



## **A View from the Manse**

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, P1 & P2 of Craigton Primary School are preparing for their annual nativity play. I recently visited P2 and they were very excited because they were going to play the part of the angels! They wanted to know all about angels and especially about angel Gabriel. So I shared with them the inspiring Christmas story of how Angel Gabriel visited Mary. They loved the story!

It started me thinking about angels and what has the Bible to say about them. There are over 270 references to angels in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelations. We have accounts of God sending his messengers to share important news. So the Bible takes angels seriously and so should we. God sends his angels to watch over us and protect us.

It appears that angels are sent at vital times in Israel`s history. When Moses had rescued the people from the cruelty of the Egyptians and he was leading them through the desert. God said to Moses, "I will send an angel ahead of you to protect you as you travel and to bring you to the place which I have prepared" Exodus 23 v20.

So it is not surprising that when the Son of God was to be born on earth, the Lord would want to send his Special messenger Gabriel to announce his arrival.

That's what happened, In the town of Nazareth there was a young girl called Mary. It was to her that the Lord sent the angel Gabriel – (Luke 1v26). He said to her, ""Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"".

We are told that Mary was deeply troubled by the angel`s words and so Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary! You have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1 v30 -33

We are not told anything about the appearance of the angel. We are only told that he came to give an important message and to bring peace and comfort to Mary.

What about now? Does God still send angels?

Of course he does!

They come in all different shapes and sizes. God sends them to be messengers of peace and hope. There are angels who come directly from the courts of heaven into our lives. Like Clarence in the film *Wonderful Life*.

But don't waste your time to go and look for the ones with wings because the angels we might meet are more likely to be human beings, who step into our lives at important moments.

These angels are also sent by God, they are to be found in nurse's uniforms in hospitals, as they look after the sick. They are found in the homes of the elderly wearing Cordia uniforms. They are found on the mission fields – rescuing street children – comforting those with illness. They are in our children's classrooms educating them and encouraging them. They are social workers, carers and McMillan and Marie Curie Nurses. God's angels are everywhere and they are doing his work.

Perhaps you are also doing the work of an angel.

If so, who are you encouraging this Christmas? Who have you blessed today? Have you brought a smile to the face of someone who has been sad? Perhaps you can cheer someone up with a letter or a phone call today?

Recently, when I visited one of our elderly members, she said about one of our elders, "She is God's angel at Hillington Park!" What a wonderful testimony to this Christian lady.

The world needs angels and God is looking to you and me this Christmas to be an angel to someone in need.

There are many needs out there. Ask God to send you to someone in need and watch what happens! He is looking for his Messengers this Christmas.

What young girl, like Mary, is facing a traumatic time? What young girl, like Mary, is holding onto a secret that she is afraid to tell anyone about? What young girl has to leave her home and travel to another land? Can you be angel this Christmas to someone like that? Can you say to someone, do not be afraid, I

am with you! Or even better can you give someone in need a helping hand, a meal, some food this Christmas?

For that is what Christmas is really all about. That is why God sent his Son to bring to us the Message of hope and peace to a needy world.

May your Christmas season be blessed with meeting many angels and may you get the opportunity to be blessed by being God`s angel to someone in need.

With Every Blessing,

Your minister and friend,

*John*



## Christmas is Coming

### A few dates for your diary!

- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** Craigton Residents Action Group – Christmas Fete – The community garden at Barfillan – 2.30pm – 6.30pm
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Gabriel in concert – Woodhill Evangelical Church – Bishopbriggs – 7.15 p.m.
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** Communion Sunday – 11a.m & 6.30 p.m.
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** Rosshall Academy Christmas Charity Evening
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Grief Share Service – 3p.m.
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Afternoon for our senior members
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Hillington Park Choir and Guests Concert – 6.30 p.m.
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Singing at Morrisons, 2-3p.m.
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>** Singing at Morrisons, 2-3p.m.
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** All Age Service – 7p.m.  
Candlelit Supper from 10.30pm.  
Watchnight service – 11.30pm
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day Service – 11a.m.

## **Lay Team Ministry Group Report**

At the last meeting of our Group we received the following reports from Team Leaders:

### **Fabric Team – Sam Young**

Sam reported that The Fabric Team had a busy year with various projects in the Church and Manse.

**Church Hall:** A survey was carried out by a Church of Scotland Surveyor, this and other projects are being prioritised by the Kirk Session. When this has been done estimates will be requested for Heating using the C.O.S. Surveyor guidelines.

The setting up of Fire Risk Assessments for the Halls and Church will be completed by the year end.

The two flat roofs at the North Hall were leaking and outside Builders were engaged to work on these.

A member of our congregation had an accident on the steps leading from the South Porch to the Large Hall and as a result a handrail has now been fitted.

**Manse:** The Study in the Manse has now been re-decorated. Old fencing at the back of the Manse has been replaced. A Survey has been carried out on the diagonal crack in the main bedroom wall. Outside woodwork around manse walls need attention.

Jan thanked Sam for his report and asked him to convey the thanks of the Lay Team Ministry Group to all the members of the Fabric Team.

### **Outreach Team – Rev. John MacGregor**

John has taken over leadership of the team from Chris Morrison who has resigned due to moving to another area.

The group meets fairly regularly for prayer and praise and for focussing on Outreach issues. They meet at a community flat at Tarfside run by GCIN between 6-7. Official Outreach meetings will happen the last Friday evening of each month.

The regular attendees are John MacGregor, Jan Blackie, Mike Nolan, Barrie Drummond, Gail Vasey, Ian and Ruby Burns and Dorothy Edministon. The team work well together.

During the last few years, they have been able to focus their attentions on 3 main areas of OutReach – ROC (Redeeming Our communities) CAP (Christians against Poverty) and Trussel Trust Food banks. The team feels that if they can manage these three areas well then they will achieve good outreach to the community.

Other areas of Outreach are at Christmas and Easter.

The team is very optimistic about the future and hope to continue to develop outreach to another level. They hope to expand the Outreach team with the development of the three main areas.

Jan thanked John for his report and asked him to convey the thanks of the Lay Team Ministry Group to all the members of the Outreach Team.

The Lay Team Ministry Group continue to review the Teams and their responsibilities and make changes as necessary.

We have had a few changes in Team Leadership - Stephanie and Elaine have stepped down from the Young People's Team and I would like to thank them both for all they did in leading this Team forward. New leadership is being sought. Chris Morrison stepped down from the Outreach Team and thanks go to Chris for heading up this Team and chairing the meetings. John MacGregor has now taken over as team leader. Mai hood has indicated that she is stepping down from the Practical Support Team and we would thank Mai most sincerely for all the work she has put into organising this Team. We are delighted to welcome Jenny Dalgleish as the new Team Leader. We wish John and Jenny every blessing as they take the helm in their teams. Most of the Teams have assistants.

It was disappointing learn that there have been a few more problems with the Messengers in the Pigeon Holes and this situation is being monitored.

Due to some Elders' leaving or stepping down, we now have several Neighbourhood Groups without Elders and we are looking at this situation. We have one Neighbourhood Group without a Neighbourhood Contact.

The Team Leaders' Gathering took place in the Manse on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November and almost a full turnout of Leaders and Assistants attended. In his worship, John challenged us on our faith and asked us to share in small groups, who had inspired us in our Christian journey. It was good to hear some of the answers during the summary. The Teams were updated with any changes and were reminded that they play a large part in the smooth running of Hillington Park Church and that we are grateful for the tremendous service all the Teams give and the work that is undertaken by them. The Teams were thanked and encouraged in all they do and it was good to hear the various comments during discussions and the input from different people with enthusiasm for what they do while sharing fellowship and also the enjoyment and satisfaction they received. There was a very positive feeling throughout the Gathering

Mike interviewed John on Leadership qualities and his answers were very inspiring. Question time was shared with a buzz of comments.

A Fish Supper was enjoyed supplemented with Coffee, Tea and biscuits from Susan which enhanced the fellowship shared. An informal and relaxing evening was enjoyed by all.



## **The Flower circle**



The ladies of the flower circle would like to thank the following people for donating towards the flowers in the month of October/November:

Mrs E Holmes  
Mrs H MacLeod  
Mrs M Mccady  
Mrs P Maxwell  
Mrs G McDonald  
Mrs I Morrison  
Guild  
Mrs B Baldock  
Light Zone  
Mrs M Fleming  
Flower boxes

Once more I would like to thank the ladies for doing the flowers so beautifully. They are much admired every week.



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**



Anyone wishing to donate towards the decoration of the Church for Christmas please speak to Isabell Nugent or Helen Shanks.

Isabell Nugent

# PARISH REGISTER

## DEATHS

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	MEMBER
Myrtle Milligan	19 Barfillan Drive	15th October 2013	No
William McPherson	197 Wedderlea Drive	23rd October 2013	No
Bessie McCulloch	32 Morgen Street	3rd November 2013	Yes
Carol Miller	55 Walkglen Drive	4th November 2013	No
Raymond Bell	1324 Paisley Road West	5th November 2013	No
Alice Walker	6 Lothian Crescent	6th November 2013	No
Kenneth MacLeod	775 Mossspark Drive	10th November 2013	No
Margaret Arbuckle	1220 Paisley Road West	11th November 2013	No

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"  
"In my Father's house there are many rooms if it were not so I would  
have told you".*





## PRAYER REQUESTS

*Matthew 7v7 " Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you "*

**Please remember in your thoughts and prayers;**

- All our members who are ill at home, in hospital or Care homes.
- Pray for those on the prayer list – if you want to receive a prayer list please see the minister.
- All who are struggle with loneliness or depression.
- All in our congregation who are having treatment or waiting on hospital appointment or results
- All who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- All who are unemployed and struggling to pay bills especially as we approach the Christmas season.
- Remember all the countries who are at war and people who have had to flee their country.
- Pray for Asylum seekers and refugees.
- Pray for the children of Dwelling Places and Luwero at Christmas.
- Pray for the citizens of the Philippines as they rebuild their lives and country again.
- Remember those who are serving their country in Afghanistan.
- Remember all our elderly in the dark and cold nights.
- Remember CAP – (Christians Against Poverty) and ROC (Redeeming Our Communities).
- Pray for the launch of The Trussel Trust Food banks in our church - pray that we get the support and the resources to run this organisation.
- Pray for the development of our young people in the church.
- Pray for all our Office bearers as they lead us forward.
- Pray for John as he leads us in worship over the Christmas Season.

# GUILD

GUILD: The items for month of December are as follows:

## **MONDAYS at 7.30p.m. in the North Hall:**

Dec. 2nd- David Walker - "Glasgow's Hidden Treasures Part 2"

Dec. 16th - Christmas Lunch at Ralston Golf Club.

## **2014**

Jan 6th - Fun Quiz.

## **TUESDAYS at 2p.m. in the Large Hall**

Dec. 10th - Barbara Atterson - Energy Action Scotland

## **2014**

Jan. 14th - Helen Dunbar - Quarriers Homes

Jan. 26th - Soup and Roll (Lunch in aid of Lodging House Mission price £2.50 pp)



## **PASTORAL CARE**

The trip to Llandudno is now full, with a reserve list the event of any cancellations. Please speak to either Helen Shanks or Margaret for any further information.

## BIBLE READING NOTES

Whilst many members of HP may organise their own little reading notes we are able to order notes on your behalf and deliver them to you at church on a quarterly basis.

*Daily bread* is the bible reading guide that aims to help you hear from God as you read the bible. If you have ever asked the question “What possible relevance can this verse have for me today? What difference does this message make to my life?” then this may be the book for you (£16 a year).

*Encounter with God* is Scripture Union’s daily bible reading system designed to lead you to a deeper understanding about what God is saying to you and to his world today (£16 per year).

*Upper Room* is a bible reading guide that offers a deeper devotional experience (£11.10 a year).

These daily readings are issued in quarterly booklet form and are a wonderful help for short daily devotion.

For further information on these or any other Scripture Union publications please speak to Charlie MacIntyre.

I THOUGHT I SAW HER FACE TODAY  
IN THE SPARKLE OF THE MORNING SUN.  
AND THEN I HEARD THE ANGEL SAY  
“HER WORK ON EARTH IS DONE.”

I THOUGHT I HEARD HER VOICE TODAY  
THEN LAUGH HER HEARTY LAUGH.  
AND THEN I HEARD THE ANGEL SAY  
“THERE’S PEACE LITTLE ONE AT LAST.”

I THOUGHT I FELT HER TOUCH TODAY  
IN THE BREEZE THAT RUSTLED BY.  
AND THEN I HEARD THE ANGEL SAY  
“THE SPIRIT NEVER DIES.”

I THOUGHT THAT SHE HAD LEFT ME  
FOR THE STARS SO FAR ABOVE.  
AND THEN I HEARD THE ANGEL SAY  
“SHE LEFT YOU WITH HER LOVE.”

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD MISS HER  
AND NEVER FIND MY WAY.  
AND THEN I HEARD THE ANGEL SAY  
“SHE’S WITH YOU EVERY DAY.”



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan and Ken Blackie for their visit to me after the recent death of my sister. Jan's kind thoughts and prayer were of great comfort to me. I would also like to thank Louise Stewart and others who were praying for my sister during her illness. Louise was very attentive in asking for updates of my sister treatment as was Jan and others. Also the sympathy cards which I received from members of HP, were greatly appreciated.

Thanking you all again

Morag Williamson

Thank you to the 'family' of Hillington Park for the prayers and support given during the last 8 of Bessie's life. The funeral service on 11th November was a wonderful display of Christian service carried out with such grace by all concerned. Special thanks to the ladies and men of the Guild who excelled in both their welcome and also in the provision of refreshments. To your minister John Macgregor who provided ongoing spiritual support to my Mum and I - the words 'Thank You' are not enough but they are heartfelt and are echoed by the family and friends.

Margaret Wright.

## **ART CLUB**

The Art Club would like to thank everyone who came along to the show and made it so.

The number of paintings sold was 29 for a total of £619.00. The entry fees, catalogues and donated painting raised £106.30 for church funds. Many thanks. It is inspiring for our artists to sell their work. We may also have gained 3 to 4 new members. This all bodes well for the health of the Art Club. If you were inspired, please come along and join us on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the large hall.

You will be made very welcome.

## **CRAFT CLASS**

The craft class will resume on Monday 13th January 2014 at 2pm in the Large Hall. All welcome.



### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIT SUPPER**

Our traditional Candlelit Supper will once again take place in the Church Hall from 10.00 p.m. – 11.15 p.m. on Christmas Eve prior to the Watchnight Service at 11.30 p.m.

Tea, Coffee, Mince Pies and shortbread will also be served after the Family Service at 7.00 p.m.

A warm invitation is extended to you, your family, your neighbours and your friends to join with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Why not bring someone along to share the fellowship of our Church on Christmas Eve.

Donations of Mince Pies and Shortbread will be gratefully received after the morning service on Sundays 15th and 22nd December.

HELP WANTED! If you could assist in any way by serving, washing dishes or helping in the preparation at either of the two services, this would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Jan Blackie on 882-1317.

I look forward to sharing supper and fellowship with you this Christmas Eve.



## HOGMANAY CEILIDH

Our Hogmanay Ceilidh will once again be held in the Church Hall on Tuesday 31st December from 9.30 p.m. to 12.45 a.m.

Tickets will be available in December at a cost of £7.50.

There will be the usual full buffet supper and the Toast to bring in the New Year.

We look forward to another great celebration.

If anyone would be willing to help with the preparation of the Supper for the Ceilidh, please contact Jan Blackie 0141-882-1317. Your help would be greatly appreciated.





## **The ARK – Gift and Card Shop**

1484 Paisley Road West

Open Monday to Saturday  
10a.m. – 5p.m.

Staffed by members and friends of  
Hillington Park Church

All profits from the ARK support the children who have been  
rescued from the streets of Kampala in Uganda.

When thinking about Christmas shopping

Remember to visit the ARK

A warm welcome awaits you!

## **A Christmas Meditation**

The road to Bethlehem began long before Mary and Joseph made the journey to be registered for the census. Both Mary and Joseph had been visited by the angel Gabriel, which meant journeying within themselves to realise the truth of the words spoken to them, and to find acceptance of all they were called to do and give to God. The visit of the angel to Joseph may not have been as quite dramatic as the visit to Mary, but it was transforming nevertheless.

How difficult was that inner spiritual journey to hear, and meet with, the voice and call of God? Who helped and supported them? What part did families and friends play at this frightening and challenging time? From that moment on, they share not only their lives together, but also the calling from God to care for the son who is to come and is to be part of their family.

Many people would have touched the lives of Mary and Joseph as they waited for the birth of their Christ-child. What effect did Mary and Joseph have on those they met and knew? Soon they would travel that road to Bethlehem and bring to the world the fulfilment of God's promise to Mary. The birth of God's son is a birth that would be the very beginning of a much longer pilgrim path to be travelled; by them and by us.

When we look at our lives, the inward spiritual journey and the outer physical journeys we make each day, then many people, too, will have been influential in shaping the person we are today. They may not be aware of all they have given to us, as we may never know the depth or extent of how we have touched the lives of those we have met over the course of our life.

In a time of quietness, reflect upon the people who have been a part of your own journey, your own road to Bethlehem, following your own call to faith. On a large piece of paper, draw a figure or write your name in the centre. Around this, draw or write the names of those who have shaped or influenced you in any way. These may be people alive today or those who have died, people you know well or have

known only briefly. It maybe someone you have never met, but you have heard them speak, read something they have written or heard a line in a song they have sung.

Give thanks to God for them and the many more, unknown perhaps, at the moment, who will be a part of your ongoing pilgrimage journey; your own road to Bethlehem and beyond.



## **MESSENGER**

All articles for inclusion in the February 2014 issue of the Messenger must be submitted no later than **Tuesday 14th January 2014.**

Articles can be left in the Pigeonhole marked "Messenger" or e-mailed to us at

**L.Drummond@sky.com**

*All submissions should include a name and contact number.*



*Merry Christmas!*