

Life at St. Paul's Milngavie

January 2018



Dear Friends,

Among my many Christmas gifts this year was a Cadbury Selection Box. It just would not have been Christmas without it and very little of it remains. Unfortunately, many people were disappointed this year with theirs. The reason? There was no Fudge bar. Instead there was a more recent addition to the Cadbury family, the Oreo bar. Complaints have been strong. Some have said their whole Christmas has been spoiled and a return of the Fudge next year is earnestly to be desired.

Whatever you might make of this it is yet another indication of the deep need many of us have that Christmas should always come up to expectations, undisturbed, trouble-free, without pain or anxiety. It is the time of year for miracle and magic and any shadow that might fall across our experience has double the impact.

It is all very strange when you consider the messy business that was the first Christmas. At our Watchnight Service I invited people to see things from Mary's point of view. Forced to leave her home in Nazareth, probably 8 months pregnant, to travel the 97 miles to Bethlehem. And the Bible doesn't mention a 'little donkey'. She probably had to walk. Arriving at Bethlehem there is nowhere for her to stay and so she gives birth in a shed.

There is very little glitter in any of this. But Mary carries in her heart the memory of an angel's visit and the message that her baby is the Son of God. In this she shows the way forward for us in all the challenges we have to face. It is unrealistic to expect life to be 'sunshine and rainbows.' But even in the worst of times we carry with us the promises of the Gospel that speaks of a Saviour who has promised His presence to all His people, who has been through the worst, who understands our weakness, who is able to give us exactly the right kind of help.

It is with these promises in our hearts that we can go forward into the unknown 2018 with courage and with hope. My prayer for you is a good New Year when you will know the blessings of our faith in achievement or failure, pain or pleasure, happiness or sorrow.

Wishing you God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lesley'.

St Paul's Christmas Outreach

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, plus around 200 young people, received a Christmas Card with an invite to come along to our services over the Christmas Season.

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

Gordon Fairbrother, Stewardship Convener

Traidcraft - Thank You



A big thank you to all who have supported the work of Traidcraft over this past year.

During 2017 we have sold goods worth £2800.00, which includes the sale of Kilombero rice. Thanks also go to those who organise the various groups in the church & who regularly use Traidcraft tea, coffee & sugar. Over & above this, we send any profit that is made to Traidcraft Exchange, which helps producers to set up small businesses & earn a living wage.

The stall will be available again towards the end of January, but we are willing to take orders anytime.

Rosemary Fraser

Thank You

I would like to thank all of the people who have sent cards, emails, flowers and made phone calls during my recent spell in hospital and at home.

I always knew the fellowship in St Paul's was special and I have been particularly grateful for all your prayers. I hope it won't be too long before I am back worshipping with you all again. Thank you all.

Joyce Clark

On behalf of all the family, I would like to offer our heartfelt appreciation to the St. Paul's family for all the love and support shown to us after the sudden sad loss of my husband and dad, Andrew Nisbet.

Also, we cannot thank Fergus enough for the lovely service and for the comfort and support he has shown to us at this difficult time.

Many thanks,

Mrs Rena Nisbet

Guild News



Our November programme continued with a visit from our own minister, Fergus Buchanan who, as usual, challenged us with the Advent message.

The following week the Anderson singers paid a return visit, with a programme containing various Scottish items reflecting St. Andrew's Day. The programme also included a cellist and a flautist. It was followed by a Scottish supper of cheese, oatcakes and shortbread.

Our final meeting before the Christmas lunch consisted of the report and approval of distribution of funds. This was followed by some hilarity over a 'Haggis Drive' preceded by a short lecture on this legendary creature by a famous naturalist.

The first half of the year concluded with our Christmas lunch, held at Milngavie Bowling Club, with catering by Table 13. After an excellent meal we were entertained by the Rev Ian Miller, who regaled us with stories of his life in the ministry.

Guild meetings resume on Monday 8th.January with Brian Smillie, who will be giving us some much needed exercise. Bearsden Fiddlers will play for us on the 15th.

A date for your diaries is Monday 12th February for the visit of the Govan Salvation Army Songsters. This will be a ticketed event in aid of Feed the Minds, the charity supported by our own Guild this year. It will be an open meeting with donation tickets (£5) on sale well before the event.

The Leprosy Mission Scotland

Thank you for your kind donations and the sales from the Christmas card stall, amounting to £77.10, along with the absolutely fantastic amount of £754.30 which was raised at your coffee morning.

These donations will make a real difference to the lives of people affected by leprosy.

Many people in West Benegal, India, are in great need of specialist leprosy treatment, but thanks to your generosity, Purulia Hospital can provide the correct care for patients diagnosed with leprosy.

Thank you for transforming lives.

God Bless,

Mhairi Dawson, Head of Supporter Care

January Edition - LIFE & WORK

Celebrating Young People

2018 has been designated the Year of Young People in Scotland. Thomas Baldwin learns how the Church of Scotland is taking part.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Jackie Macadam interviews a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, now living in Scotland.

Thomas Baldwin explores the history of Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27.

Bridging Generations

Lynne McNeil learns more about intergenerational work in the Church.

More than a Job

Jackie Macadam meets Christian Aid's country manager for Bolivia

Bridges of Kindness and Faith

The Moderator of the General Assembly urges readers to build bridges to connect with others.

Not Nothing

In the first of a new series of meditations, the Very Rev. John Chalmers encourages us to encounter God in silence.

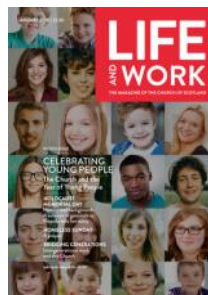
Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for up-to-date news and exclusive features, follow Life and Work on Facebook and Twitter.

Special offer

Life and Work readers receive a 10% discount on Saint Andrew Press books, resources and stationery.

The Life and Work team wishes all readers a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful new year.



Flower Donations - January

Happy New Year to Life readers.



As from January 2018, The names of people who have donated will only be recorded if donations are received one month before the next Life is published.

This applies to those who wish to remember loved ones by their donations, so that there are no errors or omissions. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous please specify when the donation is given.

Where name and address is supplied a personal acknowledgement will be sent out.

Thank you to all who have contributed over 2017, and to the great flower arranging team for their time and talent. Please forward donations to Mrs Marjorie Thoms 66, Braeside Ave, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6NN, Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's Flowers.

Japan Jottings



Happy New Year!

In Japan we have just entered Year 30 of the Heisei era. Japanese calendars use eras according to the reign of its Emperors. The Heisei era started on 8 January 1989, the day that the current Emperor, Akihito, acceded to the throne. All four of my boys have Heisei birth dates, but mine is in a previous era – Year 41 of Showa. We usually need the Japanese years for filling in forms and it can be a challenge to remember them all!

One tradition in Japan is to send New Year's cards. The delivery of New Year's Cards is a major undertaking for the Japanese Post Office who says that if you post your cards by December 25th they will be delivered at New Year. Given that more than 2.5 billion cards are sent in any one year, that is quite a guarantee.

However, when someone close in your family has died in the previous year, you do not send New Year's Cards. Instead you send Mourning Cards in early December telling people about the death and asking them not to send you a card at New Year. The thinking is that since New Year is a time of celebration, people in mourning should not be asked to join in. So although I wrote Happy New Year at the beginning of this article, in Japan that isn't something that is appropriate for me to do since David died in the previous year.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13 it says that we do "*not grieve as others do who have no hope*". The hope that we as Christians have in Jesus, makes all the difference. In the church we attend here, two older men were baptised at the Christmas service on the 24th. It was exciting to see them make a public profession of their faith in Jesus and the hope that they now have. They were both smiling broadly the whole time. As we enter the New Year "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope*" (Romans 15:13).

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair

World Mission

News from CLAAS

Our partners in Pakistan, the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance, and Settlement (CLAAS), have contacted with their latest news.

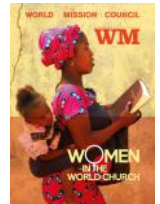


CLAAS provide vital support for people in Pakistan who have been wrongly accused of blasphemy, for women who have experienced violence, and for people whose human rights have been violated. They are currently working on a number of sensitive cases, including the case of a man with mental health issues who was arrested on the day of his son's funeral, after being accused of blasphemy.

Please remember CLAAS's employees and the people they support in your prayers.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence began on 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.



During these 16 Days of Activism, campaigns and awareness raising events will take place to highlight the fact that women in all communities across the world are at risk of facing violence.

An example of this is the Christian Conference of Asia, which has released a statement declaring that: "The Church in Sri Lanka should ensure zero tolerance to violence against women at all levels, where women still face a rising rate of violence after decades of ethnic conflicts and civil war".

The Church of Scotland's Violence Against Women task group have sent posters to congregations across Scotland to put up in their women's toilets. The posters include numbers to phone for help should anyone need it.

The World Mission Council has a number of resources available to help congregations understand the impact of violence against women across the world. Find a report and a Bible study here on the Church of Scotland's website.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission

Church of Scotland News

The Church of Scotland has unveiled its own distinct tartan to celebrate its enduring role as the country's national Kirk.

Each of the five colours hold deep meaning for the Presbyterian denomination, which was established in 1560.

Rev Iain Cunningham, convener of the World Mission Council which commissioned the tartan on behalf of the wider Church, said it was an "eye catching and well balanced" design.

He said that the idea was to make use of colours associated with the liturgical calendar, Christian tradition and links with the nation of Scotland.

Purple symbolises royalty, the sovereignty of Jesus Christ as the head of the Church, divinity, the thistle and heather.

Red represents the blood of Christ, Christian martyrs, the flames of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, the Burning Bush from which God spoke to Moses and the Scottish Lion Rampant.

Blue represents Mary, the mother of Christ, the sky, St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, and the Kirk itself.

Green is for the earth, growth, glens, moors and mountains.

White symbolises brightness, the purity of Christ, the cross in the official emblem of the Church of Scotland and the Saltire, the country's national flag.

The distinctive wool cloth, which has been entered in the Scottish Register of Tartans, will be used to make a wide range of products including kilts, scarves, ties and furniture upholstery.

Some products will be for sale.

The tartan was designed and woven by staff at leading textile manufacturer, Lochcarron of Scotland, in Selkirk in the Scottish Borders.

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Please note, the copy date for the February issue is Sunday **14th** January for **both** e-mails and using the church pigeon hole. Please note this is earlier than usual due to “editor’s commitments”!

Please send any articles to st.paulslifemagazine@gmail.com

Date	Flower Deliveries	Crèche Rota	Vestibule Rota
7th Jan	P. Barlow S. Robertson	Chapman Tracey	Team 3 G. Campbell
14th Jan	S. Anderson M. Adams	Richell J. Wallis	Team 4 M. Taggart
21nd Jan	M. Conway K. Edwards	Wilson McKinnon	Team 2 N. Rankine (C)
28th Jan	A. Galloway J. Townson	S. Wallis Berry	Team 5 G. Fairbrother