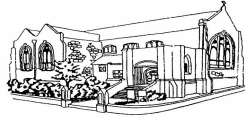


The monthly news from St. Paul's Church Milngavie

# Life



No24 December 2004

## Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's

Saturday 4 December	9.30am	Advent Service
	2.00pm	West of Scotland Federation of Townswomen's Guilds' Carol Service
Sunday 5 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Second Sunday of Advent Evening Worship ( Praise Group)
Thursday 9 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 11 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 12 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	7.00pm	Third Sunday in Advent Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Saturday 18 December	9.30am	Advent Service
Sunday 19 December	11.00am	Christmas Gift Service
	7.00pm	Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 20 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Carol Concert
Thursday 23 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday 24 December	4.00pm	Carols in the Precinct
	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Saturday 25 December	11.00am	Christmas Morning Celebration in St. Paul's
Sunday 26 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
	(No evening service)	

Dear Friends,

Some of you will be aware that I have produced Bible Reading notes for use during the Advent Season. This has been an idea I have lived with for quite some time but somehow it never saw the light of day. Sometimes I think that one day I will be crushed under the weight of my good intentions!

I am sure that many of you have been using Scripture Union or other notes through the years and have been greatly blessed by them but I thought there might be value in the whole congregation being focused on the same passages of Scripture. Who knows what might arise out of that. Informal discussion is the obvious possibility. We might even get to the stage where we are following a scheme of readings which tie in with the preaching programme.

Ideally, and in line with all this, it would be good if we could have a regular opportunity for questions and discussion about any matters which arise out of the preaching or our own personal Bible reading and study. How about a monthly meeting after the evening service for about an hour? This would not just be a talking shop or a time for 'sharing'. It would be an opportunity to see how we can put into practise the teaching God is revealing to us in His Word.

There are no definite plans but watch this space! I hope this is a good Christmas for you.

At the beginning of November I was spotting Christmas trees and Bing Crosby's voice was floating through many a retail outlet. It seems as if we want to hold on to Christmas as long as possible. I suppose in a way that is understandable. The important thing, however, will always be that we hold on to the truth at the heart of Christmas. The hymn says 'Love came down at Christmas'. God came to His people to make them His children. I hope you have much joy contemplating this over Christmas.

Have a blessed Christmas, 2

Fergus C. Buchanan 2

# CHURCH REGISTER

## NEW MEMBERS

### JOINED BY CERTIFICATE

Mrs Lorna Young, 6 Milndavie Crescent, Strathblane	70
Mr & Mrs R Orrock, 8 Courthill, Bearsden	62
Mr Anthony MacKinnon, 15 Beech Ave., Bearsden	43

### JOINED BY RESOLUTION

Dr and Mrs Gibson, 24 Thorn Drive, Bearsden	62A
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## BAPTISMS

*"In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit", Matt 28.2*

David William Orrock, 8 Courthill, Bearsden
Grace Joan Wilson, 41 Ferguson Ave, Milngavie

## DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Shona Duncanson, 19 Corbie Place, Milngavie	61
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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

<b>Mrs Doreen Forbes</b> 19 Dougalston Gardens South Milngavie	53
Now 4 Crossburn Avenue, Milngavie	
<b>Mrs Louise Wilson</b> 4 Craigton Gardens, Milngavie	24
Now 41 Ferguson Avenue, Milngavie	27

## DEATHS

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

8 November 04 Mrs Agnes Nisbett, 43 Glasgow Road, Milngavie	55
12 November 04 Mrs Elizabeth McArthur, 8 Durness Ave, Bearsden	46

## **Ernest Shedden**

14 March 1920 - 8 August 2004

Ernest Shedden was a man who was blessed with a very well balanced personality. He was a striking looking individual who always threw himself wholeheartedly into every activity yet there seemed to be a calmness at the very centre of his life. In equal measure he appreciated the ability to be active and the ability to be still.

Like so many men of his generation Ernest was caught up in World War II but perhaps earlier than most. All in all, he was on war service for over six years as a member of the 12th Yorkshire parachute battalion. His experiences included D Day and the Battle of the Bulge. After the War he trained as a PE teacher and taught at various Glasgow Schools but his longest stint was at North Kelvinside where taught for 29 years. His return to civilian life meant greater involvement in his local church in Broomhill. He was particularly interested in the BB and eventually became Company Captain.

It was in Broomhill that he was ordained to the Eldership and served there until his move to Milngavie in 1963 when he and Rose were married. That was the beginning of many new opportunities for them both and before long Ernest was on the Kirk Session of St. Paul's and making his own contribution to the life of the church.

This was also the beginning of a very happy family life for the Sheddens. Over the years Carol, Valerie and Graham have given their parents enormous pleasure in so many ways.

Ernest spent his final months in Almond View Nursing Home where he was happy and content and well cared for. But the main burden of Ernest's care has been with Rose. It has been an inspiration to see all that she has given in love to support Ernest through his time of illness and we pray that in the grace of God she will find the strength and the hope that she needs for the days ahead.

F.C.B.

### **World Mission Diary for December**

Let us pray for Mike and Jane Fucella who work on many projects in Thailand, especially visiting the Christian Church to visit AIDS patients, and their work with the Karen people who are refugees from Burma.

We would also pray for Christians in Sri Lanka . There are fears of an anti Christian feeling on the island There have been recent attacks on church buildings, church workers and clergy.

We would also pray for the Christian Church in Iraq at this time.

We would pray for freedom for people of faith to practice their religion freely anywhere in the world.

### CHURCH TRANSPORT

We continue to provide a regular service of transport throughout the year for those in need, and not only does this arrangement help people to attend church regularly, but it also gives them the opportunity to meet other members of our sizable congregation.

Those providing the service really take an interest in the people they are able to help.

I would like to extend my particular thanks to those who provide transport , and a continued welcome to those in need of this service, especially mentioning Joan McKenna, Nan Sutherland, Agnes Higgins and Vera Greig- we wish you health and strength at this time.

We hope that you will all have your share of happiness this Christmas.

Robert Gow

### **Project 2006**

At the time of writing we hope to have our Halls refurbished and back in our possession by the end of the week beginning 6 December. This will be a welcome Christmas present and hopefully there will be ample opportunity for everyone to take in the new developments.

In many ways this has been a challenging time for the congregation and it is good that in the Season of hope we have this encouragement to take us forward in our work for the Kingdom. F.C.B

## **Finance Report**

Our financial position which is causing concern shows an improvement at the end of October, thanks to a noticeable increase of giving in the WFO envelopes, Gift Aid envelopes, the Open Plate and the anticipated Gift Aid tax recovery reducing the deficit against budget to £8115.

The Stewardship and Finance Committees met to discuss why we have been running a deficit since July 2004. They concluded that all aspects of giving, with a few exceptions who review on an annual basis, have remained static, for a considerable number of years, despite the various costs of the congregation having risen substantially. They reported their concern to the Kirk Session seeking approval for a Review of Giving in January 2005.

The Kirk Session gave their approval, so each household will receive further information and a Christian Giving Review Card with 'Life' Magazine in January 2005. The completed cards will be collected by the Elders during their January Communion visit, and I would ask you when you have filled them in to insert them in the envelope which will be provided addressed to the Treasurer and marked 'Confidential'. If you are unable to complete your card at this time there will be an opportunity to place them in a box which will be at the back of the Church, and I would be obliged if you could place them there, any Sunday up to and including 30th January 2005.

The Giving Cards will be dedicated along with the Offering on a Sunday in February, yet to be arranged with me Minister, but this information will be conveyed to you in the weekly intimations.

### **Church Organisations-Annual Audit**

Would the Treasurers of all Church Organisations please note that the Annual Audit of their Accounts will take place in the New Hall on Tuesday 11th January 2005 from 730pm onwards. If Treasurers of the larger Organisations wish to give me their books a few days before this date I will allocate them to an Auditor prior to the meeting and this will expedite the process on the night.

A. Maclean, *Congregational Treasurer*

## COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

The annual Coffee and Mince Pies event will be held in the Large Hall after the morning service on Sunday 19th December.

This year the proceeds will be donated to BEAM (Bearsden and Milngavie Talking Newspaper).

BEAM records the current edition of the Milngavie and Bearsden Herald and sends out 60 tapes each week to visually impaired people in the district. In this way they can get up-to-date local news which is much appreciated. Recordings of a magazine are also made each month and a different magazine is recorded quarterly.

Donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.

Please contact Liz Traill (956 1479) or Frances Ireland (956 1030)

## SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

The Sponsored Walk in Mugdock Country Park organised by the Bearsden and Milngavie Branch of the Society was held on 23rd October. Sixty-eight people from churches belonging to the branch took part and the sum raised was over £1,100 which will be used for work with the children of migrant workers in the Arabian Peninsula. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.



**STAMPS! Stamps! Stamps! Stamps STAMPS!**

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP ALL THESE STAMPS FROM YOUR  
CHRISTMAS CARDS

They can help to raise funds for missions

Hand them in at the Church or give them to Doreen Greig

## BRIGADE BLETHERS

October saw itself out with our Fancy dress Party and this year we decided to set the girls a challenge. No witches or ghosts at the party ! The result was an amazing selection of clever ideas and costumes. A tot of time and effort goes into turning wee girls into "Spanish ladies", "Yin and Van", "a model from the 70's" and "Reflections" so thanks to all those at home who did the hard work.

Our Enrolment Service this year was on 7 November. We have 83 members in the Company this year but our turn out that morning was pretty poor. However, the girls who did turn up all enjoyed taking part in the worship and quite a few of them were asking when we would get back "home" to St Paul's. Roll on the New Year!

Then, as usual, a group of the older girls attended the Remembrance Parade at the War Memorial before carrying on to morning worship. The girls do understand the sacrifices that have been made and we never have a problem getting them to come along to show their respect.

We found ourselves with a "housing problem" on 11 November because the Town Hall was already booked but our friends at the Allander Church came to the rescue with the offer of a couple of halls. We are going there again this week and are very grateful for their kindness.

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By the time I write the next letter Brigade will have finished for this session. Our Christmas party is in the Town hall on 2 December, then our last night will be in the Jubilee Hall the following week. That is the night that we take in donations of gifts for the Open Doors Trust and someone from the Trust will be coming along to speak to the girls.

In closing Brigade would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.  
Anne Goodlet.

## **THE GUILD**

*Sunday 21st. November saw the start of Guild Week, which highlighted the place of the Guild in the Life of the Church of Scotland A display at the back of the church showed the different activities that the Guild is involved in. This year our project is the Sunflower Garden, which seeks to help children affected by drug misuse. So far £375.66 has been raised. At the morning service, Jean Scott our Vice President read from St. Luke's Gospel, and our President, Margaret White gave a talk on the Guild, in which she encouraged younger people to join. At present we have 102 on the roll, including 7 housebound members.*

*Mr. Buchanan dedicated the new fall which will be used at Guild meetings. It depicts the new Guild logo, beautifully sewn and mounted by Ann Easton, Marjorie Youil and Helen Kelly.*

*On Friday 26th. And Saturday 27th. November, as part of Guild Week, there was a display of flowers and banners in St Luke's Church.*

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### **Past Events**

*On 25th. October, we had a very interesting Bible Study led by George Vidits our assistant minister, who spoke on the parable of the loaves and fishes.*

*Monday, 1st. December was our joint meeting with St. Luke's, when the speaker was the provost Pat Steele. She gave a very entertaining talk about her work in the community.*

*On the 8th. November we were joined by the Men's Association, when we were given a talk on fire safety by fireman Ian Duff.*

*Winnie McKenna was our guest speaker on 15th November, when she told us about Contact for the Elderly, an organisation which arranges visits for the over seventy fives to homes where the hosts provide tea and cakes.*

*On the 22nd. November a very entertaining evening was provided by an 'Any Questions' team comprising four of our elders— Jackie Pirie, Angus MacLean, Ian Mackinnon and Iris Torbet.*

### **Future Events**

*We look forward to Mrs. Sue Vidits speaking to us about Africa on 29th. November. There will also be a 'Bring and Buy' Sale that night.*

*Monday December 6th. (Allocation of Funds) The speaker will be a former President, Evelyn Williams, who will be telling us about a recent trip to Australia, and*

*Monday 13th. will be our Christmas night.*

*Please come and join us on any of these nights.*

*We wish everyone a very happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you at our new session on 10th. January*

## **Lodging House Mission**

*Thank you for your continued support for the meal voucher scheme, and the donations which also appear in the LHM voucher box. These are most welcome as the LHM faces an uncertain future financially. I have left a letter explaining this situation at the back of the church along with the current newsletter.*

*It is hoped to give every homeless person a present this Christmas through the shoebox appeal. If you are able to fill a shoebox with toiletries, chocolate, small items of clothing such as socks, underwear, gloves or scarves please leave it at the back of the church by Christmas Eve. remembering to label it for a man or woman.*

*Two dates for your diaries.....*

*Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 21st December at 2p.m.with Rev. John Bell in LHM and Homelessness Sunday Service on 30th. January with Dr. Alison Elliot, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

*In the meantime, I append an article written by Peter Roger, Company Secretary of the LHM to bring you up to date with the activities of the Mission.*

*Ann Begg (St. Paul's Congregational Representative to the LHM)*

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## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

Despite what its name might suggest , the LHM is a day centre for the homeless, hostel dwelling and resettling community in Glasgow operating from a former church in the east end of the city. It provides hot meals and some medical services in addition to counselling and a growing array of services to help its 'visitors' off the bottom rung. These include literacy and numeracy classes as well as an Internet Café through which a regular stream of Visitors learn computer skills which they apply to secure employment.

One such visitor is David – now 40 but homeless for the last 15 years– who was encouraged to take part in 'Opening Doors', a 12 week life skills programme which is designed to rebuild people's lives and restore their self esteem.. David said, 'Because of the support and encouragement from LHM, I'm now living in my own house and I've applied for three jobs'.

In recognition of its groundbreaking work of its staff in setting up the Internet Café, the LHM was the first such body to be awarded a LearnDirect Plaque this year and is now a LearnDirect Approved Centre and accredited by the Scottish University for Industry.

(continued on page 11)

One only has to spend a short time visiting to realise that Andrew Low, the Project Leader since last December, has developed a very conscientious and co-operative team of support workers; indeed their reaction to the difficulties in raising funds for the core functions of the LHM was to hold a sponsored cycling event which exceeded expectations by raising over £8000.

There can be few who doubt the value of the work done by this team of dedicated people in providing a community focus for the homeless in Glasgow. Unfortunately there are not enough who provide the necessary support to help it carry out this most important aspect of the Church of Scotland's outreach. Could you help occasionally in the Drop in Café or would you be prepared to contribute financially by giving a monthly amount to the LHM. In either case, please phone Andrew Low or Helen Hart(552 0285)

If you would like to know more about the work of the LHM or ways in which you can help, why not invite us to provide a speaker at one of your meetings or come along to our Christmas Carol Service at 2p.m. on 21st. December

## ***Christian Aid News***

### **Trade Justice Campaign**

Members of the Milngavie Churches Christian Aid Committee attended the launch of the Trade Justice Campaign in Scotland on 27 October at a rally and lobby of MSPs at the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh. They met their local MSP, Mr Des McNulty who, along with many other MSPs, addressed the rally and pledged his support.

Mrs Alison Elliot, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Cardinal Keith O'Brien, addressed about 300 campaigners and the actress Elaine C. Smith chaired the rally.

Over 60% of MSPs have pledged to support the campaign which aims to reform world trade rules to help people work their way out of poverty and also stop further environmental damage.

You can add your support by completing the Vote for Trade Justice ballot card available at the back of the church and putting it in the ballot box there.

# Diamonds Conference: 25th-26th February 2005

## Destiny Church, Shawlands

Hi Ladies,

It is with great pleasure I invite you to join me and many other women at Diamonds annual Woman's Conference, organised by Destiny Church, Shawlands.

Having attended for the last two years - it has been a wonderful event and a real inspiration to my faith! My favourite speaker was Jackie Pullinger - what a testimony!

**Diamonds** is for every woman and girl - it s for you'

Phone or email if you wish to attend- I'd love to hear from you! [gayle.cattanachl@hotmail.com](mailto:gayle.cattanachl@hotmail.com)

tel: 0141 956 1557.

This year's key speaker is Nancy Alcom of Mercy Ministries, full details at [www.mercyministries.com](http://www.mercyministries.com).

Mercy Ministries of America is an international, non-profit outreach that provides a loving environment where mercy triumphs over judgment and broken lives are lovingly put back together and restored by the immeasurable power of our awesome Lord.

Full Conference    £35.00

Friday Night Only    £10.00

Saturday Day Only    £25.00

Saturday Night Only    £10.00

**Hoping you can make it**

## THE WAY AHEAD GROUP ( a stroke club for Bearsden)

**The Way Ahead Group** (A Stroke Club for Bearsden) was inaugurated by the Association of Bearsden Churches. Now that we are meeting in Killermont Parish Church Halls, it is felt that more helpers are required to assist in the general running of the club in the afternoons, particularly at the beginning to welcome the members, some of whom are in wheel chairs, and assist them to the cloak-rooms and then on to the halls.

The territory is quite different from our former premises, the Red Cross Hall, and helpers and members who are not attached to Killermont Church( and we have many from other churches in the area) can find it confusing.

The club meets every Thursday afternoon from 1.15p.m. to 3.45p.m. However, helpers are asked to be on duty only one Thursday in the month, but require to be at the church at 12.30p.m. to assist in setting up the halls for the exercises, games, entertainment, and of course, the most popular part of the day– afternoon tea. Please contact the Co-ordinator, Anne Wightman (942 4052) or the secretary, Greta Paterson 9563 79380 for further information. We are sure that you would find this afternoon to be a very rewarding and happy time.

**Westerton Male Voice Choir** have very kindly agreed to donate the proceeds of their **Christmas Concert** to us this year. The concert, which we urge you to support, is on **Saturday 11th. December, in Cairns Church, Milngavie at 7.30p.m.** Tickets, priced £7, which includes wine and shortbread, can be purchased from Jack Paterson (563 7938) or any member of the choir.

### *Letter from Bill Law*

*In the April issue of 'Life', I thanked our many friends in St. Paul's for the support of Evelyn following her admittance to hospital suffering from leukaemia. That support through cards(all 400),flowers, visits, regular enquiries and above all promises and reassurances of remembering Evelyn in their prayers, continued day by day week by week throughout her seven months of hospital treatment.*

*During Evelyn's last six weeks in hospital, the medical staff responded magnificently to the unexpected development of an abscess in Evelyn's brain. The gratitude of the Law family for the skill, care and genuine affection for Evelyn from the medical team in Ward &A of Gartnavel Hospital, during her long stay in hospital cannot adequately be expressed in words alone.*

*We are also grateful to our two ministers for their uplifting pastoral care.*

*Although Evelyn is now at home with the leukaemia now in remission, for the next six to twelve months she will be under strict medical care, during the treatment of the abscess. We sincerely thank all our many friends in St. Paul's for that feeling we have had of being carried and supported by all your prayers and expressions of love and affection for Evelyn*

# *Japan Jottings*

## **Dear Friends**

As we write this it is mid-November and we still have no snow on the ground. We're not complaining about that but the boys are keen to get their sledges and skis out again so they can't wait for the first big snow fall of the season.

Having experienced a Scottish Christmas again last year, we are now back to Christmas Japanese-style. Even here it's impossible to escape the music piped through the store as you do your shopping. Yet Christmas brings many opportunities for us here that we do not have at any other time of the year.

At the moment we are in the middle of a four part cooking class series which ends on December 9<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas party when Lorna will be doing the cooking demonstration. Each class will have a short Bible message on a Christmas theme. We then have our Family Christmas on the 11<sup>th</sup> – an opportunity to invite kids and parents. We will hand out invitations to kids at the school the day before. This year we have a Christian ventriloquist coming – as well as various other musical items, games and a Christmas message for kids. Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (a public holiday here) we hold a Candle Service – a simple service with carols and Bible readings with a short message. We are encouraging our people to invite friends for tea beforehand and then bring them along. On each of these occasions we will have a number of people for whom it is their first time ever in a church. Please pray with us that the bridges we build will in time lead on to a deeper interest in the Bible.

Many thanks for all your support for us through this past year. It was a joy for us to be back with you last Christmas and celebrate with you. Please continue to lift Japan up to the Lord in prayer. Like the shepherds, may many Japanese find their way to Jesus – and then share the excitement of their discovery with others!

**Many thanks for all your support for us  
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair**

## BOOK CLUB

This month we have been reading *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali which was short listed for the Mann Booker Prize last year. Put it on your Christmas list! Totally up to the minute in its social comment on the Asian community of today, it is by turns funny, sad and tragic as it tells the story of Nazeen from the time she was brought to this country by her husband twenty years ago, unable to speak English, to the present day.

Next month we will be reading *The Star of the Sea* by Joseph Connor.

Our first meeting of 2005 is on Wednesday 12 January. Please phone Helen in the Church Office for the venue if you would like to join us. Go on – make it your New Year’s resolution to read more!

JOYCE CLARK

### **LIFE AND WORK** **Magazine of the Church of Scotland**

*In the December issue, read about.....*

**A Colourful Christianity – the life, work and faith of the Scottish artist ‘Jolomo’ John Lowrie Morrison.**

**O Come All Ye Faithful .....***Clarence Musgrave, minister of St. Andrew’s Church, Jerusalem writes that Bethlehem faces another bleak Christmas.*

**Last Word..***Muriel Armstrong asks ‘Who speaks for the Kirk’*

*.....and.. readers’ letters , news, reviews, travel and comment*



# FLOWER ROTAS DECEMBER

Donations  
Mrs. R. Douglas  
Mrs. C. Bertram  
Sunday School  
Young Wives and Mothers

Deliveries  
Dec 5 Mrs. A. Galloway Mrs. J. Townson  
Dec 12 Mrs. M. McIntyre Mrs. M. Spencer  
Dec 19 Mrs. P. Dudgeon Mrs. S. Lindsay  
Dec 26 Mrs. M. Phillips Mrs. E. Law  
Jan2 Mrs. J. Anderson Mrs. A. Gibson



# CRECHE ROTA DECEMBER

5 December Wilson MacKinnon Lawrie Goodlet  
12 December Cockburn Moffat Smith Fleming  
19 December Hughes Buchanan Richell McFarlane  
26 December Reid Bolton Baxter Macauley

## TRAI DCRAFT ROTA DECEMBER/JANUARY

Dec. 5th. A Begg J MacLean  
Dec. 12th. S Rollings J McIntyre  
Dec. 19th. G. Buchan A. Martin  
Dec. 26th. no stall  
Jan. 2nd. no stall  
Jan. 9th. B. Frame B. Barr  
Jan. 16th. communion

*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 17th. December*

*Editor - Morag Thomson, 36, Roselea Drive (956-2801)*

*E mail mthomson@beeb.net*