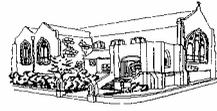


Life



March 2006

Dear friends

I was recently sent details of a theological course that Aberdeen University is offering. It gives you a profile of all the lecturers who are taking part. There was one in particular which caught my eye. This was some one who didn't possess a car, a mobile phone, a television or a computer. I may add that despite all this he manages to be one of the best known Church of Scotland ministers.

I am sure you will agree that there are very few people these days who are in that position. I've got all of these things and I would argue that they make life a lot easier for me and in the end they help me to get more work done.

The danger is that we become too attached to 'things' and we cannot be at peace unless we have the latest model of car; or we can't sleep at night unless the phone and computer are being continually upgraded.

And we can become too dependant on 'things'. If there is something wrong with the car or we lose our phone or the computer crashes then our lives are plunged into crisis.

In Jesus' day they didn't have the technology that we have but he was always warning people about becoming too attached to material things. Before Jesus sent his disciples out on a mission he told them not to take any money or a bag for food or a spare pair of sandals.

This was for that mission alone but generally speaking he called on his disciples to live lightly to material things. Their number one priority was to preach the Gospel and help people in need and nothing was to get in the way of that.

I often think about this. I believe that a lot of material things can improve our quality of life and you can make out a good case for cars etc. But do they really make us better people? Are we better able to face the big issues of the day like poverty and injustice and war? Are we better able to help people whenever they are in need?

It's questions like these which we are called to confront in the season of Lent which is traditionally a time for self examination and a sifting of priorities.

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

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

Lewis Stephen McKean, 39 Roselea Drive, Milngavie

DEATHS

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

26.1.06 Mr D Gray, 4 Campsie Drive, Milngavie

28.1.06 Mrs M Park, Rotherwood Ave., Knightswood

30.1.06 Mr Stephen Christie, 27 Keystone Road, Milngavie

1.2.06 The Hon. Ann L Fraser, 39 Craigmiller Ave, Milngavie

March Worship in St. Paul's

On the morning of Sunday 5th of March the Girls' Brigade will be on parade and the Sacrament of Baptism will be administered.

On the morning of Sunday the 12th of March, as part of the Presbytery Quinquennial Visitation, Rev. Fiona Maxwell of Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church will conduct Worship.

Lent Services

Our traditional Saturday morning services throughout the season of Lent will begin on Saturday 4th March and continue every Saturday until Saturday 8th April.

The Holy Week Services will take place this year in the Allander Evangelical Church. The guest Preacher will be Rev. Noel Agnew of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Finance Report

Treasures Auction & Gift Day

My apologies for getting the date wrong in last months Magazine. The event will take place on **Saturday 11th March 2006**. I assure you I have had my knuckles duly rapped for this aberration.

Gift Aid Tax Recovery

I am at present along with Liz Traill in the process of automating the tax recovery on the donations received. Doing this work manually has become very time consuming and this will speed up the process with software approved by the Inland Revenue. In assessing the system, I visited other churches to see it in operation. What struck me in these churches comparable to our own size of congregation was how few envelopes they used. The large majority of their Gift Aid and other income is made by Standing Order. I ask all members to consider this method of giving, if you give a regular amount whether that is via the Open Plate or Envelope. This would make the administration easier, it would in the long term be a saving and it would stop us exposing members to the danger of having to take monies to the Bank night safe. If any member is interested in changing to giving by Standing Order I will have forms made available on the 11th March or you can contact be at the back of the Church most Sunday mornings.

Angus Maclean

Congregational Treasurer

Church Picnic

**SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2006
DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK
KILMARNOCK
TICKETS PRICES AND TIME
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Open Door Trust – Appeal to support the homeless

The congregation is asked to support the work of the above Trust during the period of Lent by donating items of food which are required to feed those that are homeless and are living rough on the streets of Glasgow. The preferred items at this time are tea, coffee, sugar, tins of corned beef and tins of fruit. Members of the congregation who wish to contribute items of food can do so during the period 5 March to 16 April. Boxes will be available at the back of the Church for this purpose.

Contacts: Norman Barlow and Janet Charles

BRIGADE BLETHERS

The annual Jumble Sale has come and gone and it was a great atmosphere. There's nothing lifts the spirits on a grey February morning like a good blether over a cup of coffee.

The sum raised has now gone up to around £780, so we can honour our commitments and still have a bit left to share with others.

Thanks to everyone for coming along to support us; with a special thanks to the Mums and Grannies who handed in baking, made the coffee and manned the stalls all morning. I musn't forget David, Duncan and Keith ("the workers") who help out faithfully every year. The Company is indebted to all of you.

The girls are practising away at their Keep-Fit, getting ready for the Glasgow competitions at the beginning of March, and by the time you read this we will, I hope, have had our Spring Church parade. The band is not quite ready to lead us to Church but they are getting there !

Anne Goodlet.

BB NEWS

All sections of our new amalgamated Milngavie BB Company are thriving and a full attendance of boys has been the norm since the Christmas break.

The Junior Section is in serious training for the Battalion Figure Marching Competition -March 25th. Killermont Parish Church.

Sunday March 19th Battalion Church Parade– Kilbowie St. Andrew's Clyde-bank

Christian Aid - Lenten Lunch

The Lenten Lunch will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on Sunday 2nd April.

Proceeds will go to Christian Aid

Come along and enjoy soup and rolls.

Please look out for regular articles in Life telling you how Christian Aid use donations to fund various worthy projects throughout the world

THE GUILD

Our Home Night on the 30th. January was a geat night of Scottish dancing, recitations and songs by some of our committee, followed by a lovely supper. On the 6th. February, Douglas Annan gave an interesting talk on old glasgow. Our minister ,Rev. Fergus Buchanan led the guild in Bible study, and on 20th. Ian Duff from the Fire Service made a return visit to update the members on fire prevention.. Future meetings include a 'Memories Night' on February 27th. and a joint meeting with St. Luke's Guild on the the 6th. March, when we will be entertained by a trio from the Salvation Army, led by mrs. Moira Wilson.

Please come and join us on any of these evenings.

BOOK CLUB

This month's book, the Hour before Dawn by Sara Macdonald, is thoroughly recommended by us all. Essentially a mystery, it tells of the disappearance of a twin girl in mysterious circumstances and the effect this has on the remaining twin and the whole family over the following years until the mystery is ultimately solved and the family can come to terms with their grief.

We were very pleased to welcome two new members this month and extend a welcome to anyone else who would like to join us.

The next book is Small Island by Andrea Levy and we are meeting on Wednesday 19 April at 8 pm. Please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue if you would like to come along.

JOYCE CLARK

Traidcraft update

The Spring catalogue is now to hand and there are many lovely items in it. There is also a new selection of cards which are available from the stall each Sunday after the morning service as well as little packets of Easter eggs, and a new fruit snack pack.

I think we are all becoming much more 'fair trade' minded since the Make Poverty History campaign & the G8 summit at Gleneagles last year, but there is still a great mountain to climb.

Between April 2004 and March 2005 St.Paul's traidcraft purchased £2273.86 worth of fairly traded goods—this year's amount is not yet to hand—we make a small % on everything we buy & have been able this year to send £100 to Traidcraft exchange & £100 to a* hospital in Pakistan which is dealing with many earthquake victims.

Thank you once again for your continued support, not forgetting a big thank you to our 18 volunteers.

Editor's Note I was fortunate to visit the hospital in Pakistan which is mentioned above. It is situated close to the epicentre of the devastating earthquake. Hopefully, there will be further news from the hospital in April's 'Life'.

World Mission Diary for March

This ninth let us focus our World Mission prayers on the people of Sri Lanka. It is over a year since the Boxing day tsunami struck the island with such devastating consequences for the people

We would pray for John and Patricia Purves of St Andrew's Church Colombo who are receiving volunteers who are helping with relief work.

We would pray especially for those from Dundee based Link Overseas

John has been sharing with Buddhists, Hindus and Muslim representatives at funerals of unidentified victims.

Pray that all may work together to give practical help to the survivors and also enable all relief workers to be able to give emotional and spiritual help.

USED STAMPS

The money realised for Church of Scotland missionary work from the collection of used stamps during the past year throughout Scotland amounted to £ 1869.

Members of the congregation who collected stamps are warmly thanked. The box for depositing used stamps is located in the vestibule at Strathblane Road and the congregation is encouraged to support this outreach.

May Phillips

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

In Japan February 3rd traditionally sees the start of spring, but it saw us still under several metres of snow. This week the temperatures have actually risen above freezing for the first time this year, but the boys don't want it to get too mild as they want to continue skiing in their spring break at the end of March!



The third of February is called `Setsubun no hi` and on that day most families buy beans or nuts. That evening they throw the beans outside chanting "out with the devil, in with good fortune", believing that this will usher out bad luck and bring in good luck. This underlines the fact that for many Japanese the spirit world of devils and demons is taken for granted. Fortune telling and the like is very common and even makes appearances in children's programmes. Before a child's

name is chosen, many Japanese might consult a fortune teller to see if the number of strokes in the Chinese characters for the name is auspicious or not. If not, they may change the name.

How in need the Japanese are to hear of God who is stronger than all the spirits, that they no longer need to live in fear of them or be bound to them. Our new church year starts in April and we are now making plans of how to help and encourage our members to be sharing their faith with those around them. Please join us in praying for this and that this year we will see new believers added to the church. Thank you.

*With our love and prayers for you all
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*



FLOWER ROTAS-MARCH

DONATIONS

Mrs. K. Butler Mrs. D. Dickson
Mrs. S. and J. Lindsay
Mrs. M. Ingram Mrs. Tanner
Mrs. Campbell Mr.R. Bone

DELIVERIES

Mar.5th Mrs. A. Galloway Mrs. J. Townson
Mar.12th Mrs. M. McIntyreMrs. M. Spencer
Mar.19th. Mrs.P. Dudgeon Mrs. S. Lindsay
Mar.26th. Mrs. M. Phillips Mrs. E. Law
Apr. 2nd. Mrs. J. Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson



CRECHE ROTA- MARCH

5 Mar Lawrie, K Deuchar, Chapman
12 Mar Goodlet, Cockburn, Fleming
19 Mar Richell, McFarlane, Whitelaw
26 Mar Kerr, Moffat, Wilson

TRAIIDCRAFT

Mar.5th M Thomson M.Ure
Mar.12th. A Begg J MacLean
Mar.19th. J MacIntyre M Fewell
Mar.26th. G Buchanan A Martin
Apr.2nd. C Mackay R Fraser

* See further information and news
about Traidcraft on Page 6

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