

CHURCH REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

Joined by Certificate

Mrs Irene Copeland, 67 Ellangowan Court 14

BAPTISMS

Emily Grace Johnston, 70 Dougalston Gardens South, Milngavie

WEDDING

Kate Edmunds, 27 Milndavie Crescent and
Neil Weaver

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Calum MacNeill, 26 Roselea Drive now 8
Flat 1/1, 61 Ferry Road, Partick G3 8QR 70
Mrs K Butler, 3 Mosshead Road now 43
Canniesburn Nursing Home

DEATHS

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

4.12.13 Mrs Janet (Jenny) Wilson, Canniesburn Nursing Home 56
20.12.13 Mrs Grace Liveston, 9 Woodland Street 15

Copy date for February issue is Sunday 19th January if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 22nd January if emailing. Please send to the church office at st.pauls@btconnect.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
12 Jan	P Dudgeon S Lindsay	Wallis McCreadie	J MacIntyre M Fewell	Team 3 R Gow
19 Jan	E Izatt F Irleand	Wilson Tracey		Team 2 J Flett
26 Jan	A Gibson A McLeod	Sillars Bates	R Cameron M Thoms	Team 4 S Thoms
2 Feb	M Abbott K Hagart	Goodlet Chapman	C Mackay R Fraser	Team 5 B Adair

Life

at ST. PAUL'S
Milngavie



January 2014

Dear Friends,

It's strange to be writing this New Year message with Christmas still before me but magazine deadlines have to be met! Then again, that's the way it is at this time of year. Always thinking ahead to the next event and not quite living in the moment. It's a problem most of the time of course. Whether it's commitments at work, a medical appointment, a project still to be completed, a birth, a marriage – we are often looking to the future.

Jesus once spoke about the right attitude to be adopted in relation to the future. It's there in Matthew 6: 25-34 and it makes for challenging reading. He says: 'Do not worry about your life . . . Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.'

So how do you stop worrying about tomorrow?

First of all, we need to understand what Jesus means by 'worry' and it seems clear that he is referring to the kind of fretting that threatens to completely overwhelm us and can be corrosive to our souls. He links this specifically to the drive for material things that we all need in life but should not dominate us entirely. Instead of living lives of near paralysing anxiety the disciples' way is to trust the Heavenly Father. We only develop that when we stay close to Him, experience more of Him and gain more insight into His ways. Jesus does not say anything about prayer here but His faithful servant Paul takes a stand on prayer as the antidote to soul-destroying anxiety. He writes:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7)

In prayer we realize the presence of God and the opportunity arises for us to gather the good things, the eternal things that we need to persevere in faith.

This is why we all need to step out of the relentless surge of the future to live in the moment with the Heavenly Father, the One who holds our future within His good and loving purpose.

I grew up with a framed quotation that hung in our living room. It comes from a poem by M.L. Haskins and was quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas radio broadcast. It was greatly valued by the Queen Mother and was read at her funeral service:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
"That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Wishing you and yours the blessings of our God in 2014,

LUNCH CLUB has been quite busy this session but there is always room for more people to enjoy a tasty lunch most Wednesdays in term time. We were again pleased to make a small profit this year mainly due to all the kind people who bake for us and they deserve a big thank you for all the delicious and tempting treats everyone enjoys. We divided the profit with half going to St Paul's to help with heating and the remainder went to the Philipenes Disaster Appeal and a donation was also sent to Prechal to support their good work. We re-open on Wednesday 8th January and all are welcome to a good lunch in cheerful company to chase away the winter blues.



St Paul's Sunkids

Sunkids will meet on Saturday 11^h January 2014 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. This is for all children from P1 and is a fun filled afternoon of crafts, games, stories and songs. We even have football and our own in house Football Manager (he's called Fergus!). So kids from the church or even kids with no church connection are invited. If you have any questions about this call the church office 0141 956 4405 or Ross Deuchar.

Christianity Explored

The Milngavie Churches are holding a Christianity Explored course starting on Monday 10th February, 2014 and running for 8 weeks. The course is for those seeking to learn more about Jesus whether already a Christian or an enquirer who wants to know more. The course will ask who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him. Invitation cards for distribution to interested neighbours, family, colleagues or friends are available. Venue to be confirmed. More information from the Church Office or Graham Mill.

Thank you

I thank all my friends (both near and far away) for the many cards, phone calls, flowers, practical and prayerful support I received before, during and after my recent surgery. I am now making a full recovery and during this difficult time was very aware and touched that I was being upheld in your thoughts and prayers. My best wishes, prayers and grateful thanks to you all –
Margaret Maclean

Chanan Glasgow

Dear Fergus and all at St. Paul's Parish Church

We write to thank you for your kind donation of £1300.00 and your ongoing support over many years.

Without support such as yours our mission of "Rebuilding Broken Lives" would be severely limited, if not curtailed.

Thanks once again for your kindness in supporting us in the Lord's work and above all those we seek to serve.

With every blessing
Hugh McKenna

Retiring Editor

This issue of Life sees the end of Rona Dawson's time as Editor. I am sure the whole congregation is grateful to her for the tactful way that she has kept us to deadlines and made sure that as much information as possible was available to us. Her work for the magazine has truly reflected life in St. Paul's and has left a good foundation for her successor to build on.

Thanks to Rona and every good wish for the future.

Brigade Blethers

Last month I was telling you about a Karate demonstration that was heading Girls' Brigade way. It was a really good night and the girls seemed to pick up the procedure without any bother. The instructors did make them promise that they would not try it out on friends or family (or G.B. leaders) so I sighed with relief.



We had another visitor who came to tell the girls what M.A.F. was all about and we all took Andy Martin to our hearts. He encouraged questions and even the wee red jumpers had lots to ask. The organisation does a wonderful job and it was a real pleasure to be able to help them on the night of our quiz. Over 70 folk came along and joined in the fun and 1st place this year went to St Andrew's Episcopal Church. The badminton team are now away swotting for next year to try and win back the cup. And you think the competition to win The Ashes is fierce!

The cherry on the cake was being able to send MAF a cheque for £380 to help keep the planes flying. A big thank you to everyone who came along to St Paul's that Thursday and made it such a great evening.

Not only is this the last Blether of 2013 it is also the last blether I'll be sending to Rona our "Ed." I'm in the habit of running at the last minute to get my copy in before the deadline (sounds really professional doesn't it?) and quite often it has gone out about midnight. However the next morning I have always had a cheery wee "thank you" from Rona. You have done a great job over the years Rona and I hope our new editor (when we find one) will be as helpful and understanding. Our thanks and good wishes go with you all the way to Kilsyth.

Anne Goodlet

Flower Donations— January

Mrs. E. Forbes,
Mrs E Adair,
Mrs E Farmer,
Mrs J Ferguson



Please put donations in Flower Rota pigeon hole at the back of the church or send to Mrs. Wilma Douglas, 34 Braeside Avenue, Milngavie G62 6LJ

Cheques should be made payable to St. Paul's Flowers

The Guild

The Guild

Nov. 25th. 'Ur Ye Dancin?' Robert Marshall took us on a nostalgic trip round some of the many ballrooms and dance halls which abounded in Glasgow, when it was then known as the dancing capital of the world. Sadly, the late 1960's saw the decline of these, but his talk evoked memories of happy times spent there by many of our members.



Dec. 2nd The ladies of Killermont Guild joined us for the evening, when we had our Allocation of Funds and Bring & Buy. Allyson Flett gave us an excellent demo of Christmas Table Decorations with imaginative ideas & tips. Allyson stepped 'into the breach' at very short notice and we would like to express a very big thank you of appreciation to her from all our members.

Dec, 9th After an excellent Christmas Dinner, we had our 'in house' Entertainment provided by committee members and our Carol Choristers. It was a fun night enjoyed by all and a fitting finale to 2013. We look forward to our next meeting on 6th. January, when all will be made most welcome.

Diary Dates

Jan 6th Happy Hour – Mrs. M Candlish
 “ 13th Summerlee Museum – Miss L.McNair
 “ 20th **Ecumenical Service at Baldernock Church**
 “ 27th Scottish Night – visit from Men's Association
 Feb 3rd Water Aid – Mrs. A.Fettes.

Margaret Stirling

'LIFE and WORK' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions for 'Life and Work' are now due. The cost for 12 issues during the year is £20.40 – 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.

My sincerest, heartfelt thanks to the many, many people of St. Paul's Church who have given me such comforting support and upheld me through prayer, telephone calls, cards, visits, flowers etc., following Douglas' recent, sudden illness. My further thanks for all the support I have received since my own time in hospital.
Marie Spencer

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Tree Festival attracted large crowds all week, and raised the highest amount of money in our six-year history, £3,600. This meant that each of our four charities received £900 which delighted them. We had been rather anxious that supporting so many could mean a somewhat insignificant sum for each, but the generosity of our visitors proved us wrong!



At the opening ceremony on Saturday November 30th a representative from each organisation spoke movingly of its work. We heard about Friendship Circle, Help for Heroes, Alzheimer Scotland and Revive MS Support. During the week many visitors to the festival showed great interest in the charities and took leaflets.

The trees were even more beautiful than before. They were imaginatively decorated and looked stunning in the lovely setting of St. Paul's. People sometimes ask if we award a prize for the 'best' tree but that would be impossible!

We are exceedingly grateful to the congregation for all the support they gave in so many ways. The stewarding and serving in the tearoom were done cheerfully and efficiently, and working with members of other congregations once again proved rewarding and enjoyable. Our bakers excelled, as ever, and the busy tearoom bore witness to that!

The music programme was popular and varied, showcasing local talent from many areas of the community. It is highly gratifying that so many people are willing to come and perform for us. In fact, one group even phoned up some weeks beforehand to ask if we wanted them to come again. (Fortunately we did!)

The festival would be a flop, however, if no-one came to see it, so we are immensely grateful to the congregation and the wider community for turning up in such numbers. We say every year that visitors are welcome to come more than once; we know that you did and want to thank you very much.

Burned Bridges

Sometimes burning bridges isn't a bad thing...

It prevents you from going back to a place you should never have

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

We have enjoyed spending our first December in Tokyo. It has been good to be involved in different outreach activities over these past weeks.

Lorna spoke at a ladies' meeting at the church we attend. Many attended and made a Christingle together while Lorna explained the symbolic meaning. The church's gospel choir then sang. Not all of the choir members are Christians – this music still remains popular in Japan and people love to join them and sing powerful Christian lyrics. Some do find faith in Jesus through singing in these choirs. Lorna then had the opportunity to give a simple message on the meaning of Christmas. It all seemed to go well. It is encouraging to hear of ladies who in the past have attended these outreach events and gradually been led to a point where they too believe in Jesus.

The church also held some special Christmas events for children. One of our missionary colleagues has a daughter at kindergarten and she invited some friends to the event for that age group. Alistair invited a few of his school friends too and was pleased that two of them came on the day. For many of these children it is their first time to hear of Jesus and find out what the Christmas story is all about. It was a fun time with a simple message which hopefully these children will remember and be even just a small part of their faith journey.

The Christmas Eve candlelit service is very popular here and David was speaking at the one held at our church. These are always occasions when people invite friends and family and also times when people 'drop in' to church because it's Christmas. It's a joy to be able to share the good news of Jesus with Japanese people.

Many thanks for all your prayers for us and for the recent gift to our support.

With our love

David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair