.

Cornhill has been running for three years in Glasgow and is designed to train people to preach and teach the Bible in a variety of different contexts. To quote the website: 'The course aims to equip Christians to: understand the Bible accurately, teach the Bible effectively and apply the Bible appropriately.'

FCB

Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

A special welcome is extended to all members of the Church Family of whatever age, their families, neighbours and friends to join us for this popular short service of favourite Christmas Carols held in the Church on Christmas Eve.

Come and view the magnificent tree and enjoy seasonal refreshments and fellowship after the service in the hall.

Lodging House Mission

Christmas Carol Service On 15 December at 2pm at Trotters, 36 East Campbell Street with the Salvation Army Band. Tea and coffee, all welcome

Milngavie Churches

The annual Carol Service with the Clydebank Salvation Army Band will take place in St Luke's Church on Friday 4th December starting at 7.30pm.

The Boys' Brigade and Clober Primary School will be taking part.

Men's Association

The Men's Association would like to pass on our grateful thanks to the many people who supported and contributed to our Coffee Morning (especially the wives).

It was a great success despite the poor weather forecast. The total income from this event was £537.25.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Over 60 years ago MAF began serving the people of Sudan delivering aid in all its forms, from medical to food; from health & hygiene to education and from compassion to faith through the outworking of the early MAF pioneers Christian faith. It is on those foundations that MAF have been able to secure the futures of many it hasn't been without difficulty though as on no fewer than three occasions MAF with other Christian agencies were expelled; which meant the work which we were doing suffered. In 2005 after a peace agreement we have returned and established a new base in the southern capital Juba enabling continued and effective delivery of even the most basic of assistance that makes a world of a difference.

As the country looks forward along with its people to a safer and more peaceful future after the referendums of 2010 we need to remember that it is all because of the solid foundation laid by the early MAF pioneers. Like many building projects some take longer than others and it is only because of the prayer and practical support of churches like St Pauls Milngavie that we at MAF can continue to build on earlier foundations and in doing so we are securing futures for many of Sudan's most vulnerable people groups. So on their behalf MAF want to thank you for your support for this vital life saving ministry in which you partner with us.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES OFFERING

The offerings made at the Christmas Eve services will again be given towards the work being carried out by Mission Aviation Fellowship in Sudan.

S.O.S hope to raise £40,000 per year and this will help fund operational flying over three years – that's 360,000 miles of compassionate aid for the people of Sudan. We, in St. Paul's, are now in our final year of this three year project. We thank the Congregation and friends for their continuing support for this very worthwhile project. Information leaflets and Gift Aid envelopes from MAF will be available at each service.

The Commission

Scotland's Day of Challenge and Encouragement for Men, The Commission, will take place in Glasgow Concert Hall on Saturday 6th February 2010. This is a popular annual event which several of St Paul's members have attended in the past.

There is also a concert by *Robin Mark and Band* from Belfast (who will lead worship during the conference) on the Saturday evening starting at 7.30pm.

The concert is open to everyone.

More information at www.thecommission.org.uk.

Or from *Graham Mill* 956 5155.

Holiday Fellowship

9th-16th June, 2010

Owing to the sad death of Catherine Campbell, I now can offer a female share of a twin-bedded room for the above dates.

McCabe Pilgrimages have also allocated another double/twin-bedded room to our party.

If you are interested in either of the above, please contact me on 956 5027 for further details.

Anne Ritchie

Lunch Club

The lunch Club is a popular meeting place for many of our members where they enjoy a relaxing lunch and good company.

We do however, desperately need an extra person to help about once every two weeks in the kitchen after the Christmas break.

Would you be able to spare 2 hours every two weeks in a lively fun kitchen helping to prepare rolls and clean dishes. If you can please contact **Ann MacLeod** at 942 8339 or asmacleod@aol.com . Or why not come along and enjoy lunch and see what we do.

African churches want new international engagement on Sudan

Africa's largest church grouping is calling for urgent international re-engagement on southern Sudan, saying resettlement programmes are failing and a fragile peace pact is being breached.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) said in a statement on 9 November that the undermining of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in 2005 between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the government of Sudan, is a major threat to peace in the Horn of Africa.

"There is need to engage ... those with the responsibility to ensure human security and [call for] an immediate stop to recurrent violence and clashes," said Rev Andre Karamaga, the AACC General Secretary. Karamaga, a Presbyterian from Rwanda, described Sudan as being at a crossroads and called on the sponsors of the Peace Agreement to take greater responsibility and action to ensure all parties honour the pact. He also urged Sudanese churches, which have a strong presence in the south of the country, to heighten the work of peace and reconciliation. "The people lack basic services, justice and live in constant fear of eviction or abuse," he added.

Relief agencies have for some time warned of escalating violence in the south of the country, where the peace pact ended 21 years of civil war. At the same time, a humanitarian crisis has continued to unfold in Darfur, a region the size of France in the west of the country, where church leaders fear insecurity could hurt the elections.

Brigade Blethers



With much relief the Brigade Challenge was finished in time and just as we thought we could sit back for a minute our Quiz night came around. Remember last year?

With your support we raised about £200 for Kimo Peru and had a great night of fellowship into the bargain. Well this year was even better. Last year's contestants came back determined to win the Cup and we had lots of new faces. Once again our quizmaster Neil Rankine and his scorekeepers Colin Sinclair and Neil Rollings were well organised and took all the work off the Company. A big thank you from Girls' Brigade.

The cherry on the cake is that this year we raised £300 which is amazing and will go to the Bobath Project; so another big Brigade thank you to all who came along and took part. You know although the contestants are keen "quizzies" the banter is great and the whole thing becomes a good laugh. We have already been asked for a repeat performance so if you have not been to the famous Quiz before now is your chance. By the way the winner this year was the team from the Badminton Club. Well done !

Anne Goodlet

Church Organisations - Audit

Would Treasurers of all Church Organisations please note that the **Annual Audit** of their Accounts will take place in the **Centenary Room**, on **Wednesday 6th January 2010 from 7.30pm onwards**.

Chris Scott
Congregational Treasurer

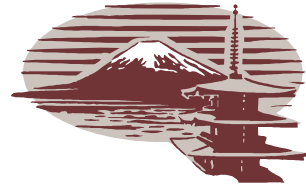
Church Garden

As the gardening season is once more at an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the small band of volunteers who keep the church garden looking at its very best throughout the year, weather permitting. I hope in the new year that we may have a few more volunteers to help maintain this high standard,]

Sheila Dickson, Garden Convener.



Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

October 25th was a special day in the life of Hiragishi Izumi Church. In the morning we had a special guest speaking at our service, Dr Bruce Milne, a Scot who has spent the last 25 years or so in Canada and who is known worldwide for his books and Bible teaching - quite an honour to have such a guest. As he shared from the story of the feeding of the five thousand, he applied it directly to our situation. There were five loaves and two fish. In our church here we have five adults and two children (for the moment anyway with our older two being in India). Bruce encouraged us that even though we are small, look what might be possible as we contemplate the thousands around us who know nothing of Jesus.

In the afternoon we had a special Dedication Service for the church where we had around 110 guests from other churches. It was a great way to celebrate and dedicate this new church to the Lord. If you have access to the online version of Life magazine, you can see one or two photos.

But of course this Dedication Service was not the goal, just the start. We look to God to build up this small church as we reach out into the community here. We are looking forward to our Christmas worship on the 20th when our young believer (Sambi) will be baptised – first time we have ever done that in a house! We will need to borrow a portable baptismal pool. It should be a great day. We are also planning to hold some low-key Christmas events in our house for people in the community and for Calum and Alistair's friends, just simple ways of getting to know people and sharing something of the Christmas story. May you all have a happy and blessed Christmas. We will be remembering you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus amidst the cold and snow of Sapporo!

With our love and thanks

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Flower Donations : December

Mrs R. Douglas, Mrs R. Gilmour, Mrs M. Mackay,
The Sunday School.

Please send donations to
Mrs Wilma. Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave. Milngavie, G62 6LJ
or phone 956 2630



CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mr Sam McCormick, Flat 22, 1 Oakburn Ave., Milngavie 33

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr & Mrs Michael Black, 73 Russell Drive, Bearsden 69

BAPTISM

Zoe Elizabeth Hill, 68 Main Street, Killearn 70

DEATHS

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

20.10.09 Mr Belford Chalmers, Blawarthill Nursing Home

27.10.09 Mr Gordon Paterson, 65 Southmains Road

28.10.09 Mr Ian Cuthbertson, 121 Mugdock Road

18.11.09 Mr Aled Evans, 11 Beech Ave., Bearsden 43

The Editor would like to thank all the regular contributors for all their articles over the last year and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Please note copy date for January issue is 27th December for both pigeon hole and email owing to holidays. Send to Rona.dawson@go.uk.com or post to 123 Garscadden Road, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 6UQ.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6 Dec	M MacLean R Cameron	Wilson, McAuley, Reid	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Graham Greig
13 Dec	J Ford C Tanner	McCreadie, Bolton, J Deuchar	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 6 Gordon Blackadder (EC)
20 Dec	J Clark M Taggart	Sillars, Lawrie, Goodlet	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Ross Deuchar
27 Dec	P Barlow C Buchanan	K Deuchar, Cockburn, Bates	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Steven McFarlane
3 Jan	S Anderson R Fraser	Richell, MacKinnon, Whitelaw		Team 9 John Macpherson