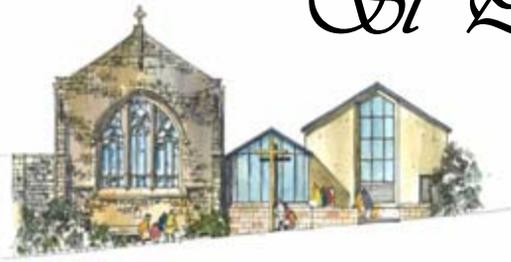


# St Paul's Milngavie



*Life Magazine*  
*January 2008*

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter Christmas is yet to come and I have the feeling that things are not going to plan. We brought the Christmas tree lights down from the loft the other day and guess what? They are not working. To make matters worse, it has been impossible to find replacements. The anguish in the manse knows no bounds!

But never mind Christmas decorations. My own personal schedule is in disarray. I thought I had things fairly well planned out but the unforeseen has broken in and it looks as though some things will have to be left undone until after the Season is over.

The trouble is that life goes on despite Christmas and life is often imperfect and complex. But this is the life that Jesus came to share with us. There is no reason to believe that He did not experience all the minor experiences of life. He may not have had the problem of dud Christmas tree lights but there would be other things that would make his daily routine less than satisfactory. Did He ever mislay one of His tools in His workshop? Did He ever hit His thumb with a hammer? Did any of His customers ever complain?

He certainly knew about family problems, bereavement, hunger, pain and death. But God still worked through His life to bring us the hope that there is a purpose unfolding throughout human history and that those who trust Him are given grace to overcome the power of sin and the final challenge of death. This is something to hold in our hearts through all the experiences that face us in 2008.

## Life Mag – the Production Team

Behind every edition of Life magazine is a band of willing helpers who are largely unseen and unsung!

You the members supply many of the articles and items of interest, the minister writes the address, the Church Secretary provides the register, the Fergusons send their Jottings all the way from Japan, the Clerk to the Board and various conveners provide the rotas on the back page and the editor's job is simply to pull all this together and present it in a semi logical way.

It really is a team effort which relies on so many people making the effort to get their contributions in on time and hope that the technology means they are all received!

The master copy is then delivered to the Church Office on the last Sunday of the month to be copied by Helen Arnold in time for Wednesday morning – quite a tight time schedule, given how many other jobs Helen has to carry out.

A merry band of collaters/folders then meet to make up nearly 900 issues each month (one for every household) which are further sorted into bundles for Church visitors to collect and distribute.

We would like to pay tribute to all these people and say a big thank you for their contribution – for those of you viewing online, they are pictured below. Unfortunately we cannot print photos in the paper copies so their names are given here.

Angus Maclean, Duncan Kelly, Catherine Campbell, David Ogilvie, Jim More, Cathie Buchanan, Helen Kelly, May Phillips and part timer Alex McEwan. (Tom and Margaret Hamilton also get an honorary mention!)  
Ed.

## The Guild

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Nov** the ladies enjoyed a cake demonstration by Mrs Hogarth of Top Tier. She told how her enjoyment of cake making resulted in beginning her own business and spoke about how she became a Christian.

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** was the allocation of funds. The ladies enjoyed a Christmas bring and buy stall and a talk by artistic Guild member Marjorie Youill who spoke of how her deafness affected her during childhood and the pleasure and confidence her hearing dog Okall has given her – along with a demonstration of her skills.

The 2007 session ended with the Christmas party night when we enjoyed a delicious meal followed by entertainment from the committee and carol singing by all.

The 2008 session begins on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan with a visit from Mrs M Conway who will give a talk about her visit to Malawi.

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** Mrs R Armstrong will give a talk on her collection of hats.

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Jan** Mrs Maureen McRobb will be telling us Hymn stories and Mrs R Fraser will be displaying the Traidcraft goods for sale that evening.

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** Mr Julian May will be speaking of his Iona experience.

**Molly Pollock**







## Dear Friends,

Daniel and Matthew are now back safely from India for the winter holidays. They arrived on 14th December and don't begin the journey back till 4th February so they are looking forward to some good skiing time over the next few weeks. So far there has been relatively little snow this year so they are hoping for some heavy falls soon! All their flights to Japan went smoothly and they are enjoying being here again. As we write this, Alistair has just finished kindergarten but Calum does not finish school until 26th December (we are giving him a day off on the 25th though!) Our Family Christmas is always a big outreach event to children in the local community. Unfortunately this time the local school was hit with an outbreak of flu at just the wrong time which ended up with several classes being shut for a few days. Although numbers were down on normal, we were pleased to have over 50 children and quite a few mums and dads there. We have had so many contacts with children through the years here – we need to pray on that the seeds sown will in time bear fruit.

As we move into the New Year, we will withdraw more and more from our involvement in Otaru. We will spend some time doing preparatory planning for the new church start in Sapporo which we will lead when we return in spring 2009. And of course lots of time needs to be spent clearing up our house and getting everything ready for storage while we are away for a year – no easy task!

Please keep praying for a suitable home for us when we come back in April. As we said before, most of the time there will be four of us but as Daniel and Matthew will return for the long summer and winter holidays we need somewhere big enough to fit all six of us for these periods. Do let us know if you hear of anything.

**Many thanks for all your support through the past year  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

## Flower Rota and donations - January

At the start of this new year, I am making an appeal for some new helpers to add to our rota. Margaret Gerrard, who for many years arranged the flowers every week in the Church, has hung up her florist's scissors. We are grateful to her for beautifying our sanctuary for so long. Over recent years a few more ladies have joined the team, but we would welcome some more help. Please give this your consideration and give me a call if you could help or would like more information.

Wilma Douglas 956 2630

Donations this month Mrs Choat, Mrs Cooper, Miss E Forbes, Mrs M



## International Christian College

The spring series of Monday classes runs from 21st January to 3rd March in the College at 110 St James Road, Glasgow (near Glasgow Cathedral).

- 10:15 – 11:15am      ***Hidden Depths & Second Meanings***  
Rev Dr Geoff Grogan Principal Emeritus, ICC
- 12:00 – 1:00pm      ***Born Free: Studies in Galatians***  
Dr George Michell, pastor and author
- 7:30 – 9:00pm      ***Christianity and the Great Artists***  
Dr David Smith, Lecturer IC or  
***Effective Preaching***  
Rev Dr Tony Sargent, Principal, ICC

Coffee is available from 9.50am. Between the morning classes there is a chance to join the college students for morning worship and also to have coffee or tea. Lunch is available from the student canteen from 1pm.

For further information contact 0141 552 4040 [Sandra.Mcsporrان@icc.ac.uk](mailto:Sandra.Mcsporrان@icc.ac.uk)

## 50 Years in the Guild and still going strong... Doroth Sheret

At a service in late November Mr Buchanan presented a certificate of long service to Dorothy Sheret who had served 50 years in the Guild. If you are viewing online you can see some pictures of the happy occasion, we regret that our current copying arrangements can't cope with this for the paper magazine.

Before coming to St Paul's, Dorothy was in the Girls' Association in Liberton Kirk where her uncle was minister and her father an elder. She herself sang in the choir and remembers the fancy dress dances that the Association used to put on. "De Marco's did the purvey as it was called then which was a magnificent pig's head with an orange in its mouth – we did things in style in those days."

Having worked for the Edinburgh Medical Service in Heriot Row (2 doors down from Robert Lewis Stevenson's house) and served in the WAAF in Algiers and Naples during the war, Dorothy came to Milngavie at Easter 1957 and joined the Guild in November of the same year. She says the main activities were devotions, visiting the sick and housebound and sharing fellowship and laughter. The women were involved in lots of activities which Dorothy says seem to have fallen by the wayside now as people have busier lifestyles and more disposable income.

She recalls how members used to share childminding duties in order to give each other time to take homebaking and magazines to patients in the Killearn Hospital. Sister Halfpenny was the name of the nurse in charge and Dorothy remembers how the

garden flowers and smells she would take were a distraction from smell of gangrene permeating the wards at the time.

For many years all the organisations of the church have run jumble sales to make money and Dorothy was often a “policeman” at these events needing a sharp eye to detect kids stuffing items up their jumpers or dealers who tried to hoodwink the unwary into accepting a pound for a boxful of items! People buying bags of wool and cotton by weight were carefully scrutinised by Mrs Peat in case they were trying to fix the scales and similarly the editor recalls holding on tight to one end of a garment at the YF jumble sale in a tug of war with a “customer” trying to make off with it. We also laughed remembering the old unwieldy church tables which got scraped up and down the passage wall because their legs didn’t fold – it seems that even the best behaved members of the congregation did that!

Dorothy has many happy memories of all the things she has been involved in over the years she has been in the Guild – too many to mention in detail, but a few highlights include tearing up the Guild’s damask table cloths to make new communion cloths for the church after the old ones were stolen; collecting a shilling a week from the badminton club in order to attend the opening service at the Assembly with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh seated very close; serving meals at the City Mission; adopting (as an organisation) a boy Joseph, son of a Nazareth carpenter to whom she wrote for many years and who taught her the offside rule in football(!) and other more mundane tasks such as attending committee meetings, painting the halls and digging the gardens.

Dorothy would like to thank everyone for the great memories she has – we looked through a number of old photographs and newspaper articles which each had a story attached – and is sure that the Guild will carry on its good work under Marion Shearlaw for many years to come.



## Book Club



This time we have been reading *The Lollipop Shoes* by Joanne Harris. This is the sequel to *Chocolat* and we have Yanne and her two daughters living peacefully above their chocolate shop in Montmartre. They are managing to keep a low profile until Zoïe de l'Alba comes on the scene and things take a dramatic turn. Zoïe has her own agenda and Yanne and her daughters have to fight for survival.

Not as good as *Chocolat* but thankfully she reminds us of previous happenings in the lives of Yanne and her family for those who have not read the first book and those who need reminding of the story. The story does not begin to grip until about half way through when Roux, Rosette's father, comes on the scene.

As far as liking the book was concerned we were split 50/50. There were no half measures though and those that liked it really loved it but the others couldn't stand it!

The general opinion was that this book was not as good as her previous books and we wonder if the formula is getting too tired now and not as fresh as first time around.

Next time we are reading *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne.

We are meeting on 22 January at the usual time of 7.45pm. If you would like to join us at the start of a new year, please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue.

We all look forward to welcoming members old and new in 2008.

JOYCE CLARK

## 'LIFE and WORK' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' for 2007 are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £15.60 – a reduction of 30 pence per issue on the cover price of the magazine. It would be appreciated if the money could be given to Church Visitors by the end of March, if possible. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St. Paul's Parish Church.

**Frances Ireland**



## ***The Bibles they used to burn now fire a new revolution in China***

Demand for the Bible is soaring in China, at a time when meteoric economic growth is testing the country's allegiance to Communist doctrine. Today the 50 millionth Bible will roll off the presses of China's only authorised publisher, Amity Printing, amid public fanfare and celebration. Such is the demand in China for Bibles that Amity Printing can scarcely keep pace. Early next year it will move into a new, much larger factory on the edge of the eastern city of Nanjing to become the world's single-biggest producer of bibles.

One book a second glides off the production line at this joint venture between a Chinese Christian charity and the United Bible Societies, a Protestant organisation. Amity has been printing Bibles since 1986. The new factory will have a capacity of one million Bibles a month, increasing the current output by one third. Of the 50 million Bibles Amity has printed, 41 million were for the faithful in Chinese and eight minority languages. The rest have been for export to Russia and Africa. Sales surged from 505,000 in 1988 to high of 6.5 million in 2005. Output last year was 3.5 million and is expected to rise in 2007. One of the best sellers is a pocket bible.

The Church of Scotland works through The Scottish Churches' China Group (SCCG) which is a partner of Amity Foundation, a Christian initiated voluntary organisation. Please pray for The work of the Amity Foundation and the continuing demand for Bibles

From World mission update

Please also pray for the Fergusons as they come to the end of their current assignment in Japan – and that someone will come forward with suitable accommodation for them during their time back here in Scotland.

Tearfund's Prayer Diary tells us that 2008 is the UN International Year of Sanitation. The UN intends to halve the number of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015. Please pray for this to become a priority for leaders of rich and poor countries alike to make concrete plans to restore health and dignity to communities by providing adequate systems.

### **Milngavie Churches Prayer Breakfasts**

Start time 8am for Breakfast, 8.45am Prayer

January

No meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

St Andrew's Episcopal

1<sup>st</sup> Mar

United Free Church

# Bulgaria's Abandoned Children

From [www.tbact.org](http://www.tbact.org)

The Campaign for Bulgaria's Abandoned Children was created in response to the broadcasting of Kate Blewett's harrowing documentary that exposed the bleak existence that children lived (and died) at Mogilino Institute.

They have joined forces with an established charity, The Bulgaria Project, and their campaign is now run with full charitable status.

The Social Care Home where 75 unwanted children are growing up is the main employer in the small village of Mogilino. Few of the children can talk, not necessarily because they are unable but rather because no one has ever taught them how.

Children in this tragic, silent world include Milan, the gentle giant who spends his days doing chores and watching over the others; and mildly autistic 18-year-old Didi, who is able to talk, and has plenty to say, but no one to speak to. The children that surround them suffer a variety of problems, many are blind or deaf and some are unable to leave their beds, many are literally wasting away.

Abandoned into the hands of the staff at Mogilino these children inhabit a bleak uncaring world, so devoid of normal everyday stimulus that many have taken to rocking slowly and constantly in their chairs just for something to do.

Following the controversy that the documentary has stirred in the UK and Bulgaria, direct action has been taken to improve the immediate care of the children at Mogilino to ensure that they receive improved standards of nutrition, exercise and therapy.

Each child has been assessed so that individual rehabilitation programmes can be put into place to ensure they have the suitable levels of therapy and care that they need. These programmes are starting to be implemented and speech therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists are starting to work with the children. More therapists will be needed in future months.

The children's diet is now being greatly improved. After one third were diagnosed as malnourished, nutritional supplements are now given and the new local major is providing an additional 4,000 lev to the food budget. Some local companies have also made food donations. Menu plans have been developed and it is now felt the children are receiving enough food including fresh fruit and their general diet has improved. There is still plenty to do however...



## Men's Association

The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 15th January, when we will be hearing a talk on Glasgow Airport by the British Airways Authority. Our meeting is in the Centenary Room at the usual time.

The next meeting after that will be on the 29th when we will be having our Burns Supper. For catering purposes, please give your name to Ian Ferguson if you are able to join us.

## Christianity Explored

*Christianity Explored* is an informal 8 week course for people who would like to investigate Christianity, or brush up on the basics of the Christian faith.

Each week someone from a Church in Milngavie will open the evening and with the help of a DVD, explore who Jesus was, what His aims were and what it means to follow Him. The course is informal - it's not a Church service. Simply come along and listen - take part in the evening if you wish. You will not be asked to pray, sing or read aloud.

The course is open to all so please let friends, family, neighbours etc know that the course which leads up to Holy Week and Easter, starts with an introductory evening on **Monday 21st January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Fraser Centre, Milngavie.**

The course is supported by a group of churches in Milngavie and there is no charge for attending. Your prayerful support before and during the course would be welcome.

Further information from Graham Mill, tel 956 5155 or email [g.mill@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.mill@ntlworld.com)

## Sunday Club

Remember that we meet in church at 11.00 each Sunday for the first part of the service, and then we go to our separate groups. Everyone is welcome and should feel free to bring a friend.

### ADVENTURERS' SPECIAL

Film Evening on Saturday January 19th

6.30 - 8.30 Admission free Bring a friend

Why not come to Sun Kids earlier and stay on for our Film Evening?

# St Paul's Children and Youth Page

## Happy New Year.

I hope you have all had a great Christmas and start to 2008.

The start of a new year is an exciting time since you get the opportunity to think about what the next twelve months has in store. We don't know what is going to happen in the next year but there are some things that never change.

1 – God (Read James 1:17)

2 – God's love (Read Psalm 136:2)

3 – God provides for us (Read Matthew 10:28-32)

And lots more.....

So in the next year let's remember that God never changes no matter what happens.

The picture below is for you to colour in. It is a picture of some of the things that God created.



## What's on in JANUARY?

### Children:

**Sunday club** – Pre and Primary age  
During Sunday morning service  
All Halls

**MaxClub** – Pre and Primary age  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January – During the morning service  
Large Hall

**Sunkids** – primary one to primary five  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 4.30pm till 6.30pm  
Large Hall

**Adventurers Movie Night**  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 6.30pm till 8.30pm  
Centenary Room

**Girls Brigade** – Primary and Secondary age  
Thursday – 7 till 9pm

### Young People:

**Jump** – Primary six to Secondary one  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 4.30 till 6.30pm  
Jubilee Hall

**Bible Class** – S1-S5

Sunday morning – 10 till 11am  
Centenary Room

**Joining Together** – S1-S6  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January – 8.15pm till 9.30pm  
Centenary Room

For information about Children or Youth Work in St Paul's contact me (Gemma Stoddart) on 07751477583.

## Friendship House



It was a great day on Dec. 10th when the doors were open once again following the refurbishment of F.H.

We just about had a queue at the door, no doubt attracted in by the 'Merry Christmas' balloons on the railings & the offer of free tea & coffee!!

Everyone seemed to appreciate the new look & altogether it was a very happy day -quite a buzz.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the ladies who were on duty the morning of the flood and who started the bailing process; then to Steve McVey, the property insurance convenor who took the whole situation into his most capable hands.

Once the drying out was complete there was a tremendous amount of work done by David Jack, the fabric convenor, his happy team of fixers and by Shuna Anderson who put in many hours at the House to have all beautiful for the Opening.

We hope you will all come to inspect the new décor and if the internal doors don't shut quite as easily as of yore, it's because of the high quality carpet!!

We are so grateful for the many monetary donations that we received from various organisations and give thanks for the great goodwill that has been shown to 'the House' There will be a service of thanksgiving early in the New Year.

If you would like to be part of the team -either helping in the kitchen or serving & chatting in the tea rooms please contact either Helen at the Church Office or myself.

**Rosemary Fraser 956 3222.**

## Scottish Bible Society

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me on the annual 'Walk for the Word' which took place on 6th October. About 30 people took part and the weather was much kinder than last year!

The total realised so far from the churches in the local branch is £761.

### Frances Ireland

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We are indebted to Angus MacLean for the wee funnies that appear in this issue.



## CHURCH REGISTER

### BAPTISM

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

James Thomas Glen, 11 Birkdale Crescent Cumbernauld 70

Scott William Hill, 68 Main Street, Killearn 70

### Change of Name

**Mrs Jean Morrison**, 41 Duncan Ave., G14 now

Quayside Nursing Home 70

**Mrs Janet Stitt**, 19 Braehead Ave., Milngavie now 30a

92 Prestonfield, Milngavie 31

**Dr John McArthur**, 8 Durness Ave., Bearsden now 46

7 Rowan Crescent Lenzie 70

### Deaths

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

7.12.07 Mr David Horne, 11 Homebrae House 3a

11.12.07 Mr Barclay Gilmour, 3 Mossspark Ave., Milngavie 15

Copy date for February issue: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January if using the church pigeon holes or Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> if emailing.

Please remember the copy date is the LAST date for submissions, not the date you should begin thinking about the magazine!

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs McLean Mrs Cameron		A Begg J MacLean	Team 9 Norman Barlow
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs Ford Mrs Tanner		J McIntyre M Fewell	Team 10 Margaret Fraser
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs Clark Mrs Taggart	Martin, Kerr, Whitelaw	Communion	Team 2 Alistair McLeod
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Wallis, Berry, Baxter	G Buchanan A Martin	Team 3 Elizabeth McEwan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb		Wilson, Smith, McAuley	C Mackay R Fraser	Team 4 John McArthur