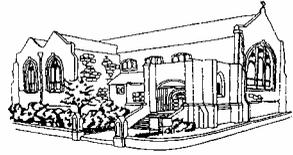


Life



November 2005

Dear Friends,

On a Sunday afternoon, a few weeks ago, I received news that an old friend of mine was seriously ill. A virus had got into his system and was attacking his heart, his liver and his kidneys. The next twenty-four hours were going to be critical. I am glad to say that he pulled through but when I was able to visit him I couldn't help being struck by the strange twists and turns that life takes. Little did we know when we were playing football together, swapping comics and arguing about the merits of various rock bands, that one day we would be together in a Coronary Care ward praying for his recovery.

There was a happier occasion just a week later when I presided at the wedding of my cousin's son. The tall, immaculately kilted groom had come a long way from the days when his mischief was the stuff of family legend. And yet, as we all say when we are getting older, it doesn't seem that long ago!

We never know how life will work out for us. There is always the possibility of delightful surprise but we must also be prepared for the worst. Either way those of us who trust in the Lord Jesus can be blessed. There is an old hymn which says:

'I know not what of good or ill
may be reserved for me -
of weary ways or golden days
before His face I see.

*But 'I know who I have believed;
and am persuaded that He is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto Him against that day.'*

The chorus comes from Paul's second letter to Timothy (1:12). Paul was preparing for the worst at this time. In prison, deserted by his 'friends', sick and weary, he was

The chorus comes from Paul's second letter to Timothy (1:12). Paul was preparing for the worst at this time. In prison, deserted by his 'friends', sick and weary, he was facing execution at the hands of the Roman authorities and yet he is still sure of the presence of Christ and still believes that His purpose for his life is good.

This is the kind of faith which sustains us through every challenge. It is not a 'leap in the dark'. It is the possession of those who know the One in whom they have believed.

Worship at St. Paul's

The Girls' Brigade Enrolment service takes place on Sunday 6th November.

Please note that in order to accommodate the Service at the War Memorial in Milngavie our Morning Service on 13th November will begin at 11.30am.

Advent Services

Our traditional Saturday morning Advent Services will begin on December 3rd. As always we begin at 9.30am and finish at 10am.

This has become a valuable opportunity for us to pause in the midst of what can be a busy time for us all to reflect on the meaning of our Lord's coming as the Child of Bethlehem and His promised coming again as the Lord of Glory.

CHURCH REGISTER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Clare Camerson, 29 South Mains Road now
Abbotsford Nursing Home 29
Mr Stewart Anderson, 78 Nasmyth Ave., Bearsden now 67
42 Ellangowan Court, Milngavie 14a

WEDDINGS

1.10.05 Alison Tanner, 18 Dougalston Cres., and
Bruce Patrick Wright, 16 Grantly Gardens, Shawlands

DEATHS

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

24.9.05 Mrs Jean Dewhirst, 56 Lennox Ave., Milngavie 17a
26.9.05 Mr Tony MacKinnon, 51 Beech Ave., Bearsden 43
5.10.05 Mr John Nicol, Craigholm Nursing Home 32
17.10.05 Mrs Molly McKendrick, 24 Fairview Court 18a
18.10.05 Mrs Margaret Semple, 10 Moor Road, Milngavie 6

Youth Fellowship

A number of young people have been meeting in the Centenary Hall after the evening service. There have been two meetings so far which have gone well. At the last meeting on 23rd October one of our elders, Norman Barlow, spoke about his work on Open Door Trust.

At the next meeting which will be on 6th November the theme of the Evening will be "Messy Christianity". Don't ask! Just come along and find out.

On the 20th of November Margaret Conway will be sharing her experiences as a volunteer worker in Malawi with International Exchange.

On 4th December we will be showing a new documentary about C S Lewis by the Christian Director Norman Stone. Just in time for the film of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" which comes out on 9th December.

Mr Buchanan will be on Study Leave from Thursday 3rd November until Wednesday 30th November.

This had been approved by the Church of Scotland Council of Ministries and the Presbytery of Dumbarton. The purpose of the Study Leave is to discover what is distinctive about Christian Pastoral Care. There are so many different types of counselling and therapy on offer these days, some of which are not consistent with Christian belief and practice. There is a need for us to be more discerning in this whole area.

In the ministers absence all pastoral concerns should be referred in the first instance to Rev. George Vidits.

Mr Vidits will be assisted by a number of visiting preachers. Rev. Bill Beattie has been a member of our Congregation for some years and will be preaching at the evening services on 6th and 20th November.

Rev. Ken MacDonald will be making a welcome return to St. Paul's for the service on Remembrance Sunday and Rev. Jim Brown, former minister of Helensburgh Park Parish Church will be preaching at the morning service on 27 November.

The Boys' Brigade

The Cairns Anchor Boys meet in the BB Hall, Sinclair Street on Friday at 6.15pm led by Ian and Morag James. There is still room for boys from P2 and P3. The St. Luke's Anchor Boys meet on Mondays at 6.15pm in St. Luke's hall under the leadership of Gail McGill and Lindsay Rutherford.

The Junior Section meets in St. Luke's hall on Monday at 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

The Company Section meets in St. Luke's hall at 7.30pm-9.30pm on Friday nights. Boys from P7-S4 will be made welcome.

The Enrolment and Dedication Service took place in St. Luke's on Sunday 30th October.

Christian Aid Scotland

Dear Mr Campbell

Milngavie Christian Aid Committee

I am happy to acknowledge receipt of the donation of £650.00, which will make a difference to the work of the partner organisations with whom we work.

One such partner is the Nigeria Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN). WOFAN is a secular umbrella organisation based in Kano and was established in 1991 by a Kano University Lecturer. It works with over 150 grassroots organisations in five states of Northern Nigeria supporting rural development activities including training and advocacy work at a local level.

WOFAN originally aimed to help women farmers in rural areas with agricultural technology and health issues but has had to engage in other activities such as HIV/AIDS education with men and young people. WOFAN has been working on awareness raising and lobbying activities around issues of discrimination and stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS and is working with Islamic religious leaders to develop a locally initiated response to the challenge of HIV/AIDS in Kano.

Thank you again for this support, and please remember Christian Aid in your prayers.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely,

Angela Gorman(Administrator)

The above is a letter, received by the local Christian Aid Committee to acknowledge receipt of donations from Milngavie

World Mission Diary for November

This month we will remember the peoples of Israel and Palestine in our prayers. The Moderator, David Lacy and his wife are visiting these two peoples for the first two weeks of November. We would ask God's blessing upon the visit. The Society of Friends of St. Andrew are celebrating their 75th anniversary. We pray for Clarence and Joan Musgrave who serve there and also Gwen and Mark Thompson who work in the Guest House.

We pray for the Scots Hotel, Galilee its staff and guests. Their aim is for reconciliation.

We would pray for the "peace of Jerusalem" peace for all in Israel and Palestine.

Lodging House Mission

The Lodging House Mission has had a noteworthy year which started with very gloomy financial prospects. The deficit was minimised, largely through the efforts of Andrew Low, Project Leader, in making economies, obtaining grants and the help of local business. Then in June, the cycle event raised £11,000 and finally, four legacies were left by supporters with the result that the Mission has had its best financial year ever, enabling much needed refurbishment of the men's toilets.

Princess Anne visited in May, impressing everyone with her friendliness. She spent most of the time talking to the homeless visitors and then opened the newly renovated kitchen, donated by Morris and Spottiswood.

Learndirect Scotland awarded the LHM "Learning Centre of the Year 2004" (out of 400 learning centres in Scotland). It is the first homelessness organisation to achieve this status and recognises the good work done at the Mission.

Although it is hard to see a bright future for some of the visitors (and the Mission is a vital refuge for them), there are others whose lives have been transformed. They have jobs, education, homes and restored relationships.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: It is hoped to be able to give a present to all hostel dwellers. If you are able to fill a shoebox with toiletries, socks, underwear, chocolate etc, please leave at the back of the church by Sunday 18th December. The meal voucher scheme continues and Christmas cards are also on sale. Thank you for your continued support.

AnnBegg Congregational Rep

FINANCE REPORT General Fund

At the end of the third quarter on 30th September 2005, the General Fund shows a surplus of £2596.00, compared with a deficit of £8356.00 for the same period last year. I am confident with your help and generosity this trend will continue during the last quarter.

'Restoration in Faith' Fabric Appeal

The first repayment of the Loan £12,000.00 took place in September 2005. Interest of £3569.00 has been paid since the Loan was drawn down in December 2004. The amount still outstanding is £108,000.00. The Fund is showing a deficit of £43,032.00 and this will increase before we turn the corner. I would appeal to all who made pledges to support the borrowing to make their payments to the Fund before the 31st December 2005.

Large Hall - New Chairs

On behalf of the Congregation, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board I sincerely thank two members of the congregation who donated the chairs, at a cost of over £4000, and have asked that their identity remain undisclosed. Our old chairs were donated to Duntocher Trinity Church, and a letter of thanks has been received from the minister Rev. David Donaldson.

Congregational Treasurer. Angus Maclean

LIFE AND WORK NOVEMBER EDITION

This month's issue contains articles on **David Livingstone**, the response of various churches to the plight of those badly affected by **Hurricane Katrina**, the need for support for **prisoners' families**, and a new project supported by the **Scottish Bible Society**.

There's lots more beside— and all for £1.50

BRIGADE BLETHERS

September is our "planning" month in Brigade. We choose the theme for our badgework; We decide which Pantomime to see next year; We decide to fundraise for others. We choose dates for Fancy Dress and Christmas Parties; We organise Christmas presents for the Open Doors Trust. The list goes on !

By now most of the things on our list have been ticked off and put in hand. How very lucky we are that we can plan with such confidence. No Hurricanes or Earthquakes to throw our plans and lives into chaos. Even the youngest of our girls is aware of what folks on the other side of the world are going through and we remember them in our devotions.

We come to Church for our enrolment parade in a couple of weeks and are busy teaching the new girls the Brigade promise. It is "I promise to seek, serve and follow Christ". Not a promise to be taken lightly and as always we need your prayers and support to help us keep it.

Anne Goodlet

THANKS

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and grateful appreciation for the prayers and many 'GET WELL' cards from the members of St. Paul's, and for the visits of our ministers while I was in hospital. These were a great comfort and encouragement to me. The kindness and consideration shown to Tom during this period is also much appreciated..

I am now glad to be home, although the treatment and professionalism of staff, in the five hospitals , during this period was efficient and of a high standard.

I hope, in the not too distant future, to return to the fellowship I associate with St. Paul's.

Many Thanks,
Margaret G. Hamilton

THE GUILD

At our opening meeting, we had a great night of singing by 'The Miltones', and cello playing by Mr. Jeff Scordia

On Monday the 10th. October, Mr. Fraser Bennet gave us an interesting talk on prison life when he was a governor.

On 17th. October, Colin Barry from Mugdock Planteria gave us a very informative talk, and on the 24th. We heard all about lace making from Mrs. M. Kenley.

On Tuesday 1st. November, we pay our annual visit to St. Luke's Guild.

Monday 7th. November, sees us back at St. Paul's for a Bible Study led by the Rev. George Vidits.

On 14th November, our speaker will be Mr. Horn, who will be telling us about the refurbishment of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. The Men's Association will be joining us on that evening, and we extend an invitation to any other members and friends in the congregation who would like to hear this talk.

Guests are also welcome at the following meeting on the 21st. when the Guild's speaker will be Dr. Marjorie MacLean, Depute Clerk to the Assembly.

28th. Nov. Allocation of Funds. Speaker from Lakeland Plastics.

GUILD WEEK

You may remember that the first ever Guild Week was held last year, and this proved so successful that Guild Headquarters in Edinburgh are encouraging us to repeat it this year.

To mark the Week, St. Paul's Guild will hold a Soup and Sandwich Lunch after the morning service on Sunday 20th. November We do hope that as well as our own Guild members, many of our friends in the congregation will join us on that occasion.

Japan Jottings

Dear Friends

Just now in Hokkaido we have some marvellous autumn weather – the trees on the mountains are so beautiful, a feast of different colours. But they'll soon just be white – winter is just round the corner.

Last time we mentioned our church retreat. We had a good time, with helpful times of discussion and prayer about the church, our vision and future direction, as well as beginning to ponder the kind of pastor we would like to see serving here in Otaru. We will now build on some of these ideas – particular challenges are how to make our outreach more focused; how to make more of an impact in our community – there are so many needs and hurting people; and how to develop our cell groups (each church member belongs to a small group for fellowship, prayer and Bible study – we want to see these really growing and helping our people to grow).

We asked you to pray for 74 year old Mr Sasaki last month and he has now committed to believing in Jesus. David will continue study with him as we prepare him for baptism, probably later in the year. That will be a great encouragement to our church people – Otaru is a very hard place and growth is slow, more ones and twos coming to faith than tens or hundreds.

The pastoral load for us just now is very heavy – dealing with serious illness, people with family and job issues, as well as seeking to move the church forward in different ways. Pray for wisdom for us and for unity and love among our people. Thank you for all your support for us here.

With our love and prayers for you all

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Playgroup Nursery

Daily 9.30am – 12 noon. Qualified playleaders. Places for children ages 2 ½ -4, with funding from East Dumbartonshire for those over 3.

Any enquiries to Ann Shields ☎ 577 9171

Fair Trade, Fundraising and Volunteering at the Balmore Coach House

When the Balmore Coach House was set up in 1980 by a group of friends in Balmarnock parish, it had two aims:

a) to give all its profits to the Balmore Trust, which distributes 1/3 to home projects, like Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse; 2/3 to overseas projects, like Wells for India or building a school in Burma - over the 25 years £700 000 has been distributed to such projects; and b) to support small producer groups in Africa, India, Latin America, Asia by selling their goods for them. In this way, the Coach House has been a pioneer in Fair Trade, which has now begun to capture the public imagination.

All this has only been possible because the Coach House has been essentially a Volunteer organisation. For the first ten years or so, it was run entirely by volunteers. Volunteers play a major part in management, in staffing the shop, baking, soup-making, doing publicity. This has only been possible because over the years as volunteers moved on, others have come in to take their place.

Volunteers work either from 10.15 to 1.45 or from 1.45 to 5.15. The shop is open every day except Monday. It's at the cross roads in Balmore on the A809 1 mile west of Torrance. You don't have to commit to a regular slot. No previous shop experience is required. But you would be part of a team of people who have made a difference to people around the world. If you would like to give it a try, please contact Sue Bond on 01360 – 620742

OX FAM BLANKETS

I would like to thank all who so generously donated wool to enable me to continue making blankets. My stock is now replenished and I am ready for the winter evenings. Many thanks again.

Margaret Maclean



FLOWER ROTAS- NOVEMBER

DONATIONS

Mrs. G.W. Morrison

THE GUILD

(omitted from October's Life)

Mrs. Fryer

Mrs. Strathdee

Mrs. R. Hutchison

Mrs. McFarquar

Mrs. A.f. Niven

DELIVERIES

Nov 6 Miss M Mckenzie Mrs. I. Reid

Nov 13 Mrs. A. McKenzie Mrs. M. Laws

Nov 20 Mrs. S. Anderson Mrs. K. Edwards

Nov 27 Mrs. M. Conway Mrs. M. McPherson

Dec 4 Mrs. A. Galloway Mrs. J. Townson



CRECHE ROTA- NOVEMBER

6 Nov Baxter MacKinnon Hughes
13 Nov MacAulay, Lawrie, K. Deuchar
20 Nov Goodlet, Smith, Cockburn
27 Nov Fleming Richell, McFarlane

TRAIIDCRAFT

Nov.6th. S.Rollings J.Maclntyre

Nov.13th. G.Buchanan A.Martin

Nov.20th. C.Mackay R.Fraser

Nov.27th. S.Dunlop L.Cowie

Dec.4th. B.Frame B.Barr

The magazine is published on the first Sunday of every month. Contributions for DECEMBER'S issue should be handed to the Editor or left in the box in the Waiting Room by 22nd November Editor- Morag Thomson, 36, Roselea Drive (956-2801) e mail mthomson@beeb.net