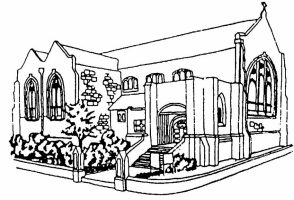


The monthly news from St. Paul's Church Milngavie

Life



No25 January 2005

A Happy New Year to All our Readers

Dear Friends,

There are a number of web-sites on the Internet which deal with Christmas customs around the world. They make very interesting reading, testifying to the rich cultural diversity we have as a race. The entries about Scotland, however, left me slightly perplexed. According to many of the sites, emanating from the USA, Scots spend part of Christmas Day dancing around bonfires to the skirl of bagpipes! Now maybe I have missed something but I do not remember any bonfires in any place where I have lived and only very occasionally have bagpipes been in evidence.

This is more to do with someone's imagination. How do people celebrate Christmas in Brigadoon?

One other piece of information was more accurate. Most of the sites point out that at one time Christmas was banned in Scotland and only relatively recently has it been celebrated with any great enthusiasm. The big celebration was at New Year. Many of us will be able to confirm this from our own experience. I can certainly remember my father and older brothers working on Christmas Day and not thinking that out of the ordinary.

Nowadays this has been reversed by and large. Most people would say that at many different levels Christmas is more meaningful to them and it would be a deep disappointment to have to work on the special day. It would be a pity, though, if we lost the significance of the birth of a New Year. It was an important festival in Ancient Israel when God was praised for His faithfulness in the year now past and hope was expressed in His loving providence with regard to the future.

Their attitude is encapsulated in the words of the old hymn:

‘O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come...’

It would be good for us all to embrace this faith as we move into 2005.

Our new student assistant Stuart Matthews introduces himself

Let me introduce myself. I am the new student minister at St Paul's. I will be with you for a short time - only until Easter. I would like to thank you for the warmth of the welcome you have already given me. I am still feeling my way into the life of the church, yet I already feel very much at home. My role here is very much as a learner and I am sure that I will learn much from Fergus, George and indeed, yourselves. I hope to be of good service to you, the congregation of St Paul's and the wider community.

I come to St Paul's having taught Geography and PE for four years in Edinburgh. I am now in my final year of my studies at Glasgow University and so far, I am just about coping! My better half, Lindsay is a primary school teacher, although she is currently enjoying maternity leave. Our pride and joy is, Finlay. He was born this summer and will be five months old this Christmas. He likes having his feet rubbed. He dislikes sleeping when he's supposed to. By Easter we hope to have him trained!

Stuart Matthews

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mr Gordon MacLeod, 14 North Grange Road, Bearsden **48**
Mrs Mildred Brown, Flat 30 Fairview Court, Milngavie **18.1**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Sillars, 28 Craigton Road, Milngavie **58**
now 32 Ardlui Gardens, Milngavie **63**

DEATHS

Jesus said: I am the Resurrection and the Life'

03.12.04 Mr Peter Young, Quayside Nursing Home **34**

13.12.04 Mr Andrew Thomson, 23 Shaw Road, Milngavie **39**

SOME THINGS TO PONDER

- If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world's people.
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death – you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

Finance Report

Our financial position at the 30 November, 2004 is as shown in the table below showing a comparison with last year and this year's

General Account - 30 November 2004

	Nov 2003	Nov 2004	Budget 2004	Remarks
	£	£	£	£+/-
Envelopes WFO	12226	12518	12919	-401
Gift Aid Cheques	16415	10980	16090	-5110
Gift Aid Standing Orders	53296	56538	55243	+1295
Gift Aid Envelopes	31240	31594	32403	-809
Open Plate	25614	24882	26739	-1857
Tax Recovery - Gift Aid	36301	27626	³²⁰⁴⁴	-4418
TOTAL	£175092	£164138	£175438	-£11300

Total Income (inc. Donations) as at 30.11.04	£168120
Total Expenditure as at 30.11.04	<u>173547</u>
Actual Deficit against Expenditure	-5427

From the above figures, you can see the deficit against budget and actual expenditure. The income this year, is nearly £11000 less, than at this time last year. There has been during the year a slight swing from cheque payments and envelopes to standing orders, which accounts for some of the variation in the headings, but this does not affect the budget total. I would hope at this stage to break even by the end of the year, although there may some expenses unknown to me at this time that maybe incurred when we take possession of the new facilities.

As members will be asked to review their giving this month I make a special plea to all who give to the church either on a regular or irregular basis, and pay income tax on earnings or investments to consider giving by the **Gift Aid** method. As

long as we have proof of your giving (for Inland Revenue purposes) by envelope, cheque or standing order the recovery of tax has never been easier for us. You will see later on the tremendous benefit the church receives from the tax recovered on Gift Aid donations and should you wish further information please do not hesitate to contact, Barbara Lawson, Liz Traill or me. All our dealings with you will be strictly confidential, in the meantime, I wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year and thank you for your support throughout 2004, which was a difficult year for the congregation, but we trust that the improvements will be beneficial to future generations and ourselves.

A MacLean
Congregational Treasurer

World Mission Diary for January

Let us remember the church in India in our prayers this month

1 We pray for the Moderator , Alison Elliott and Sandy Sneddon as they visit India and Bangladesh.

2 The moderator will attend the centenary of the Christian work among the Bodo people and we would pray for them.

3 The Church of North India is working in an area where forty percent of the people live under the poverty line. Bonded Labour still persists in many areas and women are threatened as inferiors. We would pray that they may be free.

4 We would also remember the India Ministries Fellowship and all the work they do among the children in India.

THE GUILD

On Monday 29th. November, Sue Vidits gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk about her time as a nurse with the Mercy Ships. After the video showing the work of Mercy ships, the bring and buy sale was held which raised £162.

The following week, on December, Evelyn Williams gave a talk, and showed a video of Tasmania, a very beautiful island. A delicious supper, provided by Evelyn and friends was enjoyed by all.

On Monday, 13th. December, the Guild members held a service of readings and carols.. This was followed by a traditional Christmas fare.

Our new session begins on 10th. January, when Mrs. Helen Robertson leads an 'exercise evening'. 17th. January sees the Ecumenical Service, and the 24th. brings Douglas Academy Choir to help us celebrate Burns Night.

On the last meeting of January, the 31st., Ms. Maggie Chalmers will speak on the Sunflower Project 'Growing with Care'.

Come and join us on any of these evenings. You will be made very welcome

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

The spring series of morning and evening classes at International Christian College runs from 24th January to 28th February 2005

Two morning classes are offered. Starting at 10.15 Dr George Mitchell will lead a course entitled *Evangelical Roots in Glasgow 1870 to date*. At 12 noon Dr Ted Herbert Vice-Principal at ICC will lead a course entitled *Amos – Living Words for today*.

In the evening at 7.30pm there will be a course on *Fresh Expressions of Church* with Peter Neilson, Mission Developments Facilitator, Church of Scotland as well as a course on Art and Theology led by Dr David Smith, Lecturer in Urban Mission and World Christianity, ICC.

On Friday 4th (7.30pm – 9.30pm) and Saturday 5th February (9.00am to 4.30pm) there will be a course *Cross and Crescent – Responding to the Challenge of Islam* which will cover How can we understand Islam? What issues does Islam raise for Christians/ How can we build bridges? How can we share our faith? The course will be led by Ida Glaser and Martin Whittingham, Edinburgh Centre for Muslim – Christian Studies.

These courses are open to anyone who wants to be challenged to think about their faith more deeply, or to study subjects which they may not have had a chance to explore before. No qualifications are needed in order to attend. To book or for further information contact the College 0141 552 4040..

Friday Night – 8 – 10pm Second Year and above

St Pauls Parish Church

TRL is starting a new session in January with all the old activities on offer and much more.

We have lots of activities on offer – Playstation, make your own snacks, games, music, movies, nights out and lots more.

Please advertise TRL with the people you know, TRL is for any and every young person to come along and enjoy.

Prayer Note

Thank you for taking time to pray for TRL. The TRL team are very excited about the new session as we had to stop running every week in the latter half of 2004, due to the building work. However now everything is completed we are again open every Friday night.

Please pray for:-

- * the young people who regularly come along to TRL, that they might continue in 2005.
- * the Christian young people, that they might shine amongst their friends.
- * the young people who don't know about TRL, that they might find out.
- * the TRL team, thank God that they are dedicated to this ministry and that they might be sustained throughout 2005.



BRIGADE BLETHERS

Since our last letter lots of things have been happening in Brigade. We have revisited the Allander Church, organised our Annual outing to the Pantomime and had a very early Christmas party. Thankfully Santa knew where the Town Hall was so the Explorers were not disappointed! He even brought a big tin of chocolates for the "old hands".

Last Thursday was our last night of the session and we had a wonderful response from the parents who sent along Christmas bags full of presents for the Open Doors Trust. Ruth Mathieson came to speak to the girls about the luxury of homes and families. Things which we just take for granted. While this was going on Janet Cockburn was busy handing out Avon orders. Thanks to all Janet's hard work and to the parents and friends who bought loads of things it has been another very successful fundraising event.. We rounded off the evening by singing some carols, playing some daft games, and that was it for 2004!

All I can say about the Brigade session which has just finished is that it was "different". Trying to supply the activities that girls aged 5 years to 17 years old ask for while you are all milling about in the same hall has been a real challenge. So thanks to both girls and leaders for their patience although it didn't really seem to bother them too much at all! However, we will be so glad to come back to our own "home" and we are quite excited about all the changes.

Wishing everyone a very peaceful New Year !

Anne Goodlet

LIFE AND WORK

The magazine of the Church of Scotland

January

AWARD-WINNING MAGAZINE

For the first time in its 125 year history
'Life and Work' has scooped a major award.

Celebrating a 'new' church

Albert Bogle offers an invitation to all
congregations to play their part in the
Church Without Walls Year of Celebration

THE BROKEN BODY

The Rev. Erik Cramb explains the difficulties- and- joys of life as a 'disabled' Christian.

FRAGMENTS OF FAITH

In the first of a new series of reflections, the Rev George Wilkie, formerly organiser of the Kirk's industrial mission examines changes

...and much more...readers' letters, news, reviews, travel, comment and prize cross-

FLOWER GUILD

As Convenor of the above, may I wish all the Ladies and Gentlemen who are members of the Guild, a very happy and peaceful 2005 . Your contributions are very much appreciated, and without them we would not be able to function.

Now down to a serious matter. We are really in need of at least another two ladies who would be willing to arrange the church flowers on a Saturday, or Friday once a month. I'm sure that in such a large congregation, there must be at least TWO potential 'Flower Girls' willing to help. For further information, please contact me- Margaret Gerrard 956-2388

Ceilidh for Youth Work
St. Paul's Parish Church- Large Hall

Saturday 29th. January 2005

Networking @ St. Paul's is organising a ceilidh in support of the Youth Work at St. Paul's. Family fun, children's room, Skills Auction, refreshments and live music provided by *MACAPPELLA CEILIDH BAND* are on offer. Tickets are available at the back of the church after the services during January.

Adults £6.00; Children £3.00

All proceeds will go to support the Youth Work in St. Paul's

COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

The total raised for BEAM was £364.

BEAM produces a weekly audio edition of the Bearsden and Milngavie Herald, which is supplied free of charge to the blind and partially sighted, and is posted to each listener on a Friday morning.

There are listeners in Bearsden, Milngavie, Strathblane, Drymen, Kilmearn, Balfour and other areas.. The money raised will help this very worthwhile and much appreciated service to continue.

Japan Jottings

Dear Friends

Last time we wrote, we still had no snow here. Now we have plenty! The boys are of course delighted as their winter ski school has just started. Here the school holidays last till 19th January and most of the kids go in for skiing or sledging during the long break.

As we write this, it is Christmas Eve and school has just finished. The boys are glad that Christmas Day is a Saturday this year as that is usually the last day of term here. Our Christmas events at church are all over. We have been very encouraged. We had over 70 kids at our Family Christmas complete with a Christian ventriloquist who was superb and communicated the message of Christmas really effectively. Over 20 non-church ladies came to each of our series of cooking classes ending with a Christmas party when Lorna cooked for 34. And then we had our Candle Service on the evening of the 23rd and it was great to see our church full with over one third of those there those who were invited by members or just came along to celebrate Christmas with us. Of course the big challenge is how to keep up meaningful contact with all those who have been in church over these past weeks.

New Year is a time when millions of Japanese will visit the Shinto shrine to pray for the coming year. Many will also visit the graves of their ancestors to pray and worship. For Christians all of that can be difficult. Please do keep on praying for our relatively small group of believers here that they can truly be effective witnesses for Jesus throughout the coming year.

**May you all know much blessing in the coming year
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**



FLOWER ROTAS JANUARY

Donations

Mrs. Choat Mrs. Cooper
Mrs. Edward Miss Forbes

Deliveries

Jan 2 Mrs. J. Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson
Jan 9 Mrs. T. Douglas Mrs. M. Abbott
Jan 16 Mrs. L. Hughes Mrs. R. Buchanan
Jan 23 Mrs. M. McDowell Mrs. P. Barlow
Jan 30 Mrs. A. McLean Mrs. J. Ford
Feb 6 Miss M. McKenzie Mrs. I. Reid



CRECHE ROTA JANUARY

2 January	Robertson, Knaggs, Martin, Whitelaw
9 January	MacKinnon, Hughes, MacAulay, Moffat
16 January	Lawrie, Goodlet, Smith, Cockburn
23 January	Fleming, Buchanan, Richell, McFarlane
30 January	Reid, Bolton, Baxter, Robertson

TRAIDCRAFT ROTA

Jan. 9th. B Frame. B Barr
Jan. 16th. (Com.) No stall
Jan. 23rd. M Thomson. M Jenkins
Jan. 30th. A. Begg. J MacLean
Feb. 6th. S Rollings. J MacIntyre

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for the next issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by the 22nd. January

Editor– Morag Thomson, c/o Church Office