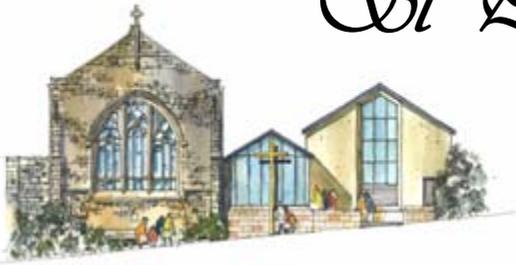


St Paul's Milngavie



Life Magazine

December 2007

Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's

Saturday 1 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 2 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		First Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 6 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 8 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 9 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		Second Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Thursday 13 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 15 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 16 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		Third Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 17 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Thursday 20 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 22 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 23 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
		Fourth Sunday in Advent followed by Coffee & Mince Pies
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 24 December	4.00pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Tuesday 25 December	10.30am	Christmas Morning Celebration in St. Luke's Church

Dear Friends,

As far as I am aware the first Christmas tree was spotted around the end of October. The gift catalogues started appearing in the glossy magazines at the beginning of November. At the same time there were disturbing reports on the evening news that if your heart was set on a Nintendo Wii you may be disappointed since the company had seriously underestimated demand.

It gets earlier every year and the demands on our pockets seem to increase. Part of me hates saying that, because nobody wants to be known as a 'Scrooge' and there are so many things that I like about Christmas. In the midst of a gloomy and damp Scottish winter the lights in town and city centres are always a delight to me. The prospect of gathering with a family who are becoming increasingly far-flung is eagerly anticipated this year. And, to be honest, quite simply I am one of those people who loves receiving presents.

For Christians, though, this is traditionally a time when we reflect on the implications of Christ's coming to the earth. The poet John Betjeman described it as 'this most tremendous tale of all'. How could it be otherwise? If it is true, then God came to this earth as a baby and lived a human life for 33 years, experiencing joy and sorrow, celebration and mourning, pleasure and pain. That is truly mind-blowing! A God who knows about human experience not just as an observer but as a participant. A God who can respond to human need because He has been there.

Now that is something we should all aspire to. The psychologists might call it *empathy*, the ability to share the experiences other people are going through. That is important at this time of year. Christmas is difficult for a whole range of people: those who have lost someone close to them in the past year; those who are in the grips of life-threatening illness; those who for whatever reason will be on their own for most of the time.

I hope that all the things I love about Christmas will not make me insensitive to the need that is all around me. Need that will not evaporate just because the lights are on, the cards are coming, the table is set and the family are here. The true spirit of Christmas will inspire us to give ourselves for the benefit of others as Jesus did. If we come through this Season with that attitude more firmly established in our lives then Christmas will truly have been worthwhile.

Wishing you Good Peace,
Stephen Z. Rasmussen

The Guild



The invitation to St. Luke's on Tuesday 6th November was well attended. Guild members from various churches enjoyed an excellent talk by Rev. McAulay from Dumbarton, who spoke of his varied work in the Gambia, followed by delicious tea and home baking.

On Monday 12th November, Mrs Jean Tait provided many humorous tales of her work as a Blue Badge Guide for the Scottish Tourist Board.

During the Dedication Service for Guild members on Sunday 18th November, which was the beginning of Guild Week, President Marion Shearlaw congratulated Mrs Dorothy Sheret on attaining 50 years as a Guild member. Rev. Fergus Buchanan presented Dorothy with a certificate for this achievement.

On Monday 19th November, Mrs Eileen Ward spoke of her continued work with 'Borderline', the charity that helps homeless Scots in London, giving thanks for our continued support.

On Monday 26th November, the ladies enjoyed a cake demonstration by Top Tier – along with some helpful tips for Christmas.

Monday 2nd December is the Allocation of Funds. There will also be a Bring & Buy stall and surprises from popular Guild member, Marjory Youil.

The 2007 session will end with the Christmas Party on Monday 10th December. The Christmas meal will be followed, as usual, by entertainment by the Committee !!!

Our next Guild meeting will be held on Monday 7th January 2008 when Mrs M. Conway will speak of her visit to Malawi.

President Marion and her Committee wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2008.

Molly Pollock

Friendship House



Friendship House is opening on Monday December 10th.

We are delighted that we can open once again, & in time for the Christmas season.

A complimentary cup of tea or coffee will be served on the opening day, & in the New Year we shall be celebrating the opening with a Service of Thanksgiving. If you are a helper & have not yet received your new Rota, please call in & pick it up.

We welcome new visitors, & there is a short service every day at 11a.m. taken on a Thursday by one of the participating churches' ministers.

We are always looking for new helpers, so if you would consider being part of this ministry contact F.H. or speak to :-

Shuna Anderson 563 7961
Shirley Dunlop 942 9039
Rosemary Fraser 956 3222





Dear Friends

Although it is still mid-November here in Otaru, the snow has arrived and temperatures are already low. As we write this, the daytime high is expected to be -3! A little too cold for this time of year – but of course the boys are happy that the snow is arriving early.

Here we are getting ready for our final Christmas in Otaru and, as always, it is a busy time. For many Japanese, Christmas is really not much more than it is in the west – bright lights, presents and Santa Claus. Over the years here we have noticed how much more commercialised it has become. Yet, still a good number are drawn to churches and outreach events. You will remember that in September we had an event here with a famous Christian baseball coach. Hopefully Christmas time will give an opportunity for many of those who attended to find their way to a church and hear again the message of Jesus.

As we prepare for these events, we continually remind our people here that we are not simply planning and holding events. Our desire is quite simply that people meet with Jesus. And we always try to encourage our people to invite others – friends inviting friends, family inviting family to come and meet the Saviour. Please remember especially our Family Christmas on the 15th and a Candle Service on the evening of the 24th.

This month we also look forward to Daniel and Matthew returning for the long winter holiday. They leave India on the 12th and, all being well, will be back in Otaru on the 14th. Please pray for a safe journey back for them – it involves four flights, all on their own!

**Many thanks for all your support for us through this year
May you all know many blessings over this Christmas time.
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

Flower Donations - December



Mrs R Douglas, Sunday School. We also apologise for omitting Anne Ritchie from the November donation list.

Book Club



We have been reading *Tender is the Night* by F Scott Fitzgerald which was first published in 1934.

There was a mixed review of the book, two of our members really liking it, especially the language and the sheer romanticism, and the remainder of us glad to have read it, but not sure if we liked it! Some of the social comments would certainly have had more of an impact then than they have now. In fact the book was considered shocking when it was published and initially not very well received. The story throws up more than a few controversies, for instance, should a doctor and patient have such a relationship and there is of course the issue of child abuse, Nicole having been abused by her father. One of the major characters, Dick Divers, seems to be given a different persona in each of the five sections of the book and by the end you are wondering just exactly what sort of person Dr Divers really was. It was obvious he had a flawed character as he had a drink problem and seemed to fail miserably with each venture he entered into, eg writing his book, setting up a new clinic. The one thing he did achieve was Nicole's recovery as she is the one who survives the trauma of mental illness and what is certainly an elite lifestyle which moves between Switzerland, the south of France and America.

This book is certainly not politically correct for the present day with its racial references but is very much of its time. The notes say it is "poignantly autobiographical" as it reflects not only Fitzgerald's own personal tragedies but on the moral and psychological decline of contemporary society. Maybe it is more like today's society than we realise.

Next time we will be reading *The Lollipop Shoes* by Joanne Harris. The date for the next meeting is Tuesday 11 December 2007 at the usual time of 7.45pm.

Please phone Helen at the Church Office for the venue. Look forward to seeing you then.

Joyce Clark

The Leprosy Mission Scotland
For A World Without Leprosy



The Leprosy Mission Scotland's
Catalogue of Care is out now.

The catalogue provides an opportunity to give truly meaningful gifts to friends and family members that will change the lives of people affected by leprosy around the world. Download it at www.tlmScotland.org.uk or buy online at www.tlmtrading.com or phone 01786 449 266 for more information



Please pray for the friends of Chogoria hospital and the work being done at the hospital.

Friends of Chogoria Hospital, Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Kenya.

Last month Jane Nyamu, Matron of Chogoria Hospital, visited Scotland. A busy two weeks scheduled with visits to Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh, St Michael's, Linlithgow, Craiglockhart Church, Edinburgh, Linlithgow Academy, St John's Hospital in Livingston and met with Scottish former medical staff of Chogoria.

Jane brought lots of news, updates and advised that "the HIV and AIDS Programme is continuing well, under a newly appointed doctor – and with a new vehicle to facilitate the work in the community. In the area of PMCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV), the midwives continue to work with the mothers, and are pleased to report that of the last 48 babies born to HIV-positive mothers, only two are infected with HIV. So more HIV-positive mothers are encouraged not to take the risk of breast-feeding, and more support is needed for the formula-feed Nan Bank."

In addition "a new ambulance was donated by the Ministry of Health, the new ambulance arrived in October. Once equipped (using funds already raised locally) it will be well used transporting patients to and from investigations and specialist care in Nairobi or between hospitals." Friends of Chogoria Hospital in Scotland have provided the funds for a new hospital incinerator.

Members of the congregation may have seen the disturbing programme on BBC4 **Bulgaria's Abandoned Children** at the end November. Over a period of 9 months the reporter, Kate Blewett followed the fate of orphans or abandoned children condemned to live in care homes in appalling conditions of neglect and near starvation. Members of the public, outraged at the children's suffering contacted Kate and together they have begun the campaign to challenge this neglect and rebuild the children's lives. A website has been set up at www.tbact.org with more information. You can sign an online petition pressing for change, offer support or donate money.

The **Tear Fund Prayer Diary** arrived in the post this week full of prayer topics from December to March. It is impossible to give a digest of all these in such a short space, but more info is available at www.tearfund.org/praying or you can post your own prayer as part of the Global poverty prayer chain at www.bepartofamiracle.org

Local issues: pray for homeless people on the streets of Glasgow for whom Christmas is not a season to be jolly, and for those who seek to provide shelter, warmth, food and a little festive cheer to them such as the staff of the City and Lodging House Missions. (see article elsewhere re LHM).

Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts	
Start time 8am for Breakfast, 8.45am Prayer	
January	No meeting
2 nd Feb	St Andrew's Episcopal
1 st Mar	United Free Church

St Paul's Children and Youth Page



What are you thankful for?

I asked the Girls Brigade last week 'what they were thankful for?', and I got some very interesting. For example chocolate, snow, homes, families and lots more.

We have so much to be thankful for especially at Christmas time. If you are anything like me you eat lots of food during the Christmas holidays and get lots of very nice presents. Although these things are lovely the thing we should be most thankful for is **Jesus**. Christmas helps us to remember that God sent His son to earth to help us know how to live our lives, and to die so that we have the opportunity to have a relationship with Him.

So this year at Christmas lets remember what we are most thankful for!



What's on in DECEMBER?

Children:

Sunday club – Primary age
During morning service (11am)
Church halls

Girls Brigade – primary age
Thursday – 7 - 9pm
Church halls
Call Gemma for more information

Young People:

Bible Class – S1-S5
10-11am
Centenary Room

Joining Together Social – S1-S6
Friday 7th December – 7-10pm

Christmas Bible Reading Chart

Just like the Shepherds followed the star you can follow these Bible readings and be lead to Jesus this Christmas season.

To find out more about the Bible story of Jesus' Birth read the chapters of the Bible below. There are a lot of them but you could split the chapters up into four of five verses a day. Remember you have all those days in Advent when you open your calendar!

Isaiah chapter 7-10
Luke chapter 1
Luke Chapter 2

Isaiah chapter 11-14
Matthew Chapter 1
Matthew Chapter 2

For information about anything to do with the Children or Youth Work in St Paul's please don't hesitate to contact me (Gemma Stoddart) on 07751477583.

Coffee and Mince Pies

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the Morning Service on Sunday 23rd December. This year the proceeds will be donated to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Do come and join us for festive fayre and fellowship.

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

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People select and train young dogs (often from rescue centres) to work as hearing dogs. The dogs are trained to respond to everyday sounds (like the doorbell, cooker timer or telephone) by touching their owners and leading them to the source of the sound. They also respond to emergency sounds (like a smoke alarm or burglar alarm) by touching their owners and lying down in a special 'alert signal'.

Hearing dogs are chosen and trained for their friendliness and sociability. Their companionship (and the visibility of their burgundy jackets) can help to break down the barriers and isolation that many deaf people face.

Frances Ireland and Liz Trill

St Paul's Holiday Fellowship

We had a most enjoyable information and social evening on Wednesday, 14th November. The group of 26 departs on 28th December for a week to spend **NEW YEAR ON THE DANUBE**. We fly to Budapest and tour the city the next day. The journey continues with visits to the Danube Bend, Esztergom, Bratislava, Vienna for Hogmanay, Linz, Salzburg, Melk, Durnstein and Weissenkirchen. We shall be travelling on the hotel-ship, MS Johann Strauss. We shall toast you all in Vienna!

Keep your eye on the church's website to read of our next adventure.

Anne Ritchie

Watchnight offering

The Kirk Session decided that the Christmas Eve offering this year is to be sent to Mission Aviation Fellowship Appeal S.O.S. This is "Scotland's Operation Sudan!" which will allow M.A.F. to play their part in flying aid and mission workers to remote and difficult areas in Sudan. Leaflets describing this work are available at the back of the Church. If you wish to gift aid a donation before the Watchnight Service envelopes will also be available at the back of the Church.

Chris Scott (Treasurer)

Govan Salvation Army Band Christmas Carol Service
18th December at 7.30pm - £4 entry
For info go to www.salvationarmy.org.uk/glasgowwest
Or phone 0141 959 3039

Thanks

Dear Margaret Fraser,
Elders' Day Conference, 10th November 2007.

Once again my grateful thanks for providing and serving the tea and coffee etc at our annual conference yesterday. The friendship, fellowship and discussion which flowed during the tea breaks contributed significantly to the success of the day. Please convey my appreciation to the other lady elders for all their help. Your willingness to take on this role is greatly appreciated by me. Kindest wishes,

Ian MacKinnon, Session Clerk.

The **Scotland Churches Housing Association** recently highlighted their work with the homeless in Scotland at a meeting of the Association of Milngavie Churches. Their aim is to mobilise the resources of local Churches together with other organisations and interested parties to address homelessness in the Milngavie area. A steering group is being formed to promote voluntary action at a local level and two volunteers are requested from each church in the Association to serve on this action group.

Interested members of the congregation should contact the Session Clerk Mr Ian MacKinnon 0141 956 3865

Lodging House Mission

Stan Smith was appointed project leader in the summer when Andrew Lowe was called to pastures new in his work with the homeless and took over at the Glasgow City Mission.

As well as a place of shelter, warmth, food and friendship, the Lodging House Mission is continuing to build on its learning facilities which gained "Learning Centre of the Year, 2004" from Learn Direct Scotland.

A project entitled "Skilling Up" was launched in 2006 aimed at supporting about 200 homeless men and women over the subsequent three years with basic literacy, numeracy, budgeting, healthy living and specific job skills.

Over 100 homeless men and women visit the centre every day. They can be helped with new clothes, toiletries and starter packs of food and household goods. All are donated by supporters. Please keep the Lodging House Mission in mind if you have such items in good condition.

Shoe boxes filled with toiletries, sweets etc will be distributed again this Christmas. Please mark for a man or woman and bring them to church as soon as possible. Remember, also the Christmas cards on sale at the back of the church. These are a valuable source of revenue for the mission.

The Christmas carol service will be held on Tuesday 18th December at 2pm - an invitation is extended to all.

A service focussing on homelessness will also be held at the mission on Sunday 27th January.

The website is currently being updated. I will intimate the web address when it is ready.

Ann Begg, Congregational Rep, LHM



Sometimes I think that November is the busiest month on our Brigade Calendar!

We usually have our official dedication and enrolment parade on the first Sunday of the month and this year was extra special, because we had a joint service with the Boys' Brigade. It was great to welcome them to St Paul's and it would be good to be able to get together again from time to time.

The following Sunday saw a group of us marching to the war memorial to take our place with the other youth organisations in remembrance of the sacrifices made for us by so many.

Last month I mentioned that we were having a chocolate evening to raise funds for Riding for the Disabled and Children in Need. Well the preparations started the week before when the older girls rolled up their sleeves (and washed their hands!) and got busy making tray bakes. As always, Sheila Morley turned up to help and by 9 o'clock we had produced a fair variety of chocolate goodies. The girls went away happy and the leaders were frazzled! However it was all worthwhile because we had a great night on the 15th. Mums and Grans came along with 2 chocolate fountains, donations for the cake and candy then stayed to help and enjoy the hot chocolate. We had great support from members of the church and the total collected for our charities was £370. Thank you all so very much.

We have also handed out Christmas gift bags to collect for the young folk looked after by Open Doors and the girls are away home with Avon catalogues so it is still all go! By the way, our badgework and devotions continue through all this, so there is no chance of anyone being bored at Brigade. We don't have time!

Anne Goodlet.

Would Treasurers of all Church Organisations please note that the **Annual Audit** of their Accounts will take place in the **Centenary Room**, on **Tuesday 8th January 2008 from 7.30pm onwards.**

Chris Scott

Congregational Treasurer

Men's Association

The Men's Association would like to thank everyone who helped, donated and supported the men at their recent Coffee Morning. The amount raised totalled £467. Thanks again to everyone.

A Mother was reading a Bible story to her young daughter. She read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

Her daughter asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Life and Work



Every month the editor receives a free copy of Life & Work magazine, the editorially independent mag of the Church of Scotland. We don't always have room to print a digest of the contents, but would urge members of the congregation to consider taking out a subscription as it is a vibrant and topical mag with a variety of features, letters, columns and other stuff. Below is a brief note of this month's highlights.



Scotland's Christian art treasures

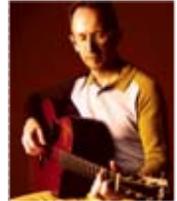
The seasonal art treasures on our doorstep held within the collections of the National Galleries of Scotland are highlighted this month. The Galleries' depictions of the Nativity include *The Virgin and Child with the Infant Saint John the Baptist* by the Florentine School. Reflecting on Scotland's place in the art world, NGS Director-General

John Leighton believes Scotland is "*punching above its weight*" and emphasises the importance of Scotland's presence in the international art scene.

Shining a light

Composer and hymn writer Graham Kendrick is the subject of this month's profile and offers a new spin on the traditional Christmas story in a new Christmas record 'Dreaming of a Holy Night'.

"There is so much nostalgia and tradition in Christmas, and that's all very nice, but I like to dig a little deeper and help people to see it from a fresh angle."



The Magic of Wesley

The 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley is celebrated this month. Wesley was responsible for some of the best-loved songs of Advent and Christmas, including the famous carol 'Hark! The herald angels sing'. His life and contribution to the music of the Christian church is explored in a feature by Ian Bradley.

SCPO Updates

We (the editor) also receive a monthly update of activities from Holyrood and Westminster from the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office. This is pretty dry stuff but if any member would like to receive a copy we will be pleased to pass it on electronically.

It includes details of current consultations and debates at both parliaments covering topics such as education, transport, energy, the family, health and community, defence, international items, rural affairs and social justice. There is also usually an interview with a top politician and this month features Scottish Labour Leader, Wendy Alexander.

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

'In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Matt 28.8

Laura Catherine Berry, 67 Southmains Road, Milngavie 29
Ruairidh William Wilson, 41 Ferguson Ave., Milngavie 27

Change of Address

Mrs Pamela Kirkaldie, 1 Middleton Drive, Milngavie 12
now Blanefield House
Mrs Fiona Peterson, 34 Clochbar Ave., Milngavie 57
Now Flat 1/1, 9 Waldo Street, Anniesland 70
Miss Aileen Laws, 31 Castlemains Road, Milngavie 61
now 50 Douglasmuir Drive, Milngavie 66a
Mrs Valerie Gilchrist, 38 Queensbury Ave., Mosshead 47
now 17 Mar Drive, Bearsden 45

Deaths

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

23 October 07 Mrs Janet Ross, Blawarthill Nursing Home
2 November 07 Mr Thomas Gray, Flat 9/L 13 Strathblane Road 4
4 November 07 Miss Agnes Crocket, 14 Fairview Court 18a
8 November 07 Mrs Pamela Kirkaldie, Blanefield House 12

Copy date for January issue will be advertised in the intimations.

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
2nd Dec	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Cockburn, Richell, Mackinnon	C MacKay R Fraser	Team 4 Elizabeth Bragg
9th Dec	M Thomson E Izatt	Martin, Wallis, Kerr	L Cowie C McKinnon	Team 5 Bill Ponton (EC)
16th Dec	A Gibson A MacLeod	Whitelaw, Baxter, Reid	B Barr H Reid	Team 6 Shirley Dunlop
23rd Dec	M Abbot T Douglas	Bolton, J Deuchar, Wilson	B Watson M Conway	Team 7 Hamish Murrison
30th Dec	L Hughes R Buchanan	Sillars, MacAuley, Lawrie	M Thomson M Ure	Team 8 Jacqueline Pirie
6th Jan	Mrs McLean Mrs Cameron	K Deuchar, Chapman, Goodlet	A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Norman Barlow