

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2015



Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the day after the bin-lorry tragedy in Queen St, Glasgow. At this point the extent of the injuries sustained and the total number of lives lost has not been established. Information is only slowly building up although we have some idea of the pain and sense of loss being experienced by many families.

The inevitable regret is being expressed that this has happened in a season of joy and celebration and fun. One cannot argue, however, that the right decision has been taken to switch off the lights in George Square and to silence the traditional music. One young woman interviewed today for television has said: 'You feel bad about celebrating Christmas.'

This won't be the first Christmas where I have felt exactly like that. My first Christmas in St Paul's in 1988 fell under the shadow of the Lockerbie bombing and the loss of 259 lives. If the celebrations were inevitably muted that year I remember thinking that this particular tragedy forced us back on the central meaning of Christmas. Matthew links the birth of Jesus with an ancient prophecy that said: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1: 22-23).

This did not mean joy and celebration for those directly involved in the birth of Jesus. For Joseph and Mary there were difficult decisions to be made; there was a journey to be made from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary well on in her pregnancy; there was no comfortable place for Mary to give birth.

Later, King Herod was disturbed at the news of the birth of the Messiah. He tried to use the Magi to ascertain the exact place where Jesus was so that he could eliminate this threat to his power and authority. When that didn't work he ordered the killing of every baby boy in Bethlehem 2 years old and under.

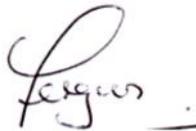
But still the message persisted: 'God with us.' Not just in the days of joy and celebration and fun and achievement but even in the darkest of days. God was still present and working in the anxious thoughts of Mary and Joseph, in the hardship they both experienced, in the anger and violence of a paranoid king.

No one feels the challenge of that thought more than I but this is where the Word of God brings me time and again. Christianity is not in the end a feel-good religion so much as a reality-grounded faith in a God who is working out His good and loving purpose in the midst of human suffering and tragedy. The birth of His Son was a dark time for many people but that birth was the hope of humankind. The death of His Son was the darkest moment in human history but through that death came the possibility of forgiveness and renewal for men and women and the hope of life beyond death. This revelation of God in the midst of humanity led Paul the Apostle to say: 'There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

We feel the darkness of Christmas 2014 in Glasgow but yet one more ancient witness needs to be heard. John the Apostle, perhaps the closest to Jesus and the most discerning wrote:

'The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has never overcome it.' (John 1: 5)

Best wishes for 2015,



Lodging House Mission Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers for various positions in our East Campbell Street unit.



1. **Supervision in our IT Learning Centre** – we are not looking for an IT expert; only someone who likes working with people. The unit is open Mon – Friday, 10am till noon.
2. We require help in the **kitchen** on a Thursday.
3. **General Hall duties** – we are looking for someone to help in the main hall doing supervision and “General” duties. Really, whatever turns up.
4. **Can you take a small group?** We are always on the lookout for new classes.

There is a specific demand for Baking and Decorating, but maybe you have another useful skill. We are flexible in the number of days you can offer. Please make initial enquiries to **Helen Hart, 0141 552 0285**

Thank You



December was a very busy month in St Paul's and I wish to express the thanks of the Kirk Session to all those involved. A number of people work hard throughout the year often behind the scenes, and contribute greatly to the smooth running of the Church. You know who you are and we thank you. I know this is not an extensive list and some will be missed so apology in advance.

First a big thank you to Graham Getty for his prompt and efficient efforts re. the theft of the lead from the Church roof which allowed the Church to be kept in use throughout the extensive investigation work and subsequent repair.

The Christmas Tree Festival was again a great success, bringing the local community through our doors at this special time of year. Thanks to all of those involved but a special thanks to Jean and Eleanor.

The Church tree never fails to receive comment and thanks to the donor as well as those who erected and decorated the magnificent tree. The Saturday advent services were well attended and thanks to Stephen, Robin, Douglas and Eleanor.

Thanks to those who contributed to the Gift Services and those who distributed the gifts on our behalf. The Praise Band were in fine form during the Family Service and in the hall afterwards. Thanks to those who contributed the mince pies and to the Bible Class for their thought provoking contribution. Thanks to all of those involved with the most enjoyable Salvation Army Carol Concert.

The Choir along with the organist Derek Norval, contribute significantly to worship throughout the year especially during Advent. The evening service prior to Christmas was particularly special. Thank you.

Christmas really begins with the two services on Christmas Eve which are all ways greatly received by, members, visitors, family and friends. Thanks to all the stewards and those who served the refreshments after the Family Service.

Last but not least, thanks to Fergus, Helen, Hugh and Sandra for looking after us all throughout the year.

Finally a very special thank you to you all and may the Lord bless you and yours in 2015.

Graham Mill
Session Clerk

Thank You



The stewardship committee would like to express their thanks to all the volunteers in the congregation, who gave so willingly of their time and talents in the run up to Christmas. Your work was very much appreciated.

As a result around 1800 households in our Parish received an Invitation “to join us at Christmas”.

The Invitation consisted of a leaflet that provided information on Life together in St Paul’s, Life with other Churches in Milngavie and Living together with National and International Mission. Also included with the Invitation leaflet was an attractive Peace on Earth themed bookmark, with details of the Christmas services at St Paul’s.

Hopefully this outreach to our Parish community will increase awareness of the life and work of St Paul’s locally and further afield.

Thanks again to the volunteers, who hopefully also benefited from the considerable exercise of climbing stairs and getting to know all the nooks and crannies of our Parish.

Gordon Fairbrother

Stewardship Convener

Thank You From The Preshal Trust

The Preshal Trust



Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all our friends at St. Paul’s Parish Church for the wonderful donation of £3,235.38 from the proceeds of your auction.

Events such as these take a lot of organisation and call on everyone to work together, donating prizes, preparing adverts, attending and bidding for goods etc. I know some of the “lots” also included people giving of their time and talents to raise money for The Preshal Trust and we really appreciate each and every hour spent and donation given.

Our friends at St. Paul’s have really taken us into their hearts and this has allowed us to support many people in need in the Govan area.

Once again, thank you so much for taking the time to support our work here in the South West area of Glasgow and we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

With love and thanks,

May Nicholson

Girls Brigade Quiz 2014

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Quiz in November. The Quiz seems to have become an annual feature not only in the Brigade Diary but in the Church Calendar as well!

The event was particularly well attended – a total of 13 teams participated. From outwith our Church we were pleased to welcome teams from the Boys Brigade, Baldernock Parish Church, Allander Evangelical Church, and last year's champions, St. Andrews Church. We welcomed a new team from the Ark, led by Janice Mclean and it was also great to see the usual quiz stalwarts! A special thank you to Morag Thomson and her girls from the Guild who, as usual, turned out in force.

The Brigade had chosen to support Tear Fund, and it was good to meet Fiona Morrison, who delivered a very moving presentation on the Charity's work and in particular the plight of the refugees caught up in the Syrian conflict. In addition to the entry fees, teams were extremely generous with their donations, and the total sum raised by the Brigade for Tear Fund amounted to £570.00. A great achievement!

For some of us, the Quiz presents an opportunity for socialising, fellowship and a bit of fun. However others treat the event a bit more seriously, and November's Quiz was keenly contested! Our friends from the Allander Church recorded a very creditable third place finish, and at the top of the leaderboard, Mr. Buchanan's team, the Congregational Board which also featured Fiona Morrison, recorded their first Quiz victory, beating last years winners from St. Andrews Church by the significant margin of 1 point! So, well done to Mr. Buchanan and the Congregational Board team, and the trophy has been returned to St. Paul's, for this year at least!

Thanks to all who participated and helped the Brigade complete their annual fund raising task. Thanks also to Janet and Sheila for making the tea, to all the girls from the Brigade who helped on the evening, and to Captain Goodlet for once again being the perfect hostess!

Hope to see you all again next year!

Neil Rankine

Brigade Blethers



Well that is another year done and dusted. I now believe all these old wives' tales about time passing more quickly the older one grows. According to the speed with which 2014 has slipped away I must be in my dotage. I have just checked the spelling of dotage and it means old age and senility. No comments please!!

As you will probably have heard by now our fundraising quiz for Tearfund was a great success; lots of furrowed brows as Neil posed his questions. There was lots of laughter too of course but I have to confess that I shed a tear the next day when I counted up your donations. On behalf of Tearfund I have been asked to thank you all for your very generous gifts. The total came to £570 plus gift aid - then one of our Church families donated another cheque for £50. Thank you all so much.

December 11 was our Christmas party and Santa braved a very wild and windy night to bring gifts to the girls. Nicola handed him a "thank you" gift from us and he said he would share it with his reindeer. By the way have you ever tried to disguise a bar of Toblerone ?

We don't meet again till our Pantomime visit on 8th January so my next Blether will be reminding everyone about our Jumble Sale/Coffee Morning on Saturday 7 February.

But that's not till next year. See you then.

God Bless,
Anne Goodlet

Sunday Coffee - Thank You



We would like to thank the congregation for joining us for fellowship after the morning service. We are delighted to let you know we were able to give an amazing £1,500 to the Prison Fellowship Scotland. This would not be possible without the help of our trusty tea makers and we would like to thank them for their help during 2014 .

The milk and biscuits for the morning coffee are being donated by Bob at Milngavie Mini Market. We are most grateful for his kind gesture.

We hope you all continue to enjoy this time of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you in 2012. Many thanks once again.

Margaret and Margaret

Men's Association



Following our very successful and enjoyable Christmas lunch at Cyan restaurant on Tuesday 16th December, the second half of our programme of speakers starts on Tuesday 13th January, 2015 when we will be entertained by Ian Marshall who will give a presentation entitled " Romantic Rome ". This will be followed a fortnight later on 27th January by "A Talk of Interest" given by our minister, Fergus.

Both evenings promise to be very enjoyable and informative and we would like to invite members, friends and members of the congregation to attend.

Noah's Ark



We have just finished a busy session of N.A. There were 61 babies & toddlers registered this term, with a weekly attendance of between 38 & 46. There is such a friendly, warm & supportive atmosphere in the hall, & great appreciation is shown by all who come. The children seem to enjoy all the action & the adults enjoy the 3 Cs ---company, coffee, & chat--this goes for all the helpers, too!!

We now have a waiting list that is much longer than we would like & so we have decided to open in the afternoon in order to accommodate those who would prefer an afternoon session. This should-reduce the morning numbers, & hopefully give all on the waiting list a place.

We do, however, need a few more helpers, both in the kitchen & in the play area, to allow a rota system to be put in place. I would emphasise that the parents/carers are responsible for their own children at all times, & that we helpers are there to provide support in the activities & to offer a listening ear.

We plan to open each Thursday afternoon from 1.00 till 2.30pm
Please consider helping in this way.

Contact:

Rosemary Fraser 956 3222 email. rmfraser@hotmail.co.uk
or **Jackie Sillars** 956 7589 email Jacqueline.sillars@ntlworld.com
or talk to one of the team after the Sunday service

Japan Jottings



Dear Friends

At the time of writing this, three of us are in Japan, two in Scotland and one in Australia. The one in Australia (Daniel) will remain the same but by the second week of January two will be in Japan (Matthew who does not leave and Calum who spent two weeks over the holiday in Scotland) and three in Scotland (the rest of us). It becomes even more complicated as we go through 2015 but these details can wait for another day!

Our home assignment this time is shorter than in previous years, mainly due to the stage Calum and Alistair are at in their education in the Japanese school system. From April Calum begins the final and important year of Junior High and Alistair his last year at Elementary School. The older two boys also face changes later in the year as Daniel returns from Australia to complete his final year at Glasgow and Matthew finishes his gap year and starts university to study Law just like his older brother.

We will not be doing too much for the first few weeks back but February and March will be busier months, especially the weekends. We are looking forward to being at St Paul's on the morning of 1st February and then again in March. We want to use the time back to reconnect with family, friends and churches as well as have time for rest and refreshment after what has been a long term of service in Japan with many varied challenges.

We are very appreciative of the support we have had from our friends in St Paul's over these past 16 years in Japan, both prayerful and financial. It has been such an encouragement to us to know that we have that behind us. Please be assured that each of you has in some way played a part in helping Japanese people be reached with the transforming power of the gospel message. We are looking forward to some more personal contact soon.

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

Flower Donations - January

Mrs. E. Adair,
Mrs M. Daniel,
Miss E. Forbes



Please put donations
in the Flower Rota pigeon hole at the
back of the church or send to:

Mrs Wilma Douglas,
34 Braeside Ave.,
Milngavie
G62 6LJ

Tel 956 2630

Book Group



Our latest book has been *The Harper's Quine* by Pat McIntosh. Exploring the May Day dancing at Glasgow Cross, Gil Cunningham notary in training sees not only the woman who is going to be murdered, but the murderer as well. When Gil finds the body of a young woman in the new building at Glasgow Cathedral, he is asked to investigate and identifies the corpse as the May Day harper's mistress and runaway wife of a cruel nobleman, John Semphill. Together with Maistre Pierre the French master mason contracted to work on the new building at Glasgow Cathedral, Gil begins asking questions and seeking a murder weapon in the lanes and yards of the city. He finds himself dealing with Semphill and his household and a varied cast of characters. The trail includes a second murder and a trip to the Isle of Bute before this whodunit reaches its conclusion.

We all liked the historical side of this first book by Pat McIntosh but felt the text was too simplistic and repetitive. We also thought the book had an excess of names and descriptions which were hard to follow. Best described as "light reading", we thought the author failed in capturing the mediaeval times in which the book was set. Some of us having read the Cadfael series of books by Ellis Peters, were expecting this book to come up to the same standard. The most interesting character was the French stonemason – perhaps this itinerant tradesman's story would have been a more interesting book.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27 January 2015 when we will be discussing *Wish her Safe at Home* by Stephen Benatar.

Joyce Clark

January Edition - Life & Work



Only the Lonely...

Jackie Macadam explores the issues surrounding loneliness and considers whether faith can play a part.

Major Milestone for Churches Housing Group

Thomas Baldwin looks at the history of Scottish Churches Housing Action, which celebrates its 20th birthday this month.

Renewing Worship

Neil Gardner and Douglas Galbraith celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Church Service Society.

A Decade of Ministry and a Decade of Membership

The Rev Dr Doug Gay looks ahead to the proposed Decade for Ministry. The Moderator offers a ten year membership challenge to Church of Scotland.

For this and more articles, visit us online at www.lifeandwork.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Silent/Secret Auction in Aid of The Preshal Trust

Silent Auction



The Auction which was held after the morning service on Sunday 16th November 2014 was a huge success! In total, the sum of £3,265 has now been raised and ingathered, a tremendous result! A cheque will shortly be presented to the Trust on behalf of the Congregation.

Most grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of this venture:-

Firstly, to everyone who offered their time, knowledge, expertise and ability to provide the services and products which were auctioned, including those from outwith the Congregation who supported the cause, e.g. the tennis and dance coaches, snowboarding instructor, chef, bakers and knitters! Secondly, to those who donated goods and possessions which were auctioned; Thirdly, thank you to all those who successfully bid for the goods and services at the Auction.

Outwith the Auction itself, some private contracts were arranged, for instance a pair of kilt socks were ordered and knitted and a Christmas cake baked, the contract prices being donated to the Auction Fund. We were also most fortunate to receive several donations for the Fund.

Finally, thanks to all who attended the auction, which in the case of some of the Lots available, was far from silent or secret! In particular, bidding for the week-end trip to Argyll was hotly contested, although any hopes of a romantic break which the winner may have harboured were perhaps dashed when her husband bought the Monopoly game!

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this project for such a worthy cause.

Neil Rankine

Moderators Unite in Message to Pray for Peace

For this Christmas season the Moderators of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly and the National Youth Assembly have come together to share their thoughts looking back on the year past, as well as highlighting some topics for reflection as we stand on the threshold of a new year. On the Church of Scotland website, there is a short video showing Rt Rev John Chalmers and Rachel Hutcheson recall the longing of Jesus as he looked over Jerusalem and said "Would that you knew the things that made for peace." Together they ask that people pray for peace across the whole world in 2015.

Visit: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/moderators-unite-in-video-message-to-pray-for-peace

The Guild



17th. Nov. Rev. Ian Miller, former Minister of Bonhill Parish Church for 37 years, gave us an interesting insight into his life before getting an inner compulsion to go into the Ministry. His happy disposition and endless anecdotes of experiences both personal and within the ministry kept us highly entertained all evening.

24th. Nov. Open afternoon meeting to mark Guild Week. After presenting Cathie McGregor with a special card & flowers to celebrate her forthcoming **104th** Birthday, President Morag Thomson spoke about the History of the Guild since its onset in 1887. We then had a musical interlude with soloist Margaret White singing songs from Oklahoma, accompanied at the piano by Elizabeth Izatt. Then followed an update on WEvolution by our Project Partner Rosemary Fraser. The Meeting ended with afternoon tea & lots of chat.

Dec 1st. Our original programme was cancelled due to illness and Ann MacLeod very kindly offered to fill the breach with a demo of Christmas Cake Decoration (or 3) She gave us lots of hints & ideas and followed with instructions on making an icing Christmas rose. Much hilarity ensued as we all made an effort. Results being Good, Could do better, or for some of us the only solution was to destroy the evidence by eating it. Thank you Ann – it was an excellent evening & much enjoyed.

Dec 8th. Our Christmas Dinner this year was held in Clober Golf Club & proved to be a very successful & enjoyable evening. After an excellent meal, we were entertained by our own talented 'Choral Choristers' It proved to be a fitting finish to our last evening and President Morag Thomson wished all a Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2015.

Diary Dates – January

- 5th.** Kessington Singers
- 12th** Update on Klmo Afternoon 1.30 – 3 p.m.
- 19th** Ecumenical Service – St. Andrew's Episcopalian Church Milngavie
- 26th** Ross Deuchar - Glasgow & American Gangs.

2nd. Feb. Breaking The Cycle Of Poverty

Margaret Stirling

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Copy date for the February issue is Sunday 18th January if using church pigeon hole or Wednesday 21st January if emailing. Please send to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Traidcraft Rota	Vestibule Rota
4th Jan	M. Abbott K. Hagart	Tracey Bates	A. Begg J. MacLean	Team 10 R. Barlow
11th Jan	M. McLean R. Cameron	Stark McKinnon	J. MacIntyre M. Fewell	Team 3 I. Ferguson
18th Jan	J. Ford C. Tanner	Sillars Goodlet		Team 2 M. Conway (C)
25th Jan	J. Clark S. Stenhouse	Chapman Berry	E. Easton M. Thoms	Team 4 M. McDowell