

Christmas and Advent Worship at St. Paul's

Saturday 1 December	8.00am 9.30am	Prayer Breakfast (St. Paul's) Advent Service -The Challenge of Christmas: Forgiveness - Fergus Buchanan
	10.00am 4.30pm	Tree Festival Commences Sun Kids
Sunday 2 December	11.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship with 1 st /2 nd Milngavie Boys' Brigade Company Evening Worship with guest preacher Rev. Alan Hamilton
Thursday 6 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday 7 December	2.00pm	Tree Festival ends
Saturday 8 December	9.30am	Advent Service – The Challenge of Christmas: Hardship – Robin Easton
Sunday 9 December	11.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Thursday 13 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday 14 December	7.30pm	Christmas Praise Service St Luke's Parish Church
Saturday 15 December	9.30am	Advent Service –The Challenge of Christmas: Humility – Douglas Muirhead
Sunday 16 December	11.00am 7.00pm	Gift Service followed by Coffee & Mince Pies Evening Worship
Monday 17 December	7.30pm	Douglas Academy Christmas Concert
Thursday 20 December	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 22 December	9.30am	Advent Service – The Challenge of Christmas: Jesus the Man – Stephen Thoms
Sunday 23 December	11.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Christmas Readings and Music
Monday 24 December	4.30pm 7.00pm	Carols in the Precinct Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Tuesday 25 December	11.00am	Christmas Morning Celebrations (St. Paul's)
Sunday 30 December	11.00am 7.00pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship



St Paul's Milngavie Life Magazine December 2012



Dear Friends,

The earliest I have seen a Christmas tree was in a shop window around the third week in October. I shook my head, marveled at Christmas coming earlier and earlier each year, and had a wee grump at materialism etc., etc, etc. Add to this that there are Christmas shops open all year round offering everything you need to decorate your home and prettify your presents and it seems as if Christmas never really goes away. Northern Europeans like us tend to have a problem with this. Christmas is bound up with Winter traditions and legends and it's just not the same unless there is a sharpness in the air, darkness to allow the lights to twinkle and hot chocolate to give us an inner glow.

And yet what Christians celebrate at Christmas cannot be confined to a few weeks every year. At the heart of orthodox Christian belief there is this outrageous declaration that at a particular point in human history God actually became a human being. This was part of God's great rescue mission for a cosmos that had become subject to decay and a humanity that had become alienated from Him. This is not something that can be restricted to an end of the year meditation. If this is true then in the words of John Betjeman it is the 'most tremendous tale of all' and needs to be repeatedly told and constantly meditated upon:

'The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?'

I understand why it might not feel right to be singing 'Hark the herald angels sing' in the middle of July but when Charles Wesley wrote this great hymn he did not have in his mind people caroling in frosty air. He was giving Christian people the opportunity to celebrate and proclaim a great truth at the heart of the faith: God's supreme revelation of Himself and His work to make possible His reconciliation with humankind. In that sense Christmas should never go away. The implications are with us every day and once understood and experienced are a constant blessing.

*Yours,
Fergus C Buchanan*

Brigade Blethers

This will be the last Blether of 2012 because as always Brigade finishes around the middle of December. When I trained as an officer we were told that although badgework is very important we should always remember to throw in some wee extras to keep the fun in Brigade. Well we certainly seem to have had quite a few wee extras this session. We made harvest posies; we had the man with the bees; the lady from the Kings Theatre who brought along stage costumes and masks for the girls to try on; a fancy dress party; a fundraising quiz and as I write we only have three weeks left before our Christmas holidays. One of these will be our Christmas party and another is our visit to the Pantomime. And, yes, we have managed to fit in the badgework.

There are times in Brigade when I have to run just to keep up with the young ones (that means everyone else in the Company) but we are serving Jesus Christ with a smile on our faces.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Anne Goodlet



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 BEAM – the talking newspaper edition of the Milngavie and Bearsden Herald. As usual donations of mince pies and shortbread will be most welcome.



BEAM

BEAM produces a weekly 90 minute digital audio recording on memory stick of the news from the Milngavie and Bearsden Herald. This is recorded on Thursday evenings, copied and dispatched on Friday mornings and delivered free of charge to approximately 40

listeners by the Post Office.

Besides the weekly news recording BEAM also issues a 2 monthly news bulletin called Infosound and a quarterly digital audio recording called GRACE Magazine.



BEAM supplies memory stick players (known as boomboxes) and memory sticks free of charge to all their listeners and this service is much appreciated by all who receive it.

Frances Ireland and Liz Traill

N.B. If you know of anyone who might benefit from these services please contact the secretary of BEAM – Mrs Desnée Ashley (942 4231).



The Guild

The last Monday in October we welcomed back John and Peter Douglas for Part 2 of their life story. We had another great night with them telling us of their work as Cinema Projectionists. On 5th November the ladies from St. Luke's Guild joined us to hear Dr. Roger Sturrock tell of his travels in Kenya and also about the many people who have HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Dr. Sturrock was a wonderful speaker and was enjoyed by all. The following week we were led in the first of our Bible Studies on our new 3 year Strategy, Whose We Are and Whom We Serve by Rev. Fergus Buchanan. Fergus shared with us 3 people who had had a profound inspiration in his

Ministry, Martin Luther King, Joni Erikson and Tony Sargent. We welcomed the Salvation Army on Monday 19th November and we had a wonderful evening of praise led by the Govan Songsters with their soloists Matt Ramsay and Moira Wilson. As Life goes to print we only have 3 meetings left this half of the year. Monday 26th is our Allocation of Funds and we look forward to the Gibson family entertaining us. On Monday 3rd December we are hosting the Dumbarton Presbyterial Carol Service and our Christmas Dinner is the following week, the 10th December.

We meet again in the New Year on Monday 7th January when we will be welcoming Melody Box.

Margaret McFarlane

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

When you read this the Christmas Tree Festival will be under way and we hope that you will be able to visit it at least once. It will run until Friday 7th December and each day except Friday will be open from 10am until 4pm On Friday we close early, at 2pm.

The charities we are supporting this year are both very worthwhile though very different. Mary's Meals supports children in very poor countries by giving them a meal when they go to school; this is often their only meal for the day and also helps their attainment at school because they learn much more effectively when not hungry. The other charity, The Way Ahead, is based at Killermont Church in Bearsden, and supports stroke victims and their families. Apart from providing a meeting place and a chance to talk with others

in the same situation, the group employs physiotherapists to give expert treatment. They have very little funding and rely heavily on fund-raising like ours.

This year we will have 32 trees on display from many sections of the community. While you look at them you can enjoy music, often from local musicians and if not, from seasonal CDs. Afterwards you can visit the tearoom for delicious home-baking with a cup of tea or coffee; the tearoom is staffed by members of all the churches in Milngavie because once again the Tree Festival is organised by a committee from The Association of Milngavie Churches. Please tell your friends about the Festival and we look forward to welcoming many visitors.

Eleanor Easton



BRF's Bible reading apps reach 100,000 downloads

From Christian today

More than 100,000 people have downloaded Bible Reading Fellowship's Bible reading apps.

Many Christians admit it can be hard to find the time for daily Bible reading but they remain as keen as ever to try different ways of getting around the problem. The first daily Bible reading app from BRF was launched in 2010 and they have since launched two more apps based on the Guidelines notes and Day by Day with God daily reading notes.

The apps are designed for easy and convenient use. They allow users to search by Bible book or contributor, and keep track of missed readings so that they can be viewed at a later date. The apps provide our content in a format that people on the move need, to accommodate regular Bible reading into their busy lives.

To find out more about BRF Bible daily reading note apps for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch visit: www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk/iphone-apps/

SUNDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The children have been given information about all the activities for them. After Sun Kids, on December 1st, there is the Christmas Party on Saturday 8th from 2.00 till 4.00p.m..

We hope they will visit the Christmas Tree Festival and also come to the Family Service on Christmas Eve at 7.00p.m.. Please ask Sunday Club teachers for full details.



TRAIDCRAFT

I am just making up the new Rota for 2013.

If you would like to help with the stall once every 2 months please let me know. We need at least 2 new helpers.

Rosemary Fraser

Carer Required

Daughter looking for carer for father in Dougalston area, one hour a day, five days a week. If interested or for more information please contact Moira Hookham 01577 861033 or moirahookham@hotmail.co.uk

Friendship House
Coffee Morning
Sat 15th Dec 10am- 12noon.

Everyone welcome. Come along to St Paul's and enjoy a lovely cup of tea/ coffee and pick up some 'goodies' for Christmas.

BAKING, BOOKS, TRADICRAFT, &
UNWANTED TREASURES.

Linda Cowie



ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Our next trip will be a city break to ROME from 6th-10th OCTOBER, 2013. All the details are in the colourful brochure to be found at the back of the church. It is organised by McCabe Pilgrimages who took us to Oberammergau in 2010.

Celtic Blessing

I found this in the 2013 calendar produced by Killean and Kilchenzie Parish Church in Kintyre and thought it was appropriate especially at this time of year.

May you have
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain
And drinks beside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you
And all that your heart may desire.

Anne Ritchie

60 years service as Keeper of the Cradle Roll

At the morning service on Sunday 14 October the Rev. Fergus Buchanan paid tribute to Mrs Jackie Campbell and warmly thanked her for sixty years loyal and dedicated service as Keeper of the Cradle Roll.

In recognition of Jackie's outstanding service in this role Mr Buchanan presented her with a Certificate of Long Service signed by The Right Reverend Albert Bogle, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, together with a gift of a bible and flowers from the congregation in grateful appreciation of her faithful service.

Ian Mackinnon, Session Clerk

Elders - Long Service Awards

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session, the Reverend Fergus Buchanan presented Long Service Certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to Rosemary Fraser, Barbara Lawson and Ian Mackinnon, in grateful appreciation of their 30 years' service to the eldership.

World Mission

The General Secretary of the World Council for Churches asks for prayers for all the victims of Hurricane Sandy. 140 lives from Haiti and Cuba to the U.S.A. and Canada were lost in this horrendous hurricane.

CSW have called for International Action to end the violence in Arakan State, Burma – please pray for peace for Burma.

Ghazwa Ayyad from the Aftalune Society for Deaf Children ask for our prayers as missiles fall on Gaza City.

At home, the BBC's coverage of religion is to be scrutinised in an independent review.

The Dept. of World Mission ask us to pray for the protection and good health of all the staff and family members serving overseas with World Mission

Family Service Christmas Eve 7pm

Once again there will be an all age family service in the Church at 7pm on the night before Christmas.

The singing of our favourite carols will be led by the praise band followed by refreshments in the large hall. All welcome neighbours, family and friends but especially yourselves.

Christmas Watchnight Service

This year the Kirk Session have decided the offering from the Christmas Eve Watchnight service will go to the Christian charity 'Something for Romania'

This charity was founded in 1990 by

Lachie MacLeod, a retired policeman, originally from Skye, who has been awarded an MBE in recognition of his charity and police work.

'Something for Romania' supports a Romanian charity providing free palliative and homecare for seriously and terminally ill patients.

It also transports relief aid to Romania, including medical equipment and hospital supplies, such as wheelchairs, monitors and x ray equipment, some of which is being discarded in hospitals here as out of date.

Rural life there is still primitive and they also take out agricultural supplies, seed, implements and machinery such as tractors.

Their income is purely from donations. They have no paid staff and minimal overheads. The gospel message is central to their ethos.

This worthy cause is well deserving of our support this Christmas.

New Year

Hogmanay Watchnight Service

will be held in Glasgow Cathedral on Monday 31st December at 11pm. Music and Word will take us into 2013 with a soundbite from Richard Tiplady, Principal of International Christian College. All welcome.

May J introduce myself...

We asked our ministry student to tell us a little about herself:

My full name is Barbara Suchanek-Seitz. I grew up as a minister's daughter in the city of Kassel in Germany and after finishing school there studied theology and English language and literature at the universities of Goettingen and Marburg. From the latter I eventually graduated with a first teacher's degree in English and RE, and later with a PhD in theology.

After my graduation I was fortunate enough to find employment as an English teacher for unemployed and vulnerable adults and later worked as a journalist for a small local paper and as a voluntary PR assistant for my church. In 2003 my daughter Annika was born and I spent a happy time as a mum in the village of Kleinlinden near Frankfurt.

As my husband was offered a job at the University of Glasgow we moved to Scotland in May 2006. Having found after two years as a supply teacher, that RE is not faith based (as it is in my country) I applied to the Church of Scotland and was accepted as a candidate for the ministry earlier this year.

I live in Helensburgh with my husband and daughter and I enjoy reading and music (though with limited talents).

I am looking forward to staying with you at St Paul's as a student for the ministry within the Church of Scotland

Flower donations December

Thank you

I want to say a big thank you for all the cards, telephone calls, visits, and flowers that I have received since having a heart attack in September.

I have been overcome by all the good wishes and help offered to me during this time. I look forward to the time when I will be able to be back with you all at St Paul's .

Margaret B Hamilton

December Flower donations. Mrs. R. Douglas. Mrs. R. Gilmour, St. Paul's Sunday School.

Please make cheques payable to St. Paul's Flowers and put in Church pigeonhole or post to, Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Ave., Milngavie, G62 6LJ, Phone 956 2630.

My thanks to all the members who have donated during this year, any new donations are very welcome. The flowers are always received with great pleasure. Many thanks also to my team of helpers, there are always compliments on your handiwork.





Noah's Ark

NOAH'S ARK--Toddler group

The Ark is now well & truly launched & is open to Mums/carers & their children up to the age of 3. There are 42 children registered with an average attendance of 30 at each session.

The committee has done a wonderful job in getting this project afloat & we are most grateful for all the equipment donated by the congregation. We should still like to hear from anyone else who would like to be added to the rota of helpers.

For more information go to the Church website
or phone Rosemary Fraser at 956 3222

St Rollox Community Outreach—Urgent Appeal

St Rollox Community Outreach is a Project run by St Rollox Church of Scotland in Sighthill, Glasgow. It provides support and services to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and local people in North Glasgow.

One of our support services is a Drop in shop which provides good quality second hand goods. Many of our clients have limited income and some are Destitute and homeless so the shop is literally a lifeline for many of them.

We sell absolutely everything apart from Carpets, Furniture and large electrical items. We therefore need a constant supply of clothes, shoes, baby items, toys, prams, household textiles and bric-a-brac. We also take TVs and Computers in working order.

We are at present very low on stock. Would you therefore consider having a clear out before Christmas which will enable us to keep our shop open? Also, if you are asked to clear a house, we would be happy to take all the smaller household items.

We are open on a Tues/Wed 10am – 4pm to receive donations.

For more information contact Christine Murray on 0141 558 1809

Japan Jottings Sept 2012



Dear Friends

Many thanks for your prayers and support for us over this past year. It has certainly been a year of many changes. We have now taken on the Field Director role for OMF in Japan and it is a steep learning curve as well as being an exciting challenge as we look to see how God will work in this land over the coming months and years.

Here in Hiragishi we are looking forward once again to our Family Christmas on 8th December. We hope that many children and the adults in the local community will once again join us for that time. We are also renting the building we often use on 23rd December for a special Christmas service to which we hope people will come. Although many people here would never go to a church, Christmas is a time which is different. We hope that people will be touched and their hearts opened through singing Christmas songs and hearing a simple Christmas message.

As we draw nearer to moving out of our house next March, we are beginning to look for other possible venues for our Sunday service. The other week we rented a room at the local swimming pool. It worked out well. Someone commented it would be useful for baptisms! An odd quirk of this building is that in former times it was actually the local Sapporo crematorium! You may remember that we live right opposite a very large graveyard. There are many funeral halls and Buddhist temples in this area.

On the note of funerals, David has just heard that his Dad died fairly suddenly after suffering for some years with leukaemia. He will be back in Scotland for the funeral and will return to Japan early December.

May you all know joy and peace over this Christmas season.

With our love
David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

Scottish Bible Society

At the end of September I attended a barbecue organised by the Scottish Bible Society to meet Nabil Omiesh who works for the Bible Society in Iraq and who was visiting Scotland to highlight the plight of Christians in that country.



Nabil lives in Jordan, but visits Iraq on a regular basis despite the difficulties he faces. He told of the persecution and hardships faced daily by Iraqi Christians – sectarian violence, lack of housing and food shortages - but also of a growing underground church with hope and faith in Jesus. In a country which has great natural resources of oil and gas, power cuts occur daily – electricity is only available for an hour or two each day – which makes life uncomfortable in a country where temperatures can reach 40°C in summer and 5°C in winter. The Bible Society in Iraq is supplying food parcels, blankets and much needed Bibles to Christians, many of whom have lost everything for their faith.

When Nabil was asked what we could do to help he told us that our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq had asked us to pray for three things – for the underground church, for a regular supply of electricity and for security in the country. Please remember Iraq in your prayers.



Frances Ireland

Thank you

Those two little words seem inadequate to express my gratitude for the very many kindnesses I have received since I walked into the Western Infirmary with severe sciatica at the end of July and came home six weeks later unable to walk.

Now, another month later, I'm still not walking very well but keep hoping and praying for improvement.

To all my friends in St Paul's thank you

for all the visits while “enjoying” the hospitality of the Western, Gartnavel and Drumchapel Hospitals and since I came home more visits, bowls of home made soup, dinner plates of delicious meals and all sorts of other goodies which arrive at my front door regularly.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mary B Wood.

C H U R C H R E G I S T E R

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Resolution

Mrs Catherine Nesbitt, 88 Main Street, Milngavie 40

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs B Gray, 2 Kilmannan Gardens 63

DEATHS

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

27.10.12 Mrs Norah Henderson, 15 Tannoch Drive, Milngavie 6

13.11.12 Mrs Mary Elsie McCarrell, Westerton Care Home

19.11.12 Mrs Christina Young, 2 Sandfield Cottages 15

Copy date for January Life: is **3rd January 2013** so if you are using the church pigeon hole please make sure articles are there by Hogmanay at the latest. Email to rona.dawson@glasgow.gov.uk—you should receive an out of office message acknowledging receipt.

The Editor would like to wish all readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and to thank all the contributors for their interest, support, articles and prayers this year. Please keep it all coming!

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
9 Dec	M Abbott K Hogart	Deuchar Berry	R Raeburn H Reid	Team 6 G Blackadder
16 Dec	M MacLean R Cameron		B Watson M Conway	Team 7 M Boyd
23 Dec	J Ford C Tanner	No creche	M Ure R Fraser	Team 8 J Pirie
30 Dec	J Clarke S Stenhouse	No creche		Team 9 N Barlow
6 Jan	P Barlow S Robertson	McKinnon Wallis		Team 10 M Fraser
13 Jan	S Anderson M Adams	Chapman Sillars		Team 3 E McEwan